

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2025

The Body of Christ

Few phrases in our faith tradition are as rich and evocative as “the Body of Christ.” We use it to express some of the many ways that Jesus is present and active among us. During the liturgies of the Triduum, the three days leading up to Easter, we have the opportunity to savor the Body of Christ so we can learn to recognize him more readily.

On Holy Thursday, we see the Body of Christ kneeling at the feet of his disciples, washing their feet. This is Jesus the teacher, showing us how we should serve one another by his example, as well as his words. Next, we find the Body of Christ seated at the table with his friends. He leads them

in the prayers that remind them of their identity as children of a loving Father, called from the slavery of Egypt to freedom. This is Jesus the priest, calling others to the priesthood, to lead our prayers, free us from the slavery to sin, and open the scriptures to us. And of course, we encounter the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. This is Jesus, the bread of life, our food for our journey to heaven. This is Jesus showing us as clearly as possible that he wants to be with us and to shape our lives for holiness and joy.

On Good Friday, we encounter the Body of Christ hanging on the cross. This is Jesus the sacrificial lamb, of-

fering himself for us so that we may live with him forever. This is Jesus the suffering servant, who understands our joys and our sorrows. This is Jesus who knows the way through death to new life because he goes before us. This is Jesus, showing us the overwhelming goodness of God that cannot be defeated by any evil in the world.

At the Easter Vigil we welcome new members to the community of the faithful through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Here the Body of

Christ is us. By the sacraments, Christ lives in each of us. When we gather to worship, we show his presence to the world.

When we serve others in our daily lives, we show his loving face. When we care for the homeless, the immigrant, the hungry, the prisoner, the suffering, we serve Christ in them.

At the Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we find the Body of Christ in our risen Lord. No longer limited by his physical body, we see him free to be present for all time, in all places. We receive his gift of peace. We trust his presence whether we are alone with him or with others. We feel him urging us to live joyful, holy lives, and to let him show us the way to eternal life with him.

The Body of Christ is living and active among us!



WSP members brave the cold for winter meeting

Women of St. Patrick



Spirituality
Service
Social

On a frigid night in February, the Women of St. Patrick left their homes to gather at Manzella's restaurant for their winter meeting. Nineteen ladies convened in the private dining room festooned with loops of hanging Italian lights and decorative wine bottles. The evening began with a selection of menu specials each accompanied by soup or salad and garlic bread.

Before they got down to business at 6:30, there was a drawing for door prizes. Then Donna Rinkenger read the minutes from the last meeting on October 6. They were approved and seconded. After the treasurer gave her report, there was the planning for future events.

The first event planned is the WSP's first game night. It will be held on Saturday, March 22, from 5:15-7:15 in St. Brigid Hall. WSP and their families will play bunco and other games. Sloppy Joes will be served and there will be door prizes.

The second event, suggested by Shirley Splittstoesser: a showing of the movie “The Miracle of Fatima” on the afternoon of Sunday, May 18.

see **Women of St. Patrick** on page 8

“Braver Angels” and the common good

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) instructs Catholics that “it is the duty of citizens to contribute . . . to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.” Our . . . “service of the common good requires(s) citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community” (CCC 2239). In recent times, however, fulfilling any role in the political community has become for too many of us a neglected duty, as demonstrated by the tiny number of voters in the recent City of Urbana elections.

Unfortunately, fear and fatigue fueled by constantly negative news and social media and the combative

in 2021. On March 26, 2024, The News-Gazette began publishing a bi-weekly column series titled “Braver Conversations” in the Tuesday Town Hall section. These informative columns are uplifting, and Carol, Jim, and Tony have contributed. Columns can be read at il.braverangels.org/news/braver-conversations.

At all levels, the Braver Angels’ goal is not to change people’s views of issues, but to change their views of one another. As Jim Mayer said, “Whether you are ‘Blue Leaning’ or ‘Red Leaning,’ it does not make any sense to demonize half the people in the country.” To bring people with different political views together for civil conversations, Braver Angels

our approach should involve mutual respect. Respect, not agreement, is an essential key for a healthy discussion.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that we are responsible to serve the common good that includes participation and contribution in the political community. Fulfilling this responsibility offers us more opportunities to answer Jesus’ call to minister to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and those in prison. Jim Mayer said, “It’s been good for my soul to get involved with Braver Angels.” May following Jesus and the Church’s teaching be good for each of our souls, and may each of us hear the Lord say, “Amen,



atmosphere of the political community itself has many of us closing our eyes and putting our fingers in our ears when our public obligations call. Fortunately, there are people in our community, our state, and across the country, including St. Patrick parishioners like Carol Bosley, Jim Mayer, and Tony Schutz, who are stepping forward to help revive and rejuvenate us, so we are encouraged and prepared to fulfill our obligations “to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.”

Carol, Jim, and Tony have served locally as members of the Braver Angels, a national organization dedicated to bringing Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. The Braver Angels national organization was founded after the 2016 national election, and the East Central Illinois Alliance was established

provides an array of resources including workshops, podcasts, e-courses, speakers, debates, one-on-one conversations, and additional training and support materials. These can be accessed at braverangels.org and il.braverangels.org. The local Braver Angels East Central Illinois Alliance meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Champaign Public Library, and the public is welcome.

The Braver Angels is a non-religious organization, and its guidelines state: “Braver Angels is a civic organization that develops educational tools to build bridges between people divided over politics. We also partner with religious groups who use our tools in the context of their own religious traditions. For people of faith, civil discourse often begins in recognizing the image of God and/or the inherent dignity in our conversation partner. As a result,

I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine you did for me” (Mt.25:31-46) as he welcomes us into the kingdom.

Vocation Prayer

Come, follow me.

Please, God,
help me to know
my vocation
and give me the
grace and strength
to follow it.



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (May) is **Sunday, April 6.**

Happy 150th, Diocese of Peoria!

A “Party on the Plains, 150 Years in the Making” was celebrated at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria on Wednesday, February 12. Bishop Louis Tylka, during his homily at the 150th Anniversary Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, said, “There’s nothing wrong with a party, so let’s celebrate ... all in the name of the Lord.”



Bishop Tylka

A century-and-a-half ago, Pope Pius IX established a new diocese covering 23 counties in Central Illinois from the Mississippi River to the Indiana border. Bishop Tylka joked that perhaps the pope could have chosen a less frigid time of year to establish our diocese so that our celebration could be on a much warmer day. Despite the cold weather, Pat Justice, Sr. Karen Carlson, Fr. Hennessy, and Deacon Jack Watt attended.



Fr. Hennessy



Deacon Jack Watt

“And thus, so that the Glory of God may be served . . . we erect a new Episcopal See in the City of Peoria.” (an excerpt from the Pope’s apostolic letter creating the Diocese of Peoria). However, Father Michael Hurley, who had been appointed first bishop of Peoria by papal bull declined the appointment and shipped the papal bull back to Rome. Ironically, enroute, the ship sank. Communications were slow at the time; it took two years to clear up the oversight before 38-year-old Fr. John L. Spalding of Kentucky was appointed bishop and started leading the diocese in 1877, with Fr. Hurley as his vicar general. The Diocese of Peoria was one of 40 others that Pope Pius IX established in the United States.

The Sesquicentennial Anniversary Mass was the occasion for the unveiling of new vestments for diocesan clergy. Phil Lee, director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship, commented, “The idea for a new diocesan vestment was Bishop Lou’s. He saw that the current ones were

looking worn and starting to become not uniform among the presbyterate due to different dye lots and even fabric changes over the years.” The previous diocesan vestment has been around for over 30 years. The vestment’s main banding down the middle is a copy of the stencil work which adorns the sanctuary walls of the Cathedral. The blue and gold banding alongside is in homage to the French missionaries who first came to the area.

Bishop Lou concluded his homily at the 150th Anniversary Mass with a call to all to serve Jesus, through Mary: “United with Mary, we must discern our own calling in this ongoing story of faith, to realize at the heart of who we have been, who we are, and who we will become is **to proclaim Christ: yesterday, today, forever.**”

The faithful will be able to obtain the 150th Anniversary indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they partake in a pious pilgrimage to any sacred pilgrimage site. Those so designated in the Diocese of Peoria are St. John Chapel at the University of Illinois Newman Center in Champaign, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria, St. Mary Church in Moline, Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Nauvoo, Corpus Christi Church in Galesburg, and St. Mary Church in Utica.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

—Romans 8:26

Organ and handbells given new life

St. Patrick's parishioners have always loved our music, and the beauty of our music ministry will be greatly enhanced by the extensive repairs currently in progress for the organ and handbells. These renovations are long overdue, and many have wondered at the necessity for the work and the costs to the parish. A brief history of the instruments and a description of the work being done will illustrate how our worship will be enhanced by these improvements.

The organ was purchased in 2015 as a replacement for the church's pipe organ in the former choir loft when the church was renovated and expanded. It is a refurbished Rodgers console, purchased used, with newer internal components and at a cost of \$32,464 at that time. It is entirely digital and operates from a computer installed in the console. Some of these components have failed, and others need repair.

The current computer is 10 years old and needs to be replaced. The computer uses an operating software called Hauptwerk. The current version is 4.0, which was released in 2011 and is out of date. (The most up-to-date version is 9.0.) In addition, some of the installation was not completed to satisfaction. Some electrical repairs and wiring need additional attention. Proper voicing and a final clean-up and tightening of the inner workings will make the organ "like new."

The work has been contracted through Watson Organ Company from Galesburg, the area representative for the Rodgers Organ Company, one of the leaders in digital church organs. The cost of the renovation is \$26,372. A new organ of proper size and sound for our church would easily cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The parish also owns a set of 48 Malmark handbells. Our bells have been purchased in several stages, with the oldest bells dating back to the early 1980s and the most recent from the late 1990s. The handbells have been treated with care but have had no refurbishment. Several of

the bells have broken and/or worn-out parts. Malmark, located in Pennsylvania, is the premier manufacturer of handbells and is handling the restoration. Purchasing two additional bells will complete the set. The cost of the work is around \$5,000 depending upon the severity of damaged and broken components.

The organ has been in decline for some years due to the incomplete initial work and patchwork attempts to fix it. In the past two years, the organ has lost certain controls, stops have become unusable, and quirks have developed in the system, making the organ less and less reliable. Over time, the organ would certainly become completely unusable. Without repairs, the current bells will also eventually break or become unusable.

As James Rossi, our parish Music Director, explains: "A church organ is more than an individual instrument. It must be properly installed and voiced for the space it occupies. If you take an organ voiced for a large cathedral with

high acoustics and place it into a small room void of acoustics, it will sound very different. I expect the organ will have better function and quality when the repairs are complete. I desire that it take on a beauty worthy of our church. I hope it will be a pleasing instrument that helps support and encourage the singing of the congregation and helps to enhance our liturgies and prayer life."

Donations to support these repairs and improvements are still greatly needed. The Women of St. Patrick have just approved a donation of \$12,000 toward these costs.

Several members of the adult choir have committed to writing monthly articles on the music ministry overall for In Focus and would welcome suggestions for topics. Would you like to know more about music selections, the parish choirs, composers, or particular hymns? If you have a question or suggestion for a topic, please email these to James at james.rossi@stpaturbana.org.



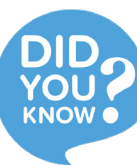
Baptisms at St. Patrick's



We welcome to our faith community **Isaac Garcia Marquez**, son of Hilda Marquez Vela and Braulio Garcia Meza. **Isaac Garcia** was baptized by Fr. Anthony Co at St. Patrick's on February 22.

Let us celebrate his Baptism with **Isaac Garcia**. This is the sacrament by which we become sons and daughters of God and members of Christ's Body, the Church.

The Baptism Preparation Class is offered at St. Patrick at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. Parents, godparents, and all are welcome.



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the model for how new members join the Catholic

Church. You may remember it as the RCIA (R for Rite). The new name puts the focus on the people rather than the rituals.

OCIA: A testament to the human quest for truth and need for help

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), previously RCIA, is a program that prepares adults to respond to God's call to live their faith in the Catholic Church. It is designed for people who are curious about the truths of the Catholic faith and would like to know more about her teachings. It is a response of the Church to those who seek the truth about God, the world, and their own life.

St. Patrick's Church partners with St. Matthew's in Champaign to run this year-long program, which starts in August and ends on Easter when those who choose to become members of the Church are received.

OCIA is a testament that the Catholic Church is a guardian of the Faith of the Apostles; faithful to the teaching of Christ and true in its approach to both human and divine realities. Those who participate in the program walk in the paths of many people who have come to rediscover the truth as being Catholic and find the Catholic Church as the true home of Christianity. There are many great examples through the ages. One such is that of St. John Henry Newman, a 19th-century

former anglican priest. Another is Dr. Scott Hahn, a former U.S. presbyterian minister who converted to Catholicism.

These converts show us that the search for the truth of Christianity leads to Catholicism when conducted with sufficient rigor and with sincerity. The average OCIA participants are not particularly knowledgeable about the Bible and matters of theological discourse. In many cases

they come at the epitome of their careers and are able to reason out most of the truth about the Faith on their own. The program really benefits the person who questions but does not have the time or resources to undertake a systematic analysis of the Bible and of matters of theology.

OCIA is a reflection of our own inability to come to knowledge of the truth on our own; a testament to our need for help to understand. But it is also indirectly a testament of our need for a savior because humanity on its own is not able to come to the full knowledge of the truth. It exists because people lost in a confusing world are constantly searching for truth that convicts and comforts, is reflected in the sacrifices

that many participants often have to make, including losing economic opportunities and social prejudice even from family. The sacrifices that people make to enter the Church reveal to us the truths that convict and comfort, which many of us may take for granted. Among them is the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

But OCIA is also a result of sharing our faith, and a call for us to continue sharing our faith in the many small ways that we are able to do this. It is through the testimony of ordinary people like you and me that people are drawn to question and to search deeper for the eternal truths in the Church.

If you are interested in OCIA or know someone who is interested in joining the program, contact collin.reymann@stpaturbana.org.



Parish Council News



Have you noticed or perhaps even prayed with the new Stations of the Cross attached to the fence along the east and south sides of the parish center? Or with the wooden crosses erected beside the parking lot near the church? These have been placed for those of us who are unable to access the church or who can pray the Stations from their cars on their way past the church.

In May the Council members will emphasize recruiting of new members for the Council. If you haven't given this prayerful consideration in recent months, you might want to give it serious thought and start asking questions of current or just-

Help Needed!

In Focus has been going strong for 43 years now, and we can do this because of the many people who pitch in. We have three special needs right now:

LAYOUT Two or three times a year, scheduled in advance, you'd receive files of edited text, photos, and graphics. You'd have three days to do the layout and create a pdf using whatever publishing software you're already familiar with.

WRITERS Every couple of months, you'd receive a topic, knowledgeable contact people, and Web resources. You'd have about 10 days to write 400-600 words on a topic.

PHOTO EDITOR Photos give vibrancy to *In Focus*, but it takes time to select them each month. You'd read the draft of *In Focus* and select photos to help tell the story of our parish life.

Can you help? Contact Cathy Salika at csalika@illinois.edu.

see **Parish Council News** on page 7



Q: Why do we shake hands during Mass?

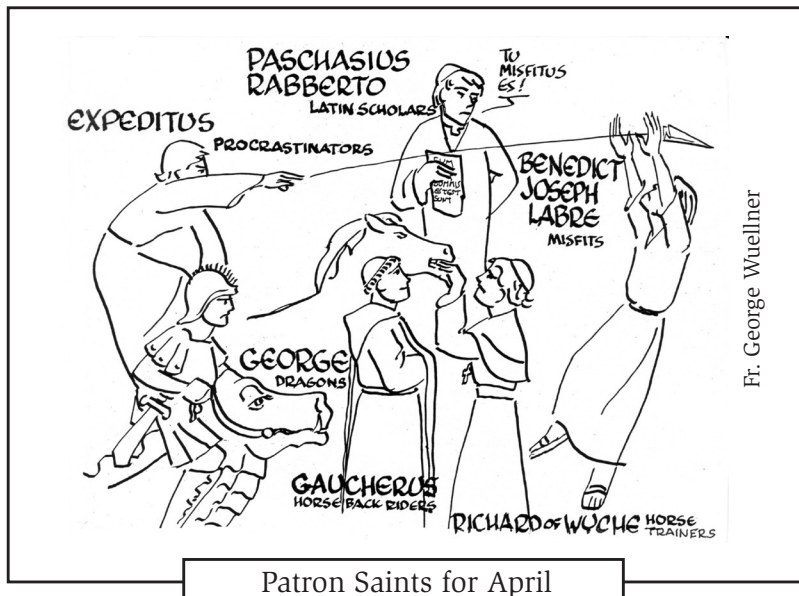
A: This action takes place before the reception of Holy Communion and is intended to symbolize hope, unity, reconciliation. It usually does involve shaking hands with those nearby, but it may also take the form of a hug, a kiss, or a peace sign, depending on your relationship with your pew neighbors. People typically say "Peace" or "Peace be with you" when sharing the Sign of Peace.

What's interesting is that this liturgical gesture has ancient roots and has been part of the Mass since the very beginning. The spiritual symbolism of the act is found in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus said, "If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

The current *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* confirms this symbolism and explains, "There follows the Rite of Peace, by which the Church entreates peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament" (GIRM 82).

The early Christian community took to heart the instructions of Jesus and incorporated the action into their celebrations of the Eucharist. After the Second Vatican Council, the Church took a new look at the ancient custom and decided to restore the original action of the faithful, entrusting each conference of bishops with the task of determining the cultural sign most appropriate. The sign of peace is a highly symbolic act that is meant to point towards the disposition of the heart. It reminds the faithful that in order to be in full communion with Christ, one must first "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul; and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

Also, not forgetting to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31).



Patron Saints for April

St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr

Peter Louis Marie Chanel was born in France on July 12, 1803, and attended a school started by a local priest. At a young age he was showing signs of piety and took an interest in the missions abroad. He was ordained in July 1827 and spent several years working as a parish priest in France. He was well-liked because of his care for the sick in the parish.

During this time, Chanel heard that some diocesan priests would be starting a religious order dedicated to Mary. In 1831, at age 28, he joined the Society of Mary (Marists). Their focus was on both local and foreign missionary work. He was not sent overseas, however, until 1836, when the Marists were asked to perform mission duties in the south-west Pacific.

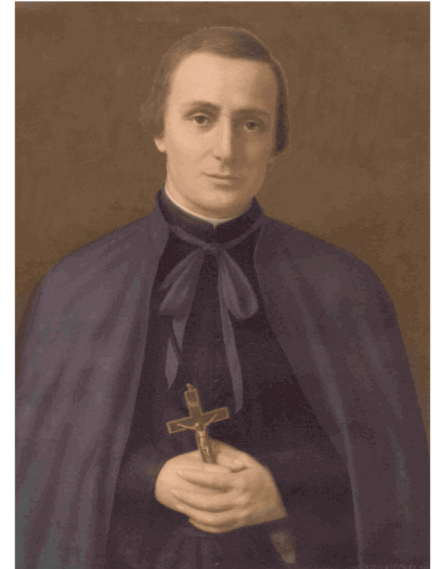
With other Marists he traveled to multiple Pacific locations including the Canary Islands, Tahiti, and Tonga, eventually making their way to the island of Futuna. Futuna was ruled by a king, Niuliki, who at first welcomed the missionaries.

Chanel learned the local language and worked tirelessly to convert the local population. After a cyclone destroyed much of the island, he tended the sick, baptized the dying, and earned the name "Man with the kind heart." As Chanel began earning the locals' confidence and trust, the king began to feel threatened by Chanel and Christianity. When his son expressed a desire to be baptized, the king ordered Chanel to be killed. Musumusu, the king's son-in-law, took an axe and on April 28, 1841, clubbed Chanel to death.

Five months after his death, the entire island was converted to Christianity. Today, due in large part to Chanel's tireless work, the island of Futuna is 99% Catholic. The cathedral of Poi now stands on the site where Polynesia's only Catholic saint was martyred.

Ironically, on his death bed Musumusu himself converted to Catholicism and asked to be buried outside the church at the village of Poi so that those who came to venerate Chanel would walk over his grave to reach it.

We can learn from Peter Chanel's perseverance in the face of little apparent success. We celebrate his feast day on April 28.



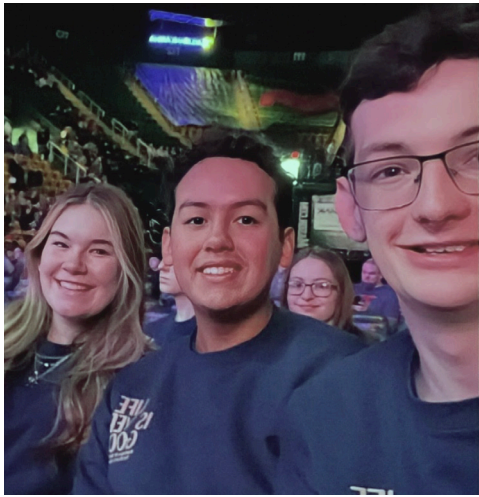
Students march for life

In January, students from the High School of St. Thomas More traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the March for Life. Students who are St. Patrick's parishioners describe their experiences for us:

Michael McCoy, Senior

The long bus rides with friends, new and familiar, allowed for a genuine sense of community in knowing that we were all on a similar – although unique – path. This community seemingly expanded at the Life Fest Rally led by the Sisters of Life, who brought forth witnesses closest to and most hurt by abortion.

Through reflecting on their testimonies, it became clear that the people going for these procedures were broken, felt lied to, were afraid, and felt out of options. Afterward, many were devastated by losing their children and the brokenness they had felt before only grew.



Michael McCoy (far right)

These stories could have been different if someone had encouraged the mother instead of tearing down her ability and forcing her into abortion. It is our responsibility to come from our hallowed Church to extend Christ's hope to the hopeless so that fear may leave their hearts and evil may be exposed. This trip made clear to me our mission as Catholics to spread love and hope through our actions and our example.

Emily Surratt, Sophomore

Going on the March for Life this year was a big decision. Growing in my faith with a lot of people I go to school with made me more comfortable to go and I am so happy that I did. The trip was spiritual and included Mass every day.

One of the most spiritual and faith-filled parts were our small group discussions at the end of each day. These helped us to think about our relationship with God, a great way to close each day.

My favorite part of the trip was at the end of the March. We got to look back and see how many people were marching with us. It was so cool to see how many other people believe the same thing we do. The trip was a great experience and I recommend anyone who can to go next year.

Jack Rentschler, Senior

The March for Life was a 5-day pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. The purpose was to give voice to those who

never get a chance to speak due to the tragedy of abortion.

We left on Wednesday morning and rode by bus 10 hours to Bishop Walsh School in Cumberland, M.D. We woke up early the next morning to finish our drive into Washington after time for praying the rosary and Mass.

After a day of sightseeing and fellowship we prepped for the March for Life, which began with a rally filled with speakers and the energy of 200,000 marchers. We marched from the Washington Monument to the Capitol Building in about 1 ½ hours. It was exciting to be a part of such a large movement of people giving light to such an important issue.



Emily Surratt (front middle) and Jack Rentschler (back middle)

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retired members. Or you can direct them to Mary Tate or Kathryn Guy, past and present Council presidents. The May issue of In Focus will also include helpful information. This important ministry is an asset for our pastor, and decisions made can affect the entire parish. Ask for guidance when you pray; God is listening, you know!

Members also discussed ways to encourage representation of various ethnic groups at Council meetings, possible support of a parish prison ministry, and how our parish might express the Corporal Works of Mercy, but deferred further discussion to a later meeting. They also agreed on the need to establish goals for the Parish Council in the months ahead.

You can help with all of this by giving the members your prayerful support – they depend on it!

God has created you to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to you which he has not committed to another.

—St. John Henry Newman

Women of St. Patrick

from page 1

There will be popcorn and snacks and a discussion of the movie afterwards.

The third event is the parish graduation celebration and picnic. It will be held on Saturday, May 10, after the 4:00 Mass. The Knights of Columbus will take charge of the grill, and the parish will supply the fixings and desserts.

The fourth and final planned event is the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, on August 7-9. Parishioners are reminded to set aside items for the sale while doing their spring cleaning. It takes a lot of people to make this sale a success. The organizers, Anna Connor and Bernadette Nelson, said they especially need lots of help on the set up and tear down days.

The last item of business was a discussion of how much money WSP would contribute to the repair of the church organ and bells, which is expected to cost \$26,372. After much discussion, the WSP agreed to give \$12,000. (Look elsewhere in this issue of In Focus for a detailed description of what needs to be done in renovating the organ and bells.)

The meeting ended with a Hail Mary, after which the attendees bundled up to trudge through the ice and snow to their cold cars and drive through the frigid air to their homes.



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus

is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the first weekend of the month for an upcoming issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to info-cusstpats@gmail.com. You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (listed below). All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Jason Retz

Date Nut Cake

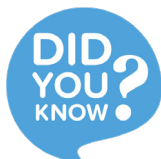
- 1 c chopped dates
- 1 t baking soda
- 1 c hot water
- 1 egg
- 1 c sugar
- 2 T butter
- 1-1/2 c sifted flour
- 1 t baking powder
- 1 c chopped nuts

Mix dates with baking soda and hot water. Let stand. Combine egg, sugar, butter, flour, baking powder, and nuts; stir into mixture. Pour into greased 8- or 9-inch square pan. Bake 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

Topping

- 1/2 c sugar
- 1/2 c chopped dates
- 1 T butter
- 1/2 c water
- 1/2 c chopped nuts

Cook until thick. Pour over cooled cake.



Do you miss our diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Post? News of the diocese is still available at <https://thecatholicpost.com>