

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. 18 May 3rd, 2026

Theme for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

We are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood” called to place our faith and trust in the Spirit of Jesus who guides the community of faith.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 05/01	8:00 am – Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 05/02	5:00 pm – For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 05/03	8:00 am - Dennis Holle, Special Intention
Friday, 05/08	8:00 am – Philip Rheinecker
Saturday, 05/09	5:00pm- For All the Mothers of the Parish
Sunday, 05/10	8:00am- For All the Mothers of the Parish



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 04-26-26:

Weekly Envelopes- \$1840.00

Loose- \$350.00

Youth-\$4.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$3442.30*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday May 9th, 2026, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Ruth Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss
Camera:

Sunday May 10th, 2026, 8:00 am

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Karbans
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary
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, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Andy Amann, Vickie and Tim Grant, Ray Mavericks.

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.

“It is only through your prayers, kindness and generosity that our diocesan ministries can continue providing services to our parishes, schools and the needy among us throughout the 28 southernmost counties of Illinois. Please support the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today!” -Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB

PLEDGES TO DATE: 19 41% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$2860.00 Pledged as of 4/26/2026 \$6856.00 is the Parish Financial Target

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Let the office know if you would like to donate items or cash to the rectory project for our new Priest, Fr. Bala.**
- **The Parish Secretary will be out of town starting April 30th, 2026, through May 4th, 2026. The office will be open on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026.**
- **Graduation Mass request forms are now available at all church entrances and on the Parish Office door. Please return them no later than May 8th, 2026.**
- **Anointing of the sick will take place this weekend May 2nd and May 3rd after the masses.**
- **We are looking for volunteers to help vacuum church. Donna Rheinecker has been so graciously cleaning church for several years but needs help with the vacuuming. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office at 618-473-2217.**





Pray for Vocations

Today our reading from the Acts of the Apostles declares the institution of the Diaconate ministry. This event calls forth seven men to assist the Apostles in spreading the Kingdom of God. We are blessed in this Diocese to have so many men who have accepted the call to the Diaconate.” They are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister are under the immediate supervision of the pastor. (USCCB)”

Respect Life Corner

In honor of the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi’s death, Pope Leo XVI has proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. In this Year of Saint Francis, may he help us to see the beauty of life in all of creation, in particular, in the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Together, let us pray for the protection of human life and the courage to defend it.

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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:

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

A retired priest after a lifelong of ministry died and went to heaven. About the same time a man who had worked his whole life as a cab driver died. The two of them arrived at the heavenly gates at the same time. St. Peter addressed the priest first, "Welcome Father" he said, "we're glad to have you here." Then he gave the priest a clean white cotton gown and a wooded halo, and said, "Father you'll be living in a little cottage over by the train tracks. It's a bit noisy but it's clean. You'll like it." The priest was somewhat discouraged about his accommodations in heaven so he decided to wait to see what the taxi driver would receive. St. Peter turned to the taxi driver with open arms, "Welcome we've been waiting for you. We are delighted that you are here at last." Then he gave the taxi driver a silken white gown and a halo of solid gold. "We are putting you in one of our best properties—a thirty-room mansion on a 15-acre lot of prime heavenly real estate." The taxi driver was delighted and went off to his heavenly abode. The priest decided to question St. Peter. He said "St. Peter, is there some mistake? Should I not receive a mansion too. I went to church every day, and I preached the word of God week in and week out." St. Peter replied, "Sorry Father, your place in heaven is gauged by the results of your work. When you preached, people slept. But when he drove, everyone prayed!

The place to produce results is where we live and work. If our faith does not make some impact on the ordinary things we do day in and day out, it is doubtful whether that faith is real.

The lectionary readings for the Sundays after Easter tend to provide us with Jesus' instructions on how to live without his physical presence. Jesus says, "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" (14:1-2 ESV).

The hearts of the disciples are troubled because their time with Jesus has come to an end. They are troubled because they will lose the security and the privileges associated with being around Jesus. But Jesus wants us to continue to encounter God in the midst of our work. While we work, we should not be troubled. Rather we should work in such a way that our work derives from our belief in Christ. That means working with passion and love. I like the following quote from St. Francis the Sales (Introduction to Devout Life, Chap.3)

"When God created the world, He commanded each tree to bear fruit after its kind; and even so He bids Christians, —the living trees of His Church, —to bring forth fruits of devotion, each one according to his kind and vocation. A different exercise of devotion is required of each—the noble, the artisan, the servant, the prince, the maiden, and the wife; and furthermore, such practice must be modified according to the strength, the calling, and the duties of each individual." So, wherever we work, whether it is in an office, or caring for a home or driving a truck or working in a bank, whatever job we have, we need to work in such a way that it manifests that we are working for Jesus and our eternal home is with him.

THANK YOU!

The Wittenauer Family would like to thank the St. Augustine Community for all the kind words and support they offered us upon the passing of our mom, Arline. Special thanks to Fr. Linus, and Fr. Bala, to the servers, the organist, and the choir, the Altar Sodality and Mrs. Bruss. She will be missed by many.



Congratulations to Eva Litteken and Vaughn Kern who made their First Communion at Ss. Peter and Paul on Sunday, April 19.

Also, Congratulations to Isaac Edwin who made his First Communion on April 26 at St. Augustine's.

May God Bless you always.

BELLEVILLE TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST)

Do you remember the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Catholic retreat program? Are you a teenager or young adult (age 17 or older) who is looking for an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ? Have you ever experienced a TEC retreat and would like one of your loved ones to have the same opportunity? Are you a youth leader who is looking for a retreat program to offer to your Christian youth community? Are you just looking for an opportunity to help share your faith with the young people of the Belleville Diocese? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please contact the Belleville Diocesan TEC board for additional information about upcoming retreat weekends.

Belleville.tec@gmail.com or contact bellevilletec.org to submit an application Our next retreat is scheduled June 6-8 at Mater Dei in Breese