

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net)

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

To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM, 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 4:30 to 4:50 pm (When priests are available)

**VOL. 62 NO. 12 March 22nd, 2026**

### **Theme for The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jesus is our resurrection and our life. Because he has given us of the Spirit, we are no longer dead because of sin, but alive. In Jesus is the fullness of redemption.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday 03/20	8:00 am- Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 03/21	5:00 pm – For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 03/22	8:00 am- Philip and John Rheinecker
Friday, 03/27	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Saturday, 03/28	5:00pm- Mary Rettinghouse
Sunday, 03/29	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
**Lent**  
We prepare

#### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 03-15-26:**

Weekly Envelopes- \$1692.00

Loose- \$198.00

Youth- \$4.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-  
\$3130.30*

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

## SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5:00pm**

**Palm Sunday**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Mehrmann's

Lector: Kevin Schreder - Narrator

Voice: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Ruth Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Camera:

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 8:00 am**

**Palm Sunday**

Set Up: Elaine Rader

Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban

Lector: Elaine Rader - Narrator

Voice: Kay Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle

Camera:



## **Holy Week**

**Holy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026 7:00pm**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Doerr's, Mehrmann's, Lucas Gregson

Lector: Jonella Donius

Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr

Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker

Camera:

**Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, 7:00 pm**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Mallory Kern, Lucas Gregson

Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban

Lector: Shelly Fizer

Narrator: Shelly Fizer

Voice: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Kevin Schreder

Camera:

**Easter Vigil Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7:00pm** **Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 8:00 am**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Kevin, Lucas Gregson, Nolan Snell, Blake Koester

Lector: Elaine Rader

Lector: Kay Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder

Camera:

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban

Lector: Ryan Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Shelly Fizer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar

Camera:

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Parish Reconciliation will be available on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 at St. Augustine's.**
- **Reconciliation will also be available on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 at Sts. Peter and Paul.**
- **Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday mornings after 8:00 am mass and on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm during lent**
- **We are in need of Volunteers for the washing of feet on Holy Thursday. Please call the parish at 618-473-2217 if you are available.**
- **Please turn in your Easter Flower Offering if you plan to Remember or Honor a loved one with an Easter Flower.**
- **Our first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection for 2026 will be March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with the donations going to St. Vincent de Paul in Waterloo.**





Today's Gospel recounts the death and rising of Lazarus. Wow! Who gets a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to live their life? But how did this come to be? It was because of the power of God Almighty that Lazarus got another chance to follow the Lord and proclaim His goodness. We won't get a second chance to follow the "call" of God in our lives like Lazarus. So, we need to be attentive now to the call from within our hearts to become who we've been called to be. Roll away the stone and hear what the Lord wants us to be – maybe even a priest, sister, or brother.

## Respect Life Corner

March 25th marks the anniversary of the papal encyclical [\*Evangelium vitae\*](#) (*The Gospel of Life*). Written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995, this document on the value and inviolability of every human life remains an indispensable source of truth for all people. It reaffirms the "greatness and the inestimable value of human life" (EV 2) and addresses present-day legal, ethical, and moral threats to life.

<https://www.respectlife.org/gospel-of-life>

## **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:

<https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>.

## Reflection for Fifth Sunday of Lent-Year A

*Saint Peter is talking with God about three guys who are about to enter heaven. "They're not very smart, but they are nice, and I'm not sure I should let them in our not." God says, "well we do have standards here. Ask them some simple questions and if they answer correctly let them in." Peter greets the men and asks the first one, "tell me what Christmas is for?" The man says, "Oh, oh! That's when we put on costumes and go around and collect candy. That's my favorite holiday." "Sorry," Peter says and gestures towards the sign with the arrow pointing down. He asked the next man, "What is Thanksgiving about?" Guy says, "I got this. Turkey. We eat turkey and then we open all these presents that have piled up underneath the tree. We celebrate that guy's birthday; give me a minute I'll think of his name." Peter shakes his head and points to the same sign. Then he looks at the last guy and says, "Tell me what the purpose of Easter is?" The man wrinkles his brow and closes his eyes, thinking hard. His face lights up and he explains, "That is when a Jesus rolls the stone away from the grave, walks outside and if He sees His shadow there will be six more weeks of winter."*

The story of the raising of Lazarus is the third long narrative in the gospel of John this Lent. Interestingly, it is only John's Gospel that reports the raising of Lazarus. There are many interesting characters in the narrative: Jesus, his disciples, Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and a group of Jews who come to mourn Lazarus' death. But of all these characters, it is Martha who speaks our "common language": "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." When we are faced with situations that we deem unbearable, it is easy to question the existence of God. Some people would argue, If God were present in our society or perhaps if He cared as we believe, he would not allow so many people to die of cancer.

Martha, like many of us today, believe that God is in control of the affairs of the world. He can heal our brokenness, and he can speak a word, and everything would come to a stop. Martha was convinced that if Jesus had arrived early, he could have healed Lazarus, and he would not have died. But He chose to arrive late, and Martha could not understand. Therefore, Martha knows what it is like to experience frustration, pains, and uncertainty. She speaks to Jesus, who identifies himself as "the resurrection and life" in a hopeful tone. "I know my brother will rise again" Nonetheless, Jesus speaks of the resurrection as a present reality—"I am," which makes Martha, Mary, and those present fascinated about the hope of a new life.

As we live side by side with pain, suffering and death in this life, Martha invites us to trust Jesus, who is the resurrection and life, and with whom all things are possible. She does not promise us that everything will be instantly restored, and the dead come back to life like her brother, Lazarus. But she suggests that there is one greater than the world that we can always trust. He has the final answer.

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

On behalf of Father Godfrey Mullen, Diocesan Administrator, and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – **in any amount** – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.

### **Gibault Update**

#### Upcoming Events:

- GWC Taste of the Region – March 21 Go to [igfn.us/form/G6dn3A](http://igfn.us/form/G6dn3A) to purchase tickets
- Alumni Association Egg Hunt – March 22 @12:30pm
- Jr. High Mexican Fiesta Block Party – April 17, 6-8pm

#### Be in the Know!

- We are still Taking Applications – go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply today.
- Freshman Scholarship Applications are due by March 31, 2026
- 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors – go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request a shadow day.
- Our Student Ambassadors have created an Instagram to help families know about admissions information and events! Check them out @gibault\_ambassadors



**2026 SCHEDULE FOR LENT, TRIDUUM, EASTER**  
**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY- HECKER**

- **WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT St. Augustine Stations of the Cross held at 7:00pm**
- **FRIDAYS DURING LENT:  
St. Augustine - Mass at 8:00 am followed by  
Stations of the Cross**
- **PALM SUNDAY, March 28<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Saturday Mass 5pm, Sunday Mass 8:00am**
- **HOLY THURSDAY, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **GOOD FRIDAY, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
6:30 PM STATION OF THE CROSS FOLLOWED BY  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ 7:00pm, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER SUNDAY, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
8:00AM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**



**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, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Arline Wittenauer, Andy Amann.

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**

***Serve the Lord with gladness.***

***-Psalm 100***

“Each year the faithful of our Belleville Diocese are asked to help the works of Christ continue and grow through their support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. By making a gift you are helping build up the Body of Christ in our various ministries and providing help for the poor and vulnerable.”

-Bishop Michael McGovern

Please consider a gift to the appeal today!

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 5 29% OF OUR GOAL MET**

**\$2025.00 Pledged as of 3/15/20256 \$6,856.00 is the Parish Financial Target**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY COLLECTIONS IN 2026**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> - St. Vincent de Paul (Waterloo)**

**May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> - St. Vincent de Paul (East St. Louis)**

**August 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> – Life Network- Waterloo**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> -- HNS Outreach for Thanksgiving & Christmas**