

# WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

HECKER, ILLINOIS 62248

REV. LINUS UMOREN, ADMINISTRATOR

PARISH OFFICE 618-473-2217 E-MAIL ADDRESS: [staug@htc.net](mailto: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. 60 NO. 13- March 30th, 2025**

**Theme for the Fourth Sunday of Lent:** Having arrived in the promised land, the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from affliction and distress in the Passover. Christ, our Passover, has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation: let us forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional and abundant love of God our Father.

## **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday, 3/28	8:00am- Urban and Shirley Wittenauer
Saturday, 3/29	5:00pm- For our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 3/30	8:00am- Delmar and Wilma Wachtel
Friday, 4/4	8:00am- Melvin Parker and Annabelle Hoffarth
Saturday, 4/5	5:00pm- Jerry & Duane Mollet, Emma & Clarence Sandridge, and Cletus & Agnes Gregson
Sunday, 4/6	8:00am- For our Parish at St. Augustine's



**THIS weekend there will be a second collection for 5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday on both March 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> - collecting for St. Vincent de Paul (Waterloo)**

## **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 3/23/2025:**

Weekly Envelopes (53)- \$1,250.00

Loose- \$211.00

Youth- \$3.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-24)-*

**\$2,728.14**

**Thank you very much for your generosity!**

## SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

### Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann

Servers: Mallory Kern

Lector: Cindy Grohmann

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder

### Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart, Sr.

Servers: Doerrs

Lector: Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister: John Kaiser

Extraordinary Minister (W):

Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson

**\*\*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, Debbie Harbaugh, Jerry Castens, and Robin Booth.

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



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



**Gathering to pray the Rosary will be next weekend before Sunday 8am Mass, April 6th, 2025 @ 7:40am. Contact Scott Gregson if you would like to volunteer. Scott can be reached at 618-581-3368.**

# FROM THE PASTOR...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

## Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

An Angel of the Lord telephoned the editors of four major national newspapers with this message: God says the world will end tomorrow.” *The New York Times* carried a front-page headline which read: “THE WORLD WILL END TOMORROW, RELIABLE SOURCE SAYS.” A box read: “analysis on page 11.”

*The Wall Street Journal's* front page headline read: “WORLD ENDS TOMORROW; MARKET PLUNGES. The headline in *USA Today* read: “WE’RE GONE!” The headline in *The Washington Post* read: “WORLD ENDS TOMORROW; CONGRESS APPROVES TERM-LIMITS, SCHOOL PRAYER.”

We are already halfway to the celebration of the paschal festivities. One emphasis seems to run through the readings of the past three weeks—the love of God. This weekend's gospel presents God's love with a powerful image in the story of the prodigal son. Some people have suggested that the story be titled "The prodigal father." There is an excellent sense in this idea because the father in the narrative demonstrates an overwhelming feeling of love, forgiveness, and acceptance. The role of the father and the son reflects the path that leads to Easter.

First of all, the son is aware that the father loves him. He will be willing to give him his inheritance, even if the demand is premature. He asked, and he was given. The son takes his share and departs to a life of isolation. Let us bear in mind that the place of isolation creates an opening for temptation. As he goes and gets separated from family and the real love of the father, he begins to replace fun for love, pleasure for happiness, and isolation for independence. These change the trajectory of his life.

When he came to his senses, he realized how his isolation had trapped him. He had abandoned real love. So, he decided to go back. To where? Notice that he was not sure of what to expect. But he took a risk to experience the other side again. However, at his arrival, his first shock was that the father was willing to take him back not as a sinner but as a returning son.

God is the father in this story, and we all play the part of the prodigal son from time to time. But God's open hands await us. That is the lesson of Lent and Easter.

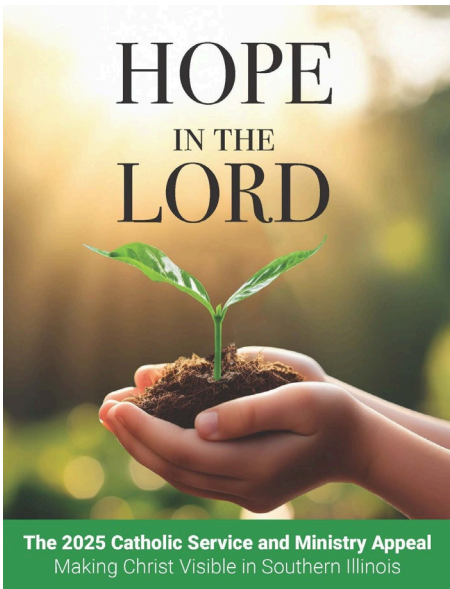
## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



-Stations of the Cross- Held every Wednesday evening @ 7pm, and every Friday following 8am Mass throughout Lent.



**The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal**  
***Serve the Lord with gladness.***  
***-Psalm 100***

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 11**

**43% OF OUR GOAL MET**

**\$2,860.00 Pledged as of 3/28/2025**

**\$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target**



**2025 SCHEDULE FOR LENT, TRIDUUM, EASTER**  
**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY- HECKER**

- **WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT Beginning March 12th:  
St. Augustine Stations of the Cross held at 7:00pm**
- **FRIDAYS DURING LENT:  
St. Augustine - Mass at 8:00 am followed by  
Stations of the Cross**
- **PALM SUNDAY, April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Saturday Mass 5pm, Sunday Mass 8:00am**
- **HOLY THURSDAY, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **GOOD FRIDAY, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
6:30 PM STATION OF THE CROSS FOLLOWED BY  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ 7:00pm, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
7:00 PM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **EASTER SUNDAY, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
8:00AM Mass, ST. AUGUSTINE**

## 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

“With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread the culture of life is today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination, we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth” (*The Gospel of Life* 95).



Today's Gospel features one of the most memorable and quoted parables: The Prodigal Son. This display of Fatherly love is so reassuring to us as we travel through life. The premier forgiveness of the Father for both His sons provides us with comfort even in our transgressions. As we strive to live our vocation (priesthood, married, consecrated life, single), we can always treasure the knowledge that the Father will always celebrate our return to Him no matter what we have done or failed to do.

## DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

Are you discerning the possibility of serving the Lord as a priest, consecrated sister or brother, missionary or permanent deacon?

If you are looking for guidance about how to discern answering the Lord's call, please join Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, and Bishop Michael McGovern for a Day of Recollection. We will gather at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The day includes morning Mass, two talks, reflection questions, group discussion and a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Lite breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This gathering is open to young men and women in High School to age 30. For more information or to RSVP by April 3, contact Ms. Martina Skorch ([mksorch@diobelle.org](mailto:mksorch@diobelle.org)) or by phone at (618) 722-5043.



Diocese of Belleville

### YOUNG ADULTS PRESENTS

## BIBLES AND BREWS

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL

9



Speaker: Casmir Cozzi, Seminarian

Topic - In the beginning it was not so: Understanding Who We Are and Whose We Are with Pope St. John Paul II

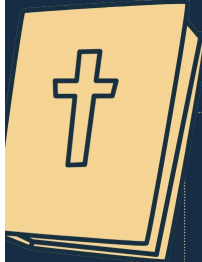
FOR YOUNG ADULTS  
AGES 21 - 35

Location: Bennie's Pizza Pub

113 East Main Street, Belleville, IL 62220

6:30-7:00PM SOCIAL

7:00-8:30PM EVENT



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

# Gibault Catholic High School News

The Freshman Class of 2029 is coming together nicely, but we are still accepting applications! Scholarship applications are due NO LATER than March 31, 2025. Please address to Pam Kueker. They can be mailed in or dropped off in the school office. Registration for the 25-26 New Students is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Save the DATE! The next Jr High Hangout is coming up on April 11<sup>th</sup>! Join us for a GLOW Game Night! All 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome. The AMPlify contest is coming up next week. Awards will be held, Tuesday, March 25, at 5:30pm. The Lady Hawks Softball Team is looking for some bat girls/boys for their home games. We would love for your daughter or son to join the softball team at home games! Please remember to bring a helmet for your child, as they will need to wear it while retrieving bats for the team. They are also welcome to join the team for warm-ups before the game. The team will be on the field for warm-ups no later than 3:30 PM. If your child is unable to make it by 3:30, please ensure they arrive by 4:15 PM at the latest so they can be introduced with the starting lineup.

We look forward to seeing you!! <https://www.signupgenius.com/ghawk#/> Any questions, please reach out to Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker, at [pkueker@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibaulthawks.com).



## King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Visitors Center

### ***Creating SABBATH SPACE in Our Lives –***

5-week Spring Video Study featuring Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI  
Facilitator: Fr. Mark Dean, OMI

Tuesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2025

10:00 am – 12 Noon

*Do we take the time to rest, to ponder, to reflect on what is important to us and gives us joy?*

Allow Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI to lead us on a journey of refreshing our souls by creating “Sabbath Space.”

Cost: \$25 for series; \$5 per session

For more information, call 618-397-0584 or register online at <https://kh.snows.org/events/deanvideo-spring2025/>

# Local Parish Fish Fry Fridays!



- **Immaculate Conception, Columbia**

March 5 (Ash Wednesday): 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

March 7, March 21, April 4 and April 18; 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

411 Palmer Road

Columbia, IL 62236

- **St. Joseph Parish, Freeburg**

March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4 and April 11; 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

6 N. Alton Street

Freeburg, IL 62243

- **St. Mary Parish, Chester - Knights of Columbus**

February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4 and April 11; 5:00 p.m.

209 Church St.

Chester, IL 62233

- **St. Mary Parish, Valmeyer**

March 21, March 28, April 4 and April 11; 4:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

101 South Meyer Ave.

Valmeyer, IL 62295

- **St. Teresa Parish, Belleville**

March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, and April 4 ; 4:00 p.m.

St. Teresa Parish Center

1108 Lebanon Ave.

Belleville, IL 62221

**St. George Parish**  
200 N. Third St, New Baden, IL 62265

**Drive-Thru**  
**FISH DINNER**

**Friday, April 4, 2025**

**3:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.**



Drive-thru: Vehicles should approach the church from Hanover Street. Proceeding North on 3<sup>rd</sup> St and follow the signs to enter the Drive-thru.

*Call 618-977-7687 with Questions about the Dinner.*

*We will be preparing to serve 400 dinners - we will serve until we run out.*

**All Dinners will include:** Fried Cod Fish, Fried Potatoes, Mac-N-Cheese, Green Beans, Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, & Cake. {Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw and Cake will be in separate containers.}