

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

In Focus



The Magi Sought Truth

On Jan. 6 the Church celebrates the Epiphany, the feast that commemorates the revelation of God's plan of salvation to all people.

The first sign of this revelation came through the Magi, gentiles guided by God to pay homage to the King of the Jews. The Magi were the first to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone."

Stories abound about the Magi, who they were, even how many there were, these men from the East who saw the pinpoint of light from a special star piercing the darkness. With only limited knowledge of the meaning of this sign, they embarked on a strenuous journey to pay homage and to bear gifts to a King.

Their behavior was in sharp contrast to that of the then-reigning king of the Jews, King Herod. Although all the Hebrew scriptures were available to him, Herod was

unaware of the birth of a new king until informed by the Magi. Feeling personally threatened by this news, not only did Herod not go with them to pay homage, but he secretly planned to do away with the newborn King. The wise men were seekers of truth, while Herod was concerned only with the things of earth. The light of God pierces the darkness, but only those seriously seeking truth will find the light and be drawn to it.

Information from Herod's counselors led the wise men to Bethlehem, where they found the infant Jesus. To him they brought gifts symbolizing the real nature of this child: gold, his kingly humanity; frankincense, his divinity; myrrh (an ointment used at burial), his redemptive death.

By following a sign, the Magi became a sign to us. We too must continuously seek truth and light so as not to live in darkness, our gift an open heart.

Seeing in the New Year from a Different Perspective

I was about eight years old for the first New Year's Eve I can remember. My sister and I were up 'way past our usual bedtime. Filled with excitement, we sensed that this night was somehow different from all others, and the gathering of grown-ups for a party downstairs served to heighten the festive atmosphere.

Mother came up to check on us and found us watching a New Year's Eve television program, counting down the hours to midnight (although we didn't really understand why). She then explained the yearly ritual and the making of New Year's resolutions.

With only a couple of hours to go in the entire year, my imagination was tickled by the ridiculous. I announced my intention to stand on my head for the rest of the year—and upended myself on the spot.

Continuing in this vein, I rattled off a variety of chores I'd not have to perform again "all year!" Gravity soon deterred my youthful resolve to see in the New Year upside down. (So much for long-lasting resolutions!)

On awaking next morning I faced my first challenge to keep a chosen resolution. How well I succeeded, or even grasped the import of the undertaking, I can only speculate. Like most of us, indeed at any age, I had probably



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New Year, from page 1

forgotten it within a couple of weeks.

The making of resolutions is indicative of our human struggle, a demonstration of hope and faith for the future. This "rite of passage" from the old year to the new serves as the occasion for reflection and a rallying point for change. Whatever our resolution, we grow in a new direction. The success of the endeavor is not the crucial issue; the goal, the ultimate purpose (worthy of a lifetime of endeavor) is to perfect our love and communion with God.



Funeral Schola Brings Christmas Music to Nursing Home

A "first" for St. Patrick's, a schola has been formed to sing at funeral Masses. (A schola is a small choir organized to provide a certain type of music for a specific purpose, usually singing in unison rather than in harmony.)

The schola took shape a couple of months ago at the invitation of music director John Pescitelli. The group has already sung at several funerals and provided Christmas music for a Mass celebrated at the Champaign County Nursing Home, at which Fr. George Remm conferred the Sacrament of Healing on the residents present.

John saw the need for a funeral schola made up of parishioners who could sing at services held during the workday, when most

funeral Masses are celebrated.

"Also," he added, "I was tired of hearing just my own voice singing alone!"

Schola members are Virginia Alane, Audrey Brown, Nancy Costa, Betty Daly, Peggy Darragh, Nicki Davis, Amy Fahey, Lula Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Hammond, Sr. Mary K. Himens, Connie Knake, Mary Ann Luedtke, Lu Pillar, Zoila Risatti, and Nancy Steerman.

More members are welcome (John would especially like to add the sound of male voices). The company is inviting. Practices are held twice a month, at 9:00 a.m. on first and third Tuesdays. Watch the bulletin for announced dates and come along. Or call John Pescitelli, 367-2665.



Fr. Remm confers the Sacrament of Healing on a resident during Mass at the Champaign County Nursing Home on Dec. 7.



St. Patrick's Funeral Schola at the Champaign County Nursing Home (from the left): Cheryl Hammond, Peggy Darragh, John Pescitelli, Virginia Alane, Audrey Brown, Betty Daly, Zoila Risatti, Mary Ann Luedtke, and Lula Fitzpatrick.

