WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. BALAIAH ERY, Administrator

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: staug@htc.net

PARISH WEBSITE: https://www.staugustineofcanterburyhecker.com

To contact Father Balaiah Ery, please call Parish Office

St. Vincent de Paul Help Line 618-792-4059

House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680

Confessions: Heard Saturdays from 4:15 to 4:45 pm

VOL. 62 NO. 30 July 26th, 2026

Theme for The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The person with true wisdom, like Soloman, will seek the reign of God and treasure it above all else. It is more precious than gold and silver. Thus one becomes conformed to the image of Christ the Son.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Tuesday 07/21	8:00am- For the Parish at St. Augustine
Friday 07/24	8:00 am – Geri Griffin
Saturday, 07/25	5:00 pm – For the Parish at St. Augustine
Sunday, 07/26	8:00 am – John Rheinecker
Tuesday 07/28	8:00 am – For the Parish at St. Augustine
Friday, 07/31	8:00 am – Eugene Toenjes
Saturday, 08/01	5:00pm- For the Parish at St. Augustine
Sunday, 08/02	8:00am- Wally Amann

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 07-19-26:

Weekly Envelopes- $5090.00
Loose- $328.00
Youth-$
Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)- $4956.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday August 1, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Ruth Wittneauer
Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn
Extraordinary Minister (W):Barb Bruss
Extraordinary Minister (W):Kevin Schreder
Camera:

Sunday August 2, *2026, 8:00 am*

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Karbans
Lector: Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister: Dennis Biffar
Camera:

Please pray for the following:
Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Ricky Wittenauer, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Andy Amann, Vickie and Tim Grant, Walter Krysnoski.

For Active Service Personnel: Justin S. Bushong, United States Coast Guard, Austin Grohmann, United States Marine Corps, and Austin Gregson, United States Marine Corps.

. **The 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**
Those who are kind to the needy honor Him.

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving". It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on **YOU**. Please visit www.diobelle.org today!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 24 60% OF OUR GOAL MET

$4160.00 Pledged as of 7/20/2026 $6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Anointing of the sick will take place Saturday August 1 and Sunday August 2 after masses.**

- **Confessions will be heard every Saturday afternoon from 4:15 to 4:45, before the 5:00 pm mass.**

- **Father Bala will be celebrating mass at 8:00 am on Tuesdays and Fridays during the week. Please try to attend if possible.**

- **The homily is being printed for anyone who might be having difficulty understanding Fr. Bala's accent. A copy will be printed in the bulletin and on paper in the back of church by the bulletins.**

- **Plastic Bags have been placed at the entrances of church to be used for the Adult Basket Stand and the Kids Basket Stand. Once you made your baskets you can drop them off at the parish office or contact Vicki Wittenauer for Adult Baskets at 815/922-3769 and Laurel Jung for the Kids Baskets at 618/340-1906.**

Pray for Vocations

"I'll never forget the first time I saw a nun. I was 5 years old, and my family had gone to a convent for Mass. Seeing a woman in a habit, I asked, "Mama, why is she wearing those clothes?" Her reply captivated me: "She's married to Jesus." I thought, "I want to marry Jesus, too." Christ was my first love, and I've never gotten over Him. Growing up in Catholic school, I struggled with academic and social pressures like any girl, but the desire to radically serve Christ kept burning within me. The idea that he could be calling me to be his bride was exciting. Continuing to discern in college, I was open to marriage, but I felt that I had too much love to give to one family. I wanted to be a spiritual mother and adopt the world. My decision to follow Christ came in adoration. After an hour of silence, I heard him say, "Be crucified with me." I knew he was asking me to give my life to him completely. My greatest joy was returning to my first love."

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows 83rd Annual Healing and Hope Novena to Our Lady of the Snows begins on Tuesday, July 28, through Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m. nightly at Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE -- *PROJECT RACHEL*

Project Rachel is an active ministry in the Diocese of Belleville!!! Planned Parenthood continues to see women (some report one woman every 20 minutes six days a week).
It is so vital that we be there for these women to offer free and confidential help in their
time of need. It is our hope to continue to foster a sense of compassion in our communities making them a safe place to welcome those who suffer after an abortion
and encourage reconciliation and healing in Jesus Christ. Those in need of help and counseling can confidentially contact someone by phone or email. Here's a link to
Project Rachel on the diocesan website with additional information:

Homily for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on what we truly value in life. In the first reading, Solomon stands before God with a once-in-a-life time opportunity. He could have asked for riches, long life, or victory over enemies. Instead, he asks for wisdom, because he knows that without God's guidance, everything else loses its meaning. That is a powerful reminder that the greatest gift is not success, comfort, or power, but a heart that knows how to choose what is right.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives us three images: treasure buried in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net thrown into the sea. In each case, the Kingdom of heaven is shown as something so precious that it is worth everything we have. The man who finds the treasure and the merchant who discovers the pearl do not hesitate. They act with joy. They know they have found something greater than all their possessions, and so they are willing to let go of lesser things.

The Gospel asks us to examine our priorities honestly. What are we willing to give up for Christ? What keeps us from fully embracing the Kingdom? The answer may be different for each of us, but the call is the same: place God first.

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that God works for the good of those who love him. That means our lives are not random or wasted when we trust the Lord. Even our struggles can become part of God's loving plan. When we seek God first, we begin to see our lives differently. We understand that true treasure is not found in what we own, but in who we belong to.

So, the Christian life is about allowing Christ to become the center of our lives. Let us pray for the grace to recognize God's Kingdom as the greatest treasure, and for the courage to choose it wholeheartedly.

Respect Life Corner

Natural Family Planning is known for helping couples avoid or achieve pregnancy, but its foundation, **Fertility Awareness**, offers something for every woman, married or single, from her very first cycle to menopause. Every girl and woman deserves to understand her body and know how to address irregularities like painful periods, persistent acne, or hormonal imbalances by treating the root cause, not masking it with artificial hormones. This is real female empowerment: knowledge that honors how God designed the female body and equips women to seek healing, not just symptom relief. Moms, you can walk this journey with your daughters, helping them see their cycles as a sign of health and a reflection of their dignity. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Acts Retreat for Women

Are you feeling a little nudge to recharge your spiritual batteries and really dive deeper into your faith journey? We've got something truly special coming up that we think you'll absolutely love!

Imagine spending a few days dedicated to growing closer to Jesus, experiencing moments of peaceful Adoration, building genuine connections within a supportive Community, exploring meaningful Theology, and finding joy in Service. It's all about finding that unique blend of reflection, fellowship, learning, and giving back that truly nourishes the soul.

We're absolutely thrilled to announce our upcoming Women's Retreat! Mark your calendars for a truly uplifting experience happening from **September 24th to September 27th**. We'll be gathering at the beautiful and peaceful **Kings House in Belleville**, a perfect spot to step away from the everyday hustle and truly focus on what matters.

Ready to take the plunge and treat yourself to this amazing spiritual getaway? You can contact Debbie Harbaugh at 618-970-8021 for an application or pick an application up in the back of church. We're so excited about this opportunity and can't wait to share it with you! Hope to see you there!