

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. 37 September 14th, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. God highly exalted him and made him Lord. How unforgettable are his deeds.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Friday, 9/12	8:00 am- Jerry & Duane Mollet
Saturday, 9/13	5:00pm- Norbert Wittenauer
Sunday, 9/14	8:00am- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Friday, 9/19	8:00am- Don Braun, John Rheinecker
Saturday, 9/20	5:00pm- For Our Parish at St. Augustine's
Sunday, 9/21	8:00am- Roy Schreder, Henry & Bertha Braun

OUR SACRIFICE MADE TO GOD FROM 8-17-25:

Weekly Envelopes- \$3855.00

Loose- \$188.00

Youth- \$4.00

Retired Priest Collection \$110.00

Scholarship Fund (beginning 8-1-25)-

\$663.30

Thank you very much for your generosity!

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK/ WEEKEND

Saturday, September 20th, 2025, 5pm

Set Up: Donna Rheinecker

Servers: Mallory Kern

Lector: Donna Rheinecker

Extraordinary Minister: Angie Kern

Extraordinary Minister (W): Barb Bruss

Extraordinary Minister (W): Ruth Wittenauer

Camera:

Sunday, September 21st, 2025, 8am

Set Up: Margie Holle

Servers: Dooerrs

Lector: Jonella Donius

Extraordinary Minister: Margie Holle

Extraordinary Minister (W): Betty Schreder

Extraordinary Minister (W): Kyle Doerr

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

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 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: 28 88 % OF OUR GOAL MET

\$5,955.00 pledged of 8/3/2025 \$6,718.00 is the Parish Financial Target

Reflection for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

One of the old Christian songs that has influenced my spirituality is the “Old Rugged Cross” by George Bennard, written in 1913.” On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross, the emblem of suffering and shame. And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain...”

For me, the Old Rugged Cross is more than just a hymn — it is a meditation on the meaning of love, a pointer to an act victory, a description of the divine reversal and an offer of a pathway to redemption.

The entire scripture paints the picture of the cross of Christ as a weapon of defeat and as a symbol of God’s power. Paging through the bible we are led through different forms of redemptive sacrifices that foreshadowed the cross of Christ. But at the center of the different sacrifices is the act of obedience. In Genesis chapter 22, Abraham is commanded by God to sacrifice Isaac. In obedience, Abraham set out with Isaac to fulfilled God’s request. For Abraham, nothing was too much to give to God. But when Isaac asked Abraham about the victim, he responded, “God will provide for Himself the lamb” (Genesis 22:8). Although God provided the victim, Abraham’s total obedience prefigured the act of a loving father who was willing to sacrifice his son to bring about a universal redemption. In Exodus 12, the blood of the lamb that was slain for the first Passover became a symbol for the redemption of God’s people. In the Passion narrative according to the gospel of John chapter 18, Jesus’ passion is unveiled as one unbroken piece; from the last supper to the garden of gethsemane, incorporating betrayal by one of his own, condemnation by Pilate, denial by his bosom friend, rejection and mockery by his previous “fans” as one unbroken piece. Thus, between the last supper and the crucifixion on the cross, Jesus’s attitude is that of obedient servant. Saint Paul describes this attitude as obedient unto death even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Now the message about Christ’s death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for those who are being saved it is God’s power.” (1 Cor 1:18). So, I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

The implication of the above lyrics is that the cross which was a symbol of shame is now a throne of mercy, from which the believers receive divine pardon, and anticipate eternal glory with God. It is now the symbol of God’s immense love and the relic of divine victory. What this means to us is that the struggles and the challenges we face, the tears from our eyes from weariness are nothing compared to the eternal hope secured on that cross. Therefore, in celebrating the exaltation of the cross, we do not exalt an empty relic of history — rather we highlight the foundation of our faith, the place where love and justice met, and where victory was won. Although the world may despise the old rugged cross, it remains the symbol of God’s salvation and gives true meaning to the Eucharist as the sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ. In the exaltation of the cross we testify to the cost of love and celebrate its redemptive power.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We have Tiki Trot Shirts available for sale for \$15.00. If you would like to purchase a shirt contact Aaron Eckart at 618-920-5258 or the parish office at 618-473-2217
- Please return your Parish Council nominations in the collection basket.

We express our sincere gratitude to each of you who contributed to the annual Retired Diocesan Priests Collection which was held last weekend. Your generosity ensures our commitment to safeguard the professional and personal dignity of our diocesan priests who are currently retired and our younger priests who will retire in the years ahead. If you were unable to give last week, you may still contribute at any time through your parish; be sure to note "Retired Diocesan Priests Collection" on the memo line of your check. Please also keep all our priests in your prayers. Thank you very much!

Our Belleville Diocese currently has
60 diocesan priests
34 currently retired
26 in active ministry
but 11 of whom are of retirement age.

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

“We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity.”
USCCB, “Prayer to Heal Racial Division”



Vocations

Today's Gospel is the popular, often quoted, section from John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son”. We see it often proclaimed at professional sporting events. Do we embrace those words? Can we give of ourselves to consider a vocation to the Priesthood or Sisterhood? Can we encourage and support our young folks who might be pondering this path in life? Be bold and pose the question – “Are you considering a religious vocation?”

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreats for 2025/2026.

The Belleville Diocese is providing 2 TEC retreat weekends for the 2025/2026 academic school year. TEC is a 3-day Catholic retreat weekend designed for young adults, juniors and seniors (or older) in high school, who are looking for an opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with God and/or their fellow Christians. If you, or someone you know, are looking for an opportunity to enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ or experience your Catholic faith in a dynamic and fun-filled setting, then a TEC retreat may be just what you are looking for. The TEC weekends are scheduled for October 11-13 at Mater Dei High School in Breese and January 17-19 at Immaculate Conception School in Columbia. To learn more, or attend a TEC weekend, please visit our website at **bellevilletec.org**. If you've attended a TEC weekend in the past and would like to attend one of the reunions, please visit **bellevilletec.org** for additional details.

At. Michaels Quilt-A-Rama Paderborn, IL

Monday September 22 and Wednesday September 24, 2025
In the Parish Hall from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Lunch will be provided.

Please text or call Linda Meyer at 618-520-6350 Or
Diane Ruhmann at 618-698-3785 by September 17 if you plan
to attend.

Fall Rummage Sale

St. John The Baptist School in Red Bud will be holding their
annual rummage sale September 26-27-28.