

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Children's Gift-Making Workshop Offered

Here's an offer hard to resist (but then, why would you want to?!). On a Sunday afternoon in December children will have the opportunity to make presents for family and friends and to enjoy videos, refreshments, and a Christmas Sing-along. Parents will have an afternoon free to go Christmas shopping, prepare a few family surprises for the holiday, or even just relax for a few hours while their children are happily occupied.

Organized by Mary Yemma Long, the afternoon promises to be a great opportunity for children aged 3-12 to express their own creativity with a little friendly guidance.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 16, 2-5 p.m., and make your family plans now. Admission per child is \$1.50 and a canned or packaged dry food item for the Food Pantry. (And scholarships are available, so don't let cost keep you away!)

An RSVP to the parish office by Dec. 3 is requested so that adequate supplies and refreshments are on hand for all.

If you have questions or suggestions or want to help with refreshments or craft projects, call Mary at 328-2989.



Christmas Is Something to Sing About!

"Singing is normal," says liturgist Aidan Kavanaugh, "when people have something to sing about." Well, Christmas is surely something to sing about, and John Pescitelli (parish Music Director) is offering to all a special chance to sing about it.

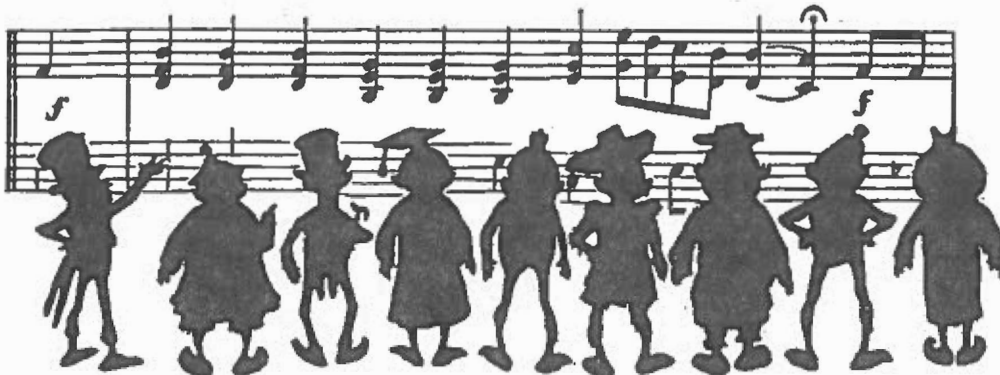
In the weeks of Advent our parish choirs practice many new pieces or new arrangements of familiar pieces for Christmas liturgies and the Christmas season. Glorious music that swells the heart and tingles the toes and elevates the spirit in celebration of one of the central mysteries of our faith—God made flesh in the womb of Mary.

Parishioners who are unable to join the choir on a permanent basis may find it an agreeable experience to participate in choral singing during this special "season of glad songs." Volunteers are especially welcome during this time, since many of the choir members spend Christmas holidays with their families in other places, swelling the glad singing elsewhere.

If you'd like to sing with the choirs for Christmas, call John Pescitelli at the parish office (367-2665), or simply come to the church for rehearsals. Times are posted regularly in the parish bulletin.

And if you're thinking about the possibility of a more permanent arrangement, this might just be the chance you're looking for!

"All God's creatures got a place in the choir," begins an old folk song. We are God's people, and we shall always have a song to sing and a time and place for singing!



Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

How are you and your family planning to "prepare the way of the Lord" this Advent? St. Patrick's offers several opportunities for the venturesome.

On the First Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist will visit the Children's Liturgy to announce the coming of Christ.

