

WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: 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)

Parish Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm (Hours subject to change)

VOL. 60 NO. 8- February 23rd, 2025

Theme for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: In baptism, we are called to mirror, and image the mercy and forgiveness the Lord has won for us. As David would not harm Saul, his enemy, so we are challenged to love and pardon those who wrong us.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 2/21 8:00am- Annabelle Hoffarth

Saturday, 2/22 5:00pm- For our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sunday, 2/23 8:00am- Jerry Mollet and Duane Mollet

Friday, 2/28 8:00am- Shirley Wittenauer

Saturday, 3/1 5:00pm- Joe Wittenauer

Sunday, 3/2 8:00am- For our Parish at St. Augustine's

Ash Wednesday 3/5 8am- Ervin Eckart

7pm- For our Parish at St. Augustine's



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



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 2/16/2025:

Weekly Envelopes- \$1,685.00
Loose- \$244.00
Youth- \$3.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-24)-
\$2,240.14*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, March 1st, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Margie Holle
Servers: Lucas Gregson
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Bernadette Gregson

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker
Servers:
Lector: Donna Rheinecker
Extraordinary Minister: Betty Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, 7pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Lucas Gregson
Lector: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker

****The liturgical/set-up schedule is located on the bulletin board in both entrances to church and inside the Priest Sacristy ****

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, Gary Rist, Sydney Furman, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, Gary Wittenauer, and Debbie Harbaugh.

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



**A very "Happy Birthday" to
Sister Joan Weiler (February 26th)!!
We all appreciate how much you
love, care for, and
Support our Parish!!
May God Bless you always!!**

FROM THE PASTOR...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

. Reflection for the Seventh Sunday of the year C

A man who lived a very immoral life died and found himself standing before the gates of heaven. Saint Peter was already looking up his record in the book. "This doesn't look good." said Saint Peter. "You were cruel, unjust, selfish, and manipulative. What is even worse, I can't find a single action of generosity or kindness in your entire life. "Wait a minute, wait a minute." said the man, "I distinctly remember twenty years ago I saw a homeless child on the street, and I gave that child a quarter. Look it up. It should be there." "Ah, you're right," said Saint Peter, "it's here. I missed it because it was in footnote. But still, it is not very much." "But it's there," the man said, "it has to count for something." "I'm not sure." said Saint Peter. "I'm going to have to take this upstairs. Excuse me for a minute." Saint Peter left to discuss the matter with God. When he returned, the man asked, "What did God say?" "Well," St Peter said, "God told me to give you back your quarter and tell you to go to hell."

The gospel reading this weekend continues the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him. According to Him, if anyone wants to be a disciple, he or she must learn to love as God does. God loves unconditionally and forgives always. Therefore, He invites us to love and forgive and seek no benefit from the good we do. God's love for humanity is often unimaginable and most often beyond expectations. Pope John Paul II tried to show an outstanding response to God's when he forgave Mehmet Ali Ağca, the Turkish assassin who shot and injured him on May 13, 1981. Many parents have forgiven their children even when they did horrible things. Some Children have also forgiven parents who treated them horribly. I knew of a parishioner whose husband was unfaithful in multiple instances; the marriage couldn't hold up. They were divorced after several attempts to find common ground. But this man was later divorced by his new wife and his only child distanced herself from him. However it was the first wife out of compassion and Christian love, who went to care for the man when he was diagnosed with stage lung cancer until he passed. It is said that to err is human and to forgive is divine. Every time we are able to love without counting the cost, when we can forgive without holding back to the past, we participate in the divine nature and character of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when Jesus invites us to love our enemies, he challenges us to be the light of the world and to share in his mission. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" are deliberate and precise words. The measure we give is the measure we shall receive. Although it is challenging to love ones' enemies and forgive them, God's grace is sufficient for us if we are open to it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



-Please let the Parish office know if your child will be making their First Communion here at St. Augustine's this Spring. Email staug@htc.net.



-We are looking for a Tiki Trot Chairman for Kirchenfest...please reach out to Aaron Eckart if you are interested @ (618) 920-5258.



- Gathering to pray the Rosary will be next weekend before Sunday 8am Mass, March 2nd @ 7:40am. Contact Scott Gregson if you would like to volunteer. Scott can be reached at 618-581-3368.



Stations of the Cross will be held every Wednesday evening @ 7pm during Lent- beginning Wednesday, March 12th. Anyone interested in assisting with this, please contact Kevin Schreder at 618-406-7037.

CRS RICE BOWL



**FOR LENT
FOR LIFE**

WHAT YOU
GIVE UP
FOR LENT
CHANGES
LIVES.

Once again, during this upcoming Lenten Season, the Rice Bowls will be available for those who wish to participate. Boxes will be located at each entrance of Church once Lent begins. We ask that you return your filled bowls prior to Holy Thursday, April 17th, 2025.

BINGO

SUPER BOWL BINGO REPORT

	2025	2024
Tallies Sold	453	393
Raffle	\$1,619.00	\$1,100.00
Bingo	\$4,509.93	\$4,027.50
Adult Dinners	561	510
Child Dinners	23	18
Dinner	\$9,157.00	\$8,688.00
Lightning Round	\$1,580.00	\$1,093.00
Attendance Prizes	94	81

Robert Mueller's 100th Birthday
Please join us to celebrate this
milestone!

Open House
Sunday, March 2, 1-4 PM
Hecker Community Center
230 E. Washington St.
Hecker, IL

No gifts please.

