

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2024

## Remembering

Many of us find ourselves looking back over our lives in November. The Church begins the month with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Veterans Day on November 11 is sometimes known as “Remembrance Day,” a time to recall those who have died in military service. Even the fading sunlight and the coming dormancy of the growing things around us remind us that this life is not permanent.

How do you remember the people you love who have died? You might visit their graves and remember them in your prayers. You might recall stories and experiences that you have shared with them. You might celebrate with others who knew them, perhaps with a meal or a toast.

How do you remember the people who have influenced your life, who have helped you to become the person that you are? You might drop them a note or give them a call to tell them how important they are to you. You might reach out to them just to be sure that they know they are still respected and appreciated.

How do you remember the people who have hurt you in the

past? Depending on where you are in your journey toward healing, the healthiest thing may be not to remember so much, or maybe to remember the events as a warning. Later, perhaps, you can remember them with forgiveness, spoken or unspoken. Or maybe you can remember them with mercy, trying

to understand what caused them to act as they did.

All these memories can be brought to your prayer time. You can ask God to bless the people you love and care about, living or dead.

You can thank God for the good things that you have received

from them, their love, their acceptance, their example, and the complicated mix of joy and sadness in every life.

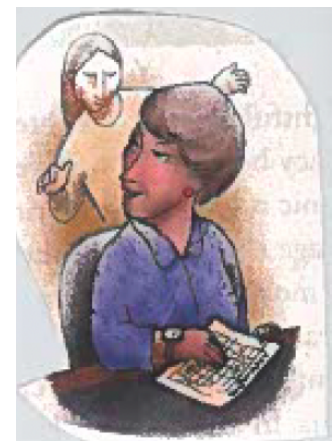
You can reflect on their shortcomings as well as your own, and bring these to God for his loving care.



## Update from Food Pantry Coordinator, Sally Czapar

The food pantry continues to serve an ever-increasing number of guests. A new record of 108 guests in one day was achieved during the last week of September. We had 183 guests total for the week, up from an average of 70-80 guests just one year ago. It has been a challenging time, but great volunteers, the continued donation of products, and the prayer and financial support from our parishioners have been amazing.

We have a crew of volunteers who work well together and enjoy some social time too! It is a wonderful ministry!

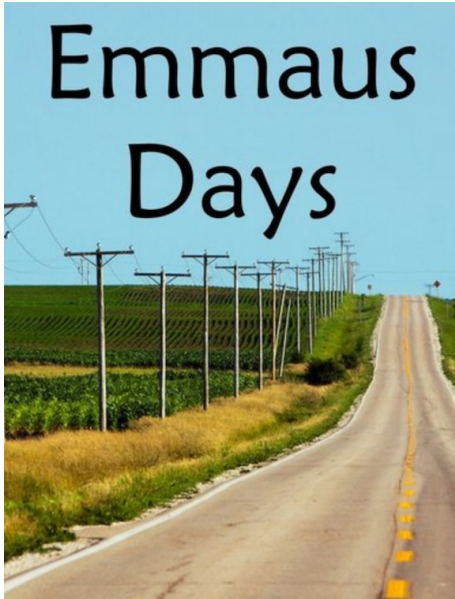


See **Remembering** on page 2

# Emmaus Days

by Jesse Kaap

Emmaus Days...how can I even begin to properly explain Emmaus Days? Well, I suppose I could start with this: Emmaus Days is an annual retreat/camp for Catholic young men from middle school all the way through college, and is divided into four sessions; one for middle school boys, one for younger high-schoolers, one for older high-schoolers, and one for college-age guys. The two younger sessions take place at Peoria Notre Dame High School, while the two older sessions are held at the Newman Center on the UIUC campus. This year, I attended Session II at the Newman Center from Friday, June 21 to Monday, June 24, as a senior in high school.



Emmaus Days has the perfect combination of prayer, learning, and play, with multiple talks given by the seminarians and Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck, lots of prayer, Mass, adoration, and small-group discussions, free time, and fun activities! And while the talks are informative, the free time to hang out with other guys my age was awesome. The small groups were productive, but my favorite by far was all the time we spent in adoration.

At Emmaus Days, we had adoration every night before bed and an entire night (all the way until the next morning!) dedicated to adoring the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Adoration always seems to hold a power over me. Sitting or kneeling there in silence and prayer before the Eucharist feels so holy and special as you listen.

God is always trying to tell or teach us something, and adoration is a great place to interact with him. Adoration makes it easier to detach from and let go of the physical world and try to get closer to God. Some powerful experience happens in adoration. Maybe you actually hear God's voice, maybe you just feel calmer, maybe you feel the presence of God; any number of things can happen in adoration.