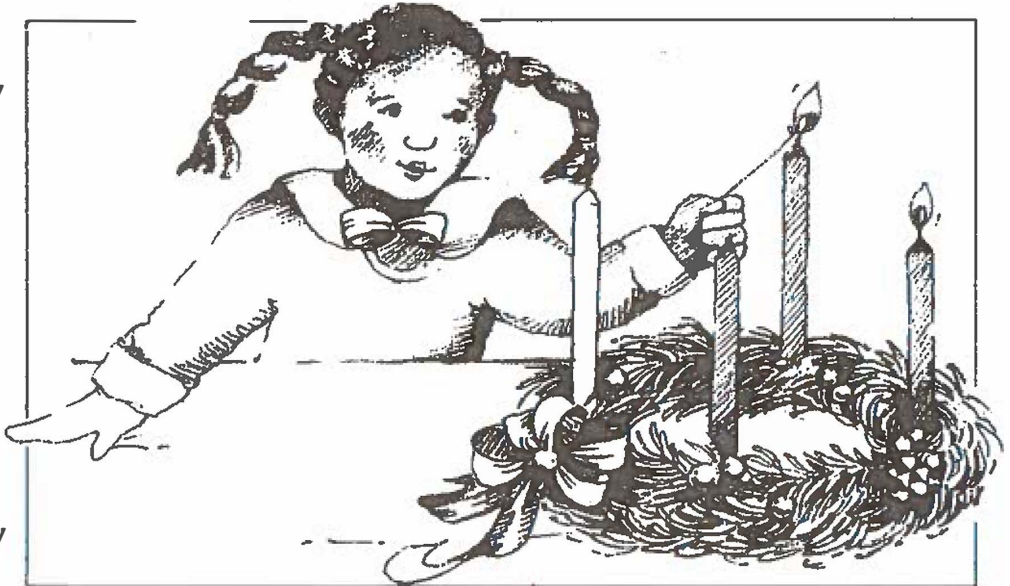
Each religious-education classroom will have an Advent wreath, and as they light a candle each week the children will discuss how they are waiting and getting ready for the Lord.

Each classroom will also have a "Jesse Tree," on which the children will hang drawings of symbols of salvation, such as the rainbow after the Flood and the Ark of the Covenant.

Evening prayer will once again be offered on the Wednesdays of Advent at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room. This traditional prayer of the Church is offered by priests, religious, and many lay people the world over, each day praising the Lord of all. It is also an opportunity for parishioners to welcome and pray with parish catechumens.

Parishioners can also deepen their knowledge and understanding of scripture through study sessions offered on the Bible stories of Jesus' birth, using materials developed by the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Four separate groups will be formed, facilitated by Carolyn McElrath, Barb Adams, and Audrey Brown: Sundays at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m., beginning Nov. 18, and Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m., beginning Nov. 28. Please register with Carolyn McElrath.

Some religious-education classes will be performing good works during Advent. Third-graders will



make brown-bag lunches for the Catholic Worker House. And high-schoolers will help the Catholic Worker House and the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their ministries.

To give parents time for Christmas shopping, Mary Yemma Long is organizing a crafts day (Sunday, Dec. 16, 2-5 p.m.) for the children of the parish.

Both the St. Joseph and the Urbana religious-education classes are planning Christmas caroling and parties to cap the season.

Advent books, tapes, and other materials for families and individuals will once again be available this year: book and tapes for borrowing, and books and calendars and daily prayer booklets for purchase.

All families with children are invited to join in the celebration of Christ's birth at the 4 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. liturgies for children on Christmas Eve. Other liturgies are planned for 10:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and at 7:30, 10:30, and noon on Christmas Day.



Please welcome new parishioners Thomas and Christina Burtzos, Joseph and Frances Hulseman, Mary Agnes Johnson, John and Lia McMahon, Ray and Kim Schnizlein, Barbara Stover.



Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Steven and Wendy Allen, David and Linda Bennett, Abel and Martha Cepeda-Diaz, Robert Gleissner, Anna Schulenberg, Peter and Kathryn Stubing.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Christian David Fairbanks Kurtz, Kristen Andrea Burtzos, Samantha Christine Ingram, Hannah Rose Noonan, Camille Elena Bookter, Mary Allison Danner.



Please pray for the following parishioners, recently deceased: Cassie Miller, Isabelle Grant, Eugene Williams, Royal Busey.



