

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. 1- January 5th, 2025

The theme for the Epiphany: All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises, for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 1/3	8:00am- Ron Kelley's Months' Mind
Saturday, 1/4	5:00pm- For our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 1/5	8:00am- Lois Papenberg and Shirley Wittenauer
Friday, 1/10	8:00 am- Annabelle Hoffarth
Saturday, 1/11	5:00pm- Jerry Mollet and Duane Mollet
Sunday, 1/12	8:00am- For our Parish at St. Augustine's



**Anointing of
the Sick will
be held after
both Masses
THIS
weekend.**

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 12/29/2024:

Weekly Envelopes (89)- \$2,605.00
Loose- \$122.00
Youth- \$13.00
Christmas Offering- \$4,285.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-24)-
\$1,934.14*

Thank you very much for your generosity!



SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, January 11th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker
Servers: Mehrmanns
Lector: Donna Rheinecker
Extraordinary Minister: Kevin Schreder
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angi Kern
Camera:

Sunday, January 12th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Margie Holle
Servers: Lucas Gregson
Lector: Jonella Donius
Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle
Extraordinary Minister (W): Rachelle Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder
Camera:

****The liturgical/set-up schedule is located on the bulletin board in the front entrance 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 Stelhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Gary Rist, Sydney Furman, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, and Gary Wittenauer.

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



PRAY FOR Pastor Ivan C. Horn, husband of Viv Horn, who died this past week. Please remember him and his family in your prayers. May his soul and all souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

FROM THE PASTOR...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

Reflection for the Feast of Epiphany

A husband read an article to his wife about how women use 30,000 words a day to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "That's because we have to repeat everything to men." The husband turned to his wife and said, "What?"

This weekend we celebrate the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. Perhaps that is why Saint John Paul categorized most of these manifestations as a luminous mystery.

We can compare Epiphany to such expressions as *eureka* or *aha* or when people say *bingo*. In other words, that which was hidden or not well known is now revealed. In the epiphany story, the Magi occupy a significant place. The story presents the Magi to us as the people through whom the mission of Christ is revealed.

Although we know little about the personalities of the Magi, what we know about them is enough to say who Jesus is. The Magi came from the East to Bethlehem. They followed the guidance of the star. Therefore, we can assume that they were astrologers who understood the movement of the stars. The Gospel does not say precisely how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. Instead, we count them to be three based upon the naming of their three gifts: Myrrh, Frankincense, and Gold. The symbolism of this gift is significant to our understanding of the mission of Jesus. Gold symbolized the kingship of Christ, Frankincense represented the divinity and the eternal priesthood of Christ, and Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, symbolized the saving death of Jesus Christ. Thus, Christ came to be the high Priest, the Prophet and King. In other words, he modeled to the world what priesthood, prophet and Kingship should be like.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that the Magi were willing to follow the star to an unknown territory. The journey took them outside their home country and their comfort zone. Also, they risked the consequences of disobeying Herod who had told them to come to his place when they have found the king. Another crucial point to note in this story is that the Magi were truly wise because they knew, interpreted divine signs with caution and patience, and understood the dubious intention of Herod. In our journey of faith today, where does our star lead us? How does God manifest his will to us? How do we interpret our daily experiences?

2025 Collection Envelopes are now available at the front church entrance.



If your phone number/ address has changed, or you need to add a number, please contact the Parish office and leave a message with your new info or you can email @ staug@htc.net. Putting our 2025 Parish Directory together!!



In case you've been wondering... YES, WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE OUR ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY DINNER, BINGO & RAFFLE!!!

You should receive your raffle tickets and letter with detailed information about a month before the event on **Sunday, February 9th, 2025!** Please put that date on your calendar and plan to volunteer to help that day!!!

KIRCHENFEST 2025 – will be held on **Saturday, August 16th, 2025!!!** Please write this date on your calendars now!!!



Gathering to pray the Rosary will be THIS weekend before Sunday 8am Mass, January 5th, 2025, @ 7:40am. Contact Scott Gregson if you would like to volunteer.

Scott can be reached at 618-581-3368.



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
HECKER, ILLINOIS**

(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY



QUILT/CASH BINGO

FEBRUARY 9th, 2025

**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





You're Invited to the 2025 Women's ACTS Retreat!

Deepen your faith and renew your spirit!

- **When:** February 6-9, 2025
- **Where:** Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, IL
- **Hosted by:** Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Waterloo, IL

What to Expect:

- The ACTS weekend is a time for inspiration, encouragement, and spiritual growth
- You'll connect with other faith-filled women
- Lodging, meals, and transportation are included in your registration
- Scholarships are available

Register today!

- **Contact:** Anita Toth (618-719-7925) or Suzan Knese (314-703-1365)
- **Online:** www.ssppcc.org

***Take a leap of faith, step away from daily demands
and spend quality time with Jesus.***

"Here I Am, Lord! Send Me."

(Isaiah 6:8)

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

“Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“*The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary*”

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

“May God’s blessings pour upon you and grant you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous and joyful new year. I send heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and our Belleville Diocese in the past year. You are remembered always in my prayers.”

-Bishop Michael McGovern

PLEDGES TO DATE: 31
(\$6,285.00 Pledged as of 1/3/2025)

96% OF OUR GOAL MET!!!
(\$6,569.00 is the Parish Goal)



What a wonderful Gospel account of the Magi traveling to meet the Lord. They followed the star – their “call” – to come and offer their gifts to the Lord. But the question arises as to how the Magi noticed a star at night and no one else really did. Perhaps we need to embrace the “night”, the stillness, to “see and hear” our call. How are we doing in discerning our call to Holiness – in living our vocation as man, woman or child; married or single; priesthood or religious – of being called to something beyond ourselves?



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, educate our youth on listening for the call to this life, and pray to increase our own 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 visit our website at www.serrastclair.org for information.



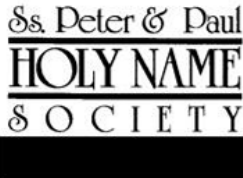
2025 VARIOUS QUILT OF THE MONTH RAFFLES IN THE AREA

- **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.



St. Vincent de Paul Needs Coats!

Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council** desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. **Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested.** Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much.



17th Annual Euchre Tournament

Friday, January 31st, 2025
SPPS Grade School Gym, Waterloo
Doors open at 6:30 PM
Tournament starts at 7 PM

Prizes awarded for top 3
places in 2 flights at a
minimum.

Tickets are \$25 and include:

7 Rounds of Euchre
(12 hands per round)

Beverages (Soda, water and Beer)

All you can eat fried chicken -
(at the end of the last round)



For information or questions please
contact:

Tim Huels (618-406-6399)

Josh Phelps (618-978-4048).

**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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delivered to your door.
Subscribe Today!**

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Email:
[subscribe@belleville
messenger.org](mailto:subscribe@bellevillemessenger.org)

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2620 Lebanon Ave.
Belleville, IL 62221

Meet us on the web:
[www.bellevillemessenger.](http://www.bellevillemessenger.com)