

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## Advent Is Here!

The beautiful colors of autumn are disappearing as the leaves and flowers dry up and blow away. As we put away the ceramic jack-o'-lanterns and ladybug costumes until next year, we are reminded that it's time for change. And change usually means preparation and anticipation of what is yet to come.

One need only walk through the doors of St. Patrick's parish center to sense the anticipation, see the preparation. Yes, Advent is here!

*The decorating . . .* Somehow every year two trees appear beside the back door. Oscar Kocher says that last year's trees were 12-15 feet tall. He usually puts them up and decorates the parish hall. The tree in the parish center lobby is a carry-over from the days of the former rectory. Oscar and Leslie Risatti trim the tree with decorations made and donated by individuals and parish groups through the years.

*The cleaning . . .* Are the banners tidy? Has candle wax been removed from the church carpet? People seem to be scurrying about, cleaning and polishing and replacing the ordinary with a poinsettia or two. Mary Ann Luedtke coordinates the cleaning and decorating of the church.

*The learning . . .* For the young children, teachers are preparing take-home materials that focus on Advent themes. The youngsters will make Advent wreaths, and there will be parties and stories on Jesus' birth. All these preparations will culminate in a



## Making Our Gifts of Time, Talent, Treasure

On the first Sunday of December we will be invited to renew our pledges to St. Patrick's. This invitation will be an opportunity for those whose treasure has increased in the last year to share a portion of that increase, for those suffering harder times to reduce their pledge as needed, and for those new to the parish in the last year to pledge their sacrificial gift.

We are also asked to be mindful of God-given talents, skills, and abilities, to make a gift of ourselves by sharing them in some way, perhaps through a variety of ministries open to us at St. Patrick's.

Just what is sacrificial giving? Father Remm explains the theology of giving as the Christian's need to give sacrificially of time, talent, and treasure—a spiritual need to sacrifice for Christ, in

contrast to giving in response to expressed crisis needs of the parish.

We give to fulfill our own spiritual need, relying upon the stewardship of pastor and parish council to spend our gift wisely.

Jesus asks us to give a return to the Father from the first fruits given us, whether in time or talent or treasure.

Viewed as a goal, biblical tithing does not press upon the giver as a large and heavy burden; rather, it becomes a source of spiritual strength, even a pleasure. Yet, if the gift is to be truly sacrificial, it should be experienced as a sacrifice.

Mindful of our blessings—and grateful for them—we are once again asked to look deep into our hearts to discover how best to share them.

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special liturgy for children on Christmas Eve.

Tentative plans for seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-graders include a home liturgy followed by a party. (Sophomores, juniors, and seniors have no definite plans as of this writing—but rest assured, plan they will!)

Mike Healey, library coordinator, will present books for Advent reading and activities, some on library loan and many for sale. Watch for the display of materials in the coffee shop on Sunday mornings and in the parish center lobby during the week.

*The caring and sharing . . .* During the second week of December the St. Vincent de Paul Society members will deliver 75-100 poinsettias to parishioners in nursing homes or shut-ins at home. If you know of someone who is confined by illness, age, or infirmity, please notify the parish office or Sophia Zeigler (328-2671).

Did you know that the Boots n' Bows square dancers, who use our parish hall on Thursdays, contribute food-stuff for the St. Vincent de Paul pantry at their annual Christmas dance? They do this every year!

And speaking of sharing: Two or three parishioners or families might consider joining together to invite a family in residence at the Catholic Worker House for a meal or party in their home. Interested? Call Nadia Oehlsen (344-4030).

*The spirituality . . .* Advent preparations begin at St. Patrick's this year with ecumenical prayer. Church Women United meet here on Friday, Dec. 1, for a prayer service with an Advent theme.

On Monday mornings and evenings, Sr. Charlene will offer an opportunity for support and direction for solitary prayer using Birth, the third in a five-book series entitled "Take and Receive."

On the second Sunday of Advent, men and women interested in Catholicism will be enrolled as catechumens at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Beginning this Sunday and continuing through Lent, after the homily they will be sent forth to share reflections on the scripture



readings of the day. Parishioners are invited to join them after Mass for these sessions.

