

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

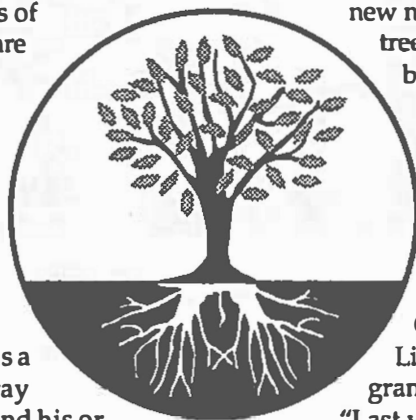
In Focus



A "Prayer Tree" Returns

A tree will soon spread branches in the sanctuary, leafing out with the names of children who are preparing for their First Communion on Apr. 14.

Each parishioner is invited to take the name of at least one child from the tree as a reminder to pray for that child and his or her family during this time of



preparation. (Names will be replaced before each Mass, with new name cards put on the tree branches, so there will be enough for all.)

"All parishioners are asked to do is to take a name, pray for the child every day, and write a note to the child for presentation on the day of First Communion," said Jan Lipska, children's program coordinator.

"Last year the children's eyes really lit up when they received

their notes on entering the church. It was very important for them and for their families to know that the parish as a whole supported them," Jan continued. "This is an opportunity for parishioners to show these children how members of a community can support one another."

A box will be placed in the church vestibule, and another in the parish center, a week before First Communion for parishioners' notes and cards.



A St. Patrick's Day Ice-Skating Party

The fourth annual Urbana Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Ice Skating Party will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 20—not on St. Patrick's Day, but pretty close! (As usual, the University of Illinois Ice Arena is unavailable on St. Patrick's Day.)

The skating party has become a tradition at St. Patrick's with participation growing each year. Last year about 125 parishioners attended the event, and this year's organizers are hoping to pack the place.

Best of all, the event is free of charge to all parishioners. The Knights of Columbus offer the party as a gift to St. Patrick's, in gratitude for the parish's support of fish fries, pancake breakfasts, Tootsie Roll drives, and other KC

fund-raisers.

"We want to give something to the parish that is free—well, almost free," said Grand Knight Al Mytty. "There is a 50-cent skate rental charge."

"We really would like to see more members of the parish—families, singles, couples, students, the elderly—come out to try the wonderful skating conditions at the Ice Arena," he said. "It's bright and warm with smooth ice. A perfect place to work on your form!"

Even if you don't dare venture out on the ice, plan to stop by and say hello to your friends or to watch the others gliding around the rink. There will be hot chocolate and other refreshments at the Ice Arena.

This year's party is being held at



an earlier hour to avoid conflicts with evening meetings at St. Patrick's and to ensure that small children can get in some skating before going home to bed.

The Ice Arena is located at 406 E. Armory St., Champaign.

RENEW *Small Groups, Big Rewards*

Ever since Jesus ascended to heaven, Christians have relied on fellowship with others for encouragement in their faith. In the large parishes common today, it is easy to be anonymous and even lonely, even in the midst of other believers. In such an environment a person has few opportunities for faith sharing, and faith can become lukewarm.

To counter this problem, many parishes are establishing small groups for faith sharing in a variety of ways. These small groups enable participants to discuss their faith on a personal level and help them to focus better on their own prayer and life of faith.

The RENEW program at St. Patrick's, coordinated by Helene Kacich, has offered parishioners the opportunity to participate in small faith-sharing groups. These small groups have meant a great deal to participants, as indicated by the following comments shared by a few of the facilitators.

Jim Mayer says that one of the main benefits of the small faith-sharing group is that it helps an individual get to know others in the parish on a deeper level. He believes that we reaffirm our own faith when we express it in words to others.

Cliff Maduzia says that sharing our faith with others in a small group helps turn our ideas into more concrete faith. It gives faith

both direction and focus. Cliff adds that small-group participants have found faith-sharing very fulfilling and a boost in their prayer life.