Advent Hymn Echoes Isaiah

On the Sundays of Advent we will be singing a hymn that is new to most of us. Much of the hymn, called "Christ, the Healing Word of God," is an imaginative paraphrase of the prophecies of Isaiah, especially the passages referred to as the "suffering servant songs." Although they may seem oddly placed in Advent, they are indeed prophecies of Jesus' coming:

*The voice of God goes out to all the world;
God's glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries from star to star:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

*Give glory to the mystery revealed,
The voice of God, his image and his Word:
His word is peace, the image of his grace:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

*The Lord has said: "Receive my messenger,
My promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
A lamp to every nation, light from light":
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

*The broken reed he will not trample down,
Nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

*Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
He comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
To show the face of justice to the poor:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

*His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
The lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
And prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
With power, with justice, he will walk his way.*

The hymn was written by Luke Connaughton (1917-1979), an English journalist. He served as the literary editor of a small hymnal, "Sing a New Song to the Lord," which was published in 1970.

The hymn tune, published in 1551, was among those used by the early Calvinists at Geneva for the singing of Psalms. This 4-line version is almost as widely used in hymnals as the earlier 5-line form.

As we sing this hymn during the weeks of December, we may find in it the past/present/future thread of which Advent is woven.



Dear Diary,

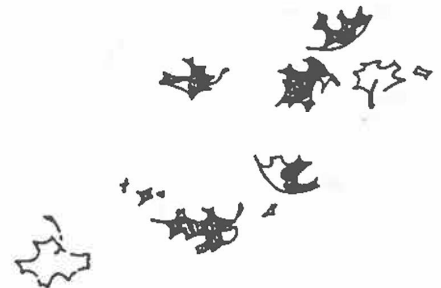


Thanksgiving arrived with its usual break in my routine. Tonight the neighborhood is very still as chimes in the distance announce the late hour. I take comfort from its familiar repeated tones—one of those daily recurrences a regular feature of the place I call home.

I am grateful to God for this place where I know God has brought me to make my home. Too close on my heels are echoes of the lonely wanderer's song, which filled many restless years. Past Thanksgivings, like most holidays, accentuated my displacement, underscored my rootlessness, and magnified my solitude. This year I give thanks for the stability, security, and friendship that come with finding one's place and being "at home."

This sense of being at home is one of the little things that give rise to greater joys as I reflect on my past year here. The leaves on the tree in the yard behind my house are the first in my neighborhood to turn golden and loosen their hold on the tree. I remember it was that way, too, last year. While I gaze over the rooftops from my second-story window, I find quiet happiness in the fact that I am here to witness this transformation again this year.

With as much moving around as I've done, it's possible to miss the ordinary occurrences and events that weave a picture and history of a place. This year I give thanks to be at home and a part of all those events, now anticipated, that were new to me last year. I look forward to enjoying them, God willing, for years to come!



God's Marvelous Plan: The Immaculate Conception of Mary



On Saturday, Dec. 8, the Church celebrates a major step in the fulfillment of God's plan for our salvation, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the miraculous conception of Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mother, but to the conception of Mary, without the stain of original sin, in the womb of her mother. This doctrine of the Church holds that God preserved Mary from sin at the moment that she was conceived because she was to bear the Son of God in her womb.

The belief in Mary's sinlessness appeared early in the history of the Church. The early Christians contemplated the angel's statement that Mary was full of grace and Elizabeth's declaration that Mary was blessed among women. Mary herself proclaimed that "He who is mighty has done great things for me."

In the fourth century St. Ambrose spoke of Mary as free of every stain of sin. St. Augustine argued logically that there must have been an abundance of grace conferred upon the one who was to conceive and bear Jesus, in whom there was no sin.

Finally, in 1854, Pope Pius IX defined the official teaching: "The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the foreseen merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." The pope stressed that Mary's sinlessness was due to the merits of her son, Jesus, not her own.

God calls each of us to be his own from the time of our conception. We are born with original sin and must deal with its effects in our lives, but we have grace to help us lead faithful lives.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of God made flesh, let's take time on Dec. 8 to praise and thank God for his plan for our salvation.

At St. Patrick's, this feast will be observed at 5:15 p.m. Mass on Friday, Dec. 7, and at 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 8.

St. Patrick's Guild Reactivated

You just can't stop when you're 99 years old, can you? Well, that's what St. Patrick's Guild, established in 1901, decided at its business meeting and luncheon on October 18.

