

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. 60 NO. 19 May 11th, 2025

Theme for the Fourth Sunday of Easter: Know that Jesus is Lord, the Lamb on the throne who will shepherd his flock and give them eternal life. In his name, Paul and Barnabas proclaim the word of God to Jew and Gentile alike.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 5/9	8:00am- Jerry & Duane Mollet, Jimmy Neary, and Lawrence Biffar & Arlene Klinkhardt
Saturday, 5/10	5:00pm- For All Mothers of the Parish
Sunday, 5/11	8:00am- For All Mothers of the Parish
Friday, 5/16	8:00am- Virgil Gregson and Jimmy Neary
Saturday, 5/17	5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 5/18	8:00am- Quentin & Veronica Gregson, Frances Gregson, & Clem Orlet; Jerry & Duane Mollet and Shirley Wittenauer



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 5/4/2025:

Weekly Envelopes - \$2,970.00

Loose- \$194.00

Youth-

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-24)-
\$3,175.14

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, May 17th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker

Servers: Mehrmanns

Lector: Donna Rheinecker

Extraordinary Minister: Alice Kuehn

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Sunday, May 18th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Arnie Eckart

Servers: Lucas Gregson

Lector: Jonella Donius

Extraordinary Minister: John Kaiser

Extraordinary Minister (W): Shelly Fizer

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ryan Grohmann

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, 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.



PRAY FOR Julie Schilling, sister-in-law to Richard and Donna Schilling, 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...

Father Linus Umoren, C.M.

Reflection For the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

Whispering firmly, the priest said to a dying man, "Denounce the devil! Let him know how little you think of his evil!" The man said nothing, so the priest repeated his order. Still the dying man said nothing. The priest asked, "Why do you refuse to denounce the devil and his evil?" The dying man said, "Until I know where I'm headed, I don't think I ought to aggravate anybody.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as the "Good Shepherd Sunday." That is because, in all three cycles of the Liturgical Year, the Gospel presents us with an image of Jesus the shepherd whose voice we should hear.

Our conversation this weekend would begin with a question about who we listen to in our life. We all desire to have leaders who would lead us. Sometimes we follow someone who has the attribute that we lack or those we admire. Some people are attracted by those who would inspire, encourage, and affirm them. Still, others follow someone who would challenge them to go beyond the confines of their feelings and circumstances to strive after things they would like to achieve. We call these people heroes or models. What is familiar about them is that they inspire, encourage, and are visionaries.

Jesus uses the image of a good shepherd to talk about his leadership qualities. He leads His people like a good shepherd would; calling us to repent, believe, and stay faithful. Even in suffering, we follow His example. We are His flock. He guides us with love, feeds us with His Word, and protects us through every trial. The good shepherd knows his sheep such that he can speak to them in their various languages and engages them in their respective situation. However, the most distinctive characteristic of the good shepherd is his willingness to lay down His life for his sheep.

The true shepherd wins the confidence of the sheep because he is ready to forgo his needs and to deny his interest in the benefit of the sheep.

But there is also another person who poses as a shepherd. "He comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Here Jesus warns his disciples not to be confused. In the history of Christianity, we learn of false prophets, bad popes, bishop, and priests. We also have wicked kings and queens, dictators and oppressive emperors. There are also abusive parents, relatives, friends, and teachers. Frequently, people who kill the life in us are close to our eyes. However, the problem is that we fail to recognize them because we get blinded by their empty promises and manipulative tactics. We are not faithful disciples when we accept the manipulations of our world, the imperfections of our government, the flaws of our culture and pretend these did not exist. We are not following the Gospel when we take abuses in our workplace or our home, imagining that such acts of violence are acceptable.

Besides, everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. We become good shepherds by loving those under our care. When we guard them from physical and spiritual abuse, we make the light of Christ the model good shepherd to shine in our time and space.

Mother's Day Blessing

May those with children feel appreciated,
May those grieving empty arms be comforted,
May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life
Be wrapped in goodness and love today.

Tamara Rice



12th 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 have been placed at the entrances to church. We just ask that you **return the bottle to church no later than Sunday, June 22nd, 2025**. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-473-2217, or email staug@htc.net. Thank you!!



Graduate's Mass Request Form

For those students graduating from Pre-School, Kindergarten, Grade School, Junior High School, High School, Trade School, or College/University, we will recognize you on your efforts at Masses on May 24th & 25th. To be sure you are recognized, we will need to have this **form completed and returned ASAP no later than May 15th, 2025.**

Student Name:

Names of Parents & Grandparents:

School:

Degree (If applicable): _____

Kings House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center – God First Loved Us

Starting September 12, 2025, through May 1, 2026.

Retreat begins on Friday at 4:00pm through Sunday's at 1:00pm

The new quiet retreat of King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows delves into Pope Francis' la

test encyclical, *Dilexit Nos* (meaning "He loved us"), a beautiful meditation on the human and divine love of Christ. Using the heart as a symbol of the core of the person, this retreat will explore the Holy Father's description of Sacred Heart devotion, focusing on how we can find healing, comfort, inspiration and community in our contemplation of the love emanating from the Heart of Jesus.

Minimum Donation: \$250.00 per person (includes lodging and meals).

The 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal
Hope in the Lord

A special thanks to everyone who has so generously supported the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal – we are most grateful.

If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift as yet, we hope you will prayerfully consider doing so now. Gifts can be made through your parish or by visiting www.diobelle.org and clicking on "Giving".

Seventeen (17) ministries and programs and all those they so faithfully serve are counting on **YOU**.

Please make your contribution today!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 17 58% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$3,910.00.00 Pledged as of 5/2/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target

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

“Radical solidarity compels us to come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children. It requires us to address the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. We must do all we can to provide mothers, children, and families with the support they need to flourish. This cannot be accomplished by laws or policy alone, but requires the continual transformation of our own hearts, recognizing in every person the face of Christ, and placing their needs before our own.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Radical Solidarity”

We celebrate and congratulate all our Mothers today in their acceptance of one of the greatest vocations there is – Motherhood. Blessings on them all for all their sacrifices and their love.

Today is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the Religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission "ad gentes". (From the USCCB website)





Catholic Single Mom Group

Bringing single Catholic moms
together for prayer and support ... for
moms of all ages ... come with or
without kids!

Sunday, May 18, 2-4 pm
St. Clare of Assisi Church, O'Fallon, IL
Babysitting provided

For more info: mking@diobelle.org