

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 FAX 618-473-9141

E-MAIL ADDRESS: staug@htc.net

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

**To contact Father Linus Umoren, CM; when not in Parish Office,
Cell #618-666-2217**

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

House of Neighborly Service Help Line 618-939-8680

Confessions: heard each Saturday night from 4 to 4:45 pm

Parish Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

VOL. 58 NO. 50– December 10th, 2023

THEME FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord, by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

MASS INTENTIONS:

- Fri. 12/8 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sat. 12/9 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sun. 12/10 8:00am- Agnes & Cletus Gregson, John Link, and Ed Weiler
- Fri. 12/15 8:00am- Urban Wittenauer
- Sat. 12/16 5:00pm- Marvin Eckart, A Special Intention, and A Special Intention
- Sun. 12/17 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12/3/23:

Envelopes (105)- \$3,155.00

Loose- \$236.00

Youth-\$12.00

Parking Lot/Resolution Projects Donations-**\$2,700.00**

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,442.00 (Total Donated since
8/1/2023)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 16th, 5pm

Set Up: Elaine Rader

Servers:

Lector: Elaine Rader

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder

Camera:

Sunday, December 17th, 8:00am

Set Up: Sr. Joan Weiler

Servers: Doerrs

Lector: Ryan Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: John Kaiser

Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doerr

Camera:

Please pray for the following:

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Marcia Rheinecker, Ricky Wittenauer, Lois Papenberg, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Gary Brinkman, Doris (Neff) Firnkes, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Heather Grohmann Kurtz, Shirley Wittenauer, Annette Lovelace, Mel Parker, Debra Harbaugh, Geri Griffin, and Melissa Stelhorn.

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



PRAY FOR Mabel C Nollau, mother of Mary Kujawski, Grandmother of Charlie & Jen Kujawski, who died December 5th. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. May her soul and all souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent

A little boy came in from play to ask his mother, "Who am I?" Assuming the boy was playing a game, she answered, "Why? you're Superman." But the little boy remained very serious. "Oh, mom," he said, "The lady up the street is right." The mother asked him what he meant, and he replied, "She said I was so dirty my own mother wouldn't recognize me."

The second Sunday of Advent introduces us to the first person among the significant Advent figures: John the Baptist. John is a prophet who prepared the people of his time for the coming of Jesus by summoning them to repentance. Moreover, he introduced them to the path of righteousness and the imminence of God's kingdom. In John's time people lived in a world that was so broken. They had to deal with broken families, broken relationship, broken promises and fragile trust. Today much of what we witness, see on television or read in journals point to a broken world. More recently than ever, we see that our political institution is not perfect, and our religious institutions are fighting over the truth of who Jesus is and how he would approach our world. Besides, we have other personal issues and challenges to deal with.

Imagine what John would say if he came to our world today. It will not be mistaken if he called people to repent of "the culture of whatever" and to get down on our knees and ask God to set our hearts on fire. In the "culture of whatever," instead of engagement and search for the Christian truth, we choose "whatever" feeds our orientation. Instead of the discipline of intentionality and the boundaries of accountability we choose chaos. Go to the street today and ask people how many genders we have and watch the confusion. Ask further for the definition of who a woman or man is and be prepared for the drama. Furthermore, we live in a world where feeling is more respected than reason and personal interest is more important than the common good.

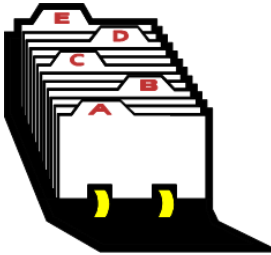
What if John the Baptist is calling us to look at the reality of life and the brokenness of our world and make a bold decision for the future? What if he is pointing out our "idolatry" in the form of self-indulgence, political fixation and pleasure-seeking? In fact, the voice crying out in the wilderness calls us to seriously reexamine our priorities and organize our values correctly.



The 2024 Contribution Envelopes are now available at the front entrance of Church. Some family members are grouped together, so if you wouldn't mind delivering, I would really appreciate it!



Mark Your Calendars!!! Super Bowl Bingo is Sunday, February 11th, 2024!!!



HAS YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGED? ARE YOU JUST USING A CELL # NOW AND NEED TO ELIMINATE YOUR LANDLINE NUMBER? HAVE YOU HAD A CHILD RELOCATE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE? ARE YOU NOT ON OUR PARISH AND NEED TO REGISTER?

The 2024 Parish List will be published early in 2024 and the Office would appreciate any updates or changes as soon as possible. If you have any changes, please let us know by dropping a note in the collection basket, by calling The Parish Office 618-473-2217, or by sending email to. Thank you very much!!!



2023 Christmas Family Program

ITEMS ARE DUE BACK NOW! There will be a marked plastic bin near the front door of church where you may place your items.

I will be delivering the items this week!

Thank you for once again taking all the tags and donating items, gift cards and making monetary donations towards gift cards!!!!

If you have any questions, please give me a call at the Parish Office 618-473-2217 or home 618-473-9335.

Signed: Joan Powell

**2023 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE & INFORMATION FOR OUR PARISH HERE AT
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY-HECKER**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Requests may be made again this year for flowers “in memory of” or “in honor of” family members. Please use the designated envelope in your box and return to the Office at St. Augustine’s either by mail, by collection basket, or dropping off in person.

COMMUNION

Will be brought to the home bound, please call the office at 473-2217 to schedule.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

This is a Holy Day of Obligation – Mass Friday, December 8th at 8:00 am.

Advent Reconciliation Services

Saturday, December 9th, 2023
3:30-5:00pm – St. Augustine’s

Saturday, December 16th, 2023
3:30-5:00pm- St. Augustine’s



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY – MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023
Mass – 8:00 a.m.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, December 31st, Mass at 8:00am



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- New Year’s Day

Monday, January 1st, 2024

Not a Holy Day of Obligation (No Mass at St. Augustine’s)

2023 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE & INFORMATION FOR OUR PARTNER PARISHES OF:
Ss. PETER and PAUL (WATERLOO) & ST. MARY'S (VALMEYER)

December 7th- Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
7 p.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo

Friday, December 8th- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
8 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
10a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School

Wednesday, December 13th- Reconciliation
Ss. Peter and Paul School-10a.m.

Monday, December 18th- Reconciliation Opportunities
Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Waterloo-6:45p.m.

December 20th- Advent Prayer Opportunities
9:30 a.m. Nativity Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul School, Waterloo
7:00p.m. XLT Adoration- Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Waterloo

Sunday, December 24th- Fourth Week of Advent
8 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
10 a.m. St. Mary's, Valmeyer

Sunday, December 24th- Christmas Eve
5p.m. Vigil Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
6 p.m. Vigil Mass, St. Mary, Valmeyer

Monday, December 25th- Christmas Day
12 a.m. Christmas, Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
8 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
10 a.m. St. Mary, Valmeyer
10 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo

Sunday, December 31st- New Year's Eve
8 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo
10 a.m. St. Mary, Valmeyer
10 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo

Monday, January 1st, 2024- New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
*No obligation to attend Mass
8 a.m. Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo



Diocesan Christmas Dinner

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville will sponsor the annual Diocesan Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, at 11:30 a.m. in the Monsignor Bernard Voss Parish Center of St. Henry Parish, 5303 West Main Street, Belleville. Meals can also be delivered to those who are disabled/homebound (three meals maximum for delivery). If you or someone you know live alone and would like to attend the dinner or need a meal delivered, please call 618-722-5024 no later than December 15, 2023.

2023 DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS DINNER CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

**Monday, December 25, 2023
Msgr. Bernard Voss Parish Center, St. Henry Parish
5303 West Main Street, Belleville**

REGISTRATION FORM

INDIVIDUALS please fill out the **TOP** of the form only. If you will be bringing your **FAMILY** to St. Henry's, please continue filling out the **BOTTOM** of the form. **Please Print!**

NAME:

CHURCH OR PARISH:

YOUR STREET ADDRESS:

APT#: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____ **PHONE:**

CHECK ONLY ONE: **ATTENDING**

CANNOT ATTEND – PLEASE DELIVER A MEAL (for disabled and/or those who are homebound)

_____ # of meals requested (3 maximum if delivered)

The dinner will be served at 11:30 A.M. on Christmas Day, December 25, in the Msgr. Bernard Voss Parish Center of St. Henry Parish, 5303 West Main Street in Belleville.

To make your reservations or request a meal delivery, please return this form or call 618-722-5024 NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15TH. Please mail requests to: **Christmas Dinner Reservations**

**Catholic Diocese of Belleville
222 South Third Street
Belleville, IL 62220**

NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS IF ATTENDING AT ST. HENRY'S (Please include **GENDER** and **AGE** of all children):

1. _____ (**Adult Member of Family**)

2. _____ (**Adult Member of Family**)

3. _____ (**Child**) Gender: **M**___ or **F**___ Age: _____

4. _____ (**Child**) Gender: **M**___ or **F**___ Age: _____



NEWS FROM GIBUALT HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas Concert

All are invited to the Gibault Catholic Christmas Concert on December 10 beginning at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Raffle-Mania

Raffle-Mania is back with bigger prizes! This year's grand prize has **DOUBLED** to **\$5,000!** Visit <https://givebutter.com/Raffle-Mania> to purchase your tickets!

Early Bird Drawing December 1st for \$250.

GRAND PRIZES of \$5000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250, and 6 @ \$100

Prizes will be drawn on February 1st during Catholic Schools Week.

Tickets are being sold exclusively online. If anyone has difficulty with their online purchase, contact Desiree Frasure at Gibault Catholic High School. (dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com or 618-939-3883)

Apply to the Class of 2028

Winter break is the perfect time to get your application in! Apply by Jan. 26, 2024, in order to be part of this year's Acceptance Day festivities. Application available at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>

Visit Gibault!

We'd love to see you in 2024! Our Shadow Program and Private Tours resume in January. On select Tuesdays and Fridays, your 7th or 8th grader or current high school student can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! We also offer Private Tours for the whole family. See our campus and get your questions answered by our Director of Enrollment. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>

Family Sports Pass

Show you're #gibaultproud all year long! For \$125, Hawk Fans can purchase a Family Pass that covers admission to most of our home games (some exclusions apply.) This pass is valid for girls' and boys' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' soccer, softball, baseball, and select boys' soccer home games throughout the 23-24 school year! Visit [GCHSSportsPass.givesmart.com](https://gchssportspass.givesmart.com) to purchase your pass!

Come shop the
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Handmade Marketplace



Get unique, handmade gifts for the holidays
Presented by SPPCS PTO

Saturday, December 9th

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

SPPCS GYM

**Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic
Church-XLT Adoration**

Please join us in church for our next XLT Adoration on Wednesday December 20th from 7 – 8 pm. It will be a great addition to your Advent prayer and preparations. This form of Adoration includes contemporary Christian music, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic procession in church, reading and reflection on the Eucharist, a brief period of quiet Adoration, and Benediction.

thank you ^{SPPCS}

SPPCS Students & Families
raised **\$934.25**
during our dress down day for
St. Vincent De Paul Society.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU!!

Thank You!

Thank You

THANK YOU

THANK YOU





DIOCESAN INFORMATION

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn how at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

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>.

To stay informed of Pro-Life events in our Diocese, like and follow our FaceBook page,
Respect Life Apostolate – Belleville

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal 2023

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15

Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,500 students at 25 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven’t already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2023 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you!!

Pledges to Date: 36 \$6,403.00 100% of our goal has been matched!!

THANK YOU TO ALL who contributed!!!!

2024 VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- St. Michael, Paderborn – **January thru December 2024.** \$20 per ticket. 12 Chances to win!! Picture of quilts available inside Parish office. Contact Sue Walsh 473-2798. Limited number of tickets available in Parish Office at St. Augustine's.
- St. Patrick's Ruma – January thru December 2023; \$20 per ticket; tickets available in the Parish Office at St. Augustine's. Questions call Kathy Schmidt at 618/284-7274.
- St. James, Millstadt – Quilt-A-Rama, Tickets drawn the first Monday of every month during 2024. Tickets are \$25.00 each. See your Parish Office for tickets or contact St. James, 618/476-3513.
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel Renault Quilt of the Month!**
Tickets are **\$25.00** each for the year of drawings. **Winner goes back into the box for a chance to be drawn next month. Please call Phyllis at 618-458-6854 or text Lisa 618-444-5544 to purchase a ticket.**



“Our vocation starts as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God’s pull on our heart. It’s often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. Are we to become another John the Baptist - that “voice of one crying out in the desert”? St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, “We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish.”



The Serra Club of St. County is an organization of Catholic men and women dedicated to foster and affirm vocations to the Priesthood and vowed religious life. Our purpose is to pray for vocations and inform our community the need for vocations. We provide many social events for our Priests, Deacons and Nuns. We sponsor occasional visits to the Seminaries for our grade and high students guided by a priest or a seminarian. Our group meets every first and third Friday of the month at Corpus Christi Parish Hall 206 Rasp St. Shiloh, IL 62269. We begin Mass at 11:00 am, follow by lunch and a brief meeting, and a prominent speaker. Additional information please call Marvin Winkeler (402 214-1155 or Mel Lucash 618-531-4244 **Serra has a new web page: serrastclair.org**

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!



National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Shrine Grounds and Visitors Center

From November 17 through December 31, 2023, 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Indoor activities closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Way of Lights Display depicts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem using over 1.5 million beautiful lights. This year, we have added colored lights to celebrate the birth of Jesus and continue to offer activities for young and old alike!

Cost: No charge for display, donations accepted and additional charges for some activities.

For more information, call 618-397-6700 or visit our website at <https://snows.org/wayoflights>

Christmas Country Church Tour Announcement

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church) in Perryville, Missouri, will once again be participating in the Christmas Country Church Tour along with 36 other churches and chapels. The tour will take place on December 14 and 15, from 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All of the participating churches welcome visitors to view their Christmas decorations and to spend a few moments in silent prayer during the Advent season. Here at the Shrine, a tree will be decorated with prayer petitions from local students. There will be live music both nights. Light refreshments will be served in the Visitor Center, where unique Christmas items, including nativity sets, will be on display. If you have any questions, please call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279 or visit our website at www.amm.org. We look forward to your visit.



NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Join the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for our annual 5k run and 1.5-mile fun as you welcome in the New Year!! What better way to start the year than going through this exciting course while surrounded by 1.5 million beautiful and breathtaking Christmas lights display!

Cost: \$30.00 Run, \$20.00 for Walk if registered up by December 16, 2023. Additional \$5.00 per person starting December 17, 2023.

For more information, visit <https://snows.org/wolrun/> or call 618-397-6700.

St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SSPPCC Sodality Christmas Party extends an invitation to the ladies of St. Augustine's...December 12th, 2023 6pm, to be held in school cafeteria. For more details please contact Debbie Harbaugh or June Valentine.
- Sunday, December 10th, 5-6pm- Santa Claus is coming to HHC! Parade by fire truck around town to begin festivities and end with pictures with Santa!

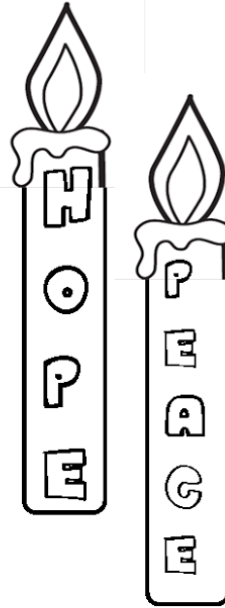
UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS/ PICNICS- *UPDATED WEEKLY!!*

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing-** Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School
Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **St. Barbara's Catholic Church- Parish Hall**
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
305 N Front St, Okawville, IL 62271, Doors open @5pm, Bingo @ 6pm
Food, drinks, and desserts for purchase- All games pay out \$50.00
- **Magical Breakfast With Santa-** 9-12pm, Gibault Catholic High School
Sunday, December 10th, 2023, RSVP required- <https://gwcmagicalbreakfast.com/rsvp>
- **Win a Brand New 2023 CFMoto UForce 1000 (over \$15,000 value!)** with top, windshield, street legal kit, tax and title; Drawing held December 16, 2023; \$20 each or 6/\$100; Proceeds benefit: St. Stephen Catholic Church & Guadalupe Project in Flora, IL; Buy online at: 2023sidexside.com; **If less than 1,000 tickets sold, drawing will be a 50/50.**

PEACE

*"...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

Luke 2:11



For Parents:

Anticipation is an important part of the Advent season that children can easily understand. They can easily relate to the excitement of an upcoming birthday or special trip. Christ's coming should be approached with enthusiasm and expectation.

For Kids:

This is the second week of Advent and when we learn about **Peace**. Even though Jesus came to be our Savior and Messiah, he was born as a tiny baby, just like all of us. The Wisemen saw a star that told them a king had been born, and that he would be the king of kings, the Prince of Peace. Jesus offers us peace because he loves us unconditionally.

If you have a manger scene at your house, pull out the Wisemen who followed a star that led them to a peaceful newborn Jesus.

Say a prayer together telling God how Jesus brings peace and calm to your family. Color in the candle of Peace and open the envelopes on your Advent calendar.



The star they had seen rose and went ahead of them until it stopped over where the child had been born.