Bring Your Party to Our Party!

"With the spirit of RENEW moving in our parish community in rousing and wonderful ways," says Carol Bosley, "we look forward to an especially exciting New Year's Eve celebration this year at St. Patrick's.

Speaking for all the planners, Carol invites parishioners to come as individuals, as couples, even as groups. "We hope that members of RENEW small groups will plan to come and enjoy the evening together. We'll be happy to extend a personal invitation to anyone who may not have received one—just let us know!"



Accommodatingly, Carol offers to reserve a table for your group, to provide the special songs or music for dancing that you request in advance, even to cater to your taste for mustard on your sandwich.

What more could anyone ask for?

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased from Faith Hayersperger (367-6917), Carol Bosley (469-2700), or the parish office (367-2665). If you haven't purchased yours yet, there's still time!

"Bring your party to our party" on Monday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., St. Patrick's parish center.

Please welcome new parishioners Margaret Darragh, Garry and Patricia Langefeld, Bruce and Christine McCurry, John and Linda Rasmussen, E. Andrew and Elizabeth Stafford, John and Catherine Stierman, Joseph Wu.



Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Matthew and Janet Richards, Jim Rossi.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Cecelia Rose Mauceri, Sarah Ann and Lauren Nicole Cylkowski, Andrew Robert Hughes, Sarah Elizabeth Orfanedes, Samuel Richardson.



Please pray for Jeffrey Croix, recently deceased.



Congratulations to newlyweds Robert Zeng and Lisa Lammers, Timothy Walker and Kelly Wolfersberger, David Clark and Mary Barnes, Mitchell Sonsteng and Carla Skipton, Mark Clark and Joan Stolz, James Bopp and Julie Edwards, Erik Graybeal and Janice Marrett, Robert Treleven and Nancy Conrad, Carlos Saldana and Trelawny Maase, Herbert DeLey and Pam Donze-Morrow, Christopher Conerty and Kimberly Woller.



Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Betty Daly



Brunch Punch

1-lb pkg frozen raspberries
6-oz can frozen lemonade concentrate
1/2 c orange juice
2 c water
1 pt (or 12 oz) bottle ginger ale

Put raspberries and lemonade concentrate, still frozen, into punch bowl. Add orange juice and water, and allow to stand until all is nearly thawed, stirring occasionally. Add ginger ale just before serving. Serves 25.



Focus on . . . St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee

"We need to keep the light of life alive in our own hearts," says Lu Pillar, chair of the Pro-Life Committee. Formed in 1987, this group meets to share, study, pray, and plan activities that foster reverence for life, the complete spectrum of life.



At their meetings on first Wednesdays, members often review and discuss a video on life issues. They are concerned with the rights of the disabled and handicapped, with living wills ("a tricky, complex subject," one member said), with abortion, fetal transplantation, euthanasia.

The group sponsors Respect Life activities each October. Annually they hold an ecumenical prayer vigil, which has been well attended by members of many local churches. All parishioners are invited to the next such vigil, to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., in St. Patrick's church. Fr. Remm and pastors from other community churches will be homilists. Baby sitting will be provided in the parish center during the prayer service, and a reception will follow.

The Pro-Life Committee serves the parish as a resource for current

videos and literature on life issues. Parishioners may borrow materials for use with groups, or for private reflection, by calling Lu Pillar (344-4909).

This committee has no official connection with any other pro-life or political-action group, although individual members may participate in other such groups. The parish committee does encourage letter-writing campaigns to support pending legislation on life issues.

The group has kept in touch with such community activities as Teen Challenge 90 (for outreach to young people about chastity). A member of the group volunteers for Birth-



right, an organization that serves women who have problem pregnancies, and also for Hospice to give help to the dying. One member represents St.

Patrick's at meetings of the Diocesan Life Board.

All men and women of the parish, teens as well, are welcome to join the committee or to take part in short-term projects. The study and reflection of the Pro-Life Committee at St. Patrick's helps members form their consciences with faith in the value of God-given human life.



Feed My Flock

Smiles, hugs, thanks, and "God bless you!" greeted those who delivered Thanksgiving dinners to 151 needy families in our community this year.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society received the cooperation it has come to rely on from St. Patrick's for this annual event: \$2285 in donations and 143 helpers (including our priests, sister, deacon, and two RENEW groups) made all possible.

