

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. 51– December 17th, 2023

THEME FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

MASS INTENTIONS:

- 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
- Fri. 12/22 8:00am- Wally & Mike Amann, and A Special Intention
- Sat. 12/23 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Sun. 12/24 8:00am- Joe Jung, Roy Schreder, and Dennis Holle
4:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
- Mon 12/25 8:00am- Don Braun, Philip & John Rheinecker, and Jerry Mollet



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12/10/23:

Envelopes (54)- \$2,420.00
Loose- \$106.00

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 23rd, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker

Servers:

Lector: Ruth Wittenauer

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Sr. Joan Weiler

Extraordinary Minister (W): Donna Rheinecker

Camera:

Sunday, December 24th, 8:00am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Servers:

Lector: Janella Neary

Extraordinary Minister: Raeleen Neary

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle

Camera: Mike Karban

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th, 4pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Servers: Koesters & Doerrs

Lector: Eric Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich

Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker

Choir loft: Annette Schreder

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th, 8:00am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Servers: Eric Schreder & Lucas Gregson

Lector: Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: Elaine Rader

Extraordinary Minister(W): Donna Rheinecker

Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar



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) Firnkas, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Shirley Wittenauer, Annette Lovelace, Mel Parker, Debra Harbaugh, Geri Griffin, and Melissa Stellhorn.

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

**** If anyone could stay after the 8am Mass this Sunday and help decorate the church for Christmas, it would be very much appreciated!!****



Thank you for all the prayers and kind words of concern while our daughter Heather was battling breast cancer. She received her last radiation treatment on December 4th. Our prayers were answered!

-Keith & Cindy Grohmann

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent B

Little Jonny swallowed a nickel. The mother said to Jonny's father, "Henry, call the doctor." "No, I think we ought to call the minister quick, he can get money out of anybody."

For the last two Sundays our attention has been directed toward the preparation of the coming of Christ. The third Sunday focuses our attention much more on the Lord already present among us. This weekend is known as 'Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday', and rose vestments are worn to signal the joy realized in our liturgy today. We light the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath symbolizing our joy as we await the coming of our Savior. We rejoice because the day of salvation is nearby.

This weekend's Gospel presents John the Baptist again as a model disciple. He heralds the coming of Christ and announces the good news that Christ is the word of God made flesh. The message of this season is that God is coming to us. If God is coming to us, we must not let the situation we find ourselves make us unable to find and celebrate him. Probably, we have made up our mind that this year's Christmas is not going to be as meaningful or as joyful as the previous Christmases have been. This can be because of the experience of some bad and tragic moments in life or the loss of a dear one over this year. Consequently, we feel empty. Moreover, there are some people who will not be able to attend the Christmas mass and listen to the traditional Christmas carols because they are home bound. They already feel a sense of emptiness and meaninglessness. How do we find joy in all these? It can be challenging.

Nevertheless, we must not conclude that we have nothing to celebrate. We must not let the darkness of the world cover God's light. The joy of Jesus and the joy of Christmas can only be ours to the extent that we discover what inner joy means. Inner joy is discovered in knowing the goodness of God. Thus, when a Christian looks at the world, and sees the love of God at work—not just the evil in the form of disease, violence, and poverty, that Christian radiates inner joy. When they see God's glory, His compassion, and His love shining through the darkness of our world, that Christian is ready to celebrate Christ whose coming into our history has transformed the human story and experience.



PRAY FOR Alan Schertel, husband to LuAnn (nee Birkner), stepfather to Scott Gregson and step-grandfather to Tommy and Cassidy, brother-in-law to Gilbert & Deanna Birkner and Jonella & Mike Donius, who died this week. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.



PRAY FOR Charles Macke, father to Jennifer Macke, Uncle to LuAnn Schertel, Gilbert & Deanna Birkner and Jonella & Mike Donius, who died this week. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

- Please pick up your 2024 Contribution Envelopes if you have not done so yet...they are located inside church entrance.
- Super Bowl Bingo set for Sunday, February 11th, 2024, Hecker Community Center,
- Please let the Parish Office know any phone, address, email, or contact info change!

Thank You

SPECIAL THANKS TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CHURCH

On behalf of the agencies, ministries and departments that are supported through The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for so generously supporting this year's Appeal. Also, congratulations on exceeding your parish's CSMA financial goal. It is your Christian caring and generosity that gives help and hope to those in need.

Thank you again so much. God's richest blessings to each of you and your families.

Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Bishop of Belleville



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.



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During the holy season of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ and look forward with hope to his Second Coming at the end of time. Christ came to help all people, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need. During Advent, as faithful disciples of Christ, we prepare our hearts and the world for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

An important way of proclaiming the good news of our Savior's birth is by imitating Christ's love for the poor and serving those most in need among us. I ask your support for our 46th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection which will be taken up at our Christmas Masses. One hundred per cent (100%) of the money collected through this fund stays in our Diocese to help people with emergency utility assistance, shelter, food, transportation, burial expenses and countless other forms of crisis aid. During the past year, approximately \$35,000.00 has been distributed to those in need in southern Illinois through your gifts to the Christmas Collection.

Our Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection has been a much-needed source of help for many. Envelopes for this special collection are in your regular envelope packet; the collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You may also make your donation electronically through your parish on-line giving. Another option is to make your gift on-line by visiting the Diocesan website at www.diobelle.org. Please know I am most grateful for any support you are able to give.

A blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McGovern".

Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Bishop of Belleville

**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





NEWS FROM GIBUALT HIGH SCHOOL

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 to purchase your pass!



DIOCESAN INFORMATION

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“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.”

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

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.



Today we hear the evangelist John's account of the ministry of John the Baptist. John the Baptist' had a self-awareness of who he was (a proclaimer) and what he was not (the Savior). He knew his vocation and accepted that call from the Lord to "Prepare the way of the Lord". Even though the priests and Levites couldn't determine who he was, John assured them that his role was to baptize with water in anticipation of the one who would baptize with the Spirit. Are you listening for the call to be what the Lord wants you to be?



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>

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.

- **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
- **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.**

SAVE THE DATE

CATHOLIC SPEED DATING

- A social event limited to Single Catholic Young Adults **age 21-30**.
- Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.
- Admission fee - \$5.00
- Advanced registration is required by January 28.

DATE

THURSDAY

01 FEB 2024

TIME

6:30 PM

PLACE

**St. Nicholas Parish Hall
625 Saint Nicholas Dr., O'Fallon**

For More Information and to Register
Scan the QR Code

Sponsored by the Diocese of Belleville



JOY

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those among who God favors."

John 8:12

For Parents:

Advent is the perfect time to teach the concept of joy. When we give to others generously, we experience deep joy. Use this time to teach children that joy is not found in things, but in giving and spending time with others.



For Kids:

This is the third week of Advent and when we learn about **JOY**. We have so much happiness in our hearts because Jesus came to love us and save us. When babies are born people are so excited to share the news. The shepherds had the best news to tell people, that Christ had been born in Bethlehem. Christmas is a wonderful time to tell others about Jesus. If you have a manger scene at your house, pull out the animals and shepherds who came to see Jesus and then went and told others.

*How can you tell others about the joy that Jesus has brought your family? Color in the candle of **JOY** and open the envelopes on your Advent calendar.*



An angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "Don't be afraid. I bring good news!"