The children who have been preparing for Reconciliation will celebrate this sacrament for the first time, along with their families, at one of two services, one on Dec. 5 and the other on Dec. 12.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening of the week before Christmas, communal Penance services will be offered at St. Matthew's, St. Patrick's, and Holy Cross, respectively. Opportunities for the individual rite of Reconciliation will be offered as well, on the Friday and Saturday before Christmas.

*The music . . .* "Jingle Bells" is in the air, but even more joyful sounds come from the choir loft. Christmas is one of the seasons when John Pescitelli and the choirs strive for the "super-ordinary," yet it is a time when a goodly number of the regular choir members join their families elsewhere for Christmas. John will greatly appreciate the help of volunteers for choir singing at Christmas. He plans to form a bell choir also (for which no

prior knowledge or experience is required!), an idea for music lovers who say "But I can't sing!"

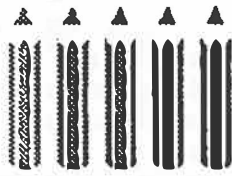
Though the young adults who call themselves "The Young and the Restless" haven't yet made definite plans, a member or two were heard to say that caroling sounds like a super idea.

On the afternoon of the second Sunday of Advent, Holy Cross School will present its annual Christmas concert. Participants will include St. Patrick's children who are enrolled in the school.

*The parties . . .* Oh, yes, the parties! The staff will have their Christmas party, as usual. (Even Santa has been known to show up at this annual "Christmas bash.") No doubt there will be many such parties—in classrooms, after meetings, after liturgies. And finally—

*The gifts . . .* Christmas truly is a time for appreciation and giving. All is ready for the night of Jesus' birth! The greatest Gift of all is given! We in turn offer the gift of ourselves.

# Pop Quiz!



Put away your papers and books, and get out your pencils. Here is a pop quiz for you to test your knowledge of what the Catholic Church teaches.

In what areas and conditions is the pope considered infallible?

What precisely is required of individuals in order to receive the gift of salvation?

What does the Church teach about indulgences?

What was the state of the Catholic Church really like during the time of the "reformation"?

What is transubstantiation?

Are there some questions here that you can't answer? Maybe some of your Protestant friends asked similar questions that you had a hard time answering. Did some of these questions spark a family discussion, and you now need an answer to re-establish family accord?

Well, don't write "Dear Abby." Seek out some knowledgeable person, or check out a book or two on the subject from St. Patrick's parish library.

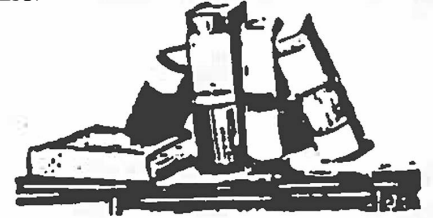
Our parish library is one of the less well-utilized resources available to our parishioners, according to Mike Healey, library coordinator. A wide variety of books, tapes, and other materials are available for children, teenagers, and adults.

The library, located in the parish center, is open from 8 to 11 a.m. on first and third Sundays of the month. To check out a book, a parishioner need only fill out a card. Books are due in 2-3 weeks, although Mike says the rules are flexible if the borrower needs more time to finish a book.

A card catalog can help you locate books on a specific topic or by a specific author, and books can be returned easily enough via the library mail bin in the parish center lobby.

During Advent library volunteers will set up a table of books, Advent calendars, and other materials for sale at cost to parishioners, in addition to displayed books for borrowing.

If you want to understand your faith better, read inspirational accounts of other people's faith, or become better acquainted with the Church's teachings on current issues, stop by the parish library and make use of this very valuable resource. It may be the most significant and interesting reading you have done in years—and it will help prepare you for the next pop quiz!



## St. Patrick's Welcomes Catechumens

For several weeks a group of men and women have been gathering at St. Patrick's to ask questions about Catholicism. They have been taking a good look at the Church made visible for them in the way we live and share our faith. In the language of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), they have been inquirers.

On the second Sunday of Advent those who are ready will take an important step on their journey to faith. On that day, through the Rite of Acceptance celebrated in our presence at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, they become catechumens.

Assembling publicly for the first time, these men and women declare their intention to the Church, and the Church in turn accepts them as

persons who intend to become its members.

The rite and the new title signal a difference in their lives. They move from being inquirers to being people who have already begun to live as Christians, even though they are not yet full members of the Church.

From this time on, the catechumens will gather to worship with us. Since they are not fully initiated and cannot receive Eucharist with us, they will leave the assembly after the Liturgy of the Word, dismissed or sent forth to ponder the Scripture just heard and to share their reflections on it.

It is during the catechumenate that much of the catechesis, or teaching, takes place. With the help of a sponsor and members of the parish, the catechumens experience the Church as a community of believers: their spirit, their work, their prayer, their creed, and their mission.

"From this time on," the rite states, "the Church embraces the catechumens as its own with a mother's love

and concern. Joined to the Church, the catechumens are now part of the household of Christ, since the Church nourishes them with the word of God and sustains them by means of liturgical celebrations." Their initial conversion is deepened as they discover the tremendous love and convincing power of God in their lives and in the life of the community to which they have been called.

As we witness to our own faith through the means presented to us daily, as we thank God for the gift of faith that enriches our lives, we pray that we may join these faith travelers in spirit and move to the yet deeper conversion to which each of us is called.



# St. Patrick's Parishioners in Focus

Please welcome new parishioners Emma Capitani, Susan Carpenter, Mark and Roxane Faught, Laura and Placid Ferreira, Janice Rosentreter, Dolores and Joel Siegel, Donna and John Smith, Barbara and Duane Stanger.



Farewell to the following parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Donald and Maryann Bitzer, Geri Guttenberg, Mary Hooker, Mary McCabe.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Jennifer Catherine and Julie Colleen Bryant, Kelsey Elaine Fruin, Matthew Kent Harriett, Anne Elizabeth Kingston.



Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Donald Madison Armbruster and Angela Marie Wozencraft; Marti Samuel Kocher and Jamie Suzanne Wuttke; Patrick Joseph Mulkerrin, Jr., and Becky Lynn Bode; Jeffrey Lynn Nelson and Ruth Ann Struck; Matthew Fredric Reiter and Melinda Jo Carr.



Our condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased: Frances Adams, Jason L. Bradbury, Martha Edna Holden, Cecil McDermott.



# Parish Council News

At their November meeting Parish Council members agreed that parishioners who asked for identification of specific changes to the Parish Council Constitution (to be presented in a referendum for parish approval on Dec. 2-3) made a good point. To sidestep the problem of scheduling yet another bulletin insert, Father Remm offered to explain the proposed changes in his weekly "pastor's reflections" in the bulletin itself.

Gary Laumann gave a progress report on the work of the team charged with discerning long-range planning for social justice ministry at St. Patrick's. The team, made up of representatives of staff, the Social Action and Education committees, the Parish Council, and the former ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee, is discerning a few long-range goals and the means to achieve them. Gary expects that they will be able to make a final report to the Council next spring.

Genie Grady, St. Patrick's Business Operations Assistant, is finding it hard to be in two places at the same time—at the parish office and in class at Parkland. She presented three options to the Council, one of which would permit her to pursue her studies without the complications posed by working at the same time. The Council accepted this option—Genie's resignation, effective Jan. 12—with regret. A search committee will be formed promptly to fill the position, which will undergo some changes in the interim.

The Friends of the Catholic Worker House have, as Father Remm recently noted in his "pastor's reflections," applied to St. Patrick's for use of the

property at Clark and Coler. The property seems well suited for relocation of the house donated to the Catholic Worker House.

Several members of the group, some of whom are St. Patrick's parishioners, responded to questions put to them by Council members. Concerns were voiced about the parish's legal position on the property, the impact of such a move on the occupants of CWH and on the residents of the neighborhood, the safety of women and children on property bordered by local train tracks and tavern, the need of the poor for appropriate shelter, the parish's long-term need for space to accommodate growth, and many others.

The Council agreed to take the proposal under consideration while researching possibilities and alternatives and inviting feedback from members of the parish.

**Committee news.** The Liturgy Committee (formerly Worship and Prayer) elected Cathy Salika "by acclamation" as chair and settled down to business, noting that the committee still lacks two coordinators, one for scheduling and training servers and one to represent the ushers.

Personnel is reviewing the results of salary surveys to determine whether ranges offered at St. Patrick's are comparable to similar positions elsewhere.

The Revenue/Finance committees (lately renamed Financial Affairs Committee) gave final approval to envelopes and acknowledgment letters for memorial gifts and bade farewell to Mary Pieper, long-time member and outgoing chair of the former Finance Committee.

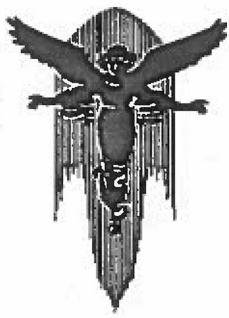
*St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the 15th day of the month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.*

*Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee. By-lines are generally omitted.*

*Editorial board: Bob Haessly, 344-7123; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Merdy Smith, 367-6159; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.*

*Associates: Harriet Davis, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz, Alice Schrader, Amy Witsman.*

*Writers for the December issue include Rodger Adams, Bernie Laumann, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Gary Riskowski, Nancy Steerman.*



## December Saints and Holy Events

Dec. 3 is the feast of St. Francis Xavier, a charter member of the Jesuits who carried the Good News to China. This is also the anniversary of the martyrdom of four American women in El Salvador: Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Jean Donovan, and Dorothy Kazel.

On Dec. 6 we remember Nicholas, to whom we ascribe the custom of gifting our family and friends in this season. This memory of a generous saint and custom stands in stark contrast to our memory of Dec. 7, the date Pearl Harbor was bombed and our country geared up for war.

Two feasts of Mary give us hope as we reflect on God's gifts in our hemisphere. On Dec. 8 we recall that the Church has designated Mary the patron of the U.S. under the title of the Immaculate Conception. On Dec. 12 we share faith with our Mexican brothers and sisters in faith on the commemoration of Mary's appearance at Guadalupe in 1531.

Lucy (Dec. 13) and John of the Cross (Dec. 14) remind us that Christ is the light of the world and the incarnate Word of God.

The founding of our nation on principles of justice and equality is highlighted on Dec. 15, the day in 1791 on which the Bill of Rights was adopted as part of our Constitution, and on Dec. 16, the day of the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

In the week following Christmas, we are reminded of the sacrifice of faith by Stephen, the first deacon (Dec. 26), John the Evangelist (Dec. 27), the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28), and Thomas a Becket, archbishop of Canterbury,

who was martyred in 1170 (Dec. 29). On Dec. 29, 1890, seven centuries after Thomas's life was taken, 200 Sioux Indians were massacred at Wounded Knee.



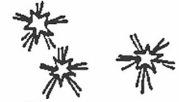
### Advent Musings

Because her name means "light," Lucy attained immense popularity in medieval times, when her feast fell on the shortest day of the year. Many of the ancient light and fire customs of Yuletide became associated with her feast. Thus we find "Lucy candles" lighted in homes and "Lucy fires" burned in the open. For the people of Sweden and Norway, she was the great "light saint" who turned the tide of their long winter and brought the light of day to renewed victory.



No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God—for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God.

—Oscar Romero



Since the coming of Christ goes on forever—he is always he who is to come in the world and in the Church—there is always an Advent going on.

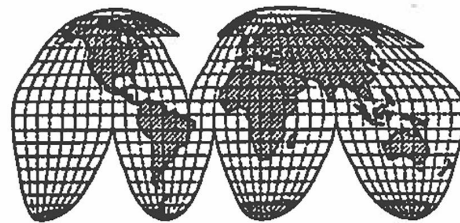
—Jean Danielou



## Parish Plans Celebration of Migration Week

The United States Conference of Bishops has designated Jan. 8-13, 1990, as Migration Week. During this week we are called to reflect upon and to celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes up our Church, our nation, and our world.

Our own communities of Campaign-Urbana and St. Patrick's are reflections of the beautiful and culturally rich traditions of people from all over the globe.



In celebration of Migration Week and the many nationalities that make up St. Patrick's parish, the Social Action Committee is sponsoring a prayer service followed by an international

potluck dinner on Tuesday, Jan. 9. All members of the parish, whether recently migrated to the U.S. or in this country for generations, are invited to join the celebration.

"We hope it will be an evening to praise God for our diverse cultural

heritages as well as to get to know one another better," said Bernie Laumann, member of the Social Action Committee. "We hope that many parishioners will

become involved in helping with the organization of this celebration."

If you are interested in assisting with this activity, call Bernie Laumann (328-2708) by Dec. 10.



# December 1989



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						1 10:45 a Mass, CCNH 1:00 p Church Women United	2 9:00 a Diocesan meeting on Sacrificial Giving
3 Renewal of Sacrificial Giving 8-11 a Library open 9, 11 a Children's classes 10:15 a Children's Liturgy	4 10:30 a Birth 7:00 p Education Com. mtg. 7:15 p GROW 7:30 p Liturgy Com. mtg. 7:30 p Birth	5 1:30 p Rosary and cookies, CCNH 7:00 p First Reconciliation celebration 7:30 p Exec Com 7:00 p GROW 7:00 p SVDP	6 5:45 p Children's classes/U 6:45 p Children's classes/St J 7:00 p Communi- cation com mtg 7:00 p Pro-Life 7:00 p Choir	7 IMMACULATE Holyday Mass 5:15 p 1:00 p GROW 6:45 p Folk Choir 7:30 p K of C 7:30 p Personnel com. mtg.	8 CONCEPTION Holyday Masses: 7:00 a, 12:10 p, 5:15 p 10:45 a Mass, CCNH	9 10:00 a Discover- ing Prayer Center	
10 9a. Enroll Catechum 8:00 a Hospitality table 9, 11 a Children's classes 10:15 a Children's Liturgy 2:30 p Kalaido- scope	11 10:30 a Birth 7:15 p GROW 7:30 p Birth 7:00 p Social Action com. mtg.	12 1:30 p Rosary and cookies, CCNH 7:00 p First Reconciliation Celebration 7:00 p Financial Affairs com. mtg.	13 tp Bandg Rolling 5:45 p Chil/U 6:45 p Chil/St J 7:00 p RCIA 7:00 p Choir 7:00 p GROW 7:00 p SVDP 7:15 p Bldg and Grnds com mtg	14 1:00 p GROW 6:45 p Folk choir 7:00 p Baptism preparation 7:30 p Parish Council mtg.	15 10:30 a Mass, Urbana NH 10:45 a Mass, CCNH	16	
17 8-11 a. Library open 9, 11 a Children's classes 10:15 a Children's Liturgy 4:00 p Young and Restless mtg.	18 10:30 a Birth 7:15 p GROW 7:30 p Communal Penance Service, St. Matthew's 7:30 p Birth	19 1:30 p Rosary and cookies, CCNH 7:30 p Communal Penance Service, St. Patrick's	20 5:45 p Children's class/U 6:45 p Children's class/St J 7:00 p Choir 7:00 p SVDP 7:00 GROW 7:30 Communal	21 1:00 p GROW 6:45 p Folk Choir  Penance Service, Holy Cross	22 10:30 a Mass, Amer/U 10:45 a Mass, CCNH 3-5, 7-9 p Indi- vidual Recon- ciliation	23 11:00 a In Focus 3-5, 7-9 p Indi- vidual Recon- ciliation	
24 CHRISTMAS EVE  Masses: 4, 6:30 p, Children's 10:30 p, Adults	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  Masses: 7:30 a, 10:30 a, 12 noon	26	27 7:00 p GROW 7:00 p SVDP	28 1:00 p GROW	29 10:45 a Mass, CCNH	30	
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE  Holyday Mass 5:15 p Parish Dance (time to be announced)	<p>Amer/C: Americana, Champaign Amer/U: Americana, Urbana CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home MM: Medical Missions SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul</p>						

## ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA