

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. 52 – DECEMBER 26th, 2021

THEME FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH: Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Hannah and Elkanah offer their son, Samuel, to God in the Lord's temple, Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. He returns to Nazareth, obedient to them.

MASS INTENTIONS:

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

Fri. 12-31 8:00 am – Eileen Wagner and Denny Karban

Sat. 1-1 5:00 pm -- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sun. 1-2 8:30 am – Don Braun; Arline Klinkhardt; and
Lawrence Biffar



**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: 12-19-2021

Sunday Envelopes (91) - \$4,790.00

Loose – \$79.00

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,604.00
(Total Donated since 8/1/2021)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 1st; 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder

Lector: Eric Schreder

Servers:

Extraordinary Minister: Annette Schreder

Sanitizers: Lori Amann & Mary Schaltenbrand

Camera: Lori Amann

Sunday, January 2nd; 8:30am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Lector: Kay Haudrich

Servers:

Extraordinary Minister: Bernadette Gregson

Sanitizers: Elaine & Marvin Gregson

Camera: Dana Mehrmann

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 Knepfelkamp, 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.



Flower Donations during the Christmas holidays were made in memory of and in honor of the following:

Cyril & Emma Haudrich; Amann Family; Eckart, Happel, Biffar & Brueggemann Families; George H. Christiansen; Kreher & Eckart Family; Dale Griffin; Gene & Teresa Triller and Kenny Grohmann; Don Haudrich and The Leo Toenjes Family; Dennis Holle; Living & Deceased Members of the Kuehn/Kaiser Families; Clem Orlet; Deceased Members of Huss & Powell Families; Eugene & Flora Reno; Orville, Myrtle & Greg Rist; Deceased Members of the Schaefer & Wiegard Families; Norbert Wittenauer, Louis Kern & Martha Neary Families.



MAY THE JOY OF THE
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION BE
WITH YOU & YOUR FAMILY!
ENJOY A SAFE & MERRY
CHRISTMAS!!!

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN, C.M.

Reflection for the Feast of Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her students to draw a picture of Jesus' family. After collecting the drawings, she noticed that one little boy's drawing depicted an airplane with four heads sticking out of the windows. "I see you drew three heads to show Joseph, Mary and Jesus," she said to the boy. "But who does the fourth head belong to?" The boy replied, "That's Pontius the pilot."

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Holy Family: The family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. It is always easy to think that because we call this family holy, it was at the same time a perfect family. But, unfortunately, my family looks nothing like that. So, feel disappointed.

To be a real family, the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus had to have its struggles and difficulties. Let us begin with the conception narrative: "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly" (Matt 1: 18-19). First family problem. Joseph suspected that Mary could have been unfaithful. How did Mary feel about this? She was troubled. Another trial for the holy family came so soon. "While they were there (Bethlehem in Galilee), the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn" (Lk 2:6-7 NAB). Mary and Joseph were nervous because of the lack of space in the inn. In other words, the holy family had difficulties and their struggles.

In this weekend gospel, we see Jesus as a teenager. Although I am not trying to pick on teenagers, teenage children can bring some untold conflict to their families. Since "teen-age" comes with "expected" challenges, the teenagers in our families need special companionship. For example, Mary and Joseph struggled to understand and accompany Jesus. Such pain is evidenced in Mary's question to Jesus, "How could you have done this to us?" But Jesus responds, "Why were you looking for me. I was in my father's house."

The feast of the Holy family brings us to one point. A family is a unit of lovers — a small unit where everybody practices their little virtue. This virtue may range from compassion to humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness. The family is the domestic Church because it is the first place where we all learn the meaning of love and trust. No family is perfect. But every family is holy to the extent that it is a place of security, welcome, care, love, concern, and forgiveness, not in the absolute sense, but always open to renewal and purification. Perhaps the question for us this weekend is, how does our family support each other in times of stress and sadness?



St. Augustine – Hecker – 2022

- ❖ **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**

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.



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).

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.

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.

ONLINE GIVING

If you are interested in "online giving", check with your bank to see if you can set this up under your Bill Pay Options! Should work just like it works for your credit card bills or your utilities etc. Just direct the checks to be made payable to St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church; PO Box 126; Hecker, IL 62248! Any questions, call the Parish Office at 618/473-2217 or send an email to staug@htc.net.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all the choir members for their devotion & time for multiple practices during Advent! Your singing added so much joy to our Christmas liturgies!! Many thanks to Sr. Joan for her leadership of the choir and for her organ playing! THANK YOU!!!!



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, I think of the words St. John wrote in one of his epistles: “we have come to know and believe in the love God has for us.” My sincere prayer for the people of our diocese is that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, each of us comes to know and believe more deeply in the love God has for us. May this Christmas be filled with a spirit of kindness and compassion, and may you, your families and loved ones be filled with the peace of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop Michael McGovern

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

“Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, ‘in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’ (PC 3). His ‘yes’ to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.”

*Excerpts from Patris corde, © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2021 Respect Life Reflection

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE -- PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is an active ministry in the Diocese of Belleville!!! While we have been home under our stay at home orders, Planned Parenthood has continued 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>.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Catholic Urban Programs Needs Volunteers!

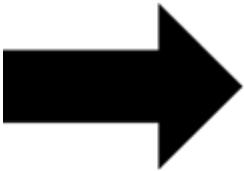
Catholic Urban Programs (CUP), East St. Louis, needs volunteers to serve as client choice food pantry workers and front desk receptionists. Both opportunities provide a wonderful way in which to put your faith into action through service. Anyone interested in learning more about volunteering is invited 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.

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.

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

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New Year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,

-Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

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!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL WHO DONATED TOWARDS THIS VERY
WORTHWHILE MINISTRY!!!

“Today’s Gospel tells of Jesus starting the work of His vocation. He begins His teaching at the age of 12. Our vocation starts (maybe even earlier than age 12) 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. 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.”

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!**



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**

235. Those who work for tranquil social coexistence should never forget that inequality and lack of integral human development make peace impossible. Indeed, “without equal opportunities, different forms of aggression and conflict will find a fertile terrain for growth and eventually explode. When a society – whether local, national or global – is willing to leave a part of itself on the fringes, no political programs or resources spent on law enforcement or surveillance systems can indefinitely guarantee tranquility”. [222] If we have to begin anew, it must always be from the least of our brothers and sisters.

THE VALUE AND MEANING OF FORGIVENESS

236. There are those who prefer not to talk of reconciliation, for they think that conflict, violence and breakdown are part of the normal functioning of a society. In any human group there are always going to be more or less subtle power struggles between different parties. Others think that promoting forgiveness means yielding ground and influence to others. For this reason, they feel it is better to keep things as they are, maintaining a balance of power between different groups. Still others believe that reconciliation is a sign of weakness; incapable of truly serious dialogue, they choose to avoid problems by ignoring injustices. Unable to deal with problems, they opt for an apparent peace.

Inevitable conflict

237. Forgiveness and reconciliation are central themes in Christianity and, in various ways, in other religions. Yet there is a risk that an inadequate understanding and presentation of these profound convictions can lead to fatalism, apathy and injustice, or even intolerance and violence.

238. Jesus never promoted violence or intolerance. He openly condemned the use of force to gain power over others: “You know that the rules of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you” (Mt 20:25-26). Instead, the Gospel tells us to forgive “seventy times seven” (Mt 18:22) and offers the example of the unmerciful servant who was himself forgiven, yet unable to forgive others in turn (cf. Mt 18:23-35).

239. Reading other texts of the New Testament, we can see how the early Christian communities living in a pagan world marked by widespread corruption and aberrations, sought to show unflinching patience, tolerance and understanding. Some texts are very clear in this regard: we are told to admonish our opponents “with gentleness” (2 Tim 2:25) and encouraged “to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish” (Tit 3:2-3). The Acts of the Apostles notes that the disciples, albeit persecuted by some of the authorities, “had favor with all the people” (2:24; cf. 4:21.33; 5:13).

240. Yet when we reflect upon forgiveness, peace and social harmony, we also encounter the jarring saying of Christ: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s foes will be members of his own household” (Mt 10:34-36). These words need to be understood in the context of the chapter in which they are found, where it is clear that Jesus is speaking of fidelity to our decision to follow him; we are not to be ashamed of that decision, even if it entails hardships of various sorts, and even our loved ones refuse to accept it. Christ’s words do not encourage us to seek conflict, but simply to endure it when it inevitably comes, lest deference to others, for the sake of supposed peace in our families or society, should detract from our own fidelity. Saint John Paul II observed that the Church “does not intend to condemn every possible form of social conflict. The Church is well aware that in the course of history conflicts of interest between different social groups inevitably arise, and that in the face of such conflicts Christians must often take a position, honestly and decisively”. [233]