But adoration isn't the only focus of Emmaus Days. Throughout your stay, several seminarians of the diocese give spiritual talks. These can range from talking about Mary, to purity, to understanding your own specific vocation.

Another thing we do is participate in games and activities. Among these are tug-of-war, minefield, kickball, home run derbies, and bottle-flipping contests, but some of them change from year to year. Each participant is put on a team at the beginning of the retreat and can earn points in each game/activity. The prize for the team with the most points? All the bragging rights in the world for winning their Emmaus Days competition!

The last major thing we do at Emmaus Days (other than eating and sleeping!) is small-group discussions. These usually go along with a talk from a seminarian, and follow up on any questions or additional thoughts. They give insight on your fellow teammates and their lives and experiences, and often help you apply the talks to your own life.

Overall, Emmaus Days is a great experience, combining spirituality and fun in a perfect blend that never ceases to amaze. I would 100% recommend it for all the Catholic young men out there. It helps you learn about and strengthen your faith and have fun with your peers and fellow brothers in Christ.

Hope to see you guys at Emmaus Days next year!

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From page 1

Remembering is also a thing that we do as part of every Mass. We remember that we live in relationship to God. We remember what he has taught us in the scriptures and in the living, breathing example of Jesus. We remember our need for salvation, the gift that was given to us in the life, death, and rising of Jesus. We remember God's constant, never failing love.



We remember how you loved us to your death,  
And still we celebrate, for you are here.  
And we believe that we will see you when you come  
in your glory, Lord.  
We remember. We celebrate. We believe.

—Marty Haugen



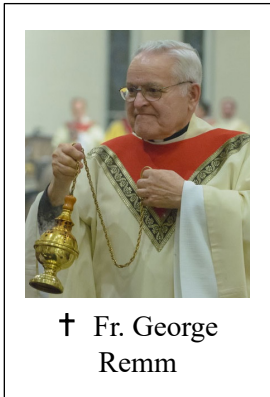
# Communion of Saints: All saints, all sorts

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.

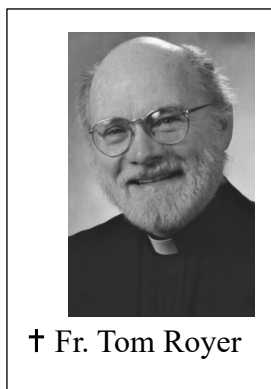
What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, a willingness to sacrifice time, abilities, energy, self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing to God's love among us are easily discovered. Just look around you!

*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.

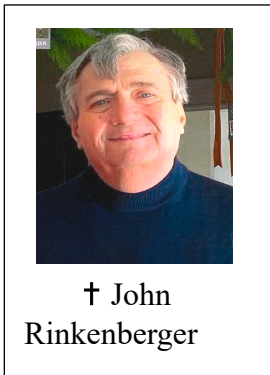
In the year past, we have said a prayerful good-bye to loved ones and friends, as our loving Father called them home. May they forever know the peace and joy of his loving embrace:



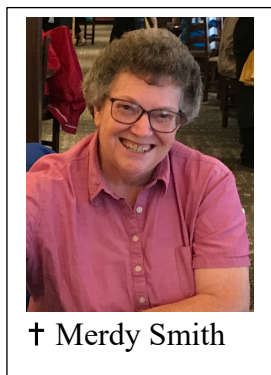
† Fr. George Remm



† Fr. Tom Royer



† John Rinkenberger



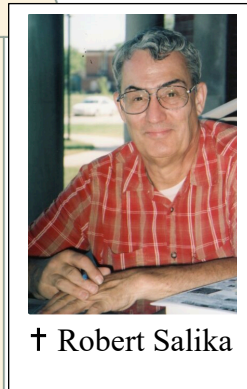
† Merdy Smith



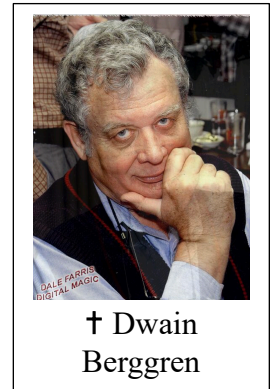
† Lu Pillar



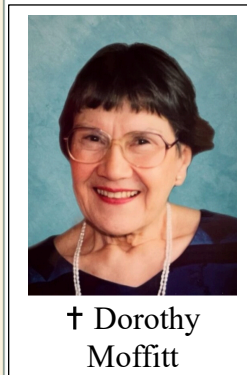
Norman Paul  
 Sara Ross  
 Kathleen Lewis  
 June Szirotny  
 Thomas Delanty  
 Raymond Alane  
 Michael Kutzko  
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 Donahue  
 Duc Tran  
 Fr. Tom Royer  
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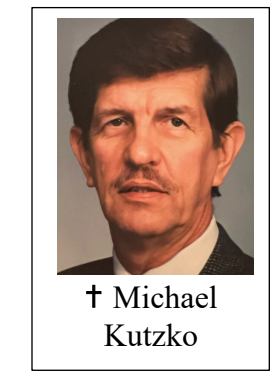
† Robert Salika



† Dwain Berggren



† Dorothy Moffitt



† Michael Kutzko



† Peace

# The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the presentation of Mary as a child by her parents, Anne and Joachim, in the Temple in Jerusalem. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a heavenly message that Anne would bear a child. In thanksgiving for God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple when she was three years old to consecrate their only daughter to the Lord. Mary placed her whole self at the service of God.

The celebration of the feast is first documented in the 11th century in the Byzantine Catholic Church. It was introduced into the Roman Catholic Church in the 15th century by Pope Gregory XI, then removed from the calendar by Pope Pius V in the mid-16th century. Pope Sixtus V re-established the feast in 1585, and it is still celebrated today, commemorating the faith of her parents, Joachim and



Anne, and the purity of Mary.

This episode of Mary's life is not found in the Gospels but rather in the "Protoevangelium of St. James," an apocryphal Gospel. The story dates to before 200 a.d.

Mary is a model for our Christian lives. On the feast day of her presentation, we are called to learn from her, to seek her intercession, and to guard the purity of our faith against idols.

We celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 21.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help,  
or sought your intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence  
I fly unto you,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To you do I come,  
before you I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in your mercy hear and answer me.  
Amen.

## Encountering Christ across Cultures: An International Festival

What a fun and delicious night was Saturday, September 28! The predicted rain from hurricane Helene did not seem to deter any parishioners from this annual event, but the wind and possible rain did cancel table setup outside on the lawn. The result was a very crowded and raucous St. Brigid Hall with some overflow to the lounge by the office and classrooms for extra seating.

Many parishioners began their world travel in the lounge, where natives of South and Central America served foods and cultures. The country of Panama was represented by Sofia, wearing a festive ruffled blue dress and a big yellow flower in her hair. She was serving plantains (a type of banana) caramelized with brown sugar and cinnamon.



Just a short hop away was a mother and daughter from Argentina. Alejandra and Gabby were serving Argentina's signature dish, Pastel de Papas. It was constructed like shepherd's pie, with a savory mix of ground beef, lots of onions, and spices topped with a layer of mashed potatoes, all nestled in a pastry pie crust. A short taxi across the hall was the office turned into a wine bar! One could order from any number of wine varieties, served in small plastic glasses.

Leaving the Americas, one flew to the Middle East in St. Brigid Hall. Palestine offered creamy hummus with veggies and pita bread and for dessert, tasty baklava.

Farther East were the Philippines with their Lechon Liempo, a slow-roasted pork belly seasoned with garlic, green onions, red onions, and black pepper. It was just as delicious as the whole pig they roasted last year.

Back across the ocean, Brazil was serving their national dish, feijoada, a spicy mix of beans, beef sausage, bacon, onion, and spices to eat with rice.



Barbara, from Sao Paulo, Brazil, proudly showed her display of Our Lady of Aparecida, whose feast day is October 12. She had a replica of a statue of Our Lady that was netted and pulled in by fishermen in 1717, resulting in a miraculous catch of fish. Our Lady became the Patroness of Brazil. The statue is now housed in the Basilica of the National

See **Encountering Christ** on page 5



## Encountering Christ

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Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, in the Brazilian state of São Paulo. It is the largest Marian shrine in the world.



As one flew around St. Brigid Hall, one could tell which kids had visited the playroom behind the stage—they were ones carrying paper airplanes or colorful plastic pinwheels. There was not one unhappy child seen all evening!

An added feature this year was regional ethnic foods of the United States: shrimp creole, mac 'n' cheese and corn bread, Mexican shells, ambrosia salad, and Cuban 1905 salad from Columbia Restaurant in Tampa, Florida.

The entertainment began at 6:00 p.m. There were four different Philippine acts of singing and dancing. The young ladies wore beautiful, white, lacy dresses while the young men were handsome in their white suits. Everyone especially enjoyed the dances with long bamboo poles.

Organizer Frank Rosser took the stage with his guitar and sang a couple of songs while the Congolese Choir got ready to take the stage.

There was a spectacular performance of men, women, and children, all colorfully dressed,



accompanied by two large bongo drums. This exhilarating performance was a perfect way to end the evening.

We all left with a full stomach and a happy disposition. We owe much gratitude to all the parishioners who gave their time and talent to make the evening such a success!

New parishioner Lilia Pedroli created a beautiful mural-like image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Roxanne Munch made an oil on canvas of the Spirit flying above our parish. (Roxanne also organized the USA regional food table at the festival.)



Ariel Martinez, who also sponsored the Puerto Rico, created an image of the Holy Spirit. Children of the parish also tried their hand at imagining the Holy Spirit.



## Poems, prayers, and impressions of the Holy Spirit

The spirituality and creativity of our church family was on full display as the Encountering Christ across Cultures festival kicked off with an art exhibit to God's glory. The focus this year was the Holy Spirit, or an example of someone touched by the Spirit. In keeping with the international theme, copies of art works from around the world were displayed, as well as individual contributions from parishioners. To expand the content, parishioners were also asked to submit poems or prayers to the Holy Spirit.

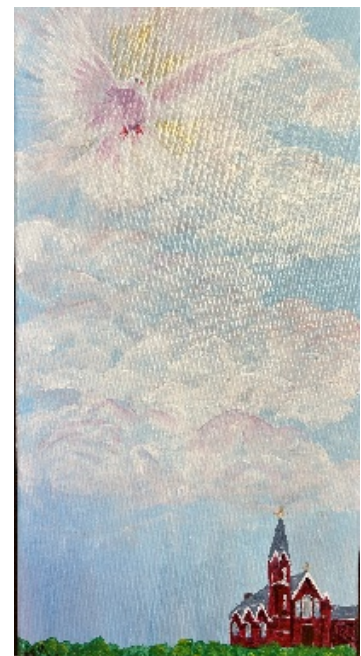
A poem, "The Newlywed's Invitation" was composed by parishioner Roberta Clark, a parishioner from 2006 to 2020, who went to be with God at age 97. Here is an excerpt:

here is an excerpt:

Holy Spirit, the Dove, come and hover above  
This humble new abode  
Your fiery glow  
Of holy faith bestow  
That faint hearts may carry their load.

One of the prayers submitted (anonymously) offers this amazing thought: "Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the grace to know Jesus and cry, 'Abba Father, we praise you.'"

Portions of another prayer/poem: "I pray to you, O Holy Spirit, to breathe meaning into my life. Every day, every minute, every second. ... When troubles, real and unreal, push me to despair, infuse me, O Holy Spirit, with the reality of God's pure love."



## Celebrate Black Catholic History Month

Did you know that November is Black Catholic History Month? In 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States chose November as the month to celebrate Black Catholic History because several significant dates fall in that month:

- **Nov. 1, All Saints Day** is an opportunity to review the lives of the hundreds of Saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the Church. zs
- **Nov. 2, All Souls Day** is a time to remember all those Africans lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Nov. 3, Martin de Porres** became the first Black saint in the Americas. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 16, 1962. Throughout his life, St. Martin de Porres exemplified God's love for all people, regardless of their level in society.
- **Nov. 13, The birth of St. Augustine** in 354 a.d., the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa.
- **Nov. 20, The death of Zumbi of Palmares**, founder of a free state for Blacks in colonial Brazil.

Black Catholic History in the United States begins with the founding of the city of St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565. For a detailed timeline, see the National Black Catholic Congress's website ([nbccongress.org/black-catholic-history-timeline/](http://nbccongress.org/black-catholic-history-timeline/)).



Sr. Thea Bowman



Fr. Augustus Tolton

As we observe All Saints Day, it's a good time to become familiar with the “

Saintly Six,” the six African-American Catholics whose causes for sainthood are in progress. They are Venerable Mother Mary Lange, Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton, Venerable Henriette DeLille, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Servant of God Julia Greeley, and Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman. When canonized, these will be the first Black saints from North America. To learn more about these holy women and men, begin with their page on the USCCB website

([www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent](http://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent)).

Consider spending some time this month learning about these future saints and some of the other Black Catholics who have contributed so much to our shared faith and Church.

## What is the OCIA?

*Seeing a reference to the OCIA in our parish bulletin, and assuming that it not a typo for RCIA, we asked for information from Elizabeth Kelley, who heads up this program at Holy Cross. Our thanks to her for this fulsome response:*



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was changed to the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) in November 2021 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a number of reasons:

**More accurate translation** The new name is a more accurate translation of the Latin name into English. The Latin text is titled *Ordo initiationis christianæ adultorum*; the English word "order" is used more appropriately in the new translation.

**Emphasis on lifelong commitment** The new name reflects the fact that the Catholic journey is a lifelong commitment, not a one-time event.

**Journey with stages** The OCIA process is a journey with distinct stages, including discovery, learning, reflection, and continued learning and growing.

**Collection of rites** The OCIA process is a collection of rites adapted to fit the circumstances of each person. The OCIA process includes rites such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate, the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Election, Scrutinies, and the Rites of Initiation.

## Vocation Prayer

Lord, I want to go  
where you want me to go,  
do what you want me to do,  
be what you want me to be.  
Please help me!



## Thanksgiving Basket tradition continues

For a number of years, St. Patrick's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry has been distributing Thanksgiving baskets. The baskets contain the makings of a Thanksgiving feast, with some additional items for subsequent meals. This is a big job and many volunteers are needed! It is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together—children are very welcome as long as they are accompanied by adults. There is a job for everyone!



Several adult volunteers are needed Thanksgiving baskets on Friday, November 22, to pick up food from the Urbana Aldi store and deliver it to the parish center. This should take about an hour. Pick-up trucks are helpful but not required to do this job.

All other volunteers are needed on Saturday morning, November 23, for basket assembly and/or distribution. Distribution begins at 10 a.m., via drive-through delivery in the church parking lot. It will continue until 11:30 a.m. or until all the baskets are distributed.

## 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** A few 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](mailto:csalika@illinois.edu).



**Q: Where do the hosts and wine come from that are consecrated at St. Patrick's Masses? Are there still explicit regulations governing these?**

**A:** Over the centuries, various criteria were laid down for the bread and wine to be appropriate for use in the Eucharist. However, in the 1983 revision of the Code of Canon Law, Canon 924 simply states:

1. The most holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist must be celebrated in bread, and in wine to which a small quantity of water is to be added.
2. The bread must be wheaten only, and recently made, so that there is no danger of corruption.
3. The wine must be natural, made from grapes of the vine, and not corrupt.

Bread for the hosts consecrated at Mass was formerly obtained from religious congregations who made and sold the wheaten hosts as part of their mission. A few years ago, St. Patrick's was notified that the sisters who had been supplying the hosts would no longer be able to do so. Diane Wilhelm says that all the hosts we use (for priests, congregation, gluten-free hosts, and hosts for the sick) are now ordered from Lagron-Miller Company in Peoria.

The wine must be naturally fermented with nothing added to it, and the wine itself cannot have soured or become vinegar, nor can it have anything artificial added to it (preservatives, flavors). While the Catholic Church generally adheres to the rule that all wine for sacramental use must be pure grape wine and alcoholic, it is accepted that there are some circumstances where it may be necessary to use a wine that is only minimally fermented.

The wine used at St. Patrick's Masses has for many years been donated by parishioner Ray Timpone. We are indeed grateful, not only for the reliability of the supply of wine for our Masses, but for its quality! Thank you, Ray!

## Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Barbara Wysocki

### Crustless Cranberry Pie

1 c flour  
1 c sugar  
2 c fresh cranberries  
1/2 c chopped walnuts (optional)  
1/2 c melted butter  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 t almond extract

Combine flour and sugar. Stir in cranberries and nuts. Toss to coat. Stir in butter, eggs, and extract. Mix well. Spread in a greased 9-inch pie pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, or until a pike or toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

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

## Parish Council News

At their October meeting, Council members reviewed the Time and Talent drive, which drew 48 volunteers for parish ministries (especially SVDP, Eucharistic ministry, and funeral luncheons). A survey from table staffers afterward drew several suggestions for future Time and Talent events.

Twenty countries were represented in the International Festival, drawing around 300 parishioners, including 40-50 children. Frank Rosser, chair of this event, anticipates that next year's event will be chaired by a different volunteer, he himself serving as consultant.

Our parish photo directories are coming (yes, they really are coming), after several delays caused by technical difficulties experienced by the company. The current expectation is that directories will be here by the end of the month, if not a bit sooner.

Several projects for maintenance of our facilities have already taken place, with others still to come. These include the HVAC system, replacement of windows in the parish center, protection of the stained-glass windows in the church, and plaster repair.

We have enough catechists for the pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade religious education classes, but we are in need for the middle-school and high-school groups. If you are able to help your parish in this important way, contact Jon McCoy (217/367-2665 or [jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org](mailto:jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org)) ASAP. No degree in education—or church teachings—is required. Help is available. You are needed. What else do you need to know?



**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](mailto:infocusstpats@gmail.com). You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (see below). All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

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Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (December) is **Sunday, November 3.**