Ash Wednesday Services, Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

St. Augustine's-Hecker- 8am and 7pm

Ss. Peter and Paul- Waterloo- 8am, 12:30pm, and 7pm

St. Mary's- Valmeyer- 7pm



Gibault Catholic High School News

We are still scheduling shadows and accepting 2025-26 applications. All Financial Assistance applications for the 2025-26 school year are due **no later than February 28th** – **we cannot accept applications after this date, so please don't delay!** Due to a scheduling conflict with one of our feeder schools, 2025-26 Freshman Registration has been moved to **April 2 and 3**. A sign-up genius will be sent out in the coming weeks, and course recommendations will be sent out by mail very soon. Any questions or concerns can be sent directly to Pam Kueker, Admissions Coordinator, by calling the school at 618-939-3883, or email: pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.
Stay warm this week – it's COLD outside!

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE INFORMATION

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

RESPECT FOR LIFE CORNER

“The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is *cherished*.”

**USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Cherished, Chosen, Sent
usccb.org/cherished-chosen-sent-reflection**

**The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Serve the Lord with gladness.
-Psalm 100**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

PLEDGES TO DATE: 32
(\$6,445.00 Pledged as of 2/8/2025)

98% OF OUR GOAL MET!!!
(\$6,569.00 is the Parish Goal)



“People often discover their vocation to religious life at Mass or in adoration, but I “heard the call” while literally receiving a phone call! Before this life-changing moment during my last semester of college, I had spent about a year growing in my spiritual life through spiritual direction and getting to know members of Pro Ecclesia Santa. I was attracted to their joy, their charism to live and promote holiness, and their closeness to the Sacred Heart. But I was wrestling with the question of whether God was really calling *me* to religious life. Speaking on the phone with a potential roommate for the following year, I knew deep down that I was fooling myself. I didn’t need to make housing plans; God wanted me to say “yes” to my vocation and move in with the sisters. Whatever your state of life, say ‘yes’ to God’s will and let yourself be surprised by his loving plans for you. “

-Sister Leann Luecke; Pro Ecclesia Santa



Serra International is a worldwide organization of Catholic men and women who promote vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life. Our local club, the **Serra Club of St. Clair County**, works to affirm our Priests and Religious, educates our youth on listening for the call to this life, and prays to increase each member’s personal holiness. Would you like to join this important work of the Church? We meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month for Mass and a meeting at Corpus Christi Parish Center in Shiloh, IL. Contact Marvin Winkeler at 402-214-1155 or mewinkel51@gmail.com or visit our website at www.serrastclair.org for information.



2025 VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- **St. James, Millstadt – Quilt-A-Rama, Tickets drawn the first Monday of every month during 2025. 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 2025 Tickets are \$25.00 each, drawings are held 2nd Wednesday of each month; Contact Carol Geluck for more info! 618-792-9439.**

PUZZLE RACE

FOR TIM GRANT!!!

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH AT 1PM
HECKER COMMUNITY CENTER
DOORS WILL OPEN AT NOON

HELP US SHOW TIM HOW BIG HIS TEAM
IS! PLEASE WEAR GREEN TO THE
EVENT!!

EACH TEAM WILL
BE GIVEN A 500
PIECE PUZZLE
AND THE FIRST 3
TEAMS TO
ASSEMBLE THEIR
PUZZLE WILL WIN
A PRIZE

4 PEOPLE PER
TEAM

\$100/TABLE

THERE WILL BE A
SILENT AUCTION,
GUN RAFFLE AND
50/50 TICKETS!!

WE WILL ALSO BE
DRAWING THE
WINNERS OF 2 GUN
RAFFLES AT THIS
EVENT

FOOD IS WELCOME BUT NO OUTSIDE BEVERAGES PLEASE!
THE BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DRINKS!

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL OR TEXT
MIKE KARBAN (618) 719-3041



THRIFT SHOP TRIVIA NIGHT!



Where the facts are as random as the stuff on the shelves!



Saturday, March 29
Hecker Community Center
Doors open at 6 PM - Play at 7 PM
Call 618-939-4444 for reservations.



- 8 Players/Table - \$200/Table - Basket Drawings
- 50/50 Drawing - Mulligans Available - BYO Snacks

Cash prizes for the top 3 teams!

All drinks must be purchased from
Hecker Community Center



All proceeds benefit the HSS Client Vacation Fund

Come dressed in your best thrift store find—ugly bridesmaid dress, grandma's sweater, or that questionable 80s prom suit. And don't stop there - deck out your table with your most fabulous thrifted treasures.

Bonus points if it lights up, spins, or makes us ask, 'What is that?'

JOURNEY OF *Faith*

Quest Retreat, St. Mary's Belleville, IL, March 1-2,

2025: Come join Belleville Quest for a JOY filled experience. Spend the weekend learning about the faith with a series of fun activities and testimony from speakers. Quest is a 33-hour Christian experience designed for high school freshmen and sophomores, but older students and adult observers are welcome. It is a time to come together to find out about God, friendships, and self in a fun-filled, thoughtful, and carefree surrounding. A time to meet new people while praying, playing, singing, and sharing with them. Quest gives you the chance to search for the real you. Applications are available at bellevilletec.org/applications



ST. ANDREW DINNER

Sunday, March 2, 2025

4:00 Evening Prayer | 4:30 Dinner & Discussion

**What is it like being a Catholic priest?
How do you know if you're called to become one?
If these questions have crossed your mind,
you are invited to join Bishop McGovern, priests,
and seminarians for dinner and conversation
about the priesthood.**

**Open to young men in high school, college, &
beyond, parents are also welcome to attend.**

**St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall,
901 N. Alton St. Lebanon, IL 62254**

**For more information & to RSVP, contact the vocation office at
618-722-5043 or mskorch@diobelle.org**