

## 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

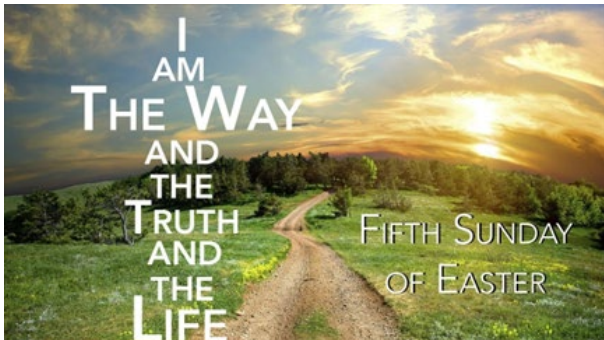
**Confessions:** Heard Saturdays from 4:30 to 4:50 pm (When priests are available)

**VOL. 60 NO. 20 May 18th, 2025**

**Theme for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:** At the conclusion of their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas tell the Antioch community all that the Lord has accomplished in their preaching the kingdom of God. This kingdom, to be marked by our love for one another, will reach its fulfillment in new heavens and a new earth.

### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

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
Friday, 5/23	8:00am- Roy Schreder and Noel & Agnes Roscow
Saturday, 5/24	5:00pm- Ronnie Kelley, Lois Papenberg, and A Special Intention
Sunday, 5/25	8:00am- For All the Graduates



### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 5/11/2025:**

Weekly Envelopes - \$1,189.00  
Loose- \$255.00  
Youth- \$3.00

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

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

## SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

### Saturday, May 24th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Kevin Schreder  
Servers: Mallory Kern  
Lector: Ruth Wittenauer  
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Kevin Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Gary Wittenauer

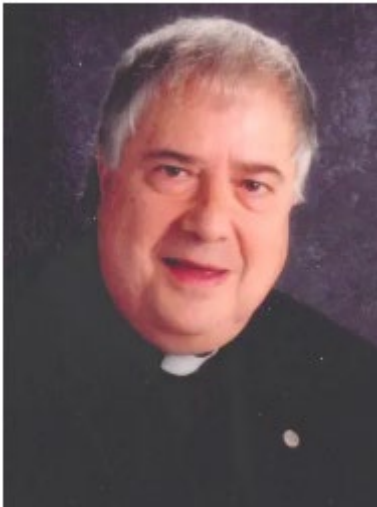
### Sunday, May 25th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Sister Joan Weiler  
Servers: Doerrs  
Lector: Janella Neary  
Extraordinary Minister: Kyle Doerr  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dale Haudrich

### **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, and Jerry Castens.

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** Father Stanley Konieczny of St. John the Baptist Church and School in Smithton, who died and was buried 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

A visiting Grandmother told me this story. She was babysitting her granddaughter, who had recently lost her front teeth, which caused her to talk with a lisp. Since the child was soon to make her First Communion before bedtime, Grandma, who isn't Catholic, thought she would read to her from her Bible, the King James version. So she read such words as "sayeth" and "hath" and "doth," and so on. Then, sleepily, the little girl asked, "Grandma, did God's teeth fall out too?"

We continue reading from the gospel of John during the Easter season. John's gospel is comprehensive when describing Jesus and his mission in the world. For example, this weekend, he speaks of the commandment to love one another as Jesus loves us. Also, to love so that others can identify or recognize that we are Christians. This command broadens what Mathew, Mark, and Luke say about the love of neighbor. Consequently, the commandment to love leaves little room for negotiation.

What does it mean to love as Christ does? To love as Jesus loves is about respecting, caring, and forgiving others as are forgiven by God. As an extension of God's love, Jesus shows compassion for the sick and cares for the poor. To the hungry, He gives food, and to sinners, He offers forgiveness and shows kindness. He comforts the afflicted and absolves those who are cruel to him. However, loving as Jesus loves is very challenging. It is easier to go to church than to love. Love requires doing things that benefit others or serving others. It is easier to perform religious rituals and obligations than to love. It is a Christian virtue to know how important it is to celebrate love and to work for love. Thus, a Christian celebrates love by always appreciating other people. She does not take anyone or any favor for granted. Rather, she takes concrete steps to see that relationships continue and grow.



Freeburg Troop 30 will be cleaning up St. Augustine's cemetery and repairing the landscape with new plants, new edging and mulch at the cemetery this Sunday- Mark Rozhon, a junior at Freeburg Community High School and son of Lori and Chris Rozhon, will be leading this Eagle Scout project. Thank you to Father Linus, David Williams, Lowell Powell, and Brenda Hamilton for collaborating to help make this possible!

A special thank you to Brenda Hamilton's niece, Alex Stumpf, for plant suggestions!

### 12<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-473-2217, or email [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net). Thank you!!



**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***

Did you know **YOUR GIFT** to the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) and click on "Giving".

It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on **YOU**. Please visit [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) today!

**PLEDGES TO DATE: 17    58% OF OUR GOAL MET**

**\$3,910.00.00 Pledged as of 5/16/2025    \$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

“Without a foundational, practical formation, it is difficult for our consciences to guide us well in concrete situations. As Catholics, we have the immense gift of the teaching authority of the Catholic Church and can turn to it for help forming our consciences. For example, learning about Christian moral principles, reading the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, or researching what the Church says about a challenging teaching will help us grow in knowledge of the truth.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Understanding Conscience”

“Growing up in Nigeria, I was raised Catholic and served as an altar boy. Naturally, I felt drawn to the priesthood due to my closeness to the altar and my admiration for our parish priests. After attending minor seminary for high school, I entered college seminary but left after my first year to pursue another career. I came to the United States, intent on marrying and raising a family. But my soul was restless, and God had another plan. Providentially, I was contacted by the vocations director of the Josephites. And when I visited their seminary, I felt a peace and joy I had not known in many years. I returned to seminary, and one day on retreat, something happened that solidified my calling to the priesthood. As I prayed in the chapel, what appeared to be the image of Jesus in the monstrance was shown to me. I was terrified and in awe. It remains an indescribable experience, but it confirmed me in my vocation. I am so grateful for the privilege of being a priest.” Fr. Kingsley Ogbuji, Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart; Washington, D.C. Columbia Magazine Sept. 2024

