

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. 61 NO. 48 November 30th, 2025

Theme for The First Sunday in Advent

Let us rejoice in the Lord's peace. Let us live honorably as we await his return.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Thursday, 11/27	9:00 am- Jerry Mollet, Duane Mollet, Wally & Michael Amann
Friday, 11/28	10:00 am – Clarence Hamilton Celebration of Life
Saturday, 11/29	5:00pm- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 11/30	8:00am- Norbert Wittenauer, Mass of Thanksgiving for Ed and May Stelhorn - 65 years of Marriage.
Friday, 12/05	8:00am- Special Intention
Saturday, 12/06	5:00pm- For Our Parish of St. Augustine
Sunday, 12/07	8:00am- Jerry & Duane Mollet, Cletus & Agnes Gregson



OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 10-12-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3662.00

Loose- \$524.00

Youth- \$4.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-
\$1281.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, December 6th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker
Servers: Mehrmann's
Lector: Donna Rheinecker
Extraordinary Minister: Marvin Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Angie Parker
Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss
Camera:

Sunday, December 7th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Rader
Servers: Anne & Oliver Karban
Lector: Elaine Rader
Extraordinary Minister: Shelly Fizer
Extraordinary Minister (W): Raeleen Neary
Extraordinary Minister (W): Lucas Gregson
Camera:

Monday, December 8th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar
Servers:
Lector: Kay Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister: Dale Haudrich
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar
Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder
Camera:



Please pray for the following:

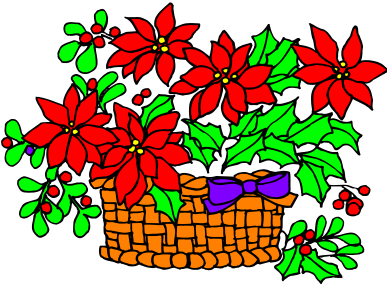
Darlene Frisch, Jeanelle Dinan, Madalyn Killebrew, Kenny Kern, Ricky Wittenauer, Ava Kern, Nancy Grohmann, Jim & Joanne Cowell, Helen Parker, Mike Rheinecker, Evelyn Kelley Marquart, Roger Cortner, Frank Kohler, Josh Middendorf, Ethel Mae Kreher, Annette Lovelace, Geri Griffin, Melissa Stellhorn, Rhonda Mehring-Smith, Sydney Furman, Delbert Wittenauer, Dorothy Christiansen, Joan Wittenauer, Arline 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Anointing of the sick will take place Sat. December 6 and Sunday December 7 after masses.
- St. Augustine's will have an 8:00am mass on December 8th, 2025, for the Holyday of Obligation, The Immaculate Conception.
- Thank you for your generosity for "Our Adopt a Family". Please place your unwrapped gifts in the box in the back of church or drop them off at the office by Sunday, December 7th.



The Blessed Virgin Altar Sodality will hold its annual Christmas Party Luncheon on Sunday December 7th, at 12:00 noon in the Parish Center. Please call Mary Schaltenbrand at (618) 973-0994 or Annette Schreder at (618) 791-6665 for reservations.

Ladies, please plan to attend!

Gibault Updates

Need some something to keep your baseball or softball player busy this winter? Sign them up for our Winter Warmups!

The Freshman Placement Test is Saturday, Dec 6 at 8:30am. You can sign your student up Through Friday December 5 by emailing Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibalthawks.com. The 2026-27 New Student Application deadline to be included in our January 16 Acceptance Day event is Monday, January 5, 2026. Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. All 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request more

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>.

Vocations



“I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: Sept. 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was “Students’ Day.” Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest.”

Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address, May 18, 2013

November 30, 2025, Respect Life Corner

“Lord Jesus Christ, you chose to share our human nature and redeem all people. We ask your help for our brothers and sisters who are ill. Support them with your power and shelter them from sadness. Keep them firm in faith and serene in hope. Also, help those who assist the sick and care for them in their time of illness. Inspire our society to resist the temptation of assisted suicide for the elderly, the sick, the vulnerable, and all your people. May life’s beauty and sanctity be respected among all our brothers and sisters. All this we ask in your holy name. Amen.”

Prayers and Novena to Combat Assisted Suicide

<https://www.ilcatholic.org/stop-assisted-suicide/>

Reflection for the First Sunday of Advent Year A

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mum told him that would be fine. Sam went to his room and wrote 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.' But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

The Church year begins with Advent. The word Advent means "towards coming." In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ to us, the arrival of Immanuel. At this time, the liturgy focuses more on how Jesus comes to us: His historical incarnation at Christmas, His continuous coming in the sacraments of the Church, and His return in glory—the second coming. There are four weeks in Advent. While the first three week point to the second coming of Christ, the last week's liturgy focuses on the immediate preparation for Christmas.

So how do we prepare for Christ coming?

In the early century of Christianity, many believers thought that the second coming of Christ was so imminent. So, they led an entire life of preparation and penance. But we who live two millennia later have come to know that the scripture does not designate the time or the hour when this will happen. Instead, the scripture invites us to prepare for Christ's coming continually. So, how can we prepare when we do not know what to expect? Let me make a few suggestions:

- Live a life of thankfulness. In this weekend's gospel, Jesus says, stay awake! Be awake to the blessings you have received over time, and be thankful for them. Be grateful for your health and the ability to do what you need. Stay awake to love. Acknowledge God's love, love of parents, love of family, friends, and neighbors.
- Put-on-the Lord Jesus. To put-on Jesus means to be identified with him. Jesus spent his life for others. Therefore, putting on the Lord Jesus is an invitation to spend quality time for others: to take a walk or a fun ride with our children, to take our spouse out for dinner to talk and reconnect with old friends and classmates, and also to volunteer for the Church ministries.
- Be informed about what is going on in life. Every day something happens, some of which call for change. How do you respond to change? Do you flow with it or take your time to ask earnest questions? A Christian does not adapt to things blindly. The Christian tradition shapes all Christians. How much does the Christian tradition still shape you, and how much of the secular culture direct you? There is always a force we all bow to. Stay awake to see how it happens.



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 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 today!

PLEDGES TO DATE: 31 103% OF OUR GOAL MET

\$6,968.00.00 pledged of 10/12/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target

SPECIAL THANKS TO ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CHURCH

On behalf of the agencies, ministries and departments that are supported through The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for so generously supporting this year's Appeal. Also, congratulations on exceeding your parish's CSMA financial goal. It is your Christian caring and generosity that gives help and hope to those in need.

Thank you again so much. God's richest blessings to each of you and your families.

Very Reverend Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Administrator of the Diocese of Belleville

2025 Advent and Christmas Schedule

St. Augustine's of Canterbury – Hecker



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Requests may be made again this year for flowers, “In memory of” or “In honor of” family members. Please use the designated envelope in your box and return to the Office at St. Augustine’s either by mail or collection basket or dropping off.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLYDAY

Holy Day of Obligation – Mass Monday December 8th, 2025, at 8:00 am



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



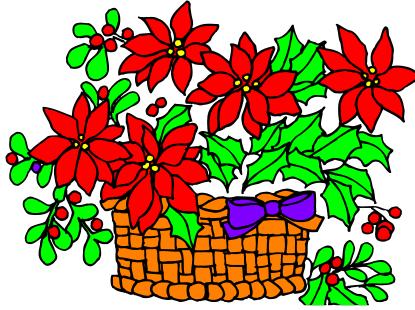
CHRISTMAS EVE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025
Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025
Mass – 9:00 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, NEW YEAR'S DAY
(Holy day of Obligation)
Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

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