

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 473-2217 FAX 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: are heard each Saturday night from 4 to 4:45 pm and
each Sunday from 8 to 8:20 am.

Parish Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Closed from 12 noon to 1:00 pm for lunch.

VOL. 56 NO. 51 – DECEMBER 19th, 2021

THEME FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, he will protect and save us, offering himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. 12-18 5:00 pm – Joe Wittenauer; Norbert Wittenauer and
Urban Wittenauer

Sun. 12-19 8:30 am – For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

**Christmas Eve Fri. 12-24 4:00 pm – Dennis Holle; Lawrence Biffar &
Arline Klinkhardt; and Pat & Mary Brueggemann**

Christmas Eve Fri. 12-24 7:30 pm -- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

**Christmas Day Sat. 12-25 9:00 am – John & Phillip Rheinecker; Mike
Amann and Wylma Wachtel**

Sun. 12-26 8:30 am -- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



**EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH,
2021 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
ALL INDIVIDUALS, REGARDLESS OF
THEIR VACINATION STATUS, AGE TWO
& OLDER, ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A
MASK WHILE INDOORS. THIS
INCLUDES WEEKDAY & WEEKEND
MASSES AND ALL INDOOR PARISH
SOCIAL EVENTS!**

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD: 12-12-2021

Sunday Envelopes (56) - \$2,515.00

Loose – \$86.00

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,504.00
(Total Donated since 8/1/2021)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th; 4pm

Set Up: Margie Holle

Lector: Kay Haudrich

Servers: Koesters & Murphys

Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich and
Margie Holle (Choir)

Sanitizers: Biffars

Camera: Donius

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25th; 9:00 am

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann

Lector: Cindy Grohmann

Servers: Lucas Gregson

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Sanitizers: Cindy Grohmann

Camera:

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th; 7:30pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Lector: Kevin Schreder

Servers:

Extraordinary Minister: Annette Schreder

Sanitizers: Schreders

Camera: Eric Schreder

Sunday, December 26th; 8:30am

Set Up: Elaine Rader

Lector: Elaine Rader

Servers:

Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder

Sanitizers:

Camera: Mike Karban

Please pray for the following:

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Madalyn Killebrew, Bill Cowell, Dave Bruss, Ruth Cortner, Aria Wagner, Ed Weiler, Joe Gregson, Penny Hofstetter, Michelle Knefelkamp, Walter Krysnoski, Mark Triller, Zach Wheat, Bruce Vierheller, Kenny Kern, Marcia Rheinecker, and Gary Wittenauer.

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

Please call the Parish Office 473-2217 to submit names for the prayer list.



HELP NEEDED...

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED CARRYING UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FROM THE BASEMENT AFTER THE 8:30 AM MASS TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH. THANK YOU!!!

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN, C.M.

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

An engaged couple tragically dies in an auto accident. Having been good people during their lives, St. Peter welcomes them at the pearly gates. An inspiring idea hits them, and they ask if they can get married in Heaven. St. Peter replies that this is an unusual request and he will have to ask and get back to them. Meanwhile, he tells them to remain at Heaven's welcome station, a magnificent resort with every amenity you can imagine. St. Peter disappears, and weeks pass without the couple hearing from him. They wonder what is happening and are concerned about their future. Finally, one says to the other, "Marriage up here is probably forever. What if it doesn't work out? Can we get an annulment up here?" St. Peter finally returns and says, "I've got great news for you. You can get married up here." The couple then raised the question of an annulment. St. Peter turns beet red and replies in a scolding tone, "It took me three months to find a priest. How long do you think it's going to take for me to find a lawyer?"

The central point in this week's liturgy is the fulfillment of the promise of God. The coming king is to be born from an ordinary background instead of a royal family. His coming will bring security to the world and people will no longer live in fear.

Mary is a significant figure to bring forth this divine promise. She visits Elizabeth and shares the joy of a previously barren woman who now expects a child. The two women are filled with the Holy Spirit to bring forth new life. The women, on their part, are open to God's activity in them. Mary's greeting and Elizabeth's response are packed full of meaning. Their greetings open up opportunities for blessing each other and acknowledging God's presence in each other.

How important is it that we exchange Christmas greeting cards? Greetings and interactions create access to a relationship.

This time we stand on the threshold of the fulfillment of God's promise. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. Therefore, we remember it religiously and celebrate it with joy and hope. The more we celebrate this promise fulfilled, the more God's love is made ever-present in our world.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



St. Augustine – Hecker – 2021

- ❖ **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th, 4:00pm & 7:30pm Masses**
- ❖ **Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th, 9:00 am Mass**
- ❖ **Sunday, December 26th, 8:30 am Mass**
- ❖ **Saturday, January 1st, 5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday**
January 1st is not a Holy Day of Obligation since it falls on a Saturday.
- ❖ **Sunday, January 2nd; 8:30 am Mass**

Ss. Peter & Paul – Waterloo – 2021

- ❖ **Reconciliation Service, Monday, December 20th, 7:00 pm**
- ❖ **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th; 5:00 pm and 12 am Masses**
- ❖ **Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th; 8:00 am & 10:00 am Masses**

2022

The 2022 Contribution Envelopes are now available at the front entrance of Church. I have grouped some family members together, so if you wouldn't mind delivering, I would really appreciate it!



The 2022 "Feasts and Saints" Calendars are now available at the entrances to church. Please take one per household.

We continue to accept donations for Dave Bruss...please use the special envelopes located at the entrances to church OR just write his name on the memo line on your checks. All monies received will go directly to Dave. Thank you for your kindness!

The Parish recently received a beautiful Christmas card from Dave & Barb Bruss and the following letter was enclosed:

My Dear Friends, I am most grateful for your generous donations. As many of you know I have Stage IV cancer. I have been battling this disease for 8 years, and the treatments can be very expensive. With your support, I can now pay down some of the tremendous debt that I owe. I also appreciate your prayers. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers, and again, THANK YOU ALL. May God Bless You.

As a reminder, at this time, we are required to follow some specific guidelines from the Diocese:

- Everyone age 2 & older must wear a mask to Mass.
- Extraordinary Ministers must wear a mask when distributing communion.
- Servers are NOT to wear an alb at this time; please wear nice church clothes (otherwise someone is going to have to wash the albs after every Mass).

At this time, St. Augustine's Parish is seeking a replacement for the groundskeeper position at the Cemetery. Typical mowing season would be March to October depending on the weather & growing season. The actual hours are flexible and can be set to work with your personal schedule. All necessary equipment is provided for your use.

If you would be interested or have additional questions, please contact the Parish Office by calling 618/473-2217 or sending an email to staug@htc.net.



UPDATE ON OUR SUPER BOWL BINGO, DINNER & RAFFLE, 2022

After much discussion at the recent Blessed Virgin Altar Sodality meeting and the last Parish Council Meeting, the Sodality and Parish are moving forward with plans for the Super Bowl 2022 Event to be held on Sunday, February 13th, 2022. Naturally, all plans are subject to last minute changes depending on current Covid 19 restrictions.

As of today,

- We will be preparing our famous Fried Chicken Dinner and serving in pre-packaged containers (like we had for the drive thru chicken dinner)...you will have the choice to take the meal home with you or to eat in the dining room. This process will cut down on multiple people using the same serving utensils etc. and be much safer for our workers! Serving time remains 10:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- We will be asking for precut desserts...watch for specific details!
- We will have the Lightning Round prior to the Bingo
- Bingo will start at 1:30 pm
- We will be selling Raffle Tickets and Pot of Gold Tickets
- Masks will be required to be worn while not eating or drinking.



RURAL KING'S CHURCH WEEK

In a recent advertisement, Rural King announced that "Church Week" is December 9th-24th, 2021. Rural King will donate 10% of each valid Rural King receipt's total after sales tax to a registered Christian organization of your choice. St. Augustine in Hecker is a registered organization. If you have purchases at Rural King during that time, please visit <http://www.ruralking.com/churchweek> for details.



NEEDED – KIRCHENFEST CHAIRMAN FOR 2022

In a previous bulletin, we announced that Denny Biffar and John Kaiser were resigning as the Chairmen of the Kirchenfest. We are looking for someone to take on this volunteer position for 2022. Please contact the Parish Office if you have questions, or if you would be interested in volunteering.

We are looking for someone to take over the chair of the Pro-Life Committee for the Sodality. We thank Donna Rheinecker for her many years of service as the chair for this committee!! You would coordinate the information received from the Diocesan Office and share it with the parish. So...anyone high school age and older who would like to volunteer, please contact Joan in the Parish Office, 473-2217 or email staug@htc.net. Computer & email access is a must for the communications received.

CAMERA OPERATORS...

We could use some additional volunteers to cover the weekend Masses when we live stream our Masses...any students 7th grade and older, as well as, any adults who would be interested, please call Joan at the Parish Office 473-2217 or email to staug@htc.net. There is a short training beforehand!!! We wish to continue to offer this service to those who are unable to attend Mass in person!!!



DIOCESAN EVENTS

RESPECT 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 ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.

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

DIOCESAN CHRISTMAS COLLECTION DECEMBER 24-25, 2021 (PINK ENVELOPE)

The 44th Annual Diocesan Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please use the special pink envelope in your collection box. Parishes and agencies throughout the Diocese will request monies from this collection during 2022 to assist those who are in need of help with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare & medications, funeral & burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving as you are able. Thank you so much.

VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault – January-December 2021. \$20 per ticket; Call 618/458-7710; Limited number of tickets available in Parish Office at St. Augustine’s. . A new raffle will begin January 2022 and continue through December of 2022.
- St. Michael, Paderborn – January thru December 2021. \$20 per ticket. Contact Sue Walsh 473-2798. Limited number of tickets available in Parish Office at St. Augustine’s.
- St. Liborius, St. Libory – March 2021 thru February 2022. \$40 per ticket. Contact Vicki Knepper 618/960-8420.
- Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights – January thru December 2022. \$30 each or 4 for \$100. Limited tickets in Parish Office at St. Augustine’s.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Catholic Urban Programs Needs Volunteers!

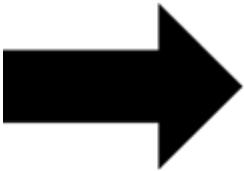
Catholic Urban Programs (CUP), East St. Louis, needs volunteers to serve as client choice food pantry workers and front desk receptionists. Both opportunities provide a wonderful way in which to put your faith into action through service. Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering is invited to call or email Jenn Lyke (618-398-5616, Ext. 203, or jlyke@catholicurbanprograms.org). Additional information is also available at catholicurbanprograms.org/how-to-help. Thank you!

St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Help

With an ever-increasing number of people coming for assistance, the Belleville Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **NEEDS YOUR HELP** once again in providing essentials to the poor they serve and supplies utilized in their ministry:

oatmeal (family size and individual serving size); coffee (regular or decaf) and coffee creamer
breakfast/cereal bars; ballpoint pens – inexpensive; bathroom cleaners – all types
Playtex gloves; laundry detergent (pods); paper towels/toilet tissue

Items can be dropped off at: St. Vincent de Paul Office; **8800 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois 62223 (across from Blessed Sacrament Church)** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. or SVDP Thrift Store/Soup Kitchen; 3718 State Street, East St. Louis; Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon; If you have questions or need additional information, please call the Council office at 618-394-0126. **YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND WILL BE A BLESSING FOR SOMEONE IN NEED! THANK YOU SO MUCH.**



The All Class School Reunion has been rescheduled for
Saturday, April 30th, 2022.

Details to follow after the first of 2022.

ONLINE GIVING

When I researched Online Giving Options, I found out that Associated Bank and Midland States Bank will allow you to set up “St. Augustine’s Catholic Church” under your Bill Pay options. I have tested this on my Midland States Bank account and it works! There is no charge for doing this and you can set it up to be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly etc. I would assume that if these two banks will allow this that most if not all of the other banks would as well.

I wanted to share this information with you as an option that won’t cost you or the parish any fees. If you have any additional questions, please give me a call at 473-2217 or send me an email at staug@htc.net.

Thanks!

Joan Powell, Parish Secretary

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal 2021
Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do... -John 14:12

Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Faith Formation to impact the lives of almost 11,000 students at 26 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 2021 Appeal today...**no amount is too large or too small!** Thank you

Our goal is 169 pledges for a total of \$5,630.00.

Pledges to Date: 37

\$5,760.00

102% of our goal

WE MADE & EXCEEDED OUR GOAL THIS YEAR!



“The vocation of Jesus Christ was to be born and incarnate to our world, humbling Himself from eternity into the temporal of our world. In the same way, our vocation calls us to humble ourselves and enter into the unknown to be stretched beyond what we can normally do in our human capacity. We celebrate this Christmas as a model for our own call to service and gift, knowing that the way won't be easy. Mary and Joseph sacrificed much in their eyes to vocation to allow Jesus to redeem the world. We are called to that same eyes for Jesus!



HAVE YOU HEARD OF SERRA CLUB? The Serra Club of St. Clair 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 inform our community of the need for all vocations. We honor our religious with an annual Nuns Luncheon, a Deacon Dinner, a Priest Picnic and a new Priest Dinner. We pray for our seminarians and help them celebrate their birthdays. Our club meets every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows. There is a Mass at 11:45am; lunch, a brief meeting & a guest speaker. For more information, please contact Marvin Winkeler (402-214-1155) or Mel Lucash (618-531-4244). **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!**



Saint Nicholas visited classrooms at SPPCS on Dec 6. 8th grader Tommy Gregson dressed as St. Nick and his helper was 8th grader Ellie Day. They are seen here with PreK students (left) and 2nd graders (right)

NEWS FROM GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL...

Visit our New Website! Take a look at the redesigned gibalthawks.com! We hope you enjoy this virtual window into our school!

Band Alumni Night -- Calling all former Rockin' Hawks! Our Gibault Band Alumni Night is scheduled for **December 21**. Contact Scott Ruppel at sruppel@gibalthawks.com for more information.

Enrollment News -- Bring the entire family for a Private Tour or spend a day as a Shadow Visitor. Schedule your tour or shadow visit at <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>. It's also time for our Class of 2026 to begin the application process! The application can be found at <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>.

Raffle-Mania! Help Gibault and possibly win some money for yourself! Talk about a win-win! With a purchase of a \$25 ticket, you are entered for:

- \$100 Early Bird Christmas Drawing (ticket must be purchased by December 15 to qualify)
- \$30 Daily Drawings on Monday-Friday from January 1 - May 31
- \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (January - April)
- GRAND PRIZES in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250!

If your ticket is pulled for a prize, it goes right back in, so you have the chance to win again! Tickets can be purchased online at: www.bidpal.net/rafflemania, by contacting any Gibault student, or by calling the school office at 939-3883.

Thank you for your support of Gibault Catholic High School throughout the past year. All of us at Gibault Catholic High School wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2022!



Over the next few bulletins, we will be including portions of the recent Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis...

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER FRATELLI TUTTI OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP**

231. Negotiation often becomes necessary for shaping concrete paths to peace. Yet the processes of change that lead to lasting peace are crafted above all by peoples; each individual can act as an effective leaven by the way he or she lives each day. Great changes are not produced behind desks or in offices. This means that “everyone has a fundamental role to play in a single great creative project: to write a new page of history, a page full of hope, peace and reconciliation”. [216] There is an “architecture” of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an “art” of peace that involves us all. From the various peace processes that have taken place in different parts of the world, “we have learned that these ways of making peace, of placing reason above revenge, of the delicate harmony between politics and law, cannot ignore the involvement of ordinary people. Peace is not achieved by normative frameworks and institutional arrangements between well-meaning political or economic groups...It is always helpful to incorporate into our peace processes the experience of those sectors that have often been overlooked, so that communities themselves can influence the development of a collective memory”. [217]

232. There is no end to the building of a country’s social peace; rather, it is “an open-ended endeavor, a never-ending task that demands the commitment of everyone and challenges us to work tirelessly to build the unity of the nation. Despite obstacles, differences and varying perspectives on the way to achieve peaceful coexistence, this task summons us to persevere in the struggle to promote a ‘culture of encounter’. This requires us to place at the center of all political, social and economic activity the human person, who enjoys the highest dignity, and respect for the common good. May this determination help us flee from the temptation for revenge and the satisfaction of short-term partisan interests”. [218] Violent public demonstrations, on one side or the other, do not help in finding solutions. Mainly because, as the Bishops of Colombia have rightly noted, the “origins and objectives of civil demonstrations are not always clear, certain forms of political manipulation are present and in some cases they have been exploited for partisan interests”. [219]

Beginning with the least

233. Building social friendship does not only call for rapprochement between groups who took different sides at some troubled period of history, but also for a renewed encounter with the most impoverished and vulnerable sectors of society. For peace “is not merely absence of war but a tireless commitment – especially on the part of those of us charged with greater responsibility – to recognize, protect and concretely restore the dignity, so often overlooked or ignored, of our brothers and sisters, so that they can see themselves as the principal protagonists of the destiny of their nation”. [220]

234. Often, the more vulnerable members of society are the victims of unfair generalizations. If at times the poor and the dispossessed react with attitudes that appear antisocial, we should realize that in many cases those reactions are born of a history of scorn and social exclusion. The Latin American Bishops have observed that “only the closeness that makes us friends can enable us to appreciate deeply the values of the poor today, their legitimate desires, and their own manner of living the faith. The option for the poor should lead us to friendship with the poor”. [221]