President Nancy Steerman recalled some of the Guild's past achievements and its current "backburner" position in the life of the parish. Lively discussion focused on the need for a women's organization in a parish the size of St. Patrick's.

Today the Guild's principal activities include calling on the residents of Champaign County Nursing Home, rolling bandages for the Medical Missions, arranging for luncheons following funeral liturgies as requested by families of deceased parishioners.

That more and more women are working outside the home, with limited outside interests, was readily acknowledged by the group. However, for women with a desire and need for friendship and camaraderie a new version of the Guild may be in order.

Members settled on four meetings a year beginning in 1991, alternating afternoons and evenings: Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m.; May 6, 6:00 p.m., Sept. 2, 1:30 p.m.; and Dec. 2, 6:00 p.m. The first program will feature Lenore Nagele's account of her experiences in Africa during the summer of 1990.

Privileges of membership include a monthly Mass offered for deceased members.

In other action at the October meeting, members authorized a donation of \$200 to Vincent Bui, former parishioner and catechist in the religious-education program, who has resumed his education at a seminary in Baltimore.



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: Tom McDonough, 367-3171; 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, Amy Fahey, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz, Alice Schrader.

Articles and information for the December issue were contributed by Helen Barrymore, Peggy Darragh, Freda DeCerbo, Helene Kacich, Mary Yemma Long, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Gary Riskowski, Cathy Salika.

Advent: A Past, Present, Future Season

Advent is a season wrapped up in time. As we celebrate Advent each year, we bring together thoughts of the past, the present, and the future.

We remember the past. We remember the many generations of Israelites who awaited the coming of the Messiah who would drive away the effects of sin and bring about the reign of God. We who know sin look to that Messiah for reconciliation.

"Our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love.."

We consider the present. In the midst of all our Christmas cards and Christmas shopping and Christmas cookies, we remember that these are just the external festivities surrounding our celebration of the reality of God come among us as a man. What more could God have done to show the intimacy of his love for every one of us?

"The earth rejoices in the hope of the Savior's coming. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow."

"In his love, Christ has filled us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise."

We hope for the future. We hope for the day when the Kingdom of God will be complete and all will be made one with God.

"Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory."

Thank you, Beth!

If you have enjoyed the beautiful banner displayed in the church during the last season of RENEW, thank Beth McDonald and her team of liturgical artists.

Beth has just completed a two-year term with St. Patrick's Liturgy Committee as Coordinator for Liturgical Arts. As such, she worked with the parish sacristan and other talented parishioners to provide many of the vestments and banners used with our parish liturgies.

At the beginning of her term, Beth decided to concentrate on several major projects, including the set of light green vestments for use during the Ordinary Time of the Church's liturgical year and banners for Advent. Still being completed is a new set of vestments for funerals.

Beth also designed and created the RENEW banners and coordinated vestments used each season. Starting with rough ideas contributed by the various groups that participate in the planning of our parish liturgies, Beth developed



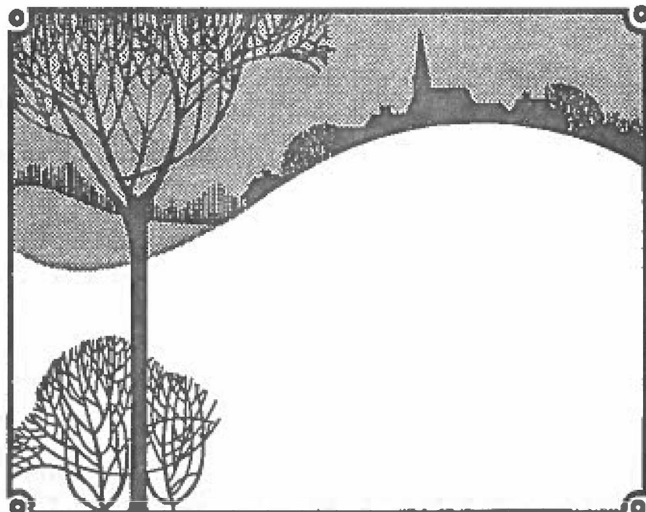
original designs for each of these projects and worked with her team of stitchers and others to bring them to fruition.

