

## WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

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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. 52 December 28th, 2025**

### **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.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday 12/26	8:00 am- Rheinecker & Weber Families
Saturday, 12/27	5:00 pm – Joe Wittenauer
Sunday, 12/28	8:00 am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Wednesday 12/31	5:00 pm – For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Thursday 01/01	9:00 am – For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Friday, 01/02	8:00am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Saturday, 01/03	5:00pm- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 01/04	8:00am- Gary Rist



#### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12-21-25:**

Weekly Envelopes- \$12,302.62

Loose- \$179.00

Youth- \$3.00

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

**\$2521.30**

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

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND**

**Wednesday, December 31st, 2025, 5pm**

Set Up: Kevin Schreder  
Servers: Mallory Kern  
Lector: Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss  
Camera:

**Thursday, January 1st, 2026, 9am**

Set Up: Elaine Rader  
Servers: Lucas Gregson  
Lector: Kay Haudrich  
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Huadrich  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Elaine Rader  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Shelly Fizer  
Camera:

**Saturday, January 3rd, 2026, 5pm**

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann  
Servers: Mehrmann's  
Lector: Cindy Grohmann  
Extraordinary Minister: Gary Wittenauer  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer  
Camera:

**Sunday, January 4th, 2026, 8am**

Set Up: Elaine Biffar  
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban  
Lector: Jonella Donius  
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Denny Biffar  
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.



**PRAY FOR Mildred "Lea" Lavetta Riechmann,** Mother of Larry (Gayle) Cahoon, who died and was buried this past week. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. May her soul and all souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **There will be a mass, December 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm for the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and on January 1, 2026, at 9:00am  
This is a Holyday of Obligation.**
- **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.**
- **Anointing of the sick will take place next Weekend Saturday, January 3, 2026, after the 5:00 pm Mass and on Sunday, January 4, 2026, after the 8:00 am mass.**

### **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>.



“The priestly vocation is essentially a call to sanctity, in the form that derives from the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sanctity is intimacy with God; it is the imitation of Christ, poor, chaste, and humble; it is unreserved love for souls and self-giving to their true good; it is love for the Church, which is holy and wants us to be holy, because such is the mission that Christ has entrusted to it. Each one of you must be holy also in order to help your brothers pursue their vocation to sanctity.”

– St. John Paul II, October 9, 1984

### **Respect Life Corner**

How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

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## Reflection for the Feast of Holy Family

*A woman awoke excitedly on her birthday and announced enthusiastically to her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for my birthday! What do you think it means?" With certainty in his voice, the man said "You'll know tonight. "That evening the man came home with a small package and handed it to his wife. With anxious anticipation, the woman quickly opened the package to find a book entitled, "The Meaning of Dreams."*

This weekend we celebrate and reflect on the life within the Holy Family- the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. To begin with, it is very easy to assume that because we call this family holy, it was at the same time a perfect family. So, when we look at our families, they seem so incomparable with our imaginary picture of the holy family. Then, we feel disappointed and somewhat ashamed. To be a real family, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' family, 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 (NAB)). Joseph was an ordinary man in an ordinary society. They had their beliefs, customs and cultural dos and don'ts. Infidelity and promiscuity were always disdained. There is an indication that Joseph was perturbed about Mar's pregnancy. Perhaps he suspected Mary of infidelity and promiscuity. How did Mary feel about this? She was troubled. There are always pressures, always dangers, always issues that complicate and make family life difficult. And each family must deal with the presenting challenges and pressures— economic troubles, problems at work, misunderstanding and tensions with in-laws and other relatives. These cares are a part of life. The feast of the Holy family brings us to one point. A family life is sacred not because it flawless but because God is present in it. Yet when love is chosen again and again, when forgiveness is practiced, patience is stretched and when faith holds on, God is at work. Pope John Paul II always referred to the family as the domestic Church precisely because it is the first place where we all learn the meaning of love, forgiveness and trust. Some years ago, Pope Francis gave an address on the family. He said, "In family, sometimes the plates fly. But after the storm has passed, it is time to work things out." So, we should not be discouraged if the plates fly in our family. It is all part of the learning. We should just recommit ourselves to work things out. God is good all the time.

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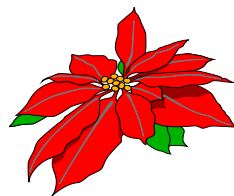
## **The 2025 Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal**

May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in our prayers.

Ministries and Programs Funded by  
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal



### **Mass Schedule for the Holyday**



**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.**