

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2023

Divine praises

Blessed be God! Blessed be his holy name!
Blessed be God who brings creation into being out of nothing, who twirls the galaxies and ignites the stars.
Blessed be God who makes a world more vast and more varied than we can imagine.

Blessed be God who is himself more vast than we can imagine!

Blessed be God who shapes the earth from the dust of space, who places it near the sun to fill it with warmth and light, and who sets in motion

the forces that continue to shape it: the heat of its core, the movement of its plates, the tides, the rain, the wind. Blessed be God who creates in so many ways!

Blessed be God who brings life to the earth, for single-celled creatures and behemoths, for creatures of the land, sea, and air, for creatures of every color, shape, texture, taste, and smell imaginable. Blessed be the exuberant Creator of the diversity of life!

Blessed be God for the connectedness of living things. Blessed be God for the creatures that feed other creatures and endlessly recycle the earth's rich

nutrients. Blessed be God for plants and animals that provide shelter, camouflage, air, and water for other creatures. Blessed be God for the instinct and intelligence that teach creatures how to live in the world. Blessed be their Maker, our interconnected Triune God!

Blessed be God for his gifts to humanity. Blessed be God for his gift of diversity, the variety of our appearance, our physical skills, our talents, our intellects, our lifestyles, our cultures. Blessed be God for our

interdependence, for the strength and warmth that we can give one another, the wisdom and teaching, the security, the daily needs, the friendship and love. Blessed be God for the many intricate ways that we relate to one another. Blessed be God who chose to come among us as a human being to show us his love and to teach us how good we can be to one another.

Blessed be God for the gift of faith, for the opportunity to know and love him, and to let that experience shape our relationships with one another and with the world

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BACH is back at St. Patrick's!

The Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana (BACH) returns to perform at St. Patrick's on Sunday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m. Hear the beautiful sound of this accomplished choir and instrumental ensemble as they perform sacred music that lifts the spirit even as the composers contemplate death and dying. At BACH's first concert at St. Patrick's last fall, the members and the audience were wowed at the gorgeous sound the group made in the sanctuary. Plan to attend to hear St. Patrick's church alive with music both old and new.

The centerpiece of the program is J. S. Bach's stunning cantata BWV 106, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* ("God's time is the best of all times"), which is distinguished by a more intimate and older sound than many of his other cantatas. This early work—



Picture shows the BACH choir rehearsing at St. Patrick's in 2022

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Meet our new Parish Trustees

Michelle Chitambar



When Michelle Chitambar was asked, “What in your personal background qualifies you for this position?” she responded with careful introspection, “The trustee’s role (as I understand it) is to help provide additional perspective to Father Anthony

and the Parish Council as they make decisions to guide our parish in faith, mission, finances, and more.

“As a transplant to Central Illinois who is juggling a full-time job with the responsibilities of parenting and maintaining a faith life, I’m in many ways representative of a demographic that is imperative to the growth and future of the Church. My career has also led me to roles where I regularly make and manage the outcomes of fiduciary decisions, all of which are made to balance resource limitations with the mission of a nonprofit organization.

“That being said, I’m not sure any personal background can truly qualify a person to provide the faith-filled guidance demanded of the trustee position. Fortunately, God doesn’t call the qualified; he qualifies the called. I plan to approach the trustee position with humility, confidence, and prayer, and hope that over time I will be ‘qualified’ to faithfully execute the trustee role.”

Chitambar continued, “Faith and church are an important part of my family’s life; now that our children are both school-age, my husband and I have a (tiny) bit more time and I had been considering ways in which I could deepen my faith life and serve our parish. When Father Anthony reached out and suggested that I take on the trustee role, it seemed like a great fit and a timely answer to this call.

“I am a cradle Catholic and mid-Millennial who was born in Grand Rapids, Minn., but grew up in Princeton/Zimmerman Minn. I attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., as an

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Jim Davito



When Jim Davito was asked, “What in your personal background qualifies you for this position?” he came right to the point. “My best asset for this position is that I love the Lord, and I also love our parish. Dottie and I have been St. Patrick’s members since 1997. When I retired in 2018 I was the Executive Director

of the Payroll and Benefits offices for all three campuses of the University of Illinois (UofI).” When asked to become a trustee, Davito asked for a little time to pray about it. He felt that the Lord was calling him to do it.

