

In Focus



Prayer Partners Sought for First Communicants

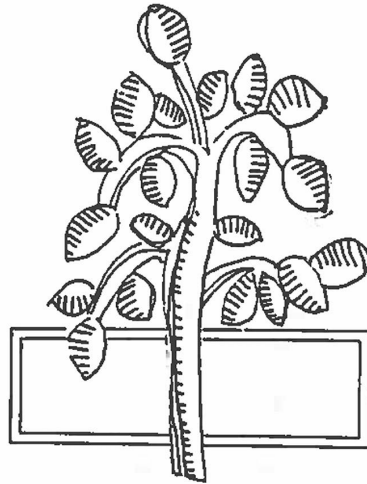
On Tuesday, Mar. 27, about fifty children from St. Patrick's children will begin their final preparation for receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Parishioners can participate in preparing our children for this significant stage of initiation into the Christian community. On the weekend of Mar. 31-Apr. 1, you will notice a tree in the church, on which will be placed the names of all children preparing for First Eucharist. Parishioners are asked to become prayer partners for them during this time of preparation.

If you want to be a prayer partner, take the name of one of the children and remember that child, and his or her family, in your prayers during the month of April.

Each prayer partner is encouraged to prepare a note or card for the first communicant. A basket will be placed in the back of church on the weekend of Apr. 28-29 to collect these notes and cards, which will be given to the children at the First Communion liturgies.

Prayer partners are invited to attend the First Communion celebrations on



Sunday, Apr. 29. The children's names and the liturgy each child will be participating in--one is at 2 p.m., the other at 4 p.m.--will be posted in the back of the church, at Coffee Shop, and in the parish office.

St. Patrick's parish community has always welcomed children and helped them to develop a strong sense of belonging, a realization that they are valued members of the community. Your prayers will underline that experience on this very significant occasion.

Fr. Remm to Celebrate 30 Years as Priest

On May 29, 1990, Fr. George Remm will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination. And St. Patrick's Parish will celebrate with him.

Plans, still in the making, include a parish potluck that evening (6-8 p.m.), according to Tom Kacich, Parish Council president.

The event is being organized by the Parish Council with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick's Guild. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information as plans progress.



How Do Others Observe Lent?

Hearing a Protestant friend mention Lent, an In Focus correspondent was led to ask some hesitant, "sorry to sound so dumb" questions about how Lent is observed in other congregations. The information gathered, our correspondent admits, is incomplete--for instance, only main-line Protestants were questioned, and one Buddhist. She shares the results with readers who would like to know.

Do Protestants observe Lent? she wondered. "Yes, perhaps more now than before. The more liturgical the congregation, the more Lent is observed."

Do practices vary from one denomination to another? "Somewhat, but they vary more from one congregation to another."

What is your congregation doing this Lent? "Holding more communion services each week," one answered. Others replied: "Starting a new Bible study. Once a week we will study the readings for next Sunday's service. We use the same Lectionary [book of readings at Sunday Mass] that you Catholics use, with the same three-year cycle."

"I see in our bulletin that we will have a weekly meeting called Faith Exploration."

"We like to have a small, sacrificial meal once a week, and give the money saved to charity."

"Repent, and reflect on the sufferings of Christ, to prepare for Easter." (This response came from several Protestant friends, who gave it as their view of the purpose of Lent.)

Do you plan any special services during the week before Easter? "Some congregations hold Tenebrae services, some have a seder (Passover Meal)," one answered. Another said, "We will use palms, perhaps near the altar, perhaps in a procession, on Palm Sunday."

Several added, "We have a special communion service on Maundy (Holy) Thursday."

On Good Friday, several congregations gather at one place to hold a three-hour service. Sermons may treat of Our Lord's seven last words from the cross. It is a quiet, prayerful time, during which people may stay as long as they wish.

One or two friends said they were not obliged to fast but that they had done so as an aid to prayer or health.

Ascetism in Eastern faiths is well known. In Thailand, during the rainy season (mid-July to mid-October), the monks who ordinarily travel to spread the teachings of Buddha are constrained by the weather to stay in one place. This has come to be a time of retreat called the Lent, or Rains Residence, Retreat. During this time religious activities increase for both monks and laity. Meditation and self-denial to practice a desired virtue are widespread and popular observances.

Sound familiar? Well, maybe we're not so different after all!

Palms Link Ashes to Easter

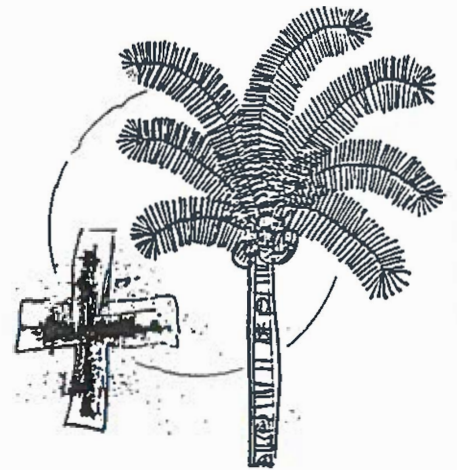
Where do we get the ashes used on Ash Wednesday? What is a Palm Sunday procession? When was it introduced? What colors are the vestments worn for the Palm Sunday procession for the Palm Sunday Mass? Why do we take blessed palms home with us? How are we to dispose of old palms?

If you have ever wondered about blessed palms and their annual use on Palm Sunday, if you have ever taken home a blessed palm and wondered what to do with the one you brought home last year, read on.

Before the beginning of Lent, the previous year's blessed palms are burned and the residue saved for use on Ash Wednesday.

Palms blessed on Palm Sunday are carried home as sacrament and symbol of Christ's presence among us. Old palms may be burned or broken up and the remains thrown away.

The Palm Sunday procession, a rite introduced by Rome in the twelfth century, is a reenactment by the



Church of Christ's victory over death and sin. The presider wears red vestments for the procession but then changes to the purple of mourning for the Mass of the Passion. For the procession is intended not simply as a commemoration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem nor simply as a triumphal march, but as Christ's journey, together with his people, to Calvary and the great act of redemption.

Hosanna, Son of David! Hosanna, Son of Mary! Hosanna, Son of God!

We Salute You, Sophia!

Strike up the band! Blow the horn! We proudly salute you, Sophia Zeigler, for being one of four recipients of the 1989 News-Gazette Heroism Award.

As a parish we thank you, Sophia, for getting involved with people and their

needs and for giving quiet, untiring witness to the love of God for all His people.

Sophia Zeigler, with her husband, Martin, and Fr. George Remm following the award ceremony Feb. 24.



Spring Housecleaning Planned

The Building and Grounds Committee is planning the third annual spring housecleaning of the church on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to about noon.

In addition to sprucing up the church for Holy Week and Easter, the committee hopes for enough helpers to do some cleanup of parish grounds. "Every bit of help is very much appreciated," says Bob Kimmey, committee chair.

Rumor has it that in previous years volunteers worked to spirited Christmas music (yes, Christmas music) and were fortified with coffee and doughnuts. How about it--can you finish your Easter shopping and home spruce-ups in time to help? If so, let Bob Kimmey (367-2674) know you'll be there.

Parish Council News

At the March meeting Council members approved a contribution of \$10,000 to the Catholic Worker House. This contribution, to be taken from general parish revenue, is intended to help CWH purchase a house and property for relocation of its operation.

In other action the Council agreed to set aside funds for repair and replacement of such major expense items for the parish as roof repair and heating and cooling units.

To the \$45,000 (approx.) assigned as our parish goal for the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal, the Council added \$20,000 for debt retirement. [See "Parish Goal..." elsewhere in this issue.]

The executive committee of the Council recommended renovation of three areas in the parish center to provide more usable classroom space for

program needs as well as for adult gatherings. These areas include the library, the "bride's room," and the basement.

Through this proposal, if adopted, the parish would be making a real commitment to separate classrooms for individual grades, at the same time making better use of available facilities with a minimal outlay of funds. The proposal was referred to appropriate committees for feedback and cost estimates.

The Social Committee presented a list of parish social events suggested at a recent meeting of interested parish-



ioners. It was agreed that a survey of parishioner support for these or other events be taken.

Suggestions included something for just about everyone: a parish camp-out, teen dances, family nights, craft-making, dance lessons, Christmas caroling, square dancing, overnight trip to Our Lady of the Snows (Belleville), shopping trips,... But you'll soon see for yourself, and when you do, be sure to let the Council know whether you can help organize an event or at least participate in it by having a good time!

A request from parishioners for the formation of a "Vocations Committee" was received and reserved for discussion at the next Council meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, Apr. 19. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

St. Patrick's to Elect Three to Parish Council

Next weekend, March 31/April 1, St. Patrick's parishioners once again will elect three of their number to the Parish Council. Every year a third of the ten elective positions on the Parish Council are filled in this way, with each member elected to a three-year term.

The Parish Council serves as a consultative body for the pastor on matters of concern to the parish and oversees formulation of the parish budget and allocation of funds for maintenance, salaries, and programs.

Each member also serves as liaison with one of the standing committees of the Council (e.g., Education, Building and Grounds, Liturgy). As a link and sounding board for these committees, the council member/liasion brings vital

feedback to the Parish Council regarding committee concerns, activities, and ideas--one significant way of keeping in touch with parishioners' needs and views.

The executive committee of the Council sets the agenda for the monthly meeting. Any parishioner who wishes to present an item for consideration by the Council may do so by contacting a member of this committee (Council officers, parish trustees, and pastor) two weeks before the monthly meeting.

In January an ad hoc election committee is appointed to present a slate of candidates to the parish and to organize the event itself. Last week this ad hoc committee presented the slate of candidates for this year's election, with

information about each--a brief personal profile, experience, and views on parish goals prepared by the candidate.

Once elected, the new members are seated on the Council at its May meeting. New members are introduced to Council responsibilities and procedures by means of half-hour study sessions before three of the monthly meetings.

A few weeks after their election, our new representatives (and newly elected Council officers) will be publicly honored during Sunday Mass at a commissioning ceremony. They confirm their commitment to serve the parish, and we ask the Lord to bless and guide them as they take up their new responsibilities for the Church in Urbana-St. Joseph.

Focus On . . . St. Patrick's Guild

Did you know that St. Patrick's Guild is almost as old as the parish itself? The Guild was established, albeit under a different name, by Fr. Cannon, first pastor of St. Patrick's, soon after the parish was incorporated in 1901.

Until 1979 the Guild was known as the Altar and Rosary Society, formed "to make the altar and sanctuary a fit and becoming habitation for Our Lord" and "to practice and further devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary." To that end, members began their meetings with the rosary, and they financed care of altar and sanctuary with money-making projects: lawn socials, cookbooks, bazaars, food sales, bingo and card parties, bridge marathons, book sales, candle sales--you name it, they probably did it!

Never losing sight of the fact that the Society was a part not only of the parish but of the community and the universal Church as well, members gathered for all-day sewing sessions and to package medicines, bandages, and the like, for the Medical Missions. One of the first to support the work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta was St. Patrick's Guild.

At meetings collections were often taken up for special projects: help for a Korean child, support of a Glenmary nun, Feed-a-Family, to name but a few.

During World War II members prayed for and wrote to men and women from the community in the service of our country. During the '40s and '50s the Altar and Rosary Society was especially active in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.



In 1943 then-pastor Fr. McGinn suggested that the parish be divided into units, or "bands." These bands served as welcoming committees for new parishioners.

In the '50s the Society established a working committee in response to growing concern over the low moral tone of movies and literature and took an active role in youth programs. The Society sponsored a Girl Scout troupe, helped with TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), and supported the Urbana Teens.

Since 1959 a group of members has made regular visits to the Champaign County Nursing Home, visiting with the residents, sharing homemade cookies with them, praying the rosary with them, and arranging for weekly Mass and periodic anointing of the sick.

In the '60s a group called the "Annettes" was formed by the Society to help with meals, with ironing and babysitting, or with whatever was needed in emergency situations. It was perhaps only natural that several members soon found themselves participating in the Meals-on-Wheels project from its inception.

To help the general parish budget, the Society undertook larger money-making projects. One such project was the "Trees of Christmas," rivaling the display at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. As a cultural and educational project, the "Trees of Christmas" was received enthusiastically by teachers and school children alike.

In 1969 the Society held its first Cellar-to-Garrett Sale; the twentieth annual Cellar-to-Garrett Sale in 1989 surpassed all previous sales in generating income. This major fund-raising event offers clothing and household items at affordable prices to those on limited budgets. With Lucille and Oscar Kocher's retirement, the Cellar-to-Garrett Sale will need a volunteer organizer, or co-chairs, if it is to continue.

These and other projects became service projects that benefited the entire community and allowed the Society to be generous to the parish treasury as well. From 1968 to 1978 over \$20,000 was donated to the parish.



With the construction of the main hall in the mid-sixties, members formed a group that planned and served wedding receptions. Even today members offer a special service to families and friends of the recently deceased; after a funeral Mass, if the family wishes, a luncheon is prepared and served in the parish center.

Making and keeping the church a "fit and becoming habitation for Our Lord" has been a century-long concern for members of the Altar and Rosary Society, today's St. Patrick's Guild. The organization continues to provide devoted service to cleaning and tidying up after the hundreds of us that gather to worship in community there each week. Smudges from small noses and pudgy fingers pressed against glass walls and doors do not magically disappear; candles rarely burn cleanly and neatly; altar linens do not stay fresh indefinitely. For nearly a hundred years this group has cared for the "house of the Lord."

Changing life-styles, the transient nature of a university community, and dramatic parish growth have resulted in abandonment of many projects that benefited the parish and the community at large. Yet, . . .

Today's Guild members continue to roll bandages (on second and fourth Wednesdays) for the Medical Missions, continue their compassionate ministry to Champaign County Nursing Home residents, continue to participate in the Meals-on-Wheels project, continue to

provide luncheons (on request) for family and friends following funerals, continue their care of the church and altar, continue their support of parish and parishioners.

Too numerous to mention are the causes supported financially by this group, the special assistance provided on request. Almost every group in the parish, almost every room in parish buildings, has benefited from Guild interest.

Last December, at their Christmas tea, members elected new officers to two-year terms: Mary Sleeter, secretary-treasurer; Mary Ann Luedtke, vice-president; Nancy Steerman, president. In May the Guild will hold its "Spring Fling," to which all of us have been invited. See you there!



Charter Membership Still Open

The March issue of *In Focus* carried an invitation to charter membership in a group of "associates" whose monthly contributions would fund the ordinary operating expenses of the Catholic Worker House. (The CWH operates on a slim budget of \$600 a month for food and other necessities for the many people they serve. Only 60 "associates" giving \$10 a month would provide what is needed.)

Friends of the CWH report that many of you indicated interest in charter membership and even sent a first installment. Some sent "a year's worth" in one check to be sure they didn't miss an installment later on. About \$600 was received, enough to provide a month's needs--a fantastic response, and one for which CWH is most grateful!

If you meant to send off a letter but didn't get around to it, pick up the telephone and call Ellen McDowell (356-7101), or send your monthly contribution to: Friends of the Catholic Worker House, P.O. Box 1612, Champaign, IL 61824-1612.



Guild officers (from the left): Nancy Steerman, president; Mary Ann Luedtke, vice-president; Mary Sleeter, secretary-treasurer.



St. Patrick's Guild Plans "Spring Fling"

St. Patrick's Guild invites parishioners to join them at a potluck (main hall, 6:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, May 15. "Bring your favorite antique or treasure," adds president Nancy Steerman, "for Barb Packham's appraisal."

Although the Guild's afternoon Christmas tea was well attended, the Spring Fling has been planned for early evening to accommodate those who are employed outside the home. "Men of the parish are as welcome as their spouses," Nancy pointed out. "We really want them to come!"

So mark your calendars, check your recipes for a dish to share, and search your attics for that special treasure you've wanted for years to have appraised. Need transportation? Leave your name and telephone number at the parish office (367-2665), and someone will call you.



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; Bridget Peters, 337-7663; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Merdy Smith, 367-6159; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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

Articles and information for the April issue were contributed by Florence Chevalier, Peggy Darragh, Bob Kimmey, Jan Lipska, Mary Lou Menches, Bridget Peters, Gary Riskowski, Nancy Steerman, Bill Subick, Peggy Whelan.

Have you ever felt that financial difficulties were driving you from "pillar to post," that you surmounted one crisis only to face another?

Five years ago the Diocese of Peoria was at the "pillar," with the "post" just ahead. The traditional source of diocesan revenue, parish assessments, was inadequate to fund the increasing number of requests for programs and support services; the Cathedral was in need of major repair and renovation; a growing number of parishes wanted to borrow from the diocesan loan fund; reserves were at a minimum.

Taking a bold step, Bishop O'Rourke introduced the diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal. Through its 211 parishes and missions, the diocese would turn directly to the people for financial support of its programs and administration.

Five years ago St. Patrick's Parish faced retiring a substantial debt on the newly completed wing of the parish center while responding to requests for additional program and support activities. Not yet at the "pillar," we were aware of the challenge.

Sharing Bishop O'Rourke's trust in each parishioner's generosity, the Parish Council added a \$20,000 debt re-

Parish Goal Set for Diocesan Appeal



irement goal to the first Annual Stewardship Appeal.

This confidence has been rewarded. Not only have we met our diocesan goal in each of the previous four years, but we have also raised approximately \$80,000 to apply toward retirement of our debt. Because this money has been used to reduce the principal, we have saved \$13,000 in interest payments as well.

This year the Diocese of Peoria makes its fifth Annual Stewardship Appeal. Through our giving we can again directly participate in the "apostolates and agencies that enable the Church of Peoria, under the direction of Bishop Myers, to reach across parish boundaries." We can become a part of Catho-

lic Social Service, the office of religious education, the marriage tribunal, seminary education and the diaconate program, the office of Christian worship, the office of family life, and more.

At a time when many dioceses are closing facilities and scaling back programs, the Diocese of Peoria, because of its people's generosity and the bishops' careful management, is able to maintain its programs and plan for responding to developing needs.

For 1990, St. Patrick's has a combined goal of \$65,000. Our A.S.A. goal is \$45,000, to which the Parish Council has added \$20,000 for debt retirement. Dave Murrell and Lissa May, chair and assistant chair of our parish A.S.A. team, look forward with enthusiasm to meeting this year's challenge. Both are impressed by the caring and competent people of St. Patrick's who give so generously of time, talent, and treasure.

Soon team captains will be recruiting team workers to receive pledges in the parish center and to contact, by phone or in person, the parishioners who have not responded on the two weekends of the Appeal: April 28-29 and May 5-6. If you are interested in helping, call Lissa May (384-5109, home; 367-1105, office) or Dave Murrell (344-6692, home).

Meet Isidore of Seville

Do you ever have the feeling that you could be doing more for God and his Church? Sometimes a little inspiration can get us out of the daily humdrum of life and to doing a little extra to bear fruit for our faith. Numerous saints offer the inspiration to help us change our lives.

One of these saints, Isidore of Seville, accomplished much in his time; he is honored by the Church on April 4.

Isidore lived from 560 to 636 A.D. and was Bishop of Seville, Spain. He is considered one of the great figures in the history of Spain and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1722.

Isidore was brilliant, well educated, and a prolific writer. He wrote dictionaries, works of astronomy, geography, and history, as well as theology. He may be best known for writing a 20-volume encyclopedia, called "Etymologies" ("Origins"), which was used by

European scholars as an important reference for over 1000 years.

As if that weren't enough, St. Isidore reorganized the Spanish Church and developed an advanced educational system that made Spain a center of culture in Europe. He also spent a great deal of time converting the Arian Visigoths, who had invaded his country.

Arianism, one of several heresies that the Church has had to deal with over the centuries, had its beginning in 318 A.D. It was introduced by Arius, a priest from Alexandria, Egypt. Arians rejected the doctrine of the Trinity and denied the divinity of Jesus.

Arianism was quickly condemned by the Church, but it continued to spread among the German tribes of northern Europe. When these tribes invaded southern lands, they reintroduced the heresy. Through the work of people like Isidore, these tribes were convert-

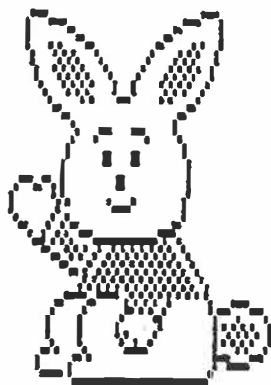
ed back to the Church and Arianism died out in the 600s.

Just reading about this man and his accomplishments is exhausting. Yet his life demonstrates what God can accomplish through us if we cooperate.

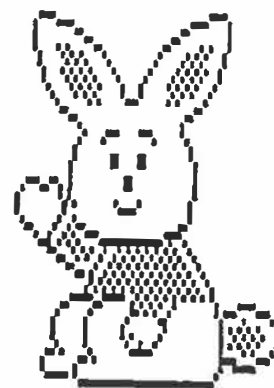


Please welcome new parishioners Kelly and Barbara Bohlen, Donald and Edith Borg, Trudy Diepholz, Alan and Melissa Fulk, James and Constance Keen, David and Lynn Pointer, Ken and Mary Welle, Holly Whisler, Aaron and Christine Woosley, Daniel Walsh and Naneera Vidhayasibinun.

Farewell to Kristiana Althaus, Robert Francis, Ruth and Joe Jilka, Joseph and Fidelia Obi, John Peter Smith, and Jud and Peg Thorne, parishioners who have moved from C-U.



April 1990



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 Parish Council Election, all Masses 8-11a Library open 9:11a Children's classes 9:30a RCIA	2 10:30a Surrender 7:15 p GROW 10:15a Children's Liturgy 3p Confirmation, parents	3 1:30p CCNH, Rosary, cookies 7p First Communion prep 7:30p Liturgy Committee	4 5:45p Children's class/U 6:45p Children's class/St J 7p RCIA 7p SVDP 7p GROW 7p Pro-Life	5 1p GROW 6:45p F Choir 7:30p Chrism Mass, Peoria Cathedral 7p Choir 7p Communicatns 7:30p Par Council Exec Com mtg	6 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5-7:30p KC Fish Fry 5:15p Stations of the Cross	7
8 8a Hospitality Table 9:11a Children's classes 9:30a RCIA 10:15a Children's Liturgy 3p Confirmation,	9 10:30a Surrender 7:15p GROW 7:30p Communal Penance, St. Matthew's parents 4p Y&R meeting	10 1:45p CCNH Mass 4-5:30p Individual confessions 7p Financial Affairs Committee 7p First Communion prep 7:30p Communal penance, St Pats	11 1p MM Bldg Roll 5:45p Children's class/U 6:45p Children's class/St J 7p Choir 7p GROW 7p SVDP 7:15p Bldg & Grd	12 HOLY THURSDAY 7a Mornng praise 7:30p Holy Thursday Liturgy Com meeting 7:30p Communal penance Hly Cns	13 GOOD FRIDAY 7a Mornng praise 10:45a CCNH, Stations, Communion 3p Station of the Cross 7:30p Good Friday Liturgy	14 HOLY SATURDAY 8a Morning praise 8a RCIA, prep rites 7:30p Easter Vigil Liturgy
15 EASTER	16 OFFICE CLOSED 7:15p GROW	17 1:30p CCNH, Rosary, cookies 7p First Communion prep	18 5:45p Children's class/U 6:45p Children's class/St J 7p Choir 7p SVDP 7p GROW 7:30p Soc Action	19 1p GROW 7p Baptism prep 7:30p Parish Council meeting Com meeting 7:30p ASA Workers meeting	20 10:45a CCNH, Mass	21
22 8-11a Library open 9:11a Children's classes 10a RCIA Mystagogia 10:15a Children's Liturgy	23 7:15p GROW 3p Confirmation, parents	24 1:30p CCNH, Rosary, cookies 7p First Communion prep 7p Homily prep	25 1p MM Bandage rolling 7p GROW 7p SVDP	26 1p GROW 7:30p Personnel Com meeting 7:30p K of C	27 10:30a Amer/U, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass	28
29 2,4 p First Communion celebrations	30 7:15p GROW					

Amer/C: Americana, Champaign
 Amer/U: Americana, Urbana
 CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home
 MM: Medical Missions
 SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul
 KC: Knights of Columbus
 Y & R: The Young and the Restless

