

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. 59 NO. 2– January 14th, 2024

THEME FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Through baptism we have been joined to the Lord who calls us to be his disciples. How well do we listen to his voice? How willing are we to do his will?

MASS INTENTIONS:

- Fri. 1/12 8:00am- Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
Sat. 1/13 5:00pm- Delmar & Wylma Wachtel and John & Jeanne Huss
Sun. 1/14 8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Fri. 1/19 8:00am- Lois Papenberg, Marvin Eckart, and Ruth Cortner
Sat. 1/20 5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sun. 1/21 8:00am- Dennis Karban



**Next choir practice
will be this Thursday,
January 18th @ 2pm.
-Sr. Joan**

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 1/07/2024:

Envelopes (53)- \$3,139.00

Loose- \$119.00

Youth- \$11.00

Parking Lot/Resolution Projects Donations-**\$2,700.00**

*Scholarship Fund - \$1,910.00 (Total
Donated since 8/1/2023)*

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 20th, 5:00pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Donna Rheinecker
Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Marvin Parker
Camera:

Sunday, January 21st, 8:00am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers:
Lector: Ruth Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar
Camera:

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, Melissa Stellhorn, and Rhonda Mehring-Smith.

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



thank you

Thank you to everyone for their help and understanding when I passed out on December 28th during the Funeral Mass for Lois Papenberg. Special thanks to Father Von, the Medical people who were present, the Hecker First responders and the Monroe County Ambulance.

Thanks again,
Margie Holle



*Please take
poinsettias
home with you
this weekend!*

The Messenger 
Newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville

Make *The Messenger* a part of your New Year's Resolution! *The Messenger* brings you the stories of real people quietly living their faith through compassion and good works. Inspirational stories that show our Catholic faith is alive and well in southern Illinois. Subscribe to ***The Messenger*** at **618-233-8670.**

www.bellevillemessenger.org

FROM THE PASTOR...

FR. LINUS UMOREN. C.M.

Reflection for Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Some years ago, I was preparing two converts to the Catholic faith in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) class. They converted from the Baptist faith tradition. One day, after one of the discussions on faith, one of them said to me, can I ask you a question that is outside but may be related to what we have been talking about? I said yes, you can ask your question, and if it is what I know, I will explain it to you. "How can you describe your relationship with God?" He asked. I looked at him and appreciated his background as a former Baptist Christian. It was not a witch-hunt. He wanted to know the source of my authority as a teacher of the faith. He offered me an opportunity to testify and to make faith personal. More so, I guess, he wanted to know my relationship with God. I was silent for a while. My knees knocked.

In the Catholic Church, we are used to talking about God and Jesus, theologically and intellectually. This time, to help my RCIA Catechumens, I had to testify to my personal relationship with God. I needed to talk about my faith experience, how it feels like to have faith, and what my genuine faith story is. The two disciples in today's gospel story asked Jesus, "Teacher, where do you live?" Instead of Jesus telling them where his home was, he invited them to come and see for themselves. The invitation here is to a relationship. This is because they will get to know each other more on the journey to his home.

This is the pattern by which God deals with us every day. He is more interested in a relationship than straightforward answers to our questions. A better understanding of God emerges when we accept His invitation and enter a "grace-full" relationship with him. God requires a relationship much more than giving answers to our quest because, on the deepest level, He knows that what our life requires is not information but the art of trust. When Jesus told the disciples, "Come and see," he needed them to trust him, to come to a deeper understanding of their question: where do you live? Often, when we ask such questions as, why me? Why does evil exist? Why does our political system fail us? Why is my child/spouse sick? Why am I so lonely? Where can I find peace? Etc. God says, come and see. If only we could be as trusting as the disciples were and follow Him, perhaps we would come to appreciate God more and stay with him for the rest of our lives. In the journey to go see, we never travel alone.



St. Augustine's Parish ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.
- Monday, January 15th, 2024, 7pm- Finance Committee Meeting
- Thursday, January 18th, 2pm, Choir Practice
- Monday, January 22nd, 2024, 7pm- 200th Year Celebration Meeting @ Parish Center
- Monday, January 29th, 2024, 7pm- Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday, February 6th, 2024- Ladies Sodality Meeting 7pm
- Super Bowl Bingo, Sunday, February 11, 2024
- Kirchenfest 2024, Saturday, August 17th, 2024 (Mark your calendars now!)
- Saturday, October 19th, 2024- St. Augustine's 200th Year Celebration Mass/Dinner

The Diocese of Belleville is hosting an informational meeting for men (and their spouses) who are interested in the Permanent Diaconate. This meeting will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter, 200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville, IL 62220. The Office of Permanent Deacon is considering another new class of aspirants starting in the fall of 2025. Eligibility is extended to men who have reached the ages thirty-three (33) to fifty-six (56) by September 2025. *Men older than fifty-six may still apply but require special approval from the Deacon Formation Office and the Bishop.* The formation process is a five-year commitment, including academic studies conducted by St. Meinrad School of Theology, spiritual direction, and learning about the deacon's role. Participants are required to attend a three-day meeting once per month over the course of the five-year program. Interested individuals should first discuss their interest with their pastor. For those unable to attend the initial meeting, another session will be scheduled later. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the process and requirements for becoming a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese.



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>

Raffle-Mania

Raffle-Mania is back with bigger prizes! This year's grand prize has **DOUBLED** to **\$5,000!** Visit <https://givebutter.com/Raffle-Mania> to purchase your tickets!

GRAND PRIZES of \$5000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250, and 6 @ \$100

Prizes will be drawn on February 1st during Catholic Schools Week.

Tickets are being sold exclusively online. If anyone has difficulty with their online purchase, contact Desiree Frasure at Gibault Catholic High School. (dfrasure@gibalthawks.com or 618-939-3883)

Bunco Night

Join the Gibault Women's Club for their Bunco Night on Jan. 19.

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

This month's intention is to pray for the protection of human life. In addition to the National March for Life taking place in Washington, D.C., on January 19, we are encouraging Americans nationwide to pray the Novena "9 Days for Life," from January 16-24

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 2024

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord - Psalm 15

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: 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.



Wow! What powerful Scripture readings today on God's ways of calling us. The great story of Samuel being called to ministry tells of his humble response - "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Then the Gospel shows John the Baptist pointing Simon and Andrew toward Jesus. Jesus calls Simon to join him and gives him his new name of Peter. Both of these powerful calls offer us examples of how we can hopefully respond to our own personal call.



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!



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...** Musci by Freefall. Call 618-473-2970 for ticket information.



Singers from across the Belleville Diocese are invited to join in singing the Fauré Requiem on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from January 8 through March 3. Rehearsal recordings of each individual part will be sent to each singer. If you are interested and would like more specific information, please contact Mr. Richard Thompson, Organist & Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Peter, by email: rthompjd@gmail.com. The Fauré Requiem is a magnificent program to be presented in our beautiful Cathedral with its wonderful acoustics and rebuilt and enlarged pipe organ. I hope everyone interested can join us.



**DIOCESAN DR. KING
OBSERVANCE SUNDAY,
JANUARY 14, 2024 AT ST.
AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
CHURCH, EAST ST. LOUIS.**

Bishop McGovern will be the celebrant for the Mass at 9:30 AM followed by a Brunch at 11:00 and the Dr. King Memorial Program in the Church at 12, Noon. If you plan to attend the brunch please RSVP to the Church Office at 618-274-0655.



Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

204 W. Mill Street, Waterloo, IL 62298 (618) 939-6426

Eucharistic Revival

You may have noticed a new Eucharistic Revival poster on display in church. This is one of 3 posters regarding the National Eucharistic Revival that will be on display on a rotating basis between our partner parishes for the next several months. This past June we started our Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival, a phase of the National Eucharistic Revival (started in June 2022) that is focused on revival at the parish level. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The posters on display in our parishes address the upcoming Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 in Indianapolis (the last Eucharistic Congress was 83 years ago), the Eucharistic Pilgrimages that will be making their way to the Eucharistic Congress from across the country including one that goes through our diocese on July 7 & 8, 2024, and general information about the Eucharistic Revival.

More information on all of this can be found at <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>. Keep an eye out in the bulletin, parish websites, and Facebook pages for opportunities for you to learn more about, experience, get involved, and maybe re-engage you in your faith, especially focused on our belief and understanding in the Eucharist. If you haven't had an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, this will be an opportunity for what might be transformative for you.

- Deacon Tom Helfrich