A special feature of Beth's service has been her ability to involve others. This not only helps to ease the work for each person but also enriches the parish by enabling many people to contribute their time and talent.

Beth is succeeded by Jim Rossi, who joined St. Patrick's a few months ago.

Advent is a time to savor the past, the present, and the future.

"Lord, may all Christian people both know and cherish the heavenly gifts they have received."



Cub Scout Anthony DeCerbo Earns Parvuli Dei Medal

Third-grader Anthony DeCerbo, with the help and encouragement of his mother, Freda, and advisor Nancy Rowley, has completed requirements for the special Parvuli Dei award.

The Parvuli Dei award ("Parvuli Dei" means "little ones of God") is given in special recognition by the Church to a Cub Scout for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual growth.

This award is earned only through the investment of considerable effort sustained over the better part of a year. All the work is done in the environment of family.

Here are just some of the things Anthony did:

- Reading Genesis with his family and drawing some of God's creations
- Writing a prayer and reading it at a family dinner
- With lighted candles and family preparation, reading passages from

John, 1 Corinthians, and Matthew

- Making a family tree of his Church family and his own family
- Participating in Church service projects and activities (Anthony helped with the K of C fish fry, Sunday Coffee Shop, and short enactments of Gospel stories at Children's Liturgy, and he gave his own earnings in his own envelopes on Sundays.)
- Spending time with the sick (Anthony visited a local nursing home and helped take residents to and from a communal praying of the rosary.)
- Reading passages from Luke with his family
- Making a banner depicting what he learned from these and other activities

Upon completion of the requirements, Anthony was interviewed by Fr. George Remm, who reviewed the written and visual work he had done. He was honored in a



full school assembly at Holy Cross by principal Marilyn Joseph on Nov. 8 and will be presented with the Parvuli Dei medal by Fr. Remm at St. Patrick's 9:00 a.m. Mass on Nov. 25.

Congratulations, Anthony! And felicitations as well to your mother, Freda, and your advisor, Nancy. No small achievement, indeed!

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Carole Rebeiz

Minestrone

- 1 32-oz can chicken broth
- 1/4 lb string beans, cut in 1-inch lengths
- 1 medium carrot, cubed
- 1 medium turnip, cubed
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 4 green onions, sliced
- 1 stalk broccoli, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, mashed
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 3 T tomato paste
- 1 zucchini, grated
- 1/2 c macaroni or egg noodles
- 1 c kidney beans or garbanzos
- 1/4 c red cooking wine

- 1 t sugar
- salt to taste
- 1/4 c chopped parsley
- 1/4 c shredded raw spinach
- grated Parmesan cheese

Bring broth to a boil. Add beans, carrots, turnips, and green peppers; simmer 15 minutes. Add cabbage, onions, and broccoli; simmer 15 minutes. Mix garlic, pepper, bouillon dissolved in 1 cup boiling water, and tomato paste. Add to soup with zucchini, beans, and macaroni; boil 10 minutes. Stir in wine and sugar, and add salt to taste. Serve with parsley and spinach and plenty of Parmesan.



Maybe not so quick, but certainly delicious! Carole says that, doubled, the recipe makes enough soup for the family and for the Catholic Worker House too.

Parish Council News

At their November meeting Parish Council members agreed to allocate \$2000 to cover expenses that may be incurred in devising an instrument for the parish survey discussed in October. The survey would include census and demographic information and a needs assessment.

An ad hoc committee to review the parish mission statement is being formed. Chaired by Council president Barb Wysocki, the group so far includes Sr. Charlene and Cecelia Weir, with others from the parish to be added. Input to the process is being sought from parish staff, committees, organizations, and the parish at large.

The financial report for the end of October indicates that income for the year to date exceeds projections

by about \$7000, with expenditures about \$7700 less than projected. As good as these numbers appear, however, they indicate only a 3% variation from the annual budgeted figures. So it seems that our budget may be right on target.