Jim Davito grew up in Nokomis, Illinois, and was baptized there. He has three sisters and two brothers. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Eastern Illinois University (EIU) in mathematics. He was head of the Benefits Department at EIU from 1980 to 1986, then at the University of Louisville from 1986 to 1997, and came to the University of Illinois as Director of Benefits for the Urbana campus. In time, his duties expanded to all three campuses for benefits, then payroll, for all three campuses.

Fifty years ago, on June 2, 1973, Jim and Dottie were married. They adopted their son, Tom, and then had four daughters (Kat Albarella, Liz, Teresa Rund, and Angelina). They have nine grandchildren—one in Fort Collins, Colorado, five here in Urbana, and three in Teutopolis. Jim and Dottie both had rock collections as kids, and still enjoy hunting for minerals, fossils, etc.

He added, “I play the piano, and find much enjoyment in doing it. I tinker with the accordion. I enjoy movies (e.g., ‘Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’ and ‘Moonstruck’), however I am passionate about books (e.g., *The Glories of Mary*, by St. Alphonsus Liguori, and *The Life of Christ*, by [our own] Venerable Fulton J. Sheen). My most beloved author, however, is St. John Henry Cardinal Newman. Confining myself to mentioning only three of his many books, I heartily recommend *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, *An Essay on the*

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Michelle Chitambar

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undergraduate with dual majors in political science and physics, and went on to attend the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, where I graduated with a master's in electrical engineering, a Ph.D. in applied physics, and a husband who is also a physicist!

"I spent the next few years bridging the technical and business teams at an energy storage startup and then transitioned to university research administration and technology transfer, first at Southern Illinois University and then (since 2018) at UIUC. My husband and I spend most of our non-work hours on homework, activities, and fun with our two children; visiting out-of-state family; and checking national parks off our sightseeing list one by one."

Parishioners may contact St. Patrick's trustee Michelle Chitambar with parish concerns or input at michelle.chitambar@gmail.com. She says, "I'm still in the process of learning about the business side of St. Patrick, including existing plans to maintain and grow our parish, our mission, and our facilities. My current plans are simply to spend more time listening than talking and to faithfully voice the needs and perspectives of our parish."

Jim Davito

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Development of Christian Doctrine, and *The Arians of the Fourth Century*. The latter can be a challenging read, but it is so rewarding! Here's just a teaser—among many other things, you will learn why the word 'consubstantial' is so important to our faith, and what a hero we have in St. Athanasius!"

Jim describes a tense time in life. "Twelve years ago I had a Whipple surgery for pancreatic cancer. By the grace of God, the tender and determined care of Dottie and my family members, and the prayers of many people, I am still here. I thank God that He has let me live. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the St. Patrick parishioners who prayed for me during my treatments and extended recovery."

Parishioners may contact St. Patrick's trustee Jim Davito with parish concerns or input at davito@uillinois.edu.

Divine praises

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around us. Blessed be God, whose overflowing love for us can be glimpsed in the beauty and diversity of the world he has given us!

BACH is back

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Bach was probably about 22 years old when he composed *Gottes Zeit*—is also said to be one of his most important, a work of genius.

The text begins with Old Testament verses such as "teach us to consider that we must die," then moves to the New Testament verses of "Into your hands I commend my spirit," and "Glory, praise, honor, and majesty through Jesus Christ. Amen." Bach set *Gottes Zeit* for a four-voiced choir (SATB) and a small instrumental ensemble and probably composed it for a funeral.

In the balance of the concert, the BACH choir expands on themes of faith and afterlife with motets by William Byrd, Sulpitia Cesis, Heinrich Schütz, Vicente Lusitano, Hans Hassler, and Sarah Riskind, BACH's music director and conductor. With its modern harmony, Riskind's piece, *By the Waters of Babylon* from Psalm 137, contrasts the other works, but its intricate polyphony (a melody sung independently across multiple voices) echoes the Baroque style.

Plan to attend this concert. For tickets, see <https://www.baroqueartists.org/upcoming-events-tickets>.

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, we pray that we will be open to your spirit, who is our source of strength as we witness to our children your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life. We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our children to understand that they each have special gifts and talents and that they will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them to use these gifts and talents for others.

We remember...

In the year past, we have said a prayerful good-bye to loved ones and friends, as our loving Father called them home. May they forever know the peace and joy of his loving embrace:

Margaret Marko
 Carmen Pedroza
 Josephine DuBois
 Dorothy Rees
 John Kearns
 Lyle Fettig
 Fernandez Huanca
 Nerina Mysona
 Nancy Costa
 (niece of Nancy Costa)
 Beverly Harney
 Marie Macedo
 Kathryn Severns
 Kaylee Jade Mulcahey
 Adele Perkins
 J. Mark Baker
 Fredricka Pardick
 Margaret Erlandson
 Dan McKenzie
 Freda DeCerbo
 Lisa Sipes
 Joseph Totontodonato
 Tressa Gibala
 Carolyn McElrath
 Tom Brown

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and the Vietnamese Martyrs

On November 24, we celebrate St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, also known as the Vietnamese Martyrs. These 117 martyrs died throughout the years between the 16th and 19th centuries in Vietnam.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac was born Dung An Tran, c. 1795, to a poor family in northern Vietnam. When An Tran was twelve, his parents moved to Hanoi to look for work. There he was taken in by a Christian catechist who gave him food, shelter, and an education in Christianity. Three years later, An Tran was baptized, taking Andrew as his Christian name. He studied theology and became a priest, ordained in 1823. As the parish priest in Ke-Dam, his preaching and the simple life he led are said to have brought many people to be baptized.



However, the persecution of Christians in Vietnam had begun after the arrival of the first Spanish and Portuguese missionaries in the 16th century, and the construction of a mission by the Jesuits in the early 17th century. In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned foreign missionaries and commanded Vietnamese Christians to renounce their faith. The many

who refused were imprisoned, tortured, and killed.

St. Andrew and another priest were taken to Hanoi where they were brutally tortured and beheaded in 1839.

May St. Andrew Dung-Lac and all the Vietnamese martyrs inspire in us the strength to stand firm in our faith.

In Thanksgiving

We thank you, God,
 for all you have made,
 for earth and sky,
 wind and water,
 plants and animals,
 for stoves and phones,
 cards and roads,
 radios and computers,
 and especially
 for family and friends
 and people everywhere.

—Sr. Carol



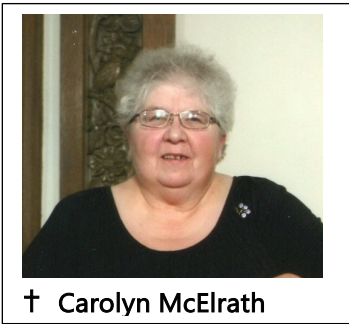
Fr. George Wuellner's November Saints

Communion of Saints: All saints, all sorts

You don't have to search far for heroes and saints. They are in our midst—or have been. Most will probably never be canonized, and all would probably say that they're just doing what they know to do, or what they should be doing.

What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, a willingness to sacrifice time, abilities, energy, self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing to God's love among us are easily discovered. Just look around!

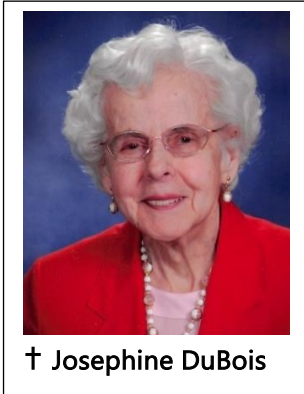
Ora pro nobis, pray for us, you beloved of God, that one day we may all be made worthy of the promises of Christ, that one day we may all rejoice together in his kingdom.



