

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. 61 NO. 50 December 14th, 2025

Theme for The Third Sunday in Advent

In the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of His advent.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 12/12	8:00 am- James Scherle
Saturday, 12/13	5:00 pm – For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 12/14	8:00 am- Gary Rist, Special Intention
Friday, 12/19	8:00am- Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 12/20	5:00pm- Marcia & Evan Rheinecker
Sunday, 12/21	8:00am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12-07-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$1553.00

Loose- \$162.00

Youth- \$

5th Sunday Collection- \$319.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$2521.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, December 20th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann
Servers: Mehrmann's

Lector: Cindy Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Ruth Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss
Camera:

Sunday, December 21st, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban, Lucas Gregson

Lector: Jonella Donius
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann
Camera:

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025, 4pm

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers: Doerr's
Lector: Janella Neary
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar
Camera:

Thursday, December 25th, 2025, 9am

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban
Lector: Cindy Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann
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, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, Joan Wittenauer, Arline Wittenauer, Michael Hougland, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **A penitential service and confessions will take place on December 21, 2025, at 3:00 in the afternoon at St. Augustine's.**
- **On December 21, after the 8:00 mass, please plan to stay and help decorated the church for Christmas. Many hands make less work.**
- **There will be a mass, December 31, 2025, at 5:00pm for the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.**

Diocesan Christmas Dinner

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville will sponsor the annual Diocesan Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. in the Monsignor Bernard Voss Parish Center of St. Henry Parish, 5303 West Main Street, Belleville. Meals can also be delivered in the Belleville area 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 16, 2025.

Gibault Updates

The 2026-27 New Student Application deadline to be included in our January 16 Acceptance Day event is Monday, January 5, 2026. Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. All 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 more information. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.

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>.



Discernment Day of Recollection

All single young men ages 15–35 are invited to a Discernment Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon from 9:00 am-2:30 pm. The day will focus on the theme of "Spiritual Sonship and Fatherhood" and includes conferences, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion, and lunch. Please email [mskorch@diobelle.org](mailto:m Skorch@diobelle.org) if you have any questions.

Respect Life Corner

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So, his mum told him that would be fine. Sam went to his room and wrote 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.' But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So, he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time, he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, if you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

The third Sunday of Advent is called the Gaudete Sunday. Halfway through our advent pilgrimage, we pause to celebrate the Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing.

The central figure in this week's liturgy is John the Baptist. His witness points to the struggle of faith and the anxiety associated with waiting for change. In most scripture passages concerning John, he is confident that Jesus is the Messiah and proclaims this good news to others.

But in the gospel this weekend, John is not so sure about Jesus. So John sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus replies without directly declaring himself as the one who is to come, "go and tell John what you hear and see: The blind can see, the lame can walk, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news brought to them— and blessed are you if you can see it." If we ask what made John feel this way about Jesus, who he heralded, we can only think of one thing: the gap between his expectations of the Messiah and the more "subdued" Messiah Jesus.

Life brings a lot of surprises to us. Perhaps we believed that if we gave more money to charity, things would be well and we would be happier. Or we had thought that if we made more money and got a big house, we would have a peaceful home or healthy family. But unfortunately, our expectations and the reality we live is different. So then, we feel like John the Baptist and ask, "What is there to celebrate about life? What is there to celebrate at Christmas?"

But at the heart of this season is the good news: God comes to us. He comes to us in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. In the first reading, Isaiah paints the picture of regeneration. The desert that was once dead is bursting with life; eyes that could not see have sight, and ears incapable of hearing can now hear. This message of Isaiah is what Jesus re-echoes when John's disciples bring the question from John.

The resultant good news is that as we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our life, we discover how everything and everybody around us is an instrument of God's blessing. We realize there is life in what we thought was dead and strength in what we thought was a weakness. Finally, the emptiness and the illusion in hope the world offers become more evident as we begin to see things through the eyes of Christ the one who is to come.



The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Hope in the Lord

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2025 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: 31 103% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$6,968.00.00 pledged of 10/12/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS EVE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025
Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025
Mass – 9:00 a.m.

VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S EVE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025.
Mass – 5:00 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S DAY
(Holy day of Obligation)
Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.