

WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: 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. 10 March 8th, 2026

Theme for The Third Sunday in Lent

Jesus satisfies our thirst for eternal life. Through the Spirit His grace has been poured into our hearts. God satisfies the thirst of the Israelites whose hearts had become hardened and rebellious.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 03/06	8:00 am- Roy Schreder and Special Intention
Saturday, 03/07	5:00 pm – For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 03/08	8:00 am- Don Braun
Friday, 03/13	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Saturday, 03/14	5:00pm- Ruth Cortner
Sunday, 03/15	8:00am- For the Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 03-01-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3029.00

Loose- \$457.00

Youth- \$4.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$3128.30*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, March 14th, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmann's
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Donna Rheinecker
Camera:

Sunday March 15th, 2026, 8:00 am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban
Lector: Alex Birkner
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar
Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson
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, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stelhorn, 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 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal - Commitment Weekend

This weekend our parish has an opportunity to support the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Each year, through our prayers and gifts to the Appeal, diocesan ministries continue to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the sick and elderly, educate children, reach out to youth, train lay ministers and catechists and so much more. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the envelopes available in your pew or bring your card next week. Your contribution will touch the lives of thousands of people throughout southern Illinois; on behalf of each of them, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. If anyone could help with Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings, please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-406-7037**
- **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.**
- **Rice Bowls are available for the Lenten Season. They can be picked up in the back of church.**



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>.



Sr. Maris Stella once served her country. Her military career began at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Her initial assignment was as gunnery officer on a destroyer off the coast of South America in pursuit of drug traffickers. "I served in the Navy, and I tasted many of the good things that this world has to offer, but I knew my heart was made for something more." When I met the Sisters of Life, it was everything in my heart being lived out in a joyful way...offering support and resources to pregnant women and mothers and helping women who suffer after abortion. She entered the Sisters of Life in 2006, and in 2015, she moved to Denver to start a new convent "because women in college are very vulnerable..." Sr. Maris Stella; Denver Sisters of Life Catholic War Veterans Magazine; March 2024

Respect Life Corner

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated on March 19th. This special day offers an opportunity to reflect on the beautiful gift of adoption and to seek St. Joseph's intercession for all those whose lives are touched by it. As we prepare for the Solemnity, we invite you to join us in praying the St. Joseph Adoption Novena, asking the Lord to bless and guide all who walk the path of adoption.

Visit respectlife.org/adoption-novena for the novena, which begins March 10th.

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent - A

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes she returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together."

Up to this point, we have been reading the Gospel of Matthew. Nevertheless, the next two Sundays, we will be reading from the Gospel of John. Consequently, this weekend's reading is centered on Baptism and new life. We read these readings in Lent because many people are preparing to be baptized during the Easter Vigil and Christ invites them to drink the living water and be refreshed.

The dialogue between Jesus and the woman from Samaria in the Gospel is among the lengthiest and most theological discourse found in Scripture. The most surprising part of the conversation is this: famous Jews like Jesus were supposed to avoid talking to women in public. Furthermore, the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation. The woman herself references the break from tradition when she says: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet, Jesus does not just talk to the woman; he also asks her to share her drinking vessel, which is against Jewish law.

Although the woman understands the importance of water, she does not understand what the living water means. She would only appreciate Jesus' gift of the water only if she will not be thirsty again or come to draw water from the well anymore. Notice that this woman has had more than five divorces. Therefore, her life seems to be a broken experience. She appears lonely given the fact that she goes to the well at noon. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning. But Jesus does not turn away from this woman. He engages her, takes her seriously and spends several days in her community. The woman and her community become important for Jesus. More so, the woman becomes a witness to Christ. Although the heart of this story is the dramatic transformation of the woman, we see the toughness and tenderness of Jesus at work. He is both unyielding and compassionate. This is the same way Jesus supports us as we move towards Him. When we have Him where he belongs, He helps our whole life fall into place better.

COME SEE US AT



MARCH 21

**GIBAULT
FR. HUSTEDDE
GYM**

5PM

**TICKETS: \$40 IN
ADVANCE
\$45 AT THE DOOR**

**FEATURING:
APPETIZERS, DESSERTS
& DRINKS FROM 20+
VENDORS & LIVE BAND
ENTERTAINMENT**





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 28th and March 29th, 2026
Saturday Mass 5pm, Sunday Mass 8:00am**
- **HOLY THURSDAY, April 2nd, 2026
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **GOOD FRIDAY, April 3rd, 2026
6:30 PM STATION OF THE CROSS FOLLOWED BY
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ 7:00pm, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, April 4th, 2026
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER SUNDAY, April 5th, 2026
8:00AM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**



**DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE
OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR**

February 24, 2026

Dear Brothers,

On Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, 2026, the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 AM in the Cathedral of St. Peter. Because a bishop for the Diocese of Belleville has not yet been appointed, I am pleased to announce that this Liturgy will be celebrated by His Eminence, Wilton Cardinal Gregory. During this Mass, with the priests, deacons, *confirmandi* and members of the Christian Faithful gathered together, Cardinal Gregory will consecrate the Sacred Chrism and bless the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick that will be used throughout our Diocese in the coming year.

All priests are invited to concelebrate at this important liturgy during which we also renew our commitment to the priesthood. All deacons, and their wives and families, are cordially invited to attend as well. Our Religious Sisters and Brothers, the Christian Faithful, those preparing for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, and our young people who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are also invited to participate in the Chrism Mass.

Priests can invite two representatives from each parish and/or partnership to receive the sacred oils. Priests and Deacons may also receive their oils themselves. If you have a need for extra oil, please bring only small (4 ounce) bottles clearly marked with your parish name to the Cathedral Rectory the week before, or bring them to the Cathedral sacristy the day of the Chrism Mass.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for priests will be available from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the confessionals located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Vesting will begin at 11:00 AM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after which we will process together. Priests should wear the Diocesan vestments. Only Deacons assisting at the Mass will vest.

Please be assured of my prayers for you during this season of Lent; kindly keep me in yours.

Peace~

Very Reverend Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Diocesan Administrator