

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

June 2024

Who are you?

Who are you to St Patrick Parish? Many people, faced with an ambiguous question like this, start by thinking about the things they do: I'm a lector. I'm a catechist. I help with the food pantry. I'm a Knight. These things are easy to call to mind because they are concrete, and it's true that the parish needs people in many roles to function. Some roles are a little less obvious.

You might be able to say: I'm a parent who is raising my children in the faith. Now there's a role that is vitally important to our parish!

You could also think about who you are to other people in our parish community. This is harder to think about because we often don't know who we are to others. You may be the person who greets me like you're glad to see me. You may be the person who sits near me at Mass. You may be the person whose attentiveness and participation calls me to enter into prayer more deeply. You may be part of a married couple whose love reminds me of God's loving faithfulness. You never know. You are also part of our parish community, part of the life we share, part of our story, part of our history.



It matters that you are here!

And what is St Patrick Parish to you? There are a million possible answers. Is it a place that reminds you to focus on your relationship with God and helps you grow in your faith? Is it the place where you can express your faith more freely than you do in some other parts of your life? Is it a place that feels familiar even though you are in a foreign

land? Is it the place that reminds you to be grateful to God and to bring that joy to your worship? Is it a place where you can be yourself? Feel accepted? Feel encouraged? Feel at home?

God has made us to rely on each other. At birth, we are utterly dependent on our parents. As we grow, the circle of people we relate to also grows. We influence each other, share our lives with each other, and work for the common good together. By giving us people with diverse insights, varied experiences, and different abilities, God forms us into community and prepares us for the community of heaven. Our parish community is one of God's gifts to you, and you are one of God's gifts to our parish community!

A thousand welcomes! May you be blessed forever!



Most of the men and women we have called "catechumens" — or more recently "the Elect" — began their faith journey at inquiry sessions last fall.

For some, it was the first step after months, or even years, of thoughtful consideration. For others, the questing, seeking, prayerful discernment continues, perhaps for later fulfillment. But for all, the journey of faith to full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, whether at Easter or later, has been a time of intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth.

Welcome to one and all — a thousand welcomes! May God shower each and every one of you, and your families, with many graces and blessings. May you be blessed forever!

We hope to introduce each of you to our parish family in a later issue of In Focus to help all of us get to know all of you new Catholics (or "neophytes," another name to be learned!) and to help you feel at home in our faith community.

First Communion at St. Patrick's

May 4th was First Communion Day for nineteen of our children. They were clearly well prepared and their reverence was beautiful to see. The joyful singing in English, Spanish, and French reflected the diversity of the children, their families, and our parish. Jesus makes us one indeed!



Parish graduates and scholarship recipients

Summer is once again upon us, and with that comes graduations. At the May 4th vigil Mass, we honored our parish's middle and high-school graduates, as well as scholarship recipients:

Our 8th grade graduate is Eireann Byard. Erin is graduating from Holy Cross Grade School this May. In the fall, she will attend Urbana High School where she is looking forward to all of the new opportunities that high school provides.

Our 12th grade graduates are as follows:

- Marissa Altaner is graduating from Champaign Central High School. In the fall, Marissa plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in Studio Art while getting a minor in Game Studies and Design.
- Michael Baguma will graduate from Champaign Centennial High School this spring and attend Parkland Community College in the fall where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering.
- Kahlil DeCerbo will also graduate from Champaign Centennial High School. In the fall, Kahlil plans to begin the Parkland Pathways program where he will study Agricultural Business and Food Science.
- Lin Gilbertz will graduate from Champaign Centennial High School. In the fall, she will attend the University of Illinois where she plans to get a Bachelor's Degree in Musical Arts while also majoring in Lyric Theatre.
- Katherine McMillan will graduate from the High School of St. Thomas More. After graduation, Kate plans to attend college and major in History.
- Ian Peters will graduate from Urbana High School this May. In the fall, Ian plans to attend the University of Illinois and study Agricultural and Biological Engineering.
- Anna Polonus will graduate from Unity High School, and in the fall she will attend Iowa State University and major in Graphic Design.

The Vincent O. Greene Scholarship was awarded to the following exemplary students:

Alyssa Acton (DACC)	Jemima Nzeza (Parkland CC)
Marissa Altaner (U. of Illinois)	Hadley Peters (Indiana State U)
Miriam Arend (U. of Illinois)	Lukas Perdekamp (U. of Minnesota)
Aidan Beckett (U. of Illinois)	Anna Polonus (Iowa State U)
Vigo Etshitshi (Carthage College)	Evan Schmitz (U. of Illinois)
Lin Gilbertz (U. of Illinois)	Grace Schmitz (U. of Illinois)
Dawson Magrini (Parkland CC)	Johanna Schmitz (U. of Illinois)
Katherine McMillan (Undecided)	Patrick Sweeney (U. of Illinois)
Jack McMillan (Parkland CC)	Jasmine Waite (Bradley U)

Both the **Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship** and the **Jerry McArthur Scholarship** were awarded to Ian Peters.

Recipients of the **Deacon David Zola Scholarship** were Marissa Altaner and Lin Gilbertz.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL!!

Listen to the Holy Spirit in your life, then imagine the future in prayer. What you dream, believe in it, lean into it, wait for it — but also work for it. It will happen, as surely as God's kingdom is coming. Bear fruit in season and out of season, in joy and in sorrow. God's will has been sown into your hopes and dreams, and in God's own time they will come true.

—Pat Marrin

A hidden gem

Have you heard about St. Patrick's Young Adult Bible Study? They meet every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, in the parish lounge adjacent to St. Brigid Hall. They are now studying the three Epistles of St. John. After they finish these, they will continue with the Gospel of St. John.

This group was formed and is led by two articulate young men, Vitor Rezende Alwes from Brazil and Elio Jabra from Lebanon. Their international backgrounds are reflected in the other members of the group. Sofia is from Panama, Sofiiia is from Ukraine, John is from China, Luis is from Bolivia, and Austin, Amber, and Kaylee are from the United States. They are mostly University of Illinois students and grad students.

Each meeting begins and ends with a prayer from Vitor or Elio. There is also another prayer at the end from one of the members in their country's language. Elio and Vitor hope that by studying and discussing the richness in Scriptures, they can learn how to make peace with all their brothers. Their vision is to one day lead the group into community service such as helping out at nursing homes or community shelters.

At one recent meeting, the Bible study was suspended since there was a guest speaker. It was a St. Patrick parishioner, Joseph Youakim. He brought his slides of the Holy Land, and described with every picture the history of the places that Christ visited. Since Joseph grew up outside Bethlehem, he had first-hand knowledge of these sites. These pictures will help the group visualize where their Bible readings had their origins.

This is an earnest group of young adults who are trying to make themselves and the world around them a more caring and loving place. Let's hope and pray that they succeed in their endeavors, because the world needs to revive and embrace the love of God.

Parish Cookout 2024

The Knights of Columbus and Women of St. Patrick hosted a parish cookout Saturday, May 4th, after the 4 p.m. vigil Mass. The Knights grilled burgers, jumbo hot dogs, and brats, and there were delicious side dishes prepared by the Women of St. Patrick. Food was aplenty, and many guests went back for seconds. Children played games, and families enjoyed fellowship both inside St. Brigid Hall and in our new fenced-in outdoor space. Many thanks to the K. of C. and WSP for their efforts in creating a delicious and fun time for all!



What does the Eucharist mean to me personally?

by Sherri Paris

COME TO THE TABLE

There's a Place for You!



I have been wanting to respond to this question and finally found these words that began to take shape in my heart and spirit... this quote captured my heart:

The book *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*, by Dynamic Catholic, devotes a chapter to a story in Luke's Gospel, about a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years and who dared to approach Jesus for healing:

This poor woman heard about Jesus, and she had been waiting for Him to come to her town, or perhaps she went out searching for Him. Her faith was such that she didn't need a lot of attention. Her ego was in check. Filled with faith and humility, she believed that if she could just touch Jesus' cloak she would be healed.

Here's my question: What would she have believed possible if she had been able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity? Would she have believed possible if she had been able to experience the Eucharistic Glory of consuming the glorified Christ, who rose from the dead, under the appearances of bread and wine?

The author ends the chapter by writing:

Before we began day one of this journey, in the introduction, I spoke about a Muslim man I met many years ago. I asked him if he believed he could consume his God under the guise of bread, what would he do to receive that bread. Do you remember what he said to me?

"I would crawl naked over red-hot broken glass." That's what he said. Red-hot broken glass. It is time we all rediscover the healing power of the Eucharist. Trust. Surrender. Believe. Receive.

The Eucharist is that perfect gift. I am humbled and eternally grateful to Jesus for His love and mercy—the gift that truly keeps giving!

What does it profit you to give God one thing if God asks of you another? Consider what it is God wants, and then do it.

—John of the Cross

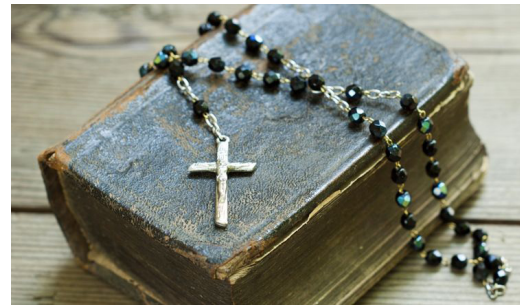
Funerals ... it takes a parish

There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child. In the same way, it takes a parish to accompany the family of a deceased parishioner as they attend to the details of the funeral of a loved one.

When you attend a funeral Mass, it may seem that there isn't much going on, but in truth about 200 people are involved in ways big and small.

When a loved one dies, family members meet with the pastor or one of his staff to begin planning the funeral liturgy and discussing other ways that our parish family can be with them at such a difficult time.

Once these arrangements have been made, a host of things begin to happen. Patricia Fowler, parish secretary,



sends the initial notice to the coordinators of Music, Consolation, Funeral Luncheons, Maintenance, and

all other staff of an upcoming funeral service.

The Music Director, James Rossi, contacts the members of the funeral schola to alert them to the upcoming funeral Mass. The worship aid for the Mass is prepared.

Consolation Ministry co-coordinators Diane Wilhelm and Pam Donze De Ley contact the Consolation Ministry team to determine which of them will be able to attend and assist with hospitality and altar ministries as needed. Diane and Pam also send an email to parishioners who are part of the Consolation Funeral Prayer Team. The Prayer Team are asked to pray for the deceased and their family members, and to attend the funeral Mass if possible.

If the family has requested that a luncheon be served following the funeral, coordinators Anna Conner, Marcia Raab, and Kathy McKenzie will alert the people who are signed up to provide food for funeral luncheons along with the crew of women and men who set up, prepare the food, and clean up after the luncheon. Those who have provided food and planned to help with the physical aspects of the luncheon spring into action.

Of course, none of this would come to pass without the priest, who will preside at the Mass and assist the family with the spiritual needs that arise on the death of a loved one.

If you are someone who assists at the time of a funeral in one of these ways, your service is an important one; know that it is greatly appreciated. If you would like to join in one of these ministries, know that you would be most welcome. If you are able, pray for our deceased parishioners and their families.

It really does take a parish!



Q: Does the Church still believe in indulgences?

A: In a word, yes. But what is an indulgence, really? How did it originate, and how did it deteriorate into something associated with widespread abuse? What does the Church teach about indulgences today?

An indulgence is a remission from the temporal punishment for sin. When Catholics go to confession, when they confess with a contrite heart, the priest intercedes and God forgives the sin. However, there may be some punishment or some penance that you still have to do, and typically this is time in purgatory. An indulgence takes off some of the time that a person would otherwise spend in purgatory.

An indulgence usually requires something additional — Communion, prayers for the intention of the pope, a visit to a cathedral or shrine, something suited to the person's ability to carry out.

The practice of indulgences mostly came as the growing Church encountered different cultures. It had its beginnings in the near Middle East in about the third century and slowly evolved as it spread across the Alps and beyond. By the sixth century priests could assign as penances the performance of certain good works that could shorten a person's time in purgatory. One of those was the paying of a fine. In the medieval period one of the biggest causes for granting an indulgence was going on a crusade to fight on the pope's behalf, on Christianity's behalf, in Jerusalem.

In the 1200s a market for counterfeit indulgences grew; individual preachers could sell as many years off in purgatory as desired — documents indicate 20 to 30,000 years off time in purgatory — for a price. The

Lateran Council (1215) squashed that idea. If you want to build a church, ask for money for the church, but don't confuse the idea of giving money with forgiveness of sins because that is actually, as Luther points out, really harmful to people. It gave them false hope; they think they're in the clear, but when they die they're going to be unpleasantly surprised.

What the Church teaches today about indulgences is pretty much what it has always taught, with the caveat that it's not about paying money to get out of purgatory or hell. You still have to meet the same sort of basic requirements: You have to be detached from sin. You have to make a valid sacramental confession. You have to receive Communion afterward in the state of grace. And you have to pray for the intentions of the pope. The Church has a Jubilee Year coming in 2025, and there may be some type of indulgence issued for people who meet these requirements and then make a pilgrimage to Rome. We'll have to wait and see what the pope says.

In 2020, did you know that there were indulgences issued during the pandemic? People who died without being able to make a full confession and receive Communion were granted a state of grace. There was also an indulgence for healthcare workers during that crisis.

Vocation Prayer

You are precious in my eyes, and I love you. (Isaiah 43:4)

Loving Father, I am filled with joy to realize the depth of your love for me. I would live always in that love and seek always to return your love in others I meet. Let me love and serve you in them however and wherever you lead me — I place my hand in yours with confidence that all will be well.

Justin the Philosopher

On June 1, we celebrate the feast day of St. Justin, patron saint of lecturers, intellectuals, and philosophers.

St. Justin, also known as Justin the Philosopher, was an early Christian apologist, a defender of the Christian faith, and the first Christian philosopher. He began as a pagan



philosopher who converted to Christianity. He believed that Christianity answered the great questions about life and existence better than any philosopher could.

Born around the year 100 A.D. in the Judaeon region of Samaria, Justin was the son of Greek-speaking parents whose ancestors were sent as colonists to that area of the Roman Empire. Justin's father followed the Greek pagan religion and raised Justin to do the same, but he also provided Justin with an excellent education in literature and history. He studied Stoic, Platonic, and other pagan philosophies.

Justin had always admired Christians for their moral lives. He eventually decided to be baptized around age 30 in what is now modern-day Turkey. After 135 A.D., he began to evangelize his faith, traveling from place to place proclaiming his new-found Christian philosophy, spending a considerable time in Rome.

Three works bearing Justin's authorship and still deemed genuine are two *Apologies* and the *Dialogue with Trypho*. The *First Apology*, written to Emperor Antonius Pius around 150, convinced the emperor to regard the Church with tolerance.

see **Justin the Philosopher** on page 7

Justin the Philosopher from page 6

The Second Apology was meant to expose the irrationality of allegations and propaganda spread against the Christians. Overall, he tried to demonstrate the injustice of the persecutions, and the superiority of the Catholic faith over Greek philosophy. Knowing the full weight of his claims, he expected to be put to death for expressing his convictions.

Indeed, he was seized in 165 A.D. along with six companions, and brought before Rusticus, the prefect of Rome. Rusticus told Justin that he could save his life if he would simply "Obey the gods and comply with the edicts of the emperors." Justin responded that "no one can be justly blamed or condemned for obeying the commands of our Savior Jesus Christ."

Rusticus then questioned Justin and his companions regarding their beliefs about Christ and their manner of worshiping God. Then he laid down the law. "Hear me," he said, "you who are noted for your eloquence, who think that you make a profession of the right philosophy. If I cause you to be scourged from head to foot, do you think you shall go to heaven?"

"If I suffer what you mention," Justin replied, "I hope to receive the reward which those have already received, who have obeyed the precepts of Jesus Christ. There is nothing which we more earnestly desire, than to endure torments for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ," he explained. "We are Christians and will never sacrifice to idols."

For their devotion to their Christian faith, Justin and his companions, including 2 slaves he had educated, were scourged and beheaded in Rome in 165 A.D.

His relics are housed at the church of St. John the Baptist in Sacrofano, Italy, a few miles north of Rome. The Church of the Jesuits in Valletta, Malta, also boasts his relics. Here in the United States, his relics are at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Annapolis, Maryland. These had been kept by prominent families and bishops in Italy, but in 1873, during a period of civil unrest there, the church sent them to the Rev. Joseph Wissel in Baltimore. He kept the relics and displayed them in the church. During renovations to St. Mary's in the 1960s, priests put the relics in a box in the church safe. The remains were rediscovered and given a proper burial at St. Mary's, with Vatican approval, in 1989.

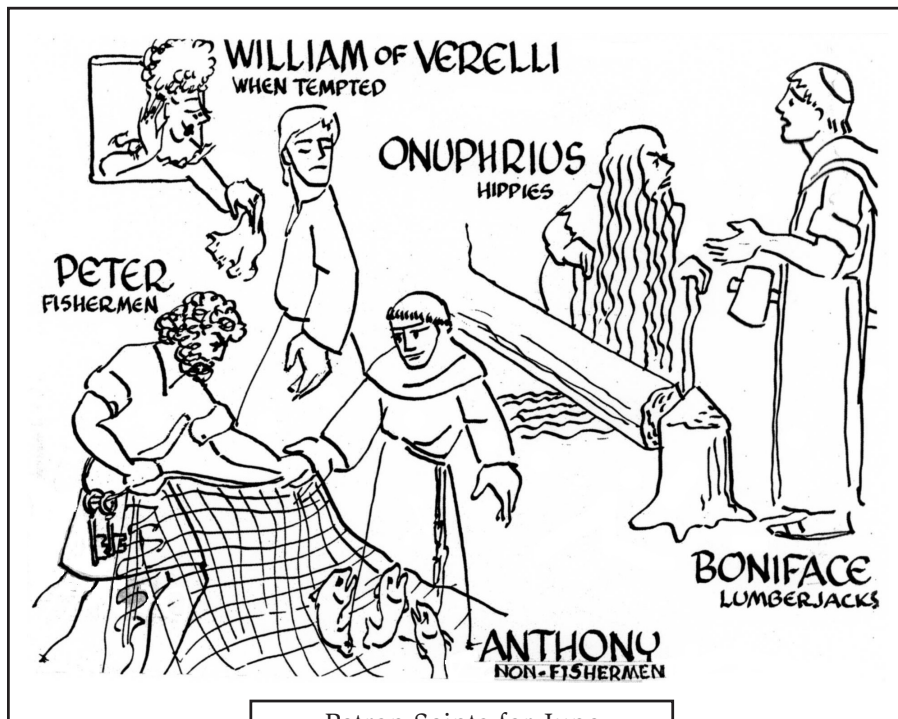
Parish Council News



At their April meeting, Council members finalized plans for the parish picnic outing on May 4th after the 4:00 Mass. Food was to be provided by the Knights of Columbus and the Women of St. Patrick, and decorations were to be done by the Council. Help with serving was assigned to grad students, who were asked to wear Star Wars costumes.

A Family Movie Night was proposed, initially for a once-a-month occurrence. Movies would be oriented to children; suggestions included "Prince of Egypt," "Annie," and "Free Willie." After the first movie shown, on June 22 or 29, parents would be surveyed for their impressions of the experience and for recommendations of other movies. Parents would be encouraged to bring their own food, with beverages provided by the parish. Council members supported the Family Movie Night, which will await Fr. Anthony's response at the next Council meeting.

Work continues on the pictorial directory. Still to come: a parish history, list of ministries, and ministry photos if desired. Any ministry group that wants to submit text or a photo for the pictorial directory should contact Carl Nelson. Plans will be finalized at the next Council meeting, May 21st, 6:00 p.m.



Fr. George Wuelner

Patron Saints for June

*In the measure you desire him,
you will find him.*
—Teresa of Avila

There's joy in coming home

The observance of Father's Day tends to remind us of stories of fathers and their children, many filled with examples of mercy and love as both confront separation, maybe alienation, and joyful reunion.



Sometimes these experiences are physical, more often emotional. No recounting, however, captures the feelings of loss and joy by both father and son as profoundly as does the parable of the prodigal son in Luke's gospel.

We are amazed at the father's unconditional love and generosity for his young son who, despite the father's favor, couldn't be persuaded to remain at home. He agrees to the boy's desire, even advancing him his inheritance, fully aware of the pain both would know, were the boy to leave.

In so many ways, the story of this father and son is also our story. Baptized into the Catholic faith, we are God's sons and daughters — God's

beloved, recipients of God's beneficence. Yet we live lives of distraction and ingratitude, mistaking our abilities for our Father's beneficence.

Many who wander make the life-changing decision to find their way back to their Catholic roots. Mother Church — much like the father in Luke's gospel — has open arms ready to embrace each one who has been away.

Here at St. Patrick's, assistance in the journey home is offered in so many ways. If you have been away, know that your parish family waits with longing to embrace you, put sandals on your feet, and prepare the fatted calf to celebrate your homecoming.

St. Patrick's Parish IN FOCUS

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 with contact information 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 . . . Barbara Vrevich

Tamale Pie

- 2 c cold water
- 1 c yellow cornmeal
- 2 t salt (divided)
- 1-1/2 t chili powder (divided)
- 1 lb ground chuck
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 8-oz can tomato sauce
- 1 8-oz can whole-kernel corn
- 1 small can sliced ripe olives
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 t sugar
- 1-1/2 c grated cheddar cheese



For crust: Mix water, 1 c cornmeal, 1 t salt, and 1/2 t chili powder in saucepan. Bring to a simmer and cook until thick (approximately 10 minutes), stirring often. Cool slightly and spread on sides and bottom of a buttered 8" × 12" baking dish. **For filling:** Brown meat and onion. Add all remaining ingredients (except cheese) and simmer 10 minutes. Pour into crust. Cover filling with grated cheese and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes, or until contents bubble and cheese melts.

* * *

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (217/344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (January) is **Sunday, June 9.**