

## 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. 61 NO. 41 October 12th, 2025**

### **Theme for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Lord has revealed his saving power to all the nations. Naaman, a Syrian is healed, and lepers are made whole, but only the Samaritan returns to give thanks. Let us remain steadfast in faith and thankful for the Lords's blessing.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

Friday, 10/10	8:00 am- Lawrence Schaltenbrand
Saturday, 10/11	5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 10/12	8:00am- Cletus & Agnes Gregson, Special Intention
Friday, 10/17	8:00am- John Rheinerker
Saturday, 10/18	5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 10/19	8:00am- Norbert Wittenauer, Gary Rist

#### **OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 10-05-25:**

Weekly Envelopes- \$2525.00

Loose- \$223.00

Youth- \$4.00

World Mission - \$50.00

*Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-*

**\$820.30**

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

## SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

### Saturday, October 18th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Cindy Grohmann  
Servers: Mallory Kernann's  
Lector: Cindy Grohmann  
Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Annette Schreder  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer  
Camera:

### Sunday, October 19th, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Elaine Biffar  
Servers: Doerrs  
Lector: Jonella Donius  
Extraordinary Minister: John Kaiser  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Dennis Biffar  
Extraordinary Minister (W): Margie Holle  
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.



## **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: 29 91 % OF OUR GOAL MET**

**\$6170.00.00 pledged of 10/5/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target**

## Reflection for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year C

*A priest shared this letter written by an elderly parishioner to one of the parish ushers by name Harry.*

*Dear Harry,*

*My name is Gert. I hope you remember me. I'm the Gertrude that comes to the 11:00 Mass. I am writing to ask you a favor. I don't know the priests in the parish too well and am not comfortable with them. But Harry, I'm comfortable with you. I don't know how you learned my name but you did. Every time I come to Mass you smile, welcome me personally. Then we banter about some inconsequential thing like how bad the weather is or how much you like my hat or how I'm running late. I want to thank you for your smile, for your welcome, and for your kindness towards an old lady. And now for the favor. You haven't seen me in the last few weeks because I am now in hospice and I am dying. It's time. I am 88 years old and I am ready. I don't have much family. My husband died 16 years ago and my children are scattered throughout the country. And so Harry, it's very important for me that at my funeral, when I come to church for the last time, that you are there. I want you to say to me, "Hello Gert. Good to see you." Because if you do that, I have confidence that your familiar and warm greeting will be duplicated in my new home in heaven. With love and gratitude.*

**Gert**

Many of us are familiar with the story of the healing of the ten lepers, which we read this weekend and you may have your own interpretation of the story. But we can begin by reflecting on the condition of the lepers before, during, and after their healing. Before their healing, they were outcasts of society. That means they lost their status, identity, and dignity. If they came out of their isolation, they had to practice social distancing (does that sound familiar?) Then, finally, Jesus came their way, and unlike other rabbis of that time, he took pity on them. Jesus did not only heal them; he commanded them to show themselves to the priests to be restored to social communion. The ten of them departed as he commanded, but afterward, one of them came back to give thanks. What was the source of his gratitude?

We are all surrounded by blessings and graces, but only some of us see them. Gratitude is the fruit of recognizing the gifts and graces around us. It is easy to take the blessings around us for granted or inflate our space with the air of entitlement as though we deserve all our successes. Unfortunately, people who do not give thanks turn into bitter people. They are never satisfied with what they have. On the contrary, thankful people find goodness in the strangest places, celebrate their blessings, and hope and trust in the promise yet to come.

Another lesson drawn from the Gospel is gratitude leads to freedom and salvation. All ten lepers received the gift of healing, but in his appreciation of God for this gift, the Samaritan found salvation. Freedom and salvation are experienced to the extent we recognize the blessings from God. Jesus was pleased to see the Samaritan on his return to praise God for saving him. He went home not just healed but saved too. What are we most thankful for in our life?

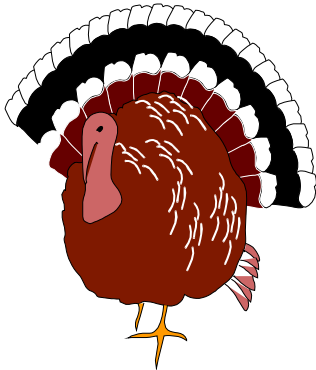
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Newly elected members for the Parish Council are:

Aaron Eckart – Reelected

Shelly Fizer – Newly elected

Congratulations to the winners and Thank you to Dana Merhmann for the time she served on Parish Council and to Brice Griffin for running in the election.



**ST. AUGUSTINE'S HOLY  
NAME MENS SOCIETY  
MEAT SHOOT -Free Mulligan  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>,  
2025  
12 PM to ??  
HECKER COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Shiloh is having an All You Can Eat Chicken and Pasta Dinner on October 26, 2025

Menu: Fried chicken, mostaccioli, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green beans, corn, slaw, rolls, dessert and drink.

\$15.00 for adults, children (5 to 10) \$10.00.

205 Rasp Street  
Shiloh. IL 62269

## **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**

“An old Irish proverb says, ‘It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.’ Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to ‘shelter’ them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them: [usccb.org/end-of-life-care](http://usccb.org/end-of-life-care).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Caring for Loved Ones at Life’s End

### **Vocations**

“Jesus, I’m done discerning.” This was my prayer in the back of a quiet chapel, the summer after graduating college. The Lord’s call to me as a child was strong and clear, but the where and when were not. The many Holy Hours I’d spent wrestling with the mystery since had brought no clarity. My prayer continued, “I am spending all my energy discerning when all I really desire is to love you. So, I am just going to love you and love you lavishly. I ask your Blessed Mother to make the rest abundantly clear.” Only later did I understand that perhaps it was what the Lord had been waiting for; for me to simply rejoice to be in relationship with Him, to simply let myself be His. The lesson the Lord taught me that day remains ever new, even now after final vows. How much more beautiful is the journey when lived in the simplicity of his Love!”

Sister Maria Lucia Stella Maris, Missionaries of the Word. Columbia Magazine Jul/Aug 2022



## **All Souls' Remembrance Mass Sunday, November 2nd -8:00 am Mass**

We will be remembering those who have died since All Souls' Day 2024 during the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

Please call the Parish Office 618-473-2217 to let us know your loved one's name or send an email to [staug@htc.net](mailto:staug@htc.net).

We are planning to have the procession prior to the start of Mass where you carry a candle in remembrance of your loved one.

Thank you.

## **Wave of Life October 15, 2025 7 pm**

St. Peter and Paul Church in Waterloo will be hosting the Wave of Life in remembrance of our children lost too soon, through miscarriage, stillbirth, or as an infant, we gather to pray the rosary to celebrate their short lives and the healing mercy of God in our lives

## **Gibault News**

The 2026-27 New Student Application is NOW OPEN! Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> to apply. Our Jr. High Bonfire Bash is BACK! Come one, come all, bring a friend! Come roast some s'mores and hang out with some of the Hawk Family: Friday, October 17, 6-8pm. All 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Come and experience what a day in the life of a Hawk is all about! Want to know more about Gibault? Schedule a private tour! Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> to fill out our inquiry form and we will reach out to get you scheduled. Any questions can be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker