

S T P A T R I C K ' S P A R I S H

In Focus



Hello! This is the first issue of *In Focus* in its new format. The *In Focus* will appear on the last weekend of each month and will contain a summary of the previous Parish Council meeting, news of committee activities, a Parish calendar for the coming month, and much more (hopefully) useful and interesting information.



Focus On Communications

The primary responsibility of the Communications committee is the publishing of the *In Focus*, now on a monthly basis. This involves gathering information from the Parish Council, the committees, the Parish office, and other individuals in the church, then putting it together on a printed page in a pleasing and informative way.

A secondary function of the committee is to disseminate information to organizations outside the Parish, such as the Champaign News Gazette or the Catholic Post. This has not been done in the recent past, but hopes are that it will be attended to in the future.

If you enjoy writing, or simply want to find out more about the Parish, you would find a pleasant home on the Communications committee. For more information, call Bette Murrell, 344-6692, or Jay Hoeflinger, 384-8947.



On Dec. 8 the church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate conception. That is Mary's conception and not the virgin birth nor Jesus' conception. In 1854 Pius IX affirmed that Mary never lost her original innocence and that she is the new Eve. The Church proclaims nothing more than the salvation of the woman who was to become the Mother of God. The focus of this pre-advent celebration is Mary's redemption by God in a unique and pre-eminent way through the saving work of Jesus her son.



Parish youngsters attended classes during November which were designed to help them welcome God's gift of forgiveness into their hearts, in preparation for their first sacrament of Reconciliation. The children, aged seven through ten, will receive the sacrament at 7pm on December 1. Their parents also met during November to receive updated information on the sacrament.



The Knights of Columbus invite you to the annual pancake breakfast. Come to the parish center Sunday, Dec. 6 between 8:15am and 11:00am to savor a delicious breakfast prepared by the Knights. This gourmet delight is yours for \$3.00 adults and \$1.50 children.

We Care

We Care is a new discussion/support group for those who have the care of or responsibility for an aging relative, while maintaining their own spiritual, family, and career life. After conversations with some members of the parish, the possibility of such a group became a reality last July when an organizational meeting was held with seven in attendance. Concerns expressed included how difficult it sometimes is to maintain one's patience when demands on one's time for the care of an aging relative were increasing. What resources are available in the area, and what alternatives in care might better fit one's particular needs? To help answer these and other questions, speakers are invited.

Twice monthly meetings are now held, each divided into two parts: (1) informational and (2) sharing. Informational topics include nursing homes/alternative care, legal matters, drug interactions, nutrition, and conflict resolution. Sharing with those in similar situations can ease the pressure, and ideas may be gleaned from the experience of others.

If such a group interests you, then come to a We Care meeting. They are held in the Lounge on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7 to 9pm. The group welcomes all. If you know of someone who may be interested, please pass the word.



At its Nov. 19 meeting the Parish Council gratefully received, on behalf of the parish, a check for \$2823.67, half the net proceeds from this year's *Cellar-to-Garret Sale*. Lucille Kocher and Dave Riddle, co-chairs, expressed appreciation for the support provided by those who donated, cleaned, organized, tested, mended, straightened, monitored, cashiered — and purchased — making this year's sale, which grossed \$5369, the most successful ever for the Guild's annual fund raising event.

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St. Patrick's fourth annual *Craft and Bake Sale*, chaired by Debbie Heater, added \$813 to the parish's general revenue. This increasingly popular fund-raiser will be co-chaired and undergo a change in format next year.

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Council committees have been active: The Building and Grounds Committee, which recently installed the attractive signboard identifying our parish church, next plans to install a vending machine for soft drinks, an emergency ladder for exiting the choir loft quickly and safely should the need arise, and — oh, thank you! — heat for the bathrooms off the main hall of the parish center. An ad hoc committee is reviewing the Parish Council Handbook for update, the Communications committee has been asked to recommend policy on bulletin inserts, the Revenue committee is reviewing fund-raising guidelines, and the Social Action committee has asked for a review of policy regarding the use of parish facilities with the intention of making them more inviting to non-parish groups.

Parish Council News



The generous response of St. Patrick's parishioners to the annual *Diocesan Stewardship Campaign* has enabled the parish to meet and exceed its commitment to the diocese. One rebate (\$7123) has already been received, with others to follow as members continue to pay amounts pledged, thereby helping St. Patrick's to achieve parish goals.

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Dates for *Communal Reconciliation in Advent* have been set by area churches: Dec. 14 at St. Matthew's, Dec 15 at St. Patrick's, and Dec. 16 at Holy Cross. Watch for bulletin announcements as the time approaches.



For several years, St. Patrick's parish has provided some *support for parishioners seeking development of ministry skills* through participation in diocesan and other programs and special events. Council members have decided to establish a budget line item with funds allocated to support the training, education, and skill development of parishioners for ministry in the parish.

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Parishes in the Champaign/Danville vicariate, or region, of the diocese will participate in a vocational program called "*I Am Waiting To Be Asked*." January and February homilies will focus on vocations to ministry, and listeners will be asked to suggest parishioners for ministry in the parish.

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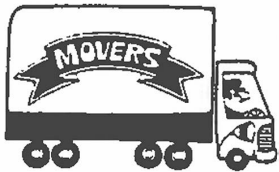
Envelopes for the children of the parish have already been distributed to enrollees in the parish religion education programs, and will soon be distributed to others as well. It is hoped that the envelopes will help teach the children to share with others. Contributions currently net about \$50. per month. The Parish Council voted unanimously that money received from these envelopes be used to enhance children's materials in the library.

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The next meeting of the *Parish Council*, Dec. 17, will be a brief one beginning at 8:30pm, followed immediately by the Council's annual Advent prayer service and potluck.



Welcome to new parishioners: Jean Belt, Tom and Cathy Bialeschki, Mark Chiu, Michael and Tina Cinker, Kathleen Cloud-O'Donnell, Joan Mercado, Michael and Jeanne Myers, John and Lori Preston, Jeffrey and Coralee Regan, Anne Schumacher, George and Patricia Thiel, David Tsui, Dianne Warmbier.



Farewell to the following parishioners who recently moved from C-U: Vicki Nunez, Mary Stifter, Piotr and Barbara Boni, Douglas and Jeannett McPhee.



We welcome the newly-baptised into the Christian community: Christina Nora Whittingham-Bonse, Matthew Joseph Hepworth, Madelyn Rose Pierce, Daniel Brinkman Zangerl, Maria Nichole Morrissey, Julie Marie Petolino, Andrew Michael Helregel, Rose Katherine and Marissa Karen Shirron, Justin Andrew Stutes, Ryan Martin Kirby, Margaret Elizabeth Kane, Heather Marie Elder, Matthew Douglas Fitton, Sam Stephen Call, Mitchell Finnell Blair, Thomas John Deppe, Erin Elizabeth Regan, Bridget Johannah Spohrer.



Our condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased: James Daniel Prendergast, Carl Y. Trueblood, Demetrius A. Panepinto, Alice Griffin, Margaret Kirkwood.



Let us celebrate with the following couples recently joined in marriage: Christopher Cramer and Catherin Dowd; Matthew Richards and Janet Buchanan; Richard Rosenstiel and Elizabeth Poirier; Richard Willard and Katherine Smith; Michael Mathews and Geri Russell; Joseph Patrick Noonan and Ellen Porter Young; David Chapman and Theresa Johnson.

*May the
wonder of Christmas
fill you with joy.*

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p Young Adults 7:00p First Reconciliation	2 7:00p Choir 7:00p St Vinc DePaul	3 6:30p Folk Choir	4	5
6 8:15a R of C Pancakes 9:00a Adult Bible Fel 10:00a Inquiry (RCIA) 6:30p Adult Educ	7 9:30a Scripture Study	8 FBAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 6:30p Young Adults	9 7:00p Choir 7:00p St Vinc DePaul	10 6:30p Folk Choir 7:00p Baptism Prep	11	12
13 9:00a Adult Bible Fel 10:00a Inquiry (RCIA) 4:00p Children's Christmas Program 6:30p Adult Educ	14 9:30a Scripture Study 7:30p Communal Reconciliation (St. Matthew's)	15 6:30p Young Adults 7:30p Communal Reconciliation (St. Patrick's)	16 7:00p Choir 7:00p St Vinc DePaul 7:30p Communal Reconciliation (Holy Cross)	17 6:30p Parish Council 6:30p Folk Choir	18	19
20 9:00a Adult Bible Fel 10:00a Inquiry (RCIA) 6:30p Adult Educ	21 9:30a Scripture Study	22 6:30p Young Adults	23 7:00p Choir 7:00p St Vinc DePaul	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00p Mass with children 6:30p Mass 10:30p Mass	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 7:30a Mass 10:30a Mass NOON Mass	26
27	28 9:30a Scripture Study	29 6:30p Young Adults	30 7:00p Choir 7:00p St Vinc DePaul	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:00a Mass NOON Mass 5:15p Mass		