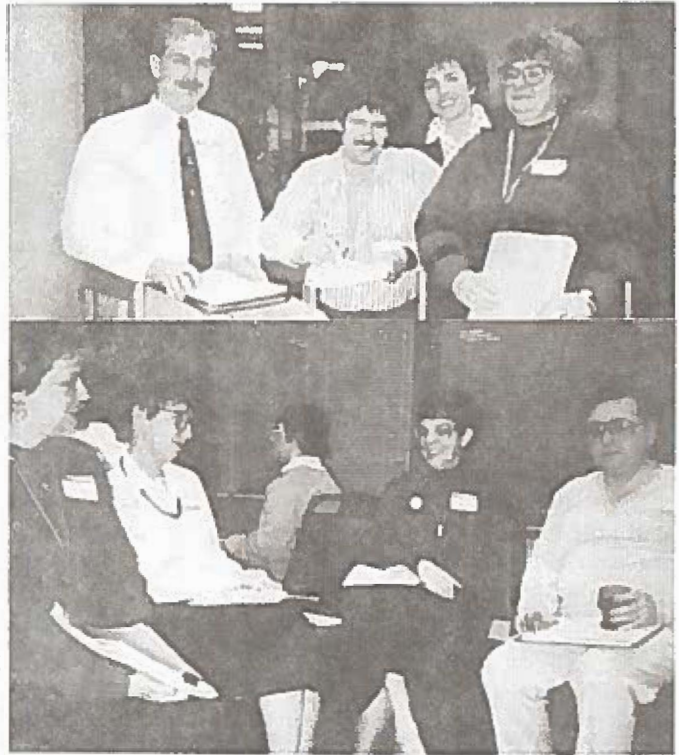
Lenore Nagele finds that sharing her faith with others in a group helps her to review her own faith.

Listening to others discuss their faith in depth also provides a different perspective, helping a person to see more clearly his or her own God-given gifts and how to use them.

And one person helps another in this growth process. Fellowship with others can help bring out their talents in ways that benefit others.

During the small-group sessions participants pray, read scripture, discuss their faith, and share their experiences, all related to a given topic. The sessions conclude with some discussion on how members may apply what they have learned, a final prayer, and some socializing.

Occasionally, some of the groups have arranged social functions to help them to get to know one another better. Small-group faith-sharing has been a good way to



meet others in the parish and to get to know them. It has been especially helpful to new parishioners as a way of getting to know others and to learn about parish life at St. Patrick's.

The facilitators know that it is often difficult for an individual to find a group that meets at just the right time or that has just the mix of personalities that person would feel comfortable with. They strongly recommend that if everything does not work out as hoped with the first small-group experience, a participant will keep trying. The benefit of fellowship with other Catholics is well worth the effort!





People Helping People

Through the Feed the Hungry collections and the "poor box," St. Patrick's parishioners are reaching many needy people in this area—and in Jamaica, where the local St. Vincent de Paul Society helps the poorest of the poor through a "twinning" arrangement.

In January 106 families came to St. Patrick's for food, provided by the good offices of the local SVDP Society, which operates out of St. Patrick's. Others came requesting clothing, busfare, gas, shelter for the night.

The letter that follows is reprinted as received from a family the Society has helped:

To Byron and Friends,

Thinking of you through the holiday season. Last year at this time you were helping us with gas so we could go to St. Francis Hospital to be with our daughter Danielle. Finally we have had a great summer and she's walking and talking. Now it's winter again and she's having problems again but not as serious as last winter. Her asthma is real bad but with medication and breathing treatments she's stayed home so far. She did a couple of months ago have tubes put in her ears. January we are going to fix her left hand also (surgery). But to us that's not life threatening. So we will get through these problems.

Well, time for me to go but I thought I should stop to tell you again thank you for your support and we hope your holidays are special just like ours.

*Thanks again,
Kim*

"We were deeply touched, receiving a letter from her," said Sophia

Zeigler, president of the local SVDP. "We hear from many people after they are helped through our parish."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks each and every parishioner for the help given to people who are really in need.

Will You Be "Somebody" Too?

The Liturgy Committee is looking for an experienced usher to serve as liaison between the committee and the ushers. This position has been vacant for several years, and the committee seeks to establish better communication with this group of faithful ministers, the better to serve our parish at worship. Call Cathy Salika, 367-7861.

The Communications Committee asks for help with inserting *In Focus* in the Sunday bulletin. The death of Alice Schrader and the departure of Peggy Darragh from the parish together create a large gap for the committee to fill. If you can help with inserting *In Focus* into the weekly bulletin one or two Saturdays a year or write a monthly or occasional article for *In Focus*, call Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701.

"Alice Schrader was my mainstay in Medical Missions," Florence Chevalier stated. "Even when she was unable to come out to be with the rest of us, she tore strips for bandages at home." The group of helpers has dwindled over time; they would be happy to have others join them in this work, so important to the missions. (See the letter of thanks from the Dominican Republic, elsewhere in this issue.) Call Florence Chevalier, 367-5548.

The Building and Grounds Committee will soon put out a call for volunteers to help with spring housecleaning of the church and grounds in preparation for Easter. In anticipation of this event, usually scheduled for the Saturday before Passion (Palm) Sunday, try to free up a couple of hours to help. It's abundantly clear that many hands do indeed make light work! When you see the notice in the bulletin in a couple of weeks, call Ray Alane, 384-5311. (Or call beforehand to show how eager you are!)

These are but a few of the specific needs of our parish, some simple ways you can help our parish family work and pray and play together in the Kingdom here and now. Where Anybody can be Somebody, where Everybody can help, and where Nobody is not needed.



"Many Thanks" to St. Patrick's Medical Missions Group

"We seldom hear from anybody, though we put a card with our name and address in the package. I thought you'd like to share this with the parish in In Focus," said Florence Chevalier. Here is the letter she received, reaffirming the value of all those hours spent preparing materials for the missions:

Dear Friends,

This morning as I pulled out the nice bandages and soaps that you so neatly prepared for our mission, I found [your] name and address. Your work is very valuable. The strips of sheets are used for everything. Even the mothers



after delivery need supplies which many of them do not have. The soap is a lovely gift too!

Our people are very poor and with the war news things will get worse.

We are a group of 7 sisters, 3 Canadians, 3 Americans, 1 Dominican. We will receive another Dominican in February.

Many, many thanks, and God bless and reward you.

Sister Cecile Smith, R.H.S.J.
Religiosas Hospitalarias de San Jose
San Jose de Ocoa
Republica Dominicana

Lent Is the Springtime of the Church

The word "Lent" means springtime. This word comes from the same root as "lengthen," since daytime lengthens during Lent. The northern hemisphere turns toward the sun, the source of life, and winter turns into spring. In Hebrew the word for repentance is "teshuvah," rooted in "shuvah," "to turn," like the turning of the earth to the sun, like the turning of soil before planting. 🌱

The word "sin" means separation. We are called to turn from our separate selves, from our sin, to come together in community. Self-denial is the way we express our repentance. In the lengthening brightness from Ash Wednesday until Holy Thursday afternoon, our holy Lent, we turn away from sin and death. We turn to God as our source of life. 🌱

We turn together, as a parish, as a church of many colors, ages, and ways of life. We put aside our business-as-usual to support one another in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We turn to God to enlighten us and purify us throughout the lengthening brightness of our holy Lent. 🌱

"For now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor. 6:2)

Adapted from
Sourcebook for
Sundays and Seasons



In Memoriam



Alice Schrader, wife, mother, grandmother, also played a role in the life of St. Patrick's parish until a month before her death, Feb. 1.

A member of the Altar and Rosary Society, later the Guild, Alice was dedicated to many phases and projects in the parish: the annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale, Medical Missions, potlucks, sending greeting cards to Guild members in time of illness or bereavement, inserting In Focus into the parish bulletin. Small tasks, yes, but important in that she could be counted on to do what she had promised to do.

Long ago a philosopher remarked, "A small thing is but a small thing, but to be faithful in a small thing is a great thing."

Alice Schrader, always the faithful servant. Many in St. Patrick's parish will miss her.

More Trivia and a Quiz

In the last issue of *In Focus*, readers were invited to a Trivia Treasure Hunt and to share their discoveries in this space each month. In the absence of any entries to date, and with the intention of stimulating a little interest, the *In Focus* staff has decided to ask a few trivia questions instead.



How many of these can you answer?

Question 1: Which two works of art, now in less prominent places in our church, used to be at the center of attention?

Question 2: Can you explain the mysterious light that periodically surrounds the statue of the Blessed Virgin?

Question 3: What is the purpose of the balcony in the Main Hall of the Parish Center?

Please place your answers to the questions below in the "Trivia

Quiz" box in the Parish Center lobby. The names of those giving correct answers by March 17 will be published in the next issue of *In Focus*, together with a few more trivia questions. In May this phase of the contest will end; the person with the most correct answers will have his or her picture published in this space. The duration of the contest will depend on reader interest and on the number of new questions the *In Focus* staff can think of!



Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Joan Ellsworth



Irish Bread

2 c bread flour
5 t baking powder
1/2 t salt
1 T sugar
3 T butter
1/2 cup seedless raisins
1/2 cup currants
1 T caraway seed
1 c milk

Mix flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Cut in butter (not margarine). Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Bake in iron frying pan moistened with a small amount of oil. Bake one hour at 350 degrees.

Adapted from the 1926 cookbook of the Catholic Women's League.

Please welcome new parishioners Patrick Kennedy, Lucinda and Paul LeBel, Christine Majers, Frank and Madeleine Mauceri, Mary Spese.



Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Gary and Karen Faulkner, David and Dianne Fornoff, Joe and Rebecca Gering, Gabriele and Monica Gratton, Deborah and Robert Kamphaus, John and Kathleen Shutske.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Gina Renee Henson, Tyler Joseph Martin.



Please pray for Alice Schrader, recently deceased.



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 mid-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.

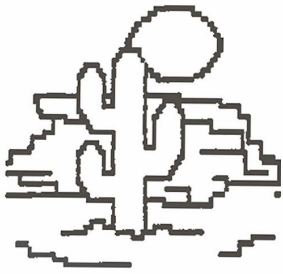
Editorial board: Tom McDonough, 367-3171; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Bridget Peters, 337-7663; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Merdy Smith, 367-6159; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Helen Barrymore, Florence Chetalier, Joan Ellsworth, Tom Kacich, Jan Lipska, Mary Lou Menches, Carole Rebeiz, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. Photos provided by Helene Kacich.

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 17.





March 1991



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5p KC Fish Fry 5:15p Stations of the Cross 7p Hour of Prayer for Peace	2
3 Renew: Cost of Discipleship 8-11a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9a RCIA 10:15a Children's Liturgy	4 1p Guild Brown Bag Lunch & Mtg 7:15p GROW 7:30p Liturgy Comm Mtg	5 9a Funeral Schola 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p Financial Affr 7p First Communion Prep 7:30p Development Comm Mtg	6 Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St. Joe 7p Choir 7p Pro-Life 7p SVDP 7:30p Renew Reflection	7 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Personnel Comm Mtg	8 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5p KC Fish Fry 5:15p Stations of the Cross 7p Hour of Prayer for Peace	9
10 Renew: Healing 8a Hospitality Table 9a RCIA 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 10:15a Children's Liturgy	11 7:15p GROW 7:30p Renew Reflection	12 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p First Communion Prep 7:30p Parish Council Exec Comm Mtg	13 1p MM Bandage Rolling Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St. Joe 6:30p RCIA 7p Choir 7p SVDP	14 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Baptism Prep 7:15p Building and Grounds	15 10:30a Clark-Lindsey, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5p KC Fish Fry 5:15p Stations of the Cross 7p Hour of Prayer for Peace	16 6p St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance
17 Renew: Mission 8-11a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9a RCIA 10:15a Children's Liturgy 6:30p Renew Reflection	18 7p Cursillo Steering 7:15p GROW 7:30p Social Action 7:30p Communal Penance - St. Matthew's	19 9a Funeral Schola 1:30p CCNH, Rosary 7p Cursillo 7p First Communion Prep 7:30p Communal Penance - St P's	20 Religious Ed: 5:45p Urbana 6:45p St. Joe 5-7p KC St. Pat's Day Ice Skating 6:30p RCIA 7p Choir 7p SVDP	21 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Parish Council 7:30p Communal Penance - Holy Cross	22 10:30a Amer/C, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5p KC Fish Fry 5:15p Stations of the Cross 7p Hour of Prayer for Peace	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9a RCIA 10:15a Children's Liturgy	25 7:15p GROW	26 1:45a CCNH, Mass 7p Homily Prep 7-8p Individual Rite of Reconciliation	27 1p MM Bandage Rolling 4-5p Individual Rite of Reconciliation 7p Choir 7p Communicatns Comm Mtg	28 HOLY THURSDAY 7a Morning Prayer 7:30p Mass of the Lord's Supper 7p SVDP	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7a Morning Prayer 10:45a CCNH, Stations 3p Stations of the Cross 7:30p Liturgy for Good Friday	30 HOLY SATURDAY 8a Morning Prayer 8:30a RCIA 7:30p Easter Vigil
31 EASTER SUNDAY	Amer/C: Americana, Champaign Amer/U: Americana, Urbana CCNH: Champaign County Nursing KC: Knights of Columbus Home MM: Medical Missions SVDP: St. Vincent de Paul TNT: Twenties 'n Thirties					