

In Focus



A Day In The Life Of St. Patrick's Parish

It was a typical fall day, slightly overcast, slightly breezy, slightly still . . . but not for long! It was the last day of September, and at 9:00 a.m. sharp the doors of the parish center flew open to welcome the shoppers who had lined up for the annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale. Many parishioners had also come to continue sorting and pricing items, which were still arriving as the sale progressed.

Downstairs and in the kitchen, the ladies of the Guild (who were not otherwise helping at the sale) were busy preparing the lunch they would serve after a funeral to the family and friends of a parishioner who had passed away that week.

In the parish office the coordinator of our Children's Program was copying, sorting, and stapling materials for the upcoming children's religious-education classes, which were right around the corner!

The Business Operations Assistant, in her office down the hall, was busily recording and tabulating the almost 300 registration fees received for the religious-education program.

The Director of Religious Education arrived to help set up for mass and to select the hymn to be sung as people gathered to celebrate Eucharist--after which she would meet with a prospective catechumen.

Just then a smiling face appeared at the door--a delightful woman who, with her family, is temporarily in the U.S. from Budapest, Hungary, and wished to register in the parish.

Another parishioner arrived to check dates in preparation for a memorial prayer service, to which family and friends of deceased parishioners would be invited.

Our recently arrived Pastoral Associate was also scurrying about organizing her day, which would include visits at local hospitals and nursing homes.

Not to let things slow down any, I began work on the draft of the weekly bulletin--always an exciting and challenging venture!

A person passing through town arrived and requested help with gas

*And she brought forth
her firstborn son,
and wrapped him
in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger.
Luke 2:8*



Blessings of the season

money. That necessitated a call to a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who would come in to make the needed arrangements.

Oh, and we should also mention that, with all this going on, the telephone repairmen arrived to work on the newly installed telephone system--"Look out below!"

The pace remained the same throughout the day, with staff and parishioners stopping by or calling with questions about a variety of parish-related matters.

Seeing is believing--so just stop by St. Patrick's parish center anytime and see for yourself!

--Leslie Risatti,
Parish Secretary

Making Dreams Come True

If you are a person interested in hands-on involvement in community affairs, consider working with members of this parish and of other parishes in our community to rehabilitate houses of those in need. This activity requires only working from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon one Saturday during the year--more, if you enjoy it.

This fantastically rewarding experience sees real accomplishment in a short time. In a single morning you might tile a floor, paint a bathroom, or varnish a window frame (under skilled guidance). Seeing the look of joy on a recipient's face, a house renewed through the work of your hands, can be more thrilling than donating to a hundred faceless organizations. It's a perfect opportunity to give to your community in a very tangible way.

So think about spending a few hours learning some housebuilding skills, and reap the benefit of filling someone else's need. Please call Gaye Dunn (384-5647) or The Empty Tomb (344-2262); you may find yourself in the business of making dreams come true.

Parish Representative Sought

St. Patrick's Parish is a participating member of the Council of Congregations, an association of local churches that provides funds to help families in need to cope with emergency expenses. COC funds have been used to help pay utility bills and rent and to purchase prescription medicines.

Deacon Rodger Adams currently represents St. Patrick's at COC meetings. When his work takes him out of town, however, our parish lacks representation. If you are interested in learning about the needs of the poor in our community and how the local churches cooperate in responding to those needs, if you are willing to attend a meeting every other month (on the fourth Monday), please call Rodger Adams (328-3980).

Children Prepare for Christ's Coming

The children of St. Patrick's had a busy Advent in preparation for Christmas, according to Jan Lipska, coordinator of the Children's Program.

The kindergarten/first grade group at 9:00 made an altar cloth for use during Children's Liturgy and presented it to Fr. Kinder on Sunday, Dec. 11. The cloth was placed on the altar in the multipurpose room, where it was enjoyed throughout Advent by parishioners who gather on weekdays for mass.

The third- and fourth-graders of the 11:00 class collected cans of food to make up a basket to be taken to the Catholic Worker House for Christmas. They also held an open house for their parents on Sunday, Dec. 18.

The second-grade class at 9:00 made Jesse Tree ornaments, which they placed on a tree during class on Sunday, Dec. 11. Afterward the tree was moved to the multipurpose room for Children's Liturgy.

The second-grade class at 11:00 asked all of the participants in the Sunday morning classes to donate new or good, used mittens and hats to be given to the needy during the Christmas season.

Children who were to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, and their parents, met several times during November. The children received this sacrament in two celebrations, on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6.



Kindergartners and first-graders in the 9:00 class, together with (from the left) Jan Lipska, Fr. Paul Kinder, Chris Pierson, Becky Douglas, Chris Fischer, and Lee Fischer, see the altar cloth put to use for the first time. The cloth was assembled from individual squares, each with a star or dove and the name of the child who made it, into three strips for the altar used in Children's Liturgy.



Second-graders in the 11:00 class, who collected mittens and hats for those who need them, gather with teachers Judy Bryant (left) and Noreen Dawson.



Third- and fourth-graders in the 11:00 class review progress in their food collection for the Catholic Worker House. Jan Lipska and Vincent Bui fill in for teachers Joan Haynes-Kelly and Becky Gehring.



Second-graders in the 9:00 class hang their ornaments on the Jesse Tree under the supervision of teachers Mary Long (left) and Mary Leming.

"Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

On Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, after several weeks of preparation that included their parents, 37 children celebrated for the first time God's loving forgiveness and mercy in their lives.

"Lord Jesus, help us look into our hearts and remember the times we might have been more kind," they prayed. "With your help our hearts can grow big with kindness.

"Jesus," they prayed, "you always welcome us back with your forgiving love. Help us be more forgiving of others. Sometimes we . . . don't think of anyone but ourselves. We know this hurts you and it hurts us too.

"Thank you, God, for your unending love. It feels so good to be loved so much," they prayed. "Help us remember to be loving.

"Thank you, Lord," they prayed, "for all your kindness, forgiveness, help, and love.

"Amen." Yes, amen! Amen!

* * *

To each of you we pledge our support in your resolution, and we offer a resolution of our own: to be more loving and forgiving, to be more kind:

Molly Apperson, Katharine Bullard, Daniel Coes, Nicole Connolly, Robyn DiPietro, Katie Ebling, Zachary Fischer, Karl Joyce, Gian Paolo Musumeci, Anna Skorupa, Brendon Woods, Megan Woods;

Amanda Hartke, Adam Zawadowski, Lesley Lundeen, Mark Lundeen, Jessica Lundeen, David Simon, Amanda Yeazel, Ryan Yeazel;

Zachary Long, Mary Artz, Cory Boaz, Jacob Douglas, Devon Gravely, Jacob Kelly, Chris McDonald, Carolyn Miller;

Tung Nguyen, Jason Peyton, Adelaide Pigg, Giana Prazak, Elizabeth Srodulski, Claire Tierney, Michael Whitman, Sarah Whitman, George Weisiger.

To your teachers--Mary Tierney, Colleen Kelly, Jan Lipska--for the hours of preparation so lovingly given and to Rose Vabic and Debby Heater for the reception that capped your celebration, thank you!

"That our children may know that, regardless of the choices they make, they can always come home to Reconciliation and the Church, we pray to the Lord."

Lord, hear our prayer.



It was in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled,
That God, the Lord of all the earth,
Sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
Around the infant there.
And when the shepherds then drew near
The angel voices rang out clear:
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!

O children of the forest free,
The angels' song is true.
The holy child of earth and heav'n
Is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!

Jean de Brebeuf
Seventeenth century



Parish Council News

At its meeting on Dec. 15 the Parish Council took action on a number of proposals.

Council members agreed to continue parish support for a full-time counsellor position at the regional Catholic Social Service office. This allocation will be formalized by establishing a separate line item in the budget for it.

Jim Mayer and Carolyn McElrath, on behalf of the ad hoc Spirituality Team, proposed that the parish adopt Renew as a parish-renewal program to take the place of the long-inactive program Christ Renews His Parish. Council members accepted the proposal unanimously for implementation next fall. Also accepted was the team's proposal to establish a stipended position, Renew Coordinator, who would report directly to the pastor.

