

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto: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. 51 December 21st, 2025**

### **Theme for The Forth Sunday in Advent**

Jesus is Emmanuel, "God is with us", risen from the dead. He is the King of Glory.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday 12/19	8:00 am- Norbert Wittenauer
Saturday, 12/20	5:00 pm – Marcia & Evan Rheinecker
Sunday, 12/21	8:00 am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Wednesday 12/24	4:00 pm – Dennis Holle, John & David Gregson, Wally & Michael Amann
Thursday 12/25	8:00 am – Roy Schreder, Lois Papenberg, Duane & Jerry Mollet
Friday, 12/26	8:00am- Rheinecker & Weber Families
Saturday, 12/27	5:00pm- Joe Wittenauer
Sunday, 12/28	8:00am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine



#### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12-14-25:**

Weekly Envelopes- \$3535.00

Loose- \$163.00

Youth- \$

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-*

**\$2521.30**

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND**

**Saturday, December 27th, 2025, 5pm**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder  
Servers: Mallory Kern  
Lector: Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker  
Camera:

**Sunday, December 28th, 2025, 8am**

Set Up: Sister Joan  
Servers: Doerr's  
Lector: Alex Birkner  
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle  
Extraordinary Minister (W): 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, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Dorothy Christiansen, Joan Wittenauer, Arline Wittenauer, 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.

Dorothy Christiansen and family would like to thank the Alter Sodality for the Walmart gift cards and visit from Betty Schrader.

She recently celebrated her 96th birthday! It's truly a blessing to have such a supportive and loving church family.  
We appreciate your thoughts and continued prayers.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all!

Dorothy Christiansen and Family

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Christmas morning mass time has been changed to 8:00 am**
- **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 5:00 pm for the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.**
- **If you changed your phone number or address, please let us know, so we can update our parish list for the new year.**
- **The 2026 envelopes are ready for pickup and are in the back of church.**

### **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 [8:00](#) 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://gibalthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request more information. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibalthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibalthawks.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>.



Today we hear of Joseph's call to be the Head of the Holy Family. What a wonderful act of selflessness - turning his whole life over to the will of God, even under some really stressful circumstances. This is the call for each one of us – to be “righteous”. This should be our daily goal. Encourage everyone to follow their unique vocation to follow the Lord.

### **Respect Life Corner**

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Prayer for Radical Solidarity  
([www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity))

## Reflection for Fourth Sunday of Advent- A

What would you like for Christmas, Santa asked the little girl as she climbed onto his lap?"

The child stared at him open-mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

The central point in the weekend's liturgy is the fulfillment of God's promise. But the tingling message is that salvation will come from an insignificant village rather than a royal family or royal city. The king and the bearer of salvation will be firm yet gentle, like a shepherd. Mary is a significant figure in bringing forth this divine promise. Mary is betrothed to Joseph. But before they can come to know each other, Mary is found to be with a child. This incident is baffling to Joseph's mind and beggars his speech. This is a scandal. Here the story bends around the actions of a God who acts in a way that scandalizes the human imagination. The child in the womb is the work of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the very life of Jesus henceforth would be scandalous. He will be lost in a caravan and later be found in the temple, speaking wisely with the Rabbis. Moreover, he will challenge the common understanding of the law, and he will eat with tax collectors and sinners and make "blasphemous" claims. Furthermore, he would assign to himself the authority that no one had ever laid claim to except God. For example, he would say, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matt 24:35 NAB). However, what looks like a scandal is the intrusion of God into human history. The detail of Christ's birth in this weekend's liturgy brings out the image of a God who goes to any length to fulfill his promise, not just then, but now and always. This time, we stand on the threshold of fulfillment. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. We remember it, and we ritually reenact it by celebrating it so that we never forget how much God's love is ever-present in our world. Blessed are those who believe, proclaim, and celebrate what God has done for the world without end.

**THE 2025 ADOPTED CHRISTMAS FAMILY...**

To all the parishioners who so generously donated items, gift cards, etc. to this year's Christmas family; I thank you so very much! Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the Blessed Virgin Altar Sodality for their donation of the groceries. This year's family received so many nice gifts, as well as, some very practical items. I know that they will greatly appreciate your generosity!

Sincerely,  
Joan Powell



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**

**Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025**

**Mass – 8:00 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.**

## Christmas Flower In Memory of / Honor of 2025

Janet Amann	Wally Amann, Michael Amann, Amann Family and Voellinger Family
Steven & Teresa Bushong	Warneke and Bushong Families
Barbara Bruss	David Bruss and Schulte Family
Darrin & Shelly Fizer	Judy Fizer, Teddy Reaka Sr.
Bernadette Gregson	Vigil Gregson
Marvin Gregson Family	Amie Gregson, Quentin & Veronica Gregson, Bobby & Janet Pauketat
Geri Griffin	Dale Griffin
Cindy Grohmann	Gene & Teresa Triller, Kenny Grohmann
Dale & Marilyn Haudrich	Don Haudrich and Leo Toenjes Family
Michael Karban	Dennis Karban, Eileen Wagner
John & Alice Kuehn	Family and Friends of the John and Alice Kuehn Family
Diane Mollet	Jerry & Duane Mollet
Rita Orlet	Clem Orlet
Joan Powell	Deceased Huss & Powell Families
Donna Rheinecker	Rheinecker, Weber & Kollme Families
Kay Rist	Gary Rist
Larry & Mary Schaltenbrand	Eckart Family
Elizabeth Schreder	Roy Schreder, Clem & Carol Parker
Ed & May Stellhorn	Stellhorn and Roscow Families
Ruth Wittenauer	Kern, Neary and Wittenauer Families

# Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedules

## December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Masses



St. Augustine's, Hecker 4:00 pm  
St Mary's, Valmeyer 4:00 pm  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 5:00 pm  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 12:00 am Midnight Mass

## December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Masses

St. Augustine's, Hecker 8:00 am  
St. Mary's, Valmeyer 10:00 am  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 8:00 am  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 10:00 am



## Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of Mary Mother of God



### December 31, 2025

St. Augustine's, Hecker 5:00 pm  
St Mary's, Valmeyer 6:30 pm  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 5:00 pm

### January 1, 2026

St. Augustine's, Hecker 9:00 am  
Ss Peter & Paul, Waterloo 9:00 pm