Since it seems probable that St. Patrick's may receive an assistant from the class of newly ordained priests next summer, the search for adequate housing for pastor and assistant is being stepped up. A couple of housing opportunities have been explored. One of these, although modest in size, is particularly attractive because of its proximity to the church and low maintenance.

All committees are reminded that information about new programs proposed for the next fiscal year is

to be submitted to the Council by Dec. 7.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the January issue of In Focus is December 16.



Shirley Splittstoesser Wins Distinguished Educator Award

Those who know Shirley Splittstoesser as a teacher are probably not surprised to hear of her award, and those of us who know her as friend and parishioner rejoice to see her honored.

One of the finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, Shirley has been named one of 12 educators in Illinois to win the \$25,000 Distinguished Educator Award. This award is co-sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Milken Family Foundation.

Shirley, who teaches at Wiley Elementary School, was described in a recent C-U New-Gazette article as very caring and concerned, creative and innovative in the classroom, and not afraid to take risks.

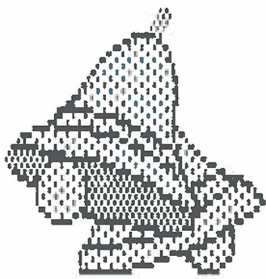
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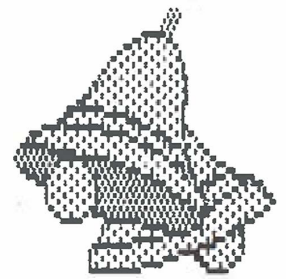
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revealed in her contributions to parish life, where she serves as chair of the Financial Affairs Committee and has been active in developing plans for stewardship

and development at St. Patrick's. Congratulations, Shirley, and thank you!



DECEMBER 1990



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Amer/C: Americana, Champaign
 Amer/U: Americana, Urbana
 CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home
 KC: Knights of Columbus
 MM: Medical Missions
 SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul
 TNT: Twenties 'n' Thirties

1
 TNT - CSEC
 Fundraiser

<p>2 8a Lady of the Snows Trip 8a Library 9a RCIA 9a, 11a, 6-10p Religious Ed 10:15a Child Lit</p>	<p>3 7p Education Com 7:15p GROW 7:30p Liturgy Comm 7:30p LOVE</p>	<p>4 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p First Reconciliation Celebration</p>	<p>5 Religious Ed 5:45p - Urbana 6:45p - St. Joe 7p SVOP 7p Choir 7p Pro-Life 7p RCIA 7p Eve. Prayer</p>	<p>6 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Personnel Comm</p>	<p>7 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5:15p Mass, Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>8 8a Holy Day Mass 5p Mass, Second Sunday of Advent</p>
<p>9 8a Hospitality Table 9a RCIA 9a, 11a, 6-10p Religious Ed 10:15a Child Lit</p>	<p>10 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE</p>	<p>11 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p Financial Affairs Comm 7p Parish Council Exec Comm Mtg</p>	<p>12 1p MM Bandage Rolling Religious Ed 5:45p - Urbana 6:45p - St. Joe 7p RCIA 7p SVDP 7p Choir</p>	<p>13 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Baptism Preparation 7p Eve. Prayer 7:15p Building & Grounds Comm</p>	<p>14 10:30a Fontana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8a Library 9a RCIA 9a, 11a, 6-10p Religious Ed 10:15a Child Lit 2-5p Children's Gift Making Workshop</p>	<p>17 7p Cursillo 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE 7:30p Communal Penance Service St. Matthew's</p>	<p>18 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7:30p Communal Penance Service St. Patrick's</p>	<p>19 Religious Ed 5:45p - Urbana 6:45p - St. Joe 7p SVOP 7p Choir 7:30p Communal Penance Service Holy Cross</p>	<p>20 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Parish Council Mtg</p>	<p>21 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE Masses at 4p, 6:30p, & 10p 10:30p</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY Masses at 7:30a, 10:30a, & Noon OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26 7p SVDP 7p Communication Comm</p>	<p>27 7:30p K of C Mtg</p>	<p>28 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31 5:15p New Year's Eve Mass 7:15p GROW</p>					

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA