

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)

VOL. 62 NO. 04 January 25th,2026

Theme for The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have seen a great light, Jesus the Messiah, who heals us of our sin and who is our unity and peace.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday 01/23	8:00 am- Michael Amann
Saturday, 01/24	5:00 pm – David Bruss
Sunday, 01/25	8:00 am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Friday, 01/30	8:00am- Roy Schreder
Saturday, 01/31	5:00pm- For the Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 02/01	8:00am- For Our Parish of St. Augustine



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 01-11-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3098.00

Loose- \$208.00

Youth- \$

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$2793.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, January 31st, 2026, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder
Servers: Mehrmann's
Lector: Kevin Schredeer
Extraordinary Minister: Ruth Wittenauer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Donna Rheinecker
Camera:

Sunday, February 1st, 2026, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers: Doerr's
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Denny Biffar
Extraordinary Minister (W): Shelly Fizer
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.



Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend Feb. 7-8, 2026

Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to *The Messenger* Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card at www.bellevillemessenger.org and click **SUBSCRIBE** or call 618-722-5045 during business hours for phone payment. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$40 for printed, home-delivery, \$35 for digital access and \$45 for both.

Please make checks payable to The Messenger and make sure to include your e-mail address if digital subscription is selected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Blessing of St. Blaise will take place after mass on January 31, 2026, and February 1, 2026.

Anointing of the sick will be also take place after mass on January 31, 2026, and February 1, 2026, after the blessing of the throats.

- A BINGO Caller is needed for our Bingo on Feb. 8th, 2026. It would be for half of the games. We have one Bingo caller now but need another. Please call the office, 618-473-2217 or John Kaiser at 618-971-7591 if you can help that day.
- There is a basket in the back of church to put last year's palms.

Super Bowl Bingo Reminders...our event is fast approaching!! Please, if you can, for the dinner we will need **2 PIES OR 1 "9X13" DESSERT (NO CAKES) from all parishioners if possible.** Additionally, all parishioners are also asked to bring **non-perishable items** for the **Attendance Prizes** (one or two) valued at \$5.00. Some ideas for attendance prizes are dish towels, candles, puzzles, small crafts, card games, crosswords, etc.

Thank you for your continued support at our annual Super Bowl Bingo and Dinner.

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>.



Today's Gospel is the story of Jesus beginning His Church on earth. He calls Peter and Andrew to be "fishers of men." He likewise enlists James and John, Zebedee's sons, to follow Him. We are ALL called to be fishers of men, women, and children through the example of our daily lives. We are charged with "abandoning our nets" and help each other to live the vocation we've each been uniquely called to. We need to minimally pray each day for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life.

Respect Life Corner

Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion": <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion>
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion"

Reflection for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Three guys are fishing when an angel appears. The first guy says, "I've suffered from back pain for years. Can you help me?" The angel touches the man's back, and he feels instant relief. The second guy points to his thick glasses and begs for a cure for his poor eyesight. When the angel tosses the lenses into the lake, the man gains 20/20 vision. As the angel turns to the third fellow, he instantly recoils and screams, "Don't touch me! I'm on disability!"

This weekend the gospel introduces Mathew's version of the public life of Jesus. To begin with, Jesus calls his first disciples: Peter and Andrew, and then James and John. He uses the invitational phrase "Follow me," Peter and the other disciples left their boats, nets, and families and followed him. In addition, these people Jesus called were not the best candidates to be his apostles. Instead, they were ordinary fishermen not highly educated. However, Jesus offered to make them fishers of men. It is as if Jesus said to them, you know how to catch fish, so use the same skill to "catch" people for me. Nevertheless, there is a big difference between catching fish and catching people. However, the radical nature of their response is significant. They've got a lot to lose in following him. They would lose their comfortable trade, family ties, stable life, and personal independence to follow this new rabbi.

Two things to note about this event: These men were called and did not initiate their vocation like someone would apply for a job or enroll in a school. Next, God calls people whom we seldom expect. He chooses the unlikely people in unlikely circumstances.

Consider the call of Abraham, Moses, David, Jeremiah, and Paul. They were probably the most unlikely people that one would expect to be called by God. Also, God chose Mary to be the mother of the incarnate word. The implication of this divine style is that vocation to serve God is primarily God's initiative that invites a response from the man. Moreover, when God calls, he makes up for human inadequacies. That is why, with Jesus' help, even unlikely disciples became successful in their ministries. The fact that Christ calls ordinary people does not negate the need for abilities. Rather it refutes the excuse people give that others are better qualified than them.

Discipleship is a call to service. Whomever Christ calls, He directs him to the life of service. Also, discipleship is a journey and an adventure. Peter, Andrew, James, and John embrace this adventure initially without knowing how it will end. But they were committed to serving in the name of Christ. Therefore, God will call whom He will call. But first, we must stand up and follow him.

There will be a marriage enrichment event on March 7, 2026, to celebrate couples that have been married for ten years or less. It will be held at Corpus Christi Parish in Shiloh, IL. The event will include Mass (optional), dinner, a presentation and renewal of vows by Fr. Robert Flannery, and then dancing (with a lesson from professional dance instructors).

This is not a free event, the cost will be \$50 per couple to help defray the cost of dinner, drinks and babysitting, so everyone will have to register and pay.

Please contact the office by phone, (618) 473-2217 or email at staug@htc.com if you are interested in attending.

The 2025 Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal

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.

A Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land

Prayer - Solidarity - Peace

November 30-December 11, 2026

Pilgrimage Leaders: Fr. Jim Nall, Deacon John Gomez, and Sue Huett Asbeck

Hosted by: Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Belleville

You are invited to join a Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land for 12-days from November 30-December 11, 2026. The pilgrimage includes visits to Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Mt. of Beatitudes, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, CRS Projects in the area, and much more! To get your name on a priority list for registration when it is available contact Cheryl Sommer, CRS Coordinator for the Belleville Diocese, at 618-624-2838 or send an email to crsdiobelle@gmail.com.



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
HECKER, ILLINOIS**

(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY



QUILT/CASH BINGO

FEBRUARY 8th, 2026

**Hecker Community Center
230 E. Washington Street, Hecker, Illinois
Smoke Free Facility**



Lightning Round Prior to Bingo

BINGO 1:30 P.M.

No one under 18 allowed in hall during bingo. BL #50884

Attendance Prizes – Raffle – Pot of Gold

Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Plates

Serving 10:00 am-1:00 pm





Super Bowl Bingo Help/ Workers Needed!

John Kaiser needs help moving bingo equipment to the Hecker Community Center and help with bingo equipment set-up- if you can help in any way, please meet at the Parish Center on Sunday, February 8^h @ 8:00

If you would like to help work bingo during the Super Bowl event, please let John know. Bingo begins at 1:30pm, please be at the HCC by 1:15pm to help.

Clean-up crew needed at HCC to take down tables and take bingo equipment back to the Parish Center. We will meet at the Hecker Community Center @ 4:15pm.

We would appreciate any help; it will not take long if we have plenty of it.

Thank you- John Kaiser