The Social Action Committee, represented by Gary Laumann (chair) and several committee members, presented their program descriptions together with a strong recommendation for establishing a new staff position, Director of Social Justice Ministry. After lengthy discussion,

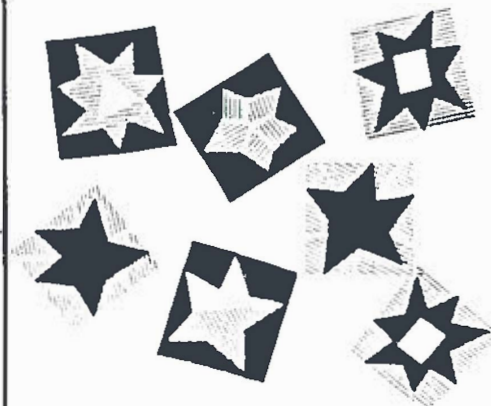
action on the entire presentation was deferred to the January Council meeting.

The proposal for a new "Hospitality and Welcoming Program" met with Council's approval. This program, which will function as a part of the Family Life Ministry, seeks to welcome visitors and new members of the parish, to inform people about programs and services of the parish, and to offer an opportunity for participation in parish activities and programs.

In other action, the Council appointed an ad hoc committee to revise the Parish Council bylaws. They also endorsed Fr. Remm's proposal to look into the possibility of acquiring a property on Clark St. that may be available for purchase.

Members were reminded that full budget proposals for new and continuing programs are due at the next meeting from all standing committees.

The Parish Council meets next on Jan. 19; all parishioners are invited and welcome to attend these open meetings.



January Notables

On Jan. 1 we celebrate--yes, the beginning of a new year, but also the feast of Mary, Mother of God, "Theotokos."

On Jan. 4, we honor Elizabeth Ann Seton, first native-born American to be canonized, who founded the first American religious community, the first Catholic parish school, and the first Catholic orphanage in the U.S.

While John Neumann was bishop of Philadelphia, Catholic schools in America grew from 2 to 100. We remember him on Jan. 5.

Jan. 6 is the traditional date of Epiphany, the feast of the magi, the twelfth day of Christmas. We celebrate it on Sunday, Jan. 8, this year.

On Jan. 9, we conclude Christmastime with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Jan. 16 is celebrated as the birthday of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Lord . . . we give you thanks this day for your preacher and witness, Martin Luther King, Jr. . . . where our human community is divided by racism, may we give ourselves to your work of healing."

St. Anthony, one of the first "desert fathers" and founder of Western monasticism, lived in the wilderness after giving everything he owned to the poor. We remember him on Jan 17.

Jan. 18-25 is the week of prayer for Christian unity. Can we find a way to join in prayer with the brothers and sisters of our extended Christian family?

Agnes, virgin and martyr, is remembered on Jan. 21.

On Jan. 25 we celebrate the conversion of Paul.

Jan. 28 is the feast of Thomas Aquinas, doctor of the Church and author of many theological and philosophical works, which include the Summa Theologica.

John Bosco, great friend of children and founder of groups that ministered to their needs, is remembered on Jan. 31.



Editor's Note

"United by our common faith, shared hope, and mutual charity, we are called to grow more and more into a people who worship God through prayer and the sacraments; who study God's revelation in Scripture, tradition, and the signs of the times; who serve God's will by loving and serving our neighbors, both near and far; and who tell of God's love by our deeds and our words." --From St. Patrick's Parish Mission Statement

In these pages of In Focus you will find instance upon instance of this call to growth and the ways we can or do respond as a people united by faith, by hope, and by love.

Our youngsters prepare an Advent altar cloth for their time of worship, they collect and share food and clothing with many less fortunate than they, and they spend weeks preparing minds and hearts for their first celebration of God's loving forgiveness and mercy through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

St. Patrick's Guild will feed ten

senior citizens this year through a donation to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

Our parish secretary describes one day, just one day, in the life of our parish and her vision of a people's response to this call to growth.

The Social Committee invites us to experience the pleasure of coming together to have a good time--and to have a share in providing the means for that good time for ourselves and others.

The Social Action Committee challenges us to develop and share skills that can brighten homes and faces alike.

What else are these but a response to our call to worship, study, and serve God and to tell of God's love by word and deed? Year's end prompts reflection; year's beginning, resolution. Our response is personal but it can never be solitary, for we are indeed a people united by faith, by hope, and by love.

St. Patrick's Guild Meets

On Nov. 16 members of St. Patrick's Guild gathered for a luncheon meeting at the Sea Merchant Restaurant. The following slate of officers was presented and approved: Lucille Kocher, president; Nancy Steerman, vice-president; Mary Sleeter, secretary-treasurer.

The Guild's annual parish fundraiser, the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, netted \$5207.14, half of which was to be presented to Fr. Remm for the parish at the next Parish Council meeting.

In other action, members agreed to donate \$2500 to the parish for reduction of the standing debt for the new wing of the parish center. A donation of \$600 will be made to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank to feed 10 senior citizens for one year.

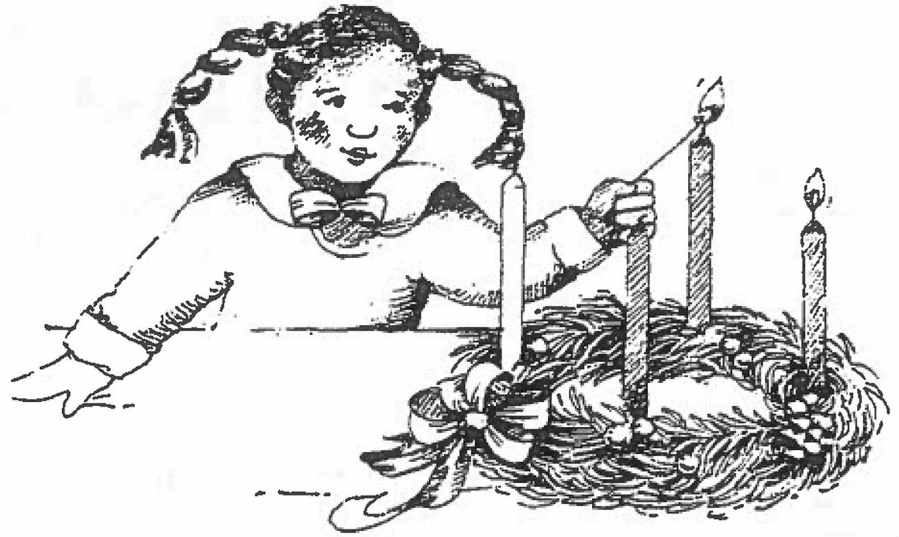
Meals-on-Wheels, represented by parishioner Florence Chevalier, is in need of volunteer drivers for Feb. 20-24.

St. Patrick's Guild serves both our parish and the larger community in a variety of often hidden ways. Besides their involvement in Meals-on-Wheels, which carries meals to shut-ins, and their sponsorship of the most successful of our parish fund-raisers, the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, members also roll bandages (Medical Missions), clean the church weekly (our parish sacristan is a member of the Guild), and after funerals provide meals for the family and friends of the deceased.

Their quiet and compassionate ministry to residents of Champaign County Nursing Home includes distributing cookies from the parish with a pleasant word to all, praying the rosary with those who choose this traditional Marian devotion, and bringing together all who desire and are able to celebrate mass.

New members, though always welcome, seem few and rare. If you enjoy sharing the companionship of others with similar interests or would like to participate in one or another of the activities named here, you might give one of the officers a call or leave your own name and number with the parish secretary for call-back.

The next meeting of St. Patrick's Guild will take place in the spring, after Easter. Watch the weekly bulletin for an announcement of time and place.



Social Committee Announces Plans

With only three members [three!] the Social Committee plans to expand its offerings for parish social gatherings in the coming year. It looks like this so far:

Feb.: potluck supper and square dance

Apr.: Children's Easter egg hunt

May: Memorial Day breakfast; Mother's Day event

June: Father's Day event

July: Fourth of July breakfast

Aug.: Back-to-school ice-cream social

Sept.: Labor Day breakfast

Nov.: Thanksgiving Day breakfast; Craft and Bake Sale

Dec.: Advent celebration

Debby Heater, committee chair, says the committee is open to suggestions for parish events that foster community building. She would also like to encourage parishioners to join the Social Committee in serving the social needs of the parish. If you find one of the above-listed events particularly inviting, you might volunteer to help with it. After all, why not?--fun for you and fun for everyone else. [Only three members!] Call Debby Heater (367-6067) or leave your name and phone number with the parish secretary (367-2665).

"So Many People Helped!"

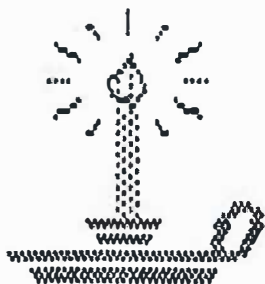
The St. Vincent de Paul Society want to thank those who helped them with assembly and delivery of food packages for the needy at Thanksgiving:

Paul Ziegler, Michael and Donna Mayer, Rita Lampe, Bruce Rummenie, Matt and Janet Richards, Cecelia Weir, David Riddle, David and Linda Bennett, Cathy and Lauran Westhusing, Bridget and Brad Peters, Roger and Patricia Mokros, David Thoman, Jeannie Donovan, Bernadette and Paul Hughes, Hazel Remesch, Ellen Noonan, Alberta Voss, Sophia Zeigler.

Special thanks are extended also to the 7:30 a.m. Sunday mass-goers, who carried cases of food from the parish center basement to the main hall.

St. Patrick's In Focus is published on the last weekend of each month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted for the next issue by the 15th day of the month. Please leave your items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member: Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, 244-4701), Lula and Martin Fitzpatrick (328-3338), Katherine Schrader (344-5995), Peter Stubing (367-5160), Pat Justice (328-1776), Vincent Bui, Mary Lydon. Written material should include the name and phone number of the writer.





January

1989



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm GROW	3 1:30pm Rosary at CCNH	4 7pm SVDP 7pm Pro-Life 7pm GROW 7pm Choir	5 1:00p GROW 6:30p Folk choir 7:30p Personnel Com. mtg.	6 10:45a Mass at CCNH 6pm Parish Council Epiphany Dinner	7 9am-3pm LMLP Regional meeting
8 9:00a Adult Bible Study 9:00a Child.class. 10:15a Child.Lit. 11:00a Child.class 6:30p Adult Educ.	9 7:00p Education Com.mtg. 7:00p GROW 7:30p Worship & Prayer Com.mtg.	10 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:00p Revenue Com. mtg. 7:00p Communicat Com. mtg.	11 1pm MM Bandage Rolling 7pm Choir 7pm Building & Ground Com. 7pm SVDP 7pm GROW 7:30p RCIA	12 1:00p GROW 6:30p Folk Choir 7:00p Baptism Preparation 7:30p Finance	13 10:45a Mass at CCNH 6:00p K of C Men's Stag dinner	14
15 9:00a Adult Bible Study 9:00a Child.class. 9:30a RCIA 10:15a Child.Lit. 11:00a Child.class 6:30p Adult educ.	16 7:00p GROW 7:30p Social Action Com. mtg.	17 1:30p Rosary at CCNH	18 7:00p Choir 7:00p SVDP 7:00p GROW 7:30p RCIA	19 1:00p GROW 6:30p Folk choir 7:30p Parish Council mtg	20 10:30a Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45a Mass at CCNH	21 7:30p Pro-Life Vigil Service
22 9:00a Adult Bible Study 9:00a Child.class. 9:30a RCIA 10:15a Child.Lit. 11:00a Child.class 6:30p Adult educ.	23 12:00p LMLP # 2 7:00p GROW 7:00p IN FOCUS	24 1:30p Rosary at CCNH 7:30p LMLP # 3 7:30p Catechists, child's progra 7:30p Liturgy Planning	25 7:00p Choir 7:00p SVDP 7:00p GROW 7:30p RCIA 7:30p Eucharist Ministry Workshop	26 1:00p GROW 6:30p Folk choir 7:30p K of C	27 10:30a Mass at Amer/U 10:45a Mass at CCNH	28
29 BLOOD DRIVE from 7:00am to 2:00pm	30 7pm GROW	31 1:30p Rosary at CCNH				