

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. 53– December 31st, 2023

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:

Fri. 12/29 8:00am- Norbert Wittenauer, Joe Wittenauer, and Delmar Wachtel

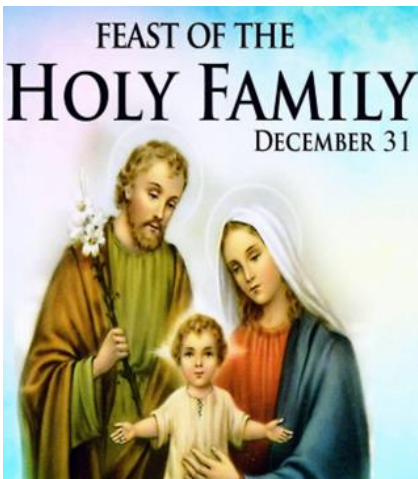
Sat. 12/30 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sun. 12/31 8:00am- Roy Schreder

Fri. 1/5 8:00am- Delmar and Wylma Wachtel

Sat. 1/6 5:00pm- Virginia Parker, Mary Rettinghouse, and Janice Mahoney

Sun. 1/7 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12/24/23:

Weekly Envelopes (107) \$3,489.00

Christmas Envelopes (28) \$3,620.00

Special Christmas Envelopes (9) \$285.00

Loose- \$845.00

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, January 6th, 5:00pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angi Kern
Camera:

Sunday, January 7th, 8:00am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart, Sr.
Servers: Doerrs
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doerr
Camera:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY YOUR 2024 BE BLESSED!!



Please pray for the following:

Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Marcia Rheinecker, 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, 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.



Anointing of the Sick will be held NEXT weekend following both Masses.



PRAY FOR Lois A. Papenberg, the wife of Dale Papenberg, 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.

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

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 was 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 is a unit of lovers — a small unit where everybody practices their little virtue. This virtue may range from compassion to humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness. 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.



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

Cyril & Emmie Haudrich; Wally and Mike Amann; Bill & Jeannie Happel, and members of the Biffar, Eckart, Happel, and Brueggmann Families; Bushong and Warnecke Families; David Bruss; George H. Christiansen; Judy Fizer and Toby Reaka; Virgil Gregson; Amie, Quentin, and Veronica Gregson; Dale Griffin; Edmund and Esther Eckart; Gene & Teresa Triller and Kenny Grohmann; Don Haudrich and the Leo Toenjes Family; Dennis Holle; Deceased Members of the Kuehn and Kaiser Families; John D. Link, Joseph & Virginia Parker, and Richard & Sylvia Link; Jerry Mollet; Clem Orlet; Victor, Elizabeth, & Fern Papenberg, and Edward & Helen Kohler; Deceased Members of the Huss and Powell Families; Roy Schreder; Stellhorn and Roscow Families; Norbert Wittenauer, Louis Kern and Martha Neary Families; and A Special Intention.

St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The 2024 Contribution Envelopes are now available at the front entrance of Church. Please pick up when you are able to!
- Give the Gift that keeps on Giving... *The Messenger!*
To subscribe online for Family or Friends go to: www.bellevillemessenger.org or Call 618-233-8670.
- January/February 2024 Edition of The Word Among Us is available in both mailboxes and inside church.
- Wednesday, January 10th, 2024-Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:30pm
- Monday, January 15th, 2024, 7pm- Finance Committee Meeting
- **Monday, January 29th, 2024, 7pm- Parish Council Meeting ** DATE CHANGE
- Tuesday, February 6th, 2024- Ladies Sodality Meeting 7pm
- Super Bowl Bingo, Sunday, February 11, 2024



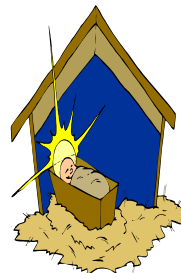
**2023 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE & INFORMATION FOR OUR PARISH HERE AT**

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY-HECKER



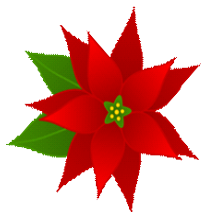
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, December 31st, Mass at 8:00am

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)



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

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](https://gchssportspass.givesmart.com) to purchase your pass!

11th Annual LIFE NETWORK BABY BOTTLE COLLECTION

Here is an opportunity for you and your family to have hands-on involvement in a project that saves lives of unborn children and makes an eternal difference in the life of their mothers and fathers.

Each financial gift placed in a bottle, whether great or small, will be a simple way to support Life Network of Southern Illinois and will enable us to continue offering free and confidential services to men, women and families in this area facing an unplanned pregnancy.

You are encouraged to take home one of the baby bottles which will be placed at the entrances to church. We just ask that you **return the bottle to church no later than Sunday, February 11th, 2024.** If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-473-2217, or email staug@htc.net. Thank you!!





DIOCESAN INFORMATION

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life (www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

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***

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,

-Bishop Michael McGovern and
Ministries and Programs Funded by
The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

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 2024; \$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.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church- St. Ann's CCW, Quilt of the Month Raffle 2024
Tickets are \$25.00 each, drawings are held 2nd Wednesday of each month; Contact Carol Geluck for more info! 618-792-9439.



Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Each of them was called to in a unique way to love and serve their family, but the power of their love within also *went out* to the world. The Gospel story tells of Jesus being presented in the temple as per the law. They are already “sharing” their Son with the world as acknowledged by Simeon and Anna.

Can we, as family, support one of our family members who might be discerning a call to the religious life? Joseph and Mary made that ultimate sacrifice.



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!



Kings House at the
NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS

Kings House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center – I Want to See You

Friday, January 5, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 pm., given by Fr. Salvador Gonzalez and Peggy Keilholz

Friday, January 12, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 14, at 2:00 pm., given by Br. Pat McGee and Danielle Harrison

Friday, January 19, 4:00 pm through Sunday, January 21, at 2:00 pm., given by Fr. Mark Dean and Virginia Herbers

Our men's retreat allows you to experience our "I Want to See You" retreat while encompassing your inner light. This retreat centers on the story of the man born blind. Come and share the experience of being noticed by Jesus, touched, healed and called to witness to the new sight God's love provides.

Cost: \$200.00 per person (includes lodging and meals).

Register online at <https://kh.snows.org/events/> or call 618-397-0584.

King's House Retreat Center at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

"The Power, Presence and Provision of Black Spirituality in a Time of Reflection and Discernment"

Presenter: Danielle Harrison, Monday, February 26, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Lunch included)

Join Danielle Harrison as she explores the richness and giftedness of Black Spirituality, and how its embrace of

Scripture, Ritual, Community and Justice serves as a refreshing catalyst for experiencing the time of lent.

We will spend time reading God's Word, singing God's Praises, and responding to God's call on our life.

Cost: \$50 (Lunch included)

For more information, call 618-397-0584 or visit www.snows.org



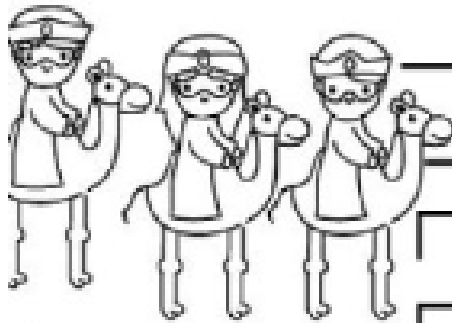
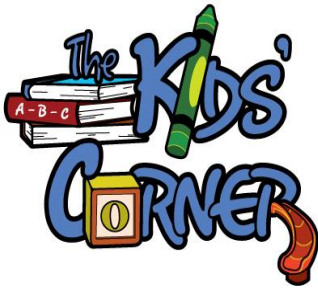
Ss. Peter & Paul Women's ACTS Retreat Coming Soon – February 8-11, 2024

Are you craving rest? Meaningful friendships? A closer relationship with Jesus? A Church on fire? If so, please join some amazing women on our upcoming ACTS retreat!

All women over the age of 18 are invited to join us for our women's ACTS retreat to be held February 8-11, 2024 at the King's House at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. This parish-based retreat offers the opportunity to renew your spirituality, strengthen your faith and build lasting relationships with women at Ss. Peter & Paul and surrounding parishes. You may register for the retreat through the QR code below and on the parish website (<https://www.ssppcc.org/acts>). The retreat begins on Thursday, February 8th at 6:30pm at Ss. Peter & Paul Church and concludes on Sunday, February 11th at 10am mass at Ss. Peter & Paul. The cost of the retreat is \$295 and includes all lodging, transportation, and meals. We are SO excited to welcome you on this spiritual experience – **PLEASE REGISTER SOON!** If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Harper at 314.922.8459 or Tara Phillips 618.340.2138.

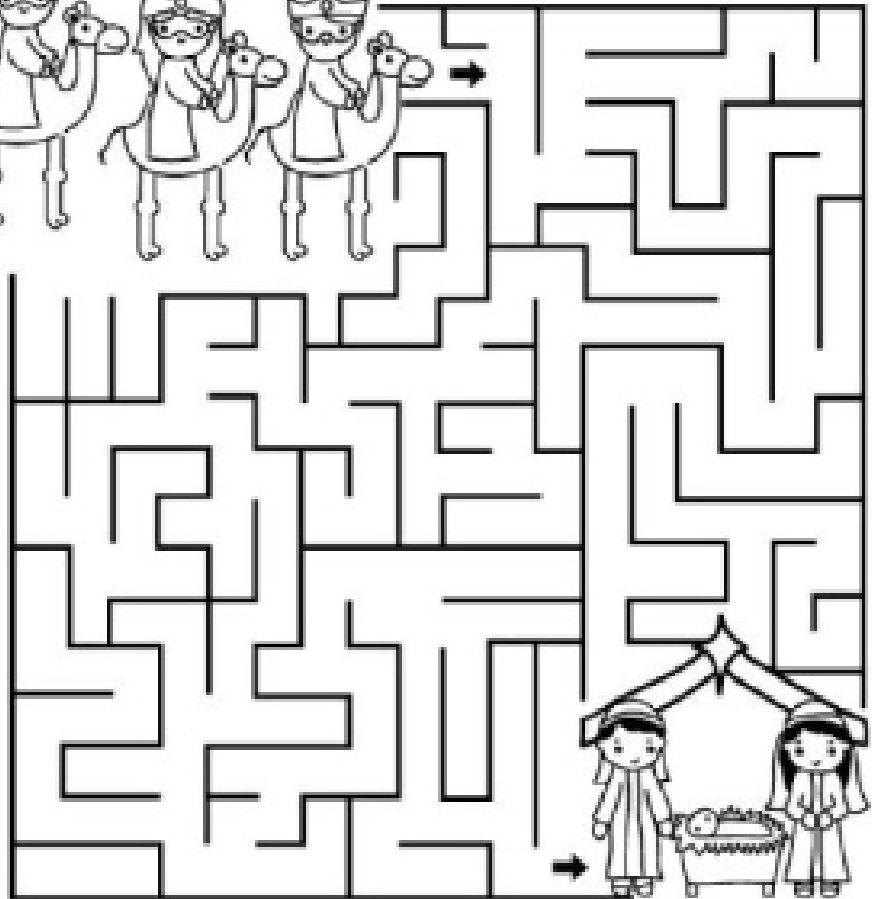
UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS- UPDATED WEEKLY!!

- **Queen of Hearts Drawing-** Benefitting Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic School
Tuesdays, Outsiders in Waterloo, IL,
Ticket sales end @6:30pm, drawings are held @ 7pm
- **NEW! Queen of Hearts Drawing-**Benefitting Freeburg High School Athletics
Wednesdays, 6:30pm ticket sales, drawings held at 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
- **Saturday, January 27th, 2024- Hecker Volunteer Fire Department Trivia Night**
at the Hecker Community Center...Silent Auction, raffles, gun raffle, and cash prizes for Trivia...call 618-473-2597 for reservations!
- **Saturday, February 24th, 2024- Hecker Community Center Chicken & Beer Dance...**Music by Freefall. Call 618-473-2970 for ticket information.



Nativity Maze

Help the 3 Wise Men find their way to the Manger!



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Conference**

We are a Catholic lay organization providing service to the needy and suffering. Our Conference includes the parishes of:

- St. Augustine of Canterbury-Hecker
- St. Mary-Valmeyer
- St. Patrick-Tipton
- Saints Peter & Paul-Waterloo

Telephone numbers are 939-0605 and 618-792-4059

Mailing address is P.O. Box 443, Waterloo, IL 62298

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Adult Faith Formation House at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE:

Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by priest or other diocesan personnel please call the hotline:

800-640-3044.

**Purchase SPPCS “Scrip Cards” for your shopping
and gift giving needs!**

Scrip cards make great gifts and in addition, consider purchasing “scrip cards” to use in place of cash, checks or credit cards for purchases you make.

How does that help St. Augustine families? Each SPPS student family is required to earn \$250 each year in fund raising. Plus, each student must pay \$400 registration and book fees. Then the tuition begins. At the end of each month the rebates from scrip sales are tabulated and applied to the family’s account. You may designate a particular family or St. Augustine students as a group in which case it will be equally divided. Please consider trying this program and perhaps add an item each month to help our parish support the SPPS/St Aug. families with absolutely no cost to you.

St. Augustine’s contact for the Scrip Program is Angi Kern. You may reach her at 618/973-7580 (call or text) or email her at 51014wedding@gmail.com.

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Subscribe Today!**

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Email:
**subscribe@belleville
messenger.org**

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Belleville, IL 62221**

Meet us on the web:
www.bellevillemessenger.