The Society acknowledges with special thanks all who aided in such a variety of ways: those who answered calls to the parish office, the 7:30 Sunday Mass-goers who carried food items from the parish garage and the parish center basement, parishioners who ordered and shopped for food items needed for the dinners, those who filled the bags, and those who delivered them. (Far too many to list by name, but "we couldn't have done it without you!" says Sophia Zeigler, SVDP president.)

A list of recipients for the dinners was compiled from names submitted by Social Services, schools, and the Society's own list. Each food basket included a baking hen, stuffing, yams, cranberries, vegetables, fruit, pumpkin pie, rolls, butter, eggs, candy bars, juice, sweet rolls or cookies, and honey.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the February issue of In Focus: January 13.



RENEW: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

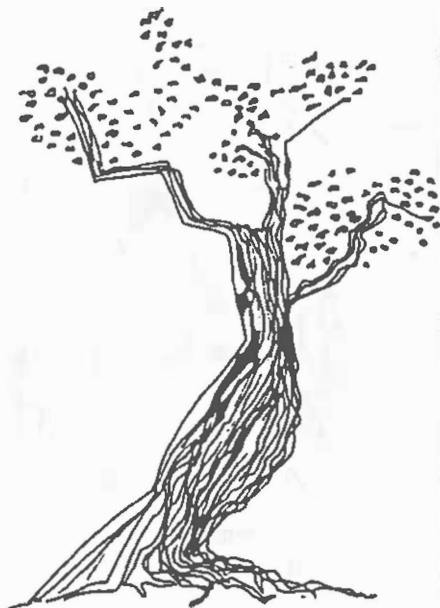
Sixty-eight people participated in RENEW small groups for their first time during Season III to discuss the central theme, "Empowerment of the Holy Spirit." Although many of these new participants were relatively new to the parish, for many others it just came down to being the right time for them.

What does this tell us? It says that even though we are in the midst of the parish RENEW process, it truly is an ongoing process. It says that parishioners and the RENEW staff are truly encouraging everyone to meet others and to share their faith in a small-group setting. It says that there are a lot of people ready to take that challenge, to make that six-week commitment. It says that it is never too late to try RENEW.

Each of the 28 groups that met in Season III was truly unique in the efforts expended by each member of it. People are encouraged to share not only their faith and occasional refreshments but also their favorite prayers and music appropriate to the various themes. One of the many strengths of the RENEW process is that many people can be involved; making a commitment, then, fails to become a burden.

In January members of the RENEW Prayer Network will resume their weekly meetings, and they hope to be joined by other parishioners in their prayers for our parish RENEW process. This group meets once a week for an hour, for about a month before the start of each RENEW season.

If you are unable to participate in RENEW in any other way, perhaps the Prayer Network is "right" for you. If you are unable to come out to pray with this group, you can join them in prayer where you are. The Prayer Network chair is Roy Meyer; if you have questions, call him at 469-2733.



Season IV of RENEW begins the weekend of Feb. 9-10, concluding the week before Holy Week. The small groups meet for an hour and a half on a given night (or day) of the week for six weeks, either in a home or at St. Patrick's. Parents may find it convenient to participate in one of the small groups that meet during religious education classes. If you'd like to be a small group facilitator or host, please call Connie or Chuck Shaw, 384-1191.

Sign-up for small groups will take place Jan. 26-27. If you've participated in a small group, please take the opportunity to invite someone new to join with you this time. If you have questions or need more information, please call RENEW coordinator Helene Kacich, 344-6760.

RENEW Season IV will focus on discipleship. The Holy Spirit might have been challenging at times, but Christ has given us an even bigger challenge. He calls people in every age and in every part of the world not only to talk about discipleship but to be his disciples. What we are is not as important as what we can become in union with him.



Catholic Worker House Update

Renovation of the new home of the Catholic Worker House continues. Members of the local Home Builders Association and general contractor Michael Markstahler have donated countless hours, and many suppliers have donated badly needed building materials as well.

"It is very exciting to see so many people coming together to create a warm, welcoming home for the guests," said Bernie Laumann, one of the Friends of the Catholic Worker House.

Meanwhile the CWH Soup Kitchen serves lunch (soup, sandwiches, coffee) daily at McKinley Presbyterian Church on campus at the invitation of administrators of the Men's Winter Emergency Shelter, located there.

Volunteers are needed daily, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to serve lunch and to clean up afterward. If you can help, call Bernie Laumann, 328-2708. And someone has to make all those sandwiches; they can be made the night before and dropped off at McKinley the day they're needed. If you can donate sandwiches, call Cliff Maduzia, 367-2819.

"Haunted by God," a one-woman play depicting the life of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, was well attended in its single performance on Nov. 10 at St. Patrick's. Presented as a fund raiser for CWH, the play raised over \$500 to help defray the cost of renovating the new house.

The Friends of the Catholic Worker House express their gratitude to St. Patrick's parishioners for their steadfast commitment and support.

The Lord Is Kind and Merciful

"God, my Father, I love You with all my heart. I am truly sorry for the times I have acted selfishly. I know You will forgive me. Please help me to do better. I ask this of You through Jesus, Your Son."

So prayed the 24 boys and girls who made their first confession and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

On Dec. 4, the children, their parents, brothers and sisters, and catechists joined in joyful celebration of God's forgiveness. Catechists Irene Bullard, Diane Musumeci, Mary Tierney, and Deb Wagner led the group in an examination of conscience using a form familiar to children from their class periods.

Before participating in the individual rite of the sacrament, parents and children shared a personal moment, asking forgiveness of each other. Then parents brought their children to one of the reconciliation rooms and introduced them to the waiting priest.

"May we become one with one another and one with You, Lord," the children prayed, and we pray with them:

Diana Arie, Mike Artz, Sarah Brenner, Cassie Conner, Anthony DeCerbo, Katie Healy, Leslie Heller, Rachel Holloway;

Melissa Howey, Thomas Korder, Adam Long, Nicole Maille, Greg McDonald, Nicholas McLemore, Patrick McMahon, Cathern Miller;

Nick Pavia, Nicholas Pelafas, Elizabeth Pigg, Laura Kate Schrepfer, Michael Shannon, Sandra Shannon, Nora Timoney, Nicholas Trotter.

Jan Lipska, coordinator of St. Patrick's Children's Program, extends special thanks to the children's catechists, to Janet Althausser and Kathy Smith and the parents of last year's Reconciliation class for the reception that followed in the parish center, and to Ken Kunkel and Jim Mayer and Chris McDonald for leading the assembled celebrants, both large and small, in song.



A Note of Thanks

The family of Royal M. Busey wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have offered expressions of sympathy and comfort in our recent loss. We thank especially Father Remm for being with us in such a caring and compassionate way, and the women of St. Patrick's Guild for their hard work and offering of time and gifts of food to provide a luncheon after the funeral.

Lucille Busey and Family

A Day of Retreat

"Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1).

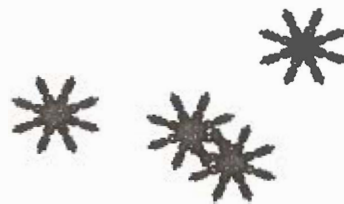
In her book *Jesus the Peacemaker*, Sr. Carol Frances Jegen shows how the suffering servant of the Lord, through his prayer life, has a special friendship with God. As a result of this relationship, the servant answers God's call to serve the cause of justice, to have compassion on God's suffering people.

The suffering servant is Jesus, the Christ. We are called to follow his example, to be compassionate and to stand up for justice, the only true basis for peace.

This theme will be explored during the day of retreat at St. Patrick's on Saturday, Jan. 19, to be facilitated by Sr. Carol Frances Jegen. Through reflection, prayer, and discussion we hope to learn how we are servants of justice and community, how we may share this image with the children and youths in our parish classes, with family members, with co-workers, and in the community.

Through faith sharing on injustice in our own lives and in society we may come to know a peacemaking way of life, the way of Jesus, who "came to bring the good news of peace" (Eph. 2:17).

All parishioners are invited to this retreat. Please call Carolyn McElrath or Jan Lipska at the parish office (367-2665) to make a reservation.



K of C Plans Busy Winter

As usual, fall has been a busy time for the Urbana Knights of Columbus, but winter promises to be even more so.

Fall's activities included the annual Tootsie Roll drive on the weekend of Oct. 26-27. More than \$2000 was raised at St. Patrick's Coffee Shop and at several Urbana businesses during the drive, and all of that money goes to benefit local agencies that help the mentally retarded.

The Urbana Knights recently gave a check for \$2043.31 to the Urbana school district to help children at Prairie School who have severe or profound handicaps. The money, proceeds from the Knights' 1989 Tootsie Roll drive, will be used for computer software, a tape recorder, and other equipment to help children at Prairie School.

Of the proceeds from the 1990 Tootsie Roll drive, \$1500 has been designated for the Champaign and Urbana park districts' programs for the developmentally disabled, and another \$500 has been pledged to the Developmental Services Center to repair equipment.

KC member Chris Stohr again was saluted by his brother Knights for his effort in planning and carrying out the Tootsie Roll drive.

Meanwhile the KCs, with assistance from the 7:30 a.m. "elite seniors" group, held a pancake breakfast in November. Proceeds from that event will also help the mentally handicapped as well as members of the parish.

Here are some future events to mark on your calendar:

Men's Steak Stag, 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, at St. Patrick's. Tickets are \$10 and cover a full steak dinner and beverages. There will be cards and other games to play.

Ladies' Knight Out on Friday, Feb. 8, also at St. Patrick's. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner, entertainment, and door prizes.

Fish Fry each Friday during Lent. These popular dinners will be held on Feb. 15 and 22, and on Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Annual St. Patrick's Day ice skating party, tentatively scheduled for Mar. 26.

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 this issue were contributed by Helen Barrymore, Carol Bosley, Debbie Busey, Betty Daly, Peggy Darragh, Martin Fitzpatrick, Helene Kacich, Tom Kacich, Bernie Laumann, Jan Lipska, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Bridget Peters, Carole Rebeiz, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler.

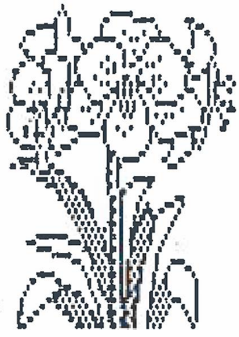
Urbana Knights Earn Top Award

The Urbana Knights of Columbus Council 5752 has earned the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award, for the 1989-90 fraternal year.

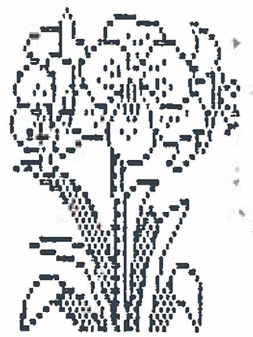
The award, given from the organization's international headquarters in New Haven, Conn., recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

The Urbana Council has been active in supporting local programs for the mentally disabled and for work at St. Patrick's Church in Urbana.

Grand Knight Al Mytty received the award in ceremonies on Dec. 6. "The Star Council Award is quite an honor for us," Al said. "We're extremely proud of this accomplishment."



JANUARY 1991



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 7a, 12:10p & 5:15p Mass</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 7p SVDP 7p Choir 7p Pro-Life 7p Communications Comm</p>	<p>3 6:45p Folk Choir</p>	<p>4 10:45a CCNH, Mass 6p Parish Council. Epiphany Party</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 8a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9a RCIA 10:15a Child Lit</p>	<p>7 7p Education Comm Mtg 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE</p>	<p>8 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p Financial Affrs Mtg 7p PC Exec Comm Mtg</p>	<p>9 1p MM Bandage Rolling Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St. Joe 6:30p RCIA 7p SVDP 7p Choir</p>	<p>10 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Baptism Prep</p> <p>7:15p Building and Grounds</p>	<p>11 10:45a CCNH, Mass</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 8a Hospitality Table 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9a RCIA 10:15a Child Lit</p>	<p>14 7p Homily Prep 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE</p>	<p>15 9a Funeral Schola Rehearsal 1:30p CCNH, Rosary</p>	<p>16 Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St. Joe 6:30p RCIA 7p SVDP 7p Choir</p>	<p>17 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Parish Council Mtg</p>	<p>18 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass 6p K of C Men's Stag</p>	<p>19 9-3p Catechist Retreat 10-11:50a LMLP</p>
<p>20 8a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9a RCIA 10:15a Child Lit</p>	<p>21 7p Cursillo 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE 7:30p Social Action Comm</p>	<p>22 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7:30p Pro-Life Vigil</p>	<p>23 1p MM Bandage Rolling Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St Joe 6:30p RCIA 7p Choir</p>	<p>24 9:30a Archives Comm 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p K of C Mtg</p>	<p>25 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass</p>	<p>26 RENEW SIGN-UP</p>
<p>27 9a RCIA</p> <p>RENEW SIGN-UP</p>	<p>28 7:15p GROW 7:30p LOVE</p>	<p>29 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 6:30p Education Appreciation Dinner</p>	<p>30 6:30p RCIA 7p SVDP 7p Choir 7p Communications Comm 7:30p Liturgical Ministers Appreciation</p>	<p>31 10:30a LOVE 6:45p Folk Choir</p>	<p>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</p>	

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA