

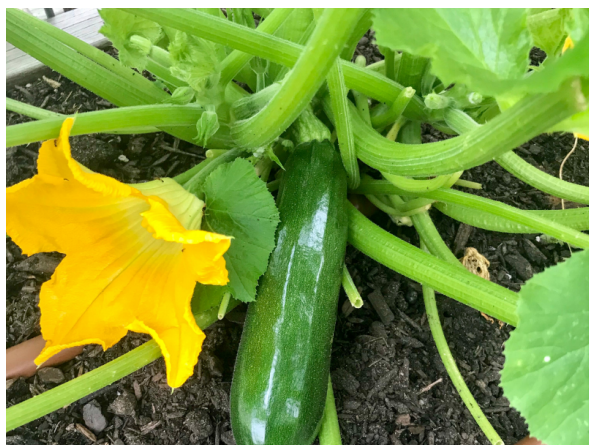
St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

September 2025

Harvesting

Did you plant any vegetables this summer? If you did, you probably have an abundance of produce now. Enjoy it! (And if you have any extra, offer it to our Food Pantry guests. They'll love it!) Or maybe you planted flowers over the summer. Their beauty is your harvest for your efforts.



What else did you plant over the summer? If you planted some rest and relaxation, it's time to harvest some new enthusiasm as you return to a busier schedule this fall. Or maybe your summer was extra busy with family activities. It's time to enjoy the memories and the closeness that developed as you return to the school year.

Did you plant any travel over the summer? What is your harvest from that? Experiences of other people, places, and cultures might yield a harvest of understanding and

tolerance of others. Experiences of the Church in different places might give you ideas for things that you want to bring home. Experiences of the beauty of God's creation might let you harvest awe in God's power or joy in the diversity of what he has made.

Did you plant any prayer this summer? Your harvest might be a greater love and trust in God. It might be a deeper commitment to

serve others. It might be a desire to live your life differently.

Perhaps you're feeling like your summer's harvest is never going to materialize. That can happen, whether we're talking about vegetables, or family life, or spiritual life, or community life. But remember that, while we plant the seeds, God gives the sun and the rain to make them grow. Be patient, and give thanks to God, trusting that the harvest will come.

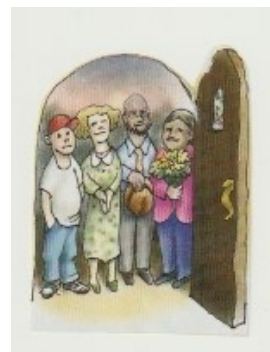
It's the time of year when lots of things begin anew, school, projects at work, things here at St. Patrick's. Use what you harvest to make the coming days more joyful, more peaceful, and more active. Bring some of your harvest to St. Patrick's and use it for the benefit of our parish community.

And give thanks to God, who tended your crop and made it grow.

Welcome, new parishioners!

Hello! My name is Kathryn Guy; I'm the president of the St. Patrick's Parish Council. I want to take a moment to say welcome to all of our new parishioners. We're very glad you're here!

People are a large part of what



makes St. Patrick's great. Through worship, fellowship, and service, our unique stories come

together. As the song by Marty Haugen points out, "We are many parts, we are all one body, and the gifts we have, we are given to share." Thank you for all the gifts you bring to share with us!

Many ministries at St. Patrick's are restarting after taking the summer off. They and others are also looking to expand through sign-ups during the parish's annual Time and Talent campaign. This year we plan to have updated copies of booklets describing the many parish

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Welcome

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ministries available by late August or early September as a help for parishioners looking to volunteer for chosen ministries. So this is a great time for all of us, new as well as long-time parishioners, to find ways to share our giftedness with others. I have found participating in a variety of ministries over the years to be extremely rewarding – as well as a great way to meet new people!

And if you are interested in learning more about or joining the Parish Council, or have a question for us, please drop me a note at wmelephant@gmail.com.

Celebrating missionaries of hope

Every year, millions of people leave their homelands because of wars, violence, injustice, and extreme weather. In his message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Leo XIV writes that, as many of these conditions worsen, “it is important that there be a growing desire in people’s hearts for a future of peace and of respect for the dignity of all. Such a future is essential to God’s plan for humanity and the rest of creation.”

The Vatican’s World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) is an opportunity for Catholics around the world to reflect on, pray for, and try to find solidarity with those people who must leave their homes to save or sustain their lives.

The Catholic Church in the United States – a church of immigrants in a nation of immigrants—expands on this observance with its own celebration, National Migration Week (NMW), usually the week preceding WDMR. Both celebrations in 2025 share the theme chosen by Pope Francis back in March: “Migrants, missionaries of hope.”

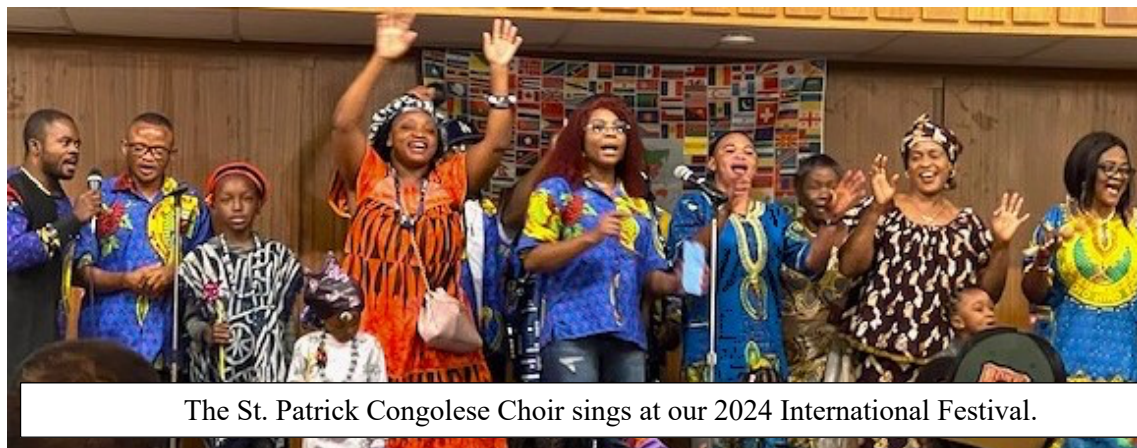
Taking up his predecessor’s theme, Pope Leo XIV writes that migrants’ “courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see...we can find a clear analogy with the experience of the people of Israel wandering in the desert, who faced every danger while trusting in the Lord’s protection.”

In the countries that welcome them, “Catholic migrants and refugees can become missionaries of hope.” Church communities that have become rigid and spiritually “dry” may be revitalized by the spiritual enthusiasm and vitality of these newcomers. Their presence gives us “a true divine blessing, an opportunity to open oneself to the grace of God, who gives new energy and hope to his Church.”

Communities that welcome migrants and refugees “can also be a living witness to hope, one that is understood as the promise of a present and a future where the dignity of all as children of God is recognized.”

This year, National Migration Week takes place September 22-28. Normally celebrated on the last weekend in September, the 2025 World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be observed on October 4-5 to coincide with the Jubilee of Migrants.

How can we make the most of these celebrations? The USCCB’s Justice for Immigrants website (justiceforimmigrants.org) has information, with links to resources including one for the Jubilee of Migrants, “Pilgrims on the Way of Hope.” The USCCB also has a number of prayers for migrants and refugees; in fact, you can find one inside the back cover of our Gather hymnal.



The St. Patrick Congolese Choir sings at our 2024 International Festival.

Many of us at St. Patrick’s are immigrants, migrants, or refugees. As a result, our parish family is vibrant, constantly enriched by “missionaries of hope.” May we continue to be welcomed and welcoming, to listen to one another, to share our joys and burdens, to love one another, to pray for one another. May we all be missionaries of hope.

Jesus and Cursillo

How can each of us grow closer in our relationship with Jesus? What does Jesus desire to teach us?

Seeking answers to these and other questions of faith brought 11 men on July 25-27 to St. Patrick for a Cursillo weekend, a unique spiritual experience that is made just once in a lifetime.

The Cursillo weekend required many hands and much work by members of the Eastern Area Cursillo in Christianity community (EACC). Fifteen Cursillo members planned and prepared for six weeks before

What happens on a Cursillo weekend? A Cursillo weekend begins on Friday afternoon and ends on Sunday evening. During the three days, participants listen to the gospel message and short talks by team members and clergy. The talks focus on living a life in relationship with God, Christian study, action, leadership, the role of the layperson in the Church, and similar reflections encountered in daily Christian life.

After each talk there is time for meditation before the participants break into small groups for reflection and discussion. Conversations begun in the groups often carry over into

speakers, including myself, had the Holy Spirit come into our carefully prepared and well-practiced talks and alter them in meaningful ways.” He added, “It’s powerful to see the transition from Day 1 to Day 3 . . . the growth inspired by the talks . . . there’s always a quiet energy being generated.” The presence of the Holy Spirit moves and impacts the team members as powerfully as it does the new candidates.

What are the benefits of a Cursillo weekend? According to the Diocese of Peoria, “It is difficult to explain what the Cursillo does for a person, or what happens over a weekend period since each person comes to the Cursillo from a different place in time and a different relationship with God; it is understandable that each will respond differently to the material presented and the experience of community living in a Christian atmosphere. For some, it is a total turnabout in their lives; for others, it is a grand awakening; for yet others, it is an enrichment of what they have already known and have been living. . . . We rely on the grace of God and the openness of the individual to produce its benefits.”

Information about upcoming Cursillos for both women and men will appear in parish bulletins and in handouts circulated at the church. If you are seeking to grow closer in your relationship with Jesus, ask someone who belongs to the Cursillo community to sponsor you for the next Cursillo. If you are a cursillista, invite someone who has not yet made a Cursillo to the next Cursillo weekend.

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord; bless the work of our hands.

—Psalm 90:17



serving as leaders and facilitators, including St. Patrick parishioners Steve Billman, Jeff Baur, Frank Rosser, and Tony Schütz.

Over 50 other Cursillo members, including many St. Patrick parishioners, served in many ways: setting up and taking down all areas being used in the Church; preparing and serving meals and snacks, and cleaning up afterward; performing as musicians; helping with Masses, and praying around the clock. St. Patrick is the home parish for the EACC, hosting on Cursillo weekends and storing all materials, supplies, and portable cots.

meal and free time, even extending beyond the weekend.

The teachings of Jesus are presented in an atmosphere of warmth and joy. Study and prayer are enriched with daily Mass, shared meals, music, and entertaining skits. Fellowship plays a major role in Cursillo, and many people share the experience of forming lifelong friendships during their Cursillo weekend.

Extended time spent with Jesus and his teachings along with other Christians seeking to grow closer to the Lord inevitably lead to a strong presence of the Holy Spirit. Team member Frank Rosser spoke about being “amazed at how

A blessed meeting in the sky

Everyone who travels alone on a plane never knows who is going to sit next to them. It is truly the “luck of the draw.” Last month my “luck of the draw” was an experience of a lifetime.

I boarded the plane in Charlotte, North Carolina, after visiting the three daughters of my late sister, Michelle. I had bought a special LIFE magazine entitled “Pope Leo XIV: A Pope for All.” I sat down in my window seat, not paying attention to the person next to me, and I immediately started reading about our new pope.

After a short while, the gentleman next to me said, “You seem very interested in the new pope.” I said I was, and that I loved Pope Francis but was very excited to learn about Pope Leo. The gentleman then said, “Well, I am Catholic, also. Actually I am a bishop.” After I caught my breath I said, “I am very happy to meet you, your Excellency.”

Bishop Paul, as he introduced himself to me – his full name is Bishop Paul Prakash Saginala – said that he had spoken at three Masses in Charlotte requesting money for his Diocese of Cuddapah, India, and that he was going to Our Lady of the Woods in Chicago. Bishop Paul is Indian, and he has a priest assigned as an associate at Our Lady of the Woods. The congregation had donated a large amount of money to support Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Badvel, India, and Bishop Paul wanted to thank them personally.

The following hour and a half was spent with both of us sharing about our lives. Bishop Paul talked about his life growing up in India up to his being consecrated a bishop by the late Pope Francis just five months ago. I

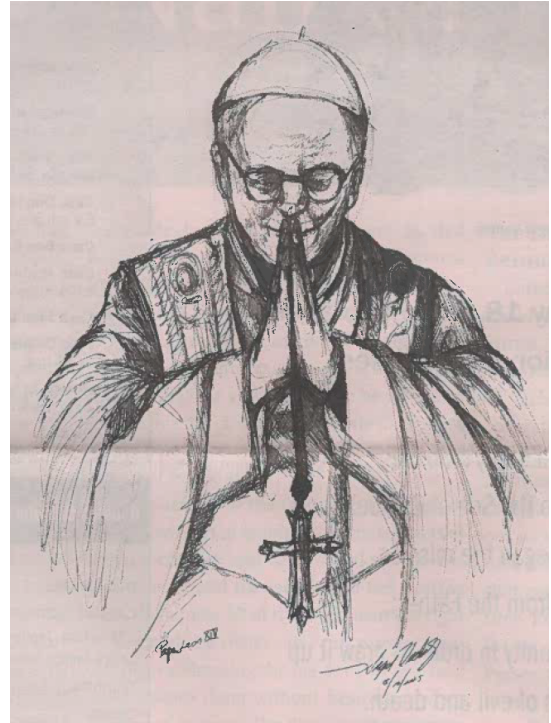


Pam Donze De Ley and Bishop Paul
Prakash Saginala

told him about my life growing up in Urbana, and most especially at St Patrick’s Catholic Church, and how important that has been in my life.

Prior to descending at O’Hare I asked, bravely, if the bishop would bless me, and he said a beautiful prayer and blessing that I will treasure forever.

I know I will never have another experience like this one. God truly blessed me!



Prayer for Pope Leo

Spirit of the Living God –

You who hovered over the waters at Creation,
descend upon the one chosen
to shepherd the People of God.

Protect him from the loneliness of high office,
from lures of power, calculation, and fear.
Keep him from mistaking unity for uniformity,
order for obedience without love.

Defend him from believing
the Church is shaped by control
rather than communion.

When worldly voices around him grow loud,
teach him to hear yours –
in the cry of the poor, the broken, the abused,
the silenced.

Give him courage to speak
where silence shelters injustice,
name greed when it wears robes of piety,
stand firm when truth unsettles ease.

—Francesca Bugliani Knox

Music Camp 2025

Twenty-four excited young children, aged three to eleven, spent the mornings of July 14-18 under the direction of Mr. James Rossi, parish Music Director, and numerous volunteers participating in a lively week of music activities, culminating in a concert for families and friends on Friday.



and friends on Friday.

The children sang songs, sampled several instruments, listened to guest artists, learned basics of music reading and theory, and enjoyed snacks and outdoor activities with their friends.

Each received a recorder to take home, and several of them played at Mass on the following Sunday.

Each morning, the entire group gathered in St. Brigid Hall to learn several songs with hand motions, including “Father Abraham,” “Jesus Loves Me,” and “His Banner Over Me Is Love.” Some of the older campers led the group in these energetic renditions. The children then divided by age into two groups for classroom activities, shared an outdoor break and snack at mid-morning, and gathered again at the end of the morning for more singing and a closing prayer.



The group of younger campers was blessed with thirteen children, aged three to seven. They began and ended each day singing songs with the older children, many of whom were their older siblings. They enjoyed creative projects such as making drums, tambourines, rain sticks, and egg shakers. They learned to hold their recorder and produce a note. They also learned to

recognize and draw musical symbols such as the whole note.

At mid-morning, they enjoyed playing and snacking outside with the older children. They took “field trips” to the church and James Rossi’s office to learn about the



piano, organ, and percussion instruments. They also enjoyed listening to the visiting musicians, who demonstrated and discussed the French horn, tuba, cello, flute, and violin.

Several of the youngest campers have never been away from home before. They did outstanding work participating and spending time as a group. They were kind to one another, did an excellent job sharing, and often helped one another, especially helping the youngest children. When asked their favorite experience at camp, answers included playing the drum, singing songs, playing outside with the other children, making crafts, and learning about instruments.



The eleven campers in the older group began immediately learning “Hot Cross Buns” on their recorders. They later added “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and the

descant of “Seek Ye First,” all of which they played at the concert. They sang “Saints of God” and “Seek Ye First,” singing first in unison and then adding a descant and later singing a round.

Their lessons in theory included learning the staff with treble and bass clefs, the value of whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, and several terms for music dynamics, such as *piano*, *forte*, *staccato*, *andante*, *lento*, and *accelerando*. They took turns dividing into smaller groups to sing and accompany on the recorder and keyboard. Several children with prior experience playing instruments shared their skills by playing solos for the group on the piano and recorder.

Ten adult volunteers brought a wide range of talents

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The mustard tree: Growing to be all God desires us to be

The Religious Education ministry is asking parents to register their children for catechism classes for first through eighth grade, for high school, and for confirmation.

God created us and called us to be good stewards of the Earth. We act as good stewards when we perform our duties in our various professions well. And to do this, we need knowledge about the world and about ourselves as human beings. We get some of this knowledge through our regular education. But we must also turn to Christ to know all about ourselves and what God desires for us in order to live truly fulfilling and meaningful lives.



As parents, who desire the best for our children, we have an obligation to ensure that they learn all they need to succeed, including learning about Christ and his Church. The education of children in both professional and religious principles enables them to live like the mustard tree, a tree that was once a very tiny seed but becomes large and supports the birds of the air.

Young children are still vulnerable; they do not know much and cannot understand everything. They are like the young mustard tree. They need to be protected and helped to learn with patience. They are not yet ready to support the birds of the air. We see this example of patience with Jesus and his Apostles; defending them when they were not fasting (Matt. 9:14-15). We can also see his sensitivity to their knowledge when he reveals to them that there is more to say but it would be too much for them at the moment (Jn. 16:12). St. Paul also shows his patience with those young in the Faith; giving them infants' milk as opposed to the meat for adults (1 Cor. 3:2).

As a parent, you have an obligation to help your child grow in the Faith with the kind of patience that Jesus showed his Apostles and that St. Paul wrote about in his letters. St. Patrick's community is here to help you in this important duty. Please consider registering your child for religious education and spare time to accompany them through their classes by actively getting involved in their learning.

This is the best way to prepare them to live like the mustard tree, the best way to prepare them to live a successful and fulfilling life in whatever profession God

has destined them to undertake. To register your child, email jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org.

Music Camp

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and abilities to the camp experience, and several of them also demonstrated their instruments, as did several guest artists. Mr. Rossi demonstrated the piano and organ, Samantha Monteiro demonstrated the violin and guided both groups of students through using a wide range of percussion instruments. Lisa Altaner demonstrated the flute and saxophone. Marilyn Marshall brought her French horn and played a duet with Lea Humphreys, her horn teacher. Wendy Marck, mother of three of the students, brought and demonstrated her cello, and Ed Harvey did the same with his tuba. Roxanne Munch brought her keyboard to teach some of the older students basic keyboard skills.



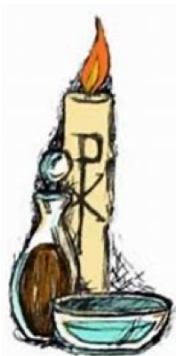
Janet Althaus took photographs throughout the week, and a variety of prints were offered to families as they left on Friday. Other volunteers, including Rita Rossi, Linda Dobson, Sarah Bautista, and Mary Kate Arend, assisted the children with activities throughout the week, worked extensively on preparations, prepared snacks, and supervised breaks.



All the students were excited to share their accomplishments at the concert on Friday. Younger children played their hand-made percussion instruments to accompany the group singing, and the older ones played their recorders and demonstrated their ability to sing and accompany more complex pieces of music. Everyone left with their craft projects, pictures, recorders, and memories of a joyful and blessed experience.

We can't wait till next year!

Baptism at St. Patrick's



We welcome into our faith community **George James Paul Alberti**, baptized June 1, whose parents are Abigail Clevenger and George Alberti; **Layla May Kellerhals**, baptized July 20, whose parents are David and Kirsten Kellerhals; and **Gamaliel Mumbimbi**, baptized July 27, whose parents are Lady Gabriel Mumbimbi and Jemy Mboma.

Let us celebrate Baptism with **George, Layla and Gamaliel**. It is the sacrament by which we become adopted sons and daughters of God.

Baptism preparation class is offered at St. Patrick's at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, or by appointment. Parents, godparents, and all are welcome.



Q: When is Catechetical Sunday this year? Why is it so significant?

A: This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 21, 2025, with the theme "*Always be ready to give an explanation . . . for a reason for your hope*" (1 Pet 3:15).

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry.

This is a goal, a purpose, for every parish, every diocese, the entire Church. Catechetical Sunday is a time when all the Church rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. *As a member of this community, we too are enjoined to pursue the goal of handing on the Faith – parents, teachers, catechists, but also each of us in our day-to-day encounters and activities. For we are not alone in this endeavor, we are members of a community of faith.*

A Jubilee year is a time to forgive debts and wrongdoings. It is a time to let go of all those hurts and wrongs that we have hung on to for many years.

—Pope Francis

Parish Council News

At their July meeting, Council members discussed planning for the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's parish. Pam Donze De Ley and Barb Wysocki volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the ad hoc anniversary planning committee. Several ideas were proposed and discussed:

- Create a booklet that would continue the booklet created for St. Patrick's 100th anniversary
- Provide articles for *In Focus* about the upcoming anniversary
- Interview parishioners about how they dealt with changes in parish life during major events (e.g., the pandemic), and what they need and look for from the parish today
- Invite Bishop Tylka to attend our anniversary celebration
- Ask staff for photos
- Open a booth at the International Festival to gather ideas from participants for the anniversary celebration

If you'd like to help with planning for this significant parish event, please contact Pam Donze De Ley (pamdonzedele@gmail.com).

Members then turned to the updating of the Parish Ministry Directory. Steps in accomplishing this were identified, and progress reported. Members would like to have updated printed copies available for parishioners in late August or early September.

We offer the Council members our prayerful support as they busy themselves about our parish, its present needs and its hopes for the future.

Vocation Prayer

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I'd not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me." (Erma Bombeck)

Loving Father, I thank you for the gifts I have received from you, gifts meant to be shared, not carefully guarded as if given for myself alone. Help me to see how best to use these gifts in my life's journey with you, whether in ordained or consecrated life, married or single, alone or in community. I listen eagerly for your word of guidance, look for the path you want me to follow. I ask only that I may walk this path with you.

Come and see “Cabrini”

Women of St. Patrick invites everyone to see the movie “Cabrini” on Sunday, September 21 from 1 to 3 in St. Brigid Hall. Movie popcorn will be served.

The movie depicts the life of Catholic missionary Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini as she encounters resistance to her charity and business.

Born in Italy, Cabrini was the first American to be recognized by the Vatican as a saint.



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 (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* (October) is **Sunday, September 7.**

Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Cecelia Weir

Sly Lemon Pie

1 qt vanilla ice cream
 1 6-oz can lemonade concentrate
 1 baked pie shell
 1 Hershey bar



Soften the ice cream, add lemonade concentrate, and stir until well blended. Pour into the baked pie shell and freeze. Just before serving, shred the chocolate bar over the top and cut the pie into wedges. So quick and easy!

Do you have a favorite quick and easy recipe to share? Maybe something your family and friends really enjoy? Please send it to Mary Lou Menches (mmenches@illinois.edu) – our readers are always looking for that great addition to a meal!

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 a file 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.