† Carolyn McElrath



† Kaylee Mulcahey



† Josephine DuBois



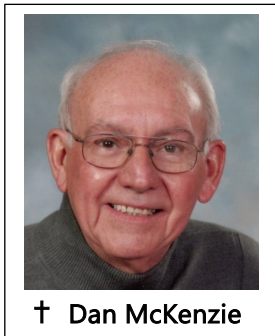
† Kathryn Severns



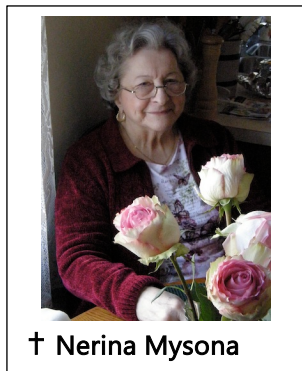
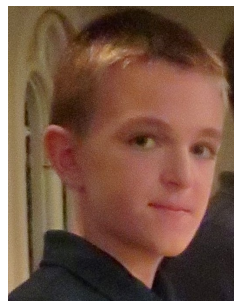
† Freda De Cerbo



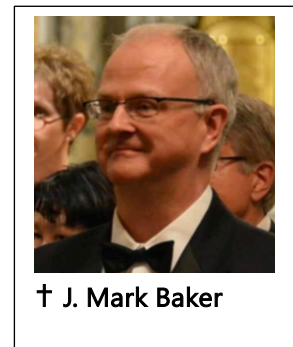
† Margaret Erlandson



† Dan McKenzie



† Nerina Mysona



† J. Mark Baker

All enjoyed this year's International Festival

What do Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Congo, Germany, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Sicily, and Ukraine all have in common? They all were part of St. Patrick's International Festival on Saturday, September 30. They all offered foods of their countries; Sicily was popular with their delicious cannolis. Countries displayed their cultural objects such as delicate carvings in olive wood and mother-of-pearl at the Czech Republic table.



Some changes were introduced for the 2023 fair to help it run more smoothly. Participants used Trinity Hall as well as St. Brigid Hall to shorten last year's long lines for food, and entertainment was divided between the two halls. When a performance was occurring in Trinity Hall,



it was simulcast to the large screen in St. Brigid Hall and vice versa, so all performances were accessible in each hall. Father Anthony helped by suggesting the congregation divide their destinations, with half going to one hall and the other half to St. Brigid Hall.

In the office lobby there was a beautiful art exhibit entitled "The Faces of Jesus and Madonna and Child." Dozens of reproductions of famous portraits of Christ were hanging from the ceiling. There was also a section of portraits created by parish

children and another area of portraits created by parish adults.

Children seemed the happiest participants. They were gleefully running around pulling colorful balloons on long strings. Many were dressed in the costumes of their countries. Some little girls wore dresses matching their mothers', and boys wore shirts matching their fathers'. The children also used a game room in the back of St. Brigid. Parents supervised and helped them play

the many games set up on tables. Each child was given a small prize. Children could also pick up stickers at each country and bring them to the game room for a prize.

The evening ended with a beautiful performance by Ricardo Herrera singing Spanish love songs while playing the acoustic guitar. How blessed we are to have a parishioner who is an opera singer! Then Frank Rosser thanked everyone for their help in making

the festival a success.

It was an enchanted evening, with young and old and people from many countries and ethnic backgrounds participating. And it was a treat to have our former pastor, Father Remm, join us for food and coffee. Everyone left with a smile on their face.

Parish Council News

As the first order of business at their September meeting, Council members met and welcomed the new parish trustees, Michelle Chitambar and Jim Davito. Trustees are ex-officio voting members of the Parish Council and so will be present at many of the Council meetings to share their knowledge and lend advice about parish matters under discussion.

A meeting for priests was held at St. Matthew to review recommendations affecting the merger and closing of parishes in the Champaign Vicariate, and Bishop Tylka visited St. Patrick's to learn how the parish is getting along. Father Anthony mentioned that a recent

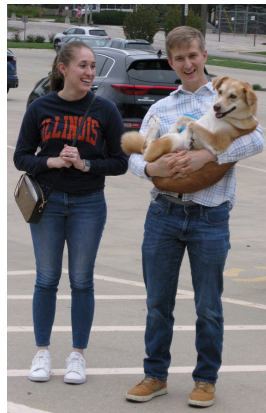
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Blessing of our pets

On October 4, St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day, St. Patrick's held its annual blessing of the animals. The skies threatened rain, but the only sprinkling experienced was of holy water. Parishioners and their pets began arriving early for the 5:00 p.m. blessing. Father Anthony arrived early too, carrying a prayer book and a pail (aspersorium) containing holy water and the sprinkler (aspergillum).



While waiting for the appointed time, Father greeted the group of pet owners and asked their names and their pets' names. Someone asked Father what the strangest pet he ever blessed was, and he replied, "Sea monkeys."



There were many cheerful children playing with their pets. Three little sisters, Mary, Betty, and Louisa, led (and also were pulled by) two small Boston terriers all around the plaza. In total there were nine dogs, one cat, and three guinea pigs. Two of the guinea pigs were American breed with fawn-colored soft hair. The third was supposed to be a crested guinea, but he would not come out from under his blankets to show off his crest.

Just as Father Anthony was starting the ceremony, he noticed another dog and a cat coming from the parking lot for the blessing and he waited. After this short pause,

Father read some appropriate verses from Genesis, followed by a short litany which all responded to, and then a prayer for the intercession of St. Francis. Then Father picked up the holy water pail and sprinkler and walked around blessing the pets and owners.



Concluding the ceremony, Father invited those present to take home some holy water from the church to bless their pets, especially the shy ones, and their homes.

Parish Council News

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count revealed that about 950 parishioners attended weekend Masses here, a number that has continued to improve from earlier post-Covid counts.

Considerable discussion took place on the possibility of leaving the church open to parishioners who wish to have some private time for prayer. Consideration was given to days and times of day the church might be left open, safety concerns, and responsibility for ensuring that everyone has left the building before it is secured. No decisions were made, more research and thought on this matter are to come.

All were hoping for a good response to the call for volunteers in support of the parish's many ministries. If you haven't yet made your prayerful decision, don't worry—it's never too late! And you can be sure of a warm welcome!



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available on an expanded schedule to meet your needs. If you want to go to confession, you will find Father Anthony in the Reconciliation Room at the back of the church, waiting for you, from 11:00 to noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. on Saturdays. And, of course, you can always call for an appointment should you find it impossible to come at these times.



October 29 is the last fifth Sunday this year, hence the very last time this year that you can enjoy the delicious pancake breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. So many good things to eat—not only pancakes but sausage or bacon, fresh fruit, juices, and more—and all for your choice of a free-will offering. Come one, come all, 7:30–10:00 a.m. on October 29!



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 infocusstpats@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. By-lines are generally omitted.

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The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (December) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, November 8**

Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Florence Chevalier

Apple-Nut Pie

1/2 c all-purpose flour
1 t baking powder
1/4 t salt
1 egg
1/4 c white sugar
1/2 c brown sugar
1 T butter or oleo
1 t vanilla
1 c peeled, chopped apples
1/2 c chopped nuts
1/2 c raisins



Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt, and set aside. In a small pan cover raisins with water, bring to a boil, cover and remove from heat, and let stand for 5 minutes; drain. Beat egg in a large mixing bowl; gradually beat in white and brown sugars, and butter or oleo. Stir in vanilla and sifted flour mixture. Fold in apples, nuts, and raisins. Turn into a buttered 9-inch pie pan, and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes, or until done. If desired, serve with whipped cream or softened ice cream. P.S.: This is a good recipe for those of us (we shall be nameless) who aren't very adept at pie crusts.

*

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

Mora Novy becomes Nora Wolff



On September 29, our former Interim Music Director, Mora Novy, was married to John Matthew Wolff at St John's Catholic Chapel. The couple will be moving to North Carolina, where Mora already has a church job lined up and hopes to continue working on her master's in organ performance. We wish Mora and John many blessings and much joy in their new life!