

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 473-2217 FAX 473-9141

E-MAIL ADDRESS: staug@htc.net

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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

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. 3 – JANUARY 17th, 2021

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:

Sat. 1-16 5:00 pm – Don Bruss, Charlie Kreher, & Eileen Wagner

Sun. 1-17 8:30 am -- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sat. 1-23 5:00 pm -- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's

Sun. 1-24 8:30 am – Wylma Wachtel; Urban Wittenauer and
Clyde Kreher



DON'T FORGET TO CALL 473-2217 OR EMAIL staug@htc.net THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3PM ON THURSDAYS TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE WEEKEND MASSES. THIS SYSTEM WILL BE IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

PARISH COUNT: 73

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD: 1-10-2021

Sunday Envelopes (50) - \$1,745.00

Loose – \$23.00

Youth (2) - \$6.00

Scholarship Fund - \$485.00

(Total Donated since 8/1/2020)

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 23rd; 5pm

Set Up: Arline Wittenauer

Lector: Emma Day

Greeter: Stephen O'Brien

Usher: Clinton Mudd

Sanitizers: Lori Amann & Mary Schaltenbrand

Sunday, January 24th, 8:30am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar

Lector: Janella Neary

Greeter: Haudrichs

Usher: Haudrichs

Sanitizers: Fizers



Please pray for the following:

Darlene Frisch, John & Ellen Daniels, Alice Krysnoski, Jeanelle Dinan, Marge Abel, Cheryl Zanders, Madalyn Killebrew, Stephanie Amann Stosberg, Bill Cowell, Dave Bruss, Ruth Cortner, Aria Wagner, Vickie Van de Riet Minden, Carol Grohmann, Joyce Koetting, Mary Harbaugh Neisler, Ed Weiler, Joe Gregson, Lisa Davenport, Penny Hofstetter, Linda Lehmann, Dylane & Julie Doerr, and Dorothy Vogler.

Please call the Parish Office 473-2217 to submit names for the prayer list.

Each week on Thursday afternoons, I will put the bulletins inside the mailboxes & at the beginning of the month the Word Among Us will also be available.

St. Augustine's will be live streaming Masses at 5pm on Saturdays and 8:30am on Sundays. See St. Augustine's Facebook Page.



PRAY FOR Joyce Koetting, former parishioner of St. Augustine's, 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 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 maybe, 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. "Do you have a personal 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, if I would be of help to my RCIA Catechumens, I had to distinguish where I was personally with God from the teaching on faith. I needed to testify that I have an experience of God through my faith; how it feels like to have faith and what is my real faith story?

The two disciples in the gospel story of today asked Jesus a question: "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, in the journey to his home, they will get to know each other more.

This is the pattern by which God deals with humanity. He is more interested in a relationship than in 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 find peace? God simply says, come and see. If only we can 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 life. In the journey to go see, we never travel alone.

“RACIAL HARMONY PRAYER SERVICE: You are invited to attend a special Ecumenical Prayer Service for racial harmony in connection with observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service will be held at the Cathedral on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Bishop Michael McGovern will deliver the sermon. Since seating will be limited, please contact St. Augustine of Hippo Church at 618-274-0655 to reserve a seat. This event is being sponsored by the Diocesan Racial Justice and Equity initiative.” This service can be viewed via live stream on the St. Augustine of Hippo Facebook Page at: **staugustineeaststlouis**

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

An opportunity for young men and their parents to meet Bishop McGovern and priests in the diocese to enjoy a meal, pray, discuss priestly vocations and whatever else is on your mind!

January 31st | 4 p.m.

The Undercroft of the
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville



For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Nicholas Junker
618-722-5035 | njunker08@hotmail.com

Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend is February 6-7, 2021



Please stay “connected” through a subscription to **The Messenger**. Payments can be made in The Messenger envelope or on-line at www.bellevillemessenger.org

SUBSCRIPTION COST: **Print - \$25 | Electronic - \$25 | Both - \$30**
Make checks payable to the Messenger



DIOCESAN EVENTS

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

“What are you looking for?” In the Gospel of John 1:35-42, Jesus questions the disciples in what becomes the foundation of John’s Gospel written for all who seek. We are the seekers! The disciples answer Jesus’s question with a question, “where are you staying?” With a “come and see” response, the disciples found the truth in Christ; that He really is the Messiah. That is the joy we also feel when we turn to Him and experience His love and mercy. We realize that only He can truly fill us, truly sustain us, truly forgive us and wipe the slate clean. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-** What is it you are looking for? Jesus knows what are you deepest longings, the prayers in your heart are lifted up to the Lord. We must guide ourselves to avoid the “wrong places” that leave us empty; that do not truly satisfy our hearts. By seeking Him, by placing our trust in Him, we can truly pray that the Lord will help us to see that He is always the answer.

DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE LAUNCHES *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>.





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 towards 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.



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. For more information please contact Marvin Winkeler (402-214-1155) or Mel Lucash (618-531-4244).
PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- St. Anthony, Lively Grove – August 2020 thru July 2021. \$40 per ticket; Contact Cheryl Hentges, chentges@yahoo.com or 618/824-6637.
- 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.
- 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.

NEWS FROM GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL...

Shadow Days are back on! Shadow students are paired with a Gibault student ambassador with similar interests; and together, they spend a school day attending classes, eating lunch in the cafeteria, and meeting teachers and coaches. We invite your student to experience a day in the life of a Hawk!

We are also offering families private tours of our campus. This is a great time to tour the school and ask any questions you may have about Gibault. To schedule a shadow visit or arrange a tour, contact our Director of Enrollment, Kelly Day, at kday@gibaulthawks.com Or 939-3883.

Gibault Raffle-Mania! It's not too late to purchase your Raffle-Mania tickets! Lots of chances to win with daily, monthly, and grand prize drawings. You can buy your ticket online at www.GibaultRaffle.givesmart.com or contact the school office at 939-3883.

We're #gibaultproud of: Ryan Kruse (Saints Peter & Paul Parish) for being recognized in the Hawk Spotlight and our January Artist of the Month, **MaryEllen Koeninger (Saints Peter & Paul Parish.)**



8th Annual 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 the men, women and families in this area facing an unplanned pregnancy.

You are encouraged to take home one of the small baby bottles which are located at the entrances to church. The bottles are in plastic Ziploc bags for your safety! We just ask that you **return the bottle to church no later than Sunday, February 14th**. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 473-2217.

***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**

GLOBALIZATION AND PROGRESS WITHOUT A SHARED ROADMAP

29. With the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, we do not ignore the positive advances made in the areas of science, technology, medicine, industry and welfare, above all in developed countries. Nonetheless, “we wish to emphasize that, together with these historical advances, great and valued as they are, there exists a more deterioration that influences international action and a weakening of spiritual values and responsibility. This contributes to a general feeling of frustration, isolation and desperation”. We see “outbreaks of tension and a buildup of arms and ammunition in a global context dominated by uncertainty, disillusionment, fear of the future, and controlled by narrow economic interests”. We can also point to “major political crises, situations of injustice and the lack of an equitable distribution of natural resources...In the face of such crises that result in the deaths of millions of children – emaciated from poverty and hunger – there is an unacceptable silence on the international level”. [27] This panorama, for all its undeniable advances, does not appear to lead to a more humane future.

30. In today’s world, the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading, and the dream of working together for justice and peace seems an outdated utopia. What reigns instead is a cool, comfortable and globalized indifference, born of deep disillusionment concealed behind a deceptive illusion: thinking that we are all-powerful, while failing to realize that we are all in the same boat. This illusion, unmindful of the great fraternal values, leads to “a sort of cynicism. For that is the temptation we face if we go down the road of disenchantment and disappointment...Isolation and withdrawal into one’s own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather, it is closeness; it is the culture of the encounter. Isolation, no; closeness, yes. Culture class, no; culture of encounter, yes”. [28]

31. In this world that races ahead, yet lacks a shared roadmap, we increasingly sense that “the gap between concern for one’s personal well-being and the prosperity of the larger human family seems to be stretching to the point of complete division between individuals and human community...It is one thing to feel forced to live together, but something entirely different to value the richness and beauty of those seeds of common life that need to be sought out and cultivated”. [29] Technology is constantly advancing, yet “how wonderful would it be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation could come with more equality and social inclusion. How wonderful would it be, even as we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters who orbit around us”. [30]

PANDEMICS AND OTHER CALAMITIES IN HISTORY

32. True, a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together. As I said in those days, “the storm has exposed our vulnerability and uncovered those false and superfluous certainties around which we constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities...Amid this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about appearances, has fallen away, revealing once more the uneluctable and blessed awareness that we are part of one another, that we are brothers and sisters of one another”. [31]