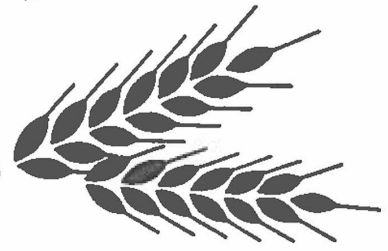


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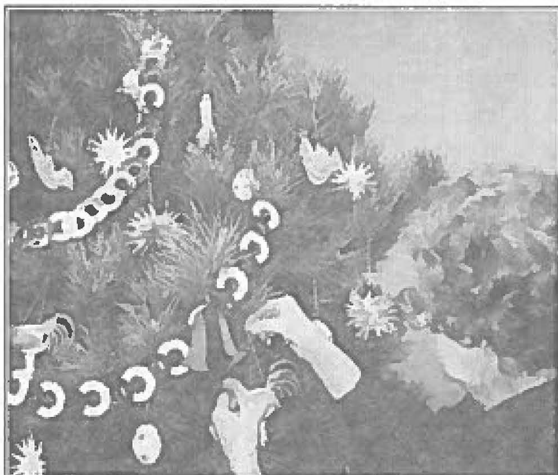
In Focus



"Trees of Christmas" exhibit opens Dec. 5

A final flurry of ribbons, bows, felt, crepe, scissors and glue, "ooh's" and "aah's," and the year's work is done. It's time to enjoy a well-earned respite from stitching and trimming and painting, time to look about at what others have been producing and to regale friends and relatives with the stories of creation. For the combined efforts of many men and women have borne fruit in the exhibit at St. Patrick's of "The Trees of Christmas and Holiday Traditions around the World." And it's time to share the wonders of their creations with friends, family, and neighbors. All are invited; the price is right and the rewards are great. You won't want to miss the wonders that have been prepared with so much care and ingenuity.

The exhibit will be on display in the main hall of the parish center from Dec. 5 through Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Admission is \$1 for adults, \$25 for children, free for children under 6 years. ■



Our kids at Holy Cross

If you ask any student what was the most memorable event at Holy Cross School this month, the answer has to be "Report cards!" These St. Patrick's children made Honor Roll:

Grade 5: Kirsten Anderson, Andy Duncanson, Meredith Main

Grade 6: Alayna Bonse, Christy Laesch, Adam Long, Phoung Nguyen, Gina Sabbia

Grade 7: Hayley Ellis (High Honors)

Grade 8: Danielle Gumble, Michael Sabbia, Jennifer Smith
"Rainbows for All God's Children," a program that has run for three years at Holy Cross School, targets children who live or have lived in a single-parent family home. Through facilitators Sandy Dunn, Deb Hartman, and Marty Haynes, children are provided support, encouragement, and help to improve self-concepts. Facilitators are trained through the diocesan sessions run after school in the fall and the spring. More information on this program can be obtained by calling the

school office (356-9521).

Holy Cross students participated in the Food for Families drive, coordinated for the school by Mary Tate and Mary Kay Thompson. Students were encouraged to give a few of their own pennies toward the purchase of canned goods to be donated.

Families with children attending Holy Cross School can vouch for the fact that opportunities for involvement in the school are many. Because families get to know one another as well as the faculty and staff, the personal loss of a family member becomes a loss shared by all school families. Holy Cross School children and their families prayed for Tom Fellers, husband of Gloria (a third-grade teacher at the school) and father of past and current students. Tom was a member of Holy Cross Parish.

A reminder to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends: the Christmas Program at Holy Cross School will be presented at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. ■





Giving thanks seems the right thing to do

At least, that's the way Carol Bosley, president of the Parish Council, felt. So she sent the following roster, as up-to-date as November 1992, of Council's standing and ad hoc committee members. "There is a chance that someone's name is omitted (you know how that goes!), but it is a risk I will take in order to acknowledge those who serve so many hours," she wrote. Here they are, with an apology to anyone whose name has inadvertently been omitted.

Building and Grounds

Joe Halpin, Chair
Harry Ruedi, Liaison
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Mike Andrejasich
Dennis DeHaven
Mark Gerhart
Ted Gill
Steve Hauersperger
Oscar Kocher
Terry Langendorf
Wayne Larson
Lloyd Lipska
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Mike Healey
Pat Hollahan
Dick Justice
Pat Justice
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Rosemary Mathy
Carolyn McElrath
Cindy Mottin
Diane Musumeci
Lenore Nagele
Martin Zeigler

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Ray Alane
Helen Barrymore
Jean Daly
Paul Hackett
Carl Johnson
Shirley Splittstoesser

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Jean Daly
Margaret Erlandson
Mark Fisch
Faith Hauersperger
Mary Ann Luedtke
Mary Lou Menches
Alice Penrose
Peggy Shannon
Joe Tobias

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Bill Plymire, Liaison
Judy Barker
Cindy Mottin
Fr. George Remm

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Miriam Nirider, Liaison
Sister Marie Golla
Jill Rear
Leo Wood

Social Action

Gabriella Roussos, Chair
Jeannie Donovan, Liaison
Margaret Adamek
Chris Freidhof
Bob Haessly
Bill McClellan
Sharon Monday-Dorsey
Margaret Whelan
Joseph Youakim

Executive Committee

Carol Bosley, Chair
Fran Cousin
Tom Kacich
Bill Plymire

Fr. George Remm
Shirley Splittstoesser

Ad Hoc Committees of Council

Development

Father George Remm, Chair
Carol Bosley
Tom Kacich
Angie Prendergast
Harry Ruedi
Chuck Shaw

On Volunteers

Ceil Weir, Co-chair
Barb Wysocki, Co-chair
Mary Luckey-Lydon
Cliff Maduzia
Tom Shaw ■

Writers needed! If you can write regularly or once in a while for In Focus, please call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or 244-4701) or leave your name and phone number with our parish secretary.



From Barbara and Rodger Adams

Dear friends at St. Patrick's:

Another month has passed, and we are fully settled in our new home and neighborhood. We have even found a grocery store that we are reasonably happy using.

We are enjoying our new parish more each week. We feel right at home there, especially when the Sunday liturgy starts a little late, the babies cry at inopportune times, and the eucharistic ministers straggle up to the sanctuary!

Seriously, it seems like a good community of worshipers who focus on issues ranging from the Sanctuary Movement and a returning medical missionary to a capital fund drive to renovate the aging physical plant.

My classes [Barbara writes] are entering on their fourth week, and I am learning a lot about how to minister to people in crisis. We are assigned to cover specific units of the hospital; I have the birth center, the Intensive Care nursery, and an adult Intensive Care unit. Needless to say, life is not dull in these areas! Besides the 5+ hours that I spend seeing patients, I have class time with the seven other interns and individual supervision time.

Rodg spends a lot of his "free time" with his nose in assigned reading materials and producing a variety of short papers. He is gradually getting to know many of his 50 classmates. This week their Social Justice seminar takes the entire group to spend a day in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco, a Skid Row type of neighborhood.

Lest this seem too grim, Rodg is also learning how to sail a small boat in the Bay, we have tickets to "Les Miserables," and we will be joining a group traveling to Lake Tahoe in early November!

We see our daughter and her family regularly. Our grandson is finally remembering us from visit to visit; when he visits us, he goes directly to his favorite corner of the kitchen cupboards to drag out "his" things. Our son is very busy with school and work, a heavy load.

Rodg will be going to Oregon to see the rest of our extended family on Friday, since he has a full week of vacation. (The school calls it Reading Week, but there are no major assignments to complete.)

Last night we had the first real rain since we arrived; everyone was glad because drought conditions are quite severe throughout California.

The hospital is enacting a disaster drill this week to simulate the effects of an earthquake. We live just a mile from the hospital, so theoretically our place would also be hit. With the mild tremors that actually have occurred just a few hours' drive away, this is realistic enough for my taste!

You all are frequently in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep us in your prayers as we attempt to live our new lives.

Your friends in Christ,

Rodger & Barbara

Barbara and Rodger Adams, who lived and ministered for many years in this community, would be pleased to hear from you. Their address: 845 Kirkham Street, San Francisco, CA 94122. Their letter was dated Oct. 22. ■



Reliving the Christmas story

On Dec. 11 parishioners will have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary in their journey through biblical Palestine from Nazareth to Bethlehem. In the slide presentation "Journey Part I: The Christmas Story," Joseph Youakim will explore the natural, cultural, and historical backgrounds of this journey and show the holy places that witnessed the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

The presentation, sponsored by the Social Action Committee, begins at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center lounge. All are welcome. ■

Give yourself a little self-care for Advent

Holidays are filled with anticipation, preparation, and celebration. Mark your calendar now to give yourself time for a few hours of personal self-care, spiritual reflection, and sharing with others in your faith community.

When: Saturday, December 12

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meal: bag lunch

Ready for a little "time out"? Plan ahead, register early—call 367-2665! And watch the weekly bulletin for further information. ■

Giving to the givers



In the midst of a lingering recession, Catholics across the U.S. will soon be asked to reach into their pockets and give back a little to the people who have given them so much.

Last year, in the face of a recession that led many Americans to scrutinize their charitable giving, American Catholics contributed nearly \$23 million to a special fund for retired religious.

The collection-basket appeal, widely regarded as the most successful in U.S. Catholic history, has collected more than \$95 million since 1988. The bishops authorized the collection to be taken up for a maximum of 10 years.

A 1985 survey found that religious congregations were at least \$2.5 billion short of having enough money to care for their members through retirement. That figure has nearly doubled since then.

Organizers of the annual appeal (the Tri-Conference Retirement Office) acknowledge that there's no way two or three billion dollars can be raised through the remaining collections. "That was never our goal," said Sr. Mary Oliver Hudon, SSND, who oversees the Retirement Fund for Religious. "We want to offer seed money and assistance in retirement planning to lessen the impact of the retirement recession."

According to Church leaders, religious communities could not have foreseen nor prepared for the realities that have produced the current retirement deficit: fewer wage-earning members, a large aging membership, skyrocketing health care costs.

Small stipends (as little as \$100 per month as recently as the 1960s) barely covered living expenses, and resources were stretched to the limit to fund their ministries, which have become

more expensive over the years. The stipend system of compensation did not allow for retirement provisions, and until 1972 the federal government excluded men and women religious from the Social Security program.

Religious congregations have been doing what they can to help themselves by selling lands and buildings to increase cash flow, auditing infirmaries, and developing self-insurance plans. Some religious communities have begun collaborating with others to care for their elderly and are trying out new and more equitable ways of compensating active religious.

"When I see how congregations are creatively addressing their retirement recession while continuing, as they always have, to fund their community ministries," said Sr. Mary Oliver Hudon, "I realize how very much a lot of faith and a little generosity can do."

At St. Patrick's this appeal has been set for the third weekend of December. ■

Preparing the way: Communal Reconciliation



For several weeks shop owners and advertisers have been preparing us for Christmas. Some of us may have already done some or all of our

shopping, made travel arrangements, or begun to plan special meals. This kind of preparation can help us to experience and to express the joy of the Christmas season and our love for family, friends, and even strangers.

The season of Advent provides another kind of preparation even as we are busy with all these things. If we

are to rejoice that Jesus comes to live among us, we need to take time to remember how much we need him. If we are to welcome him into our lives, we need to learn to say, as Mary did, "Let it be done to me as you say." This kind of preparation for Christmas enriches our joy and helps us to grow in God's love.

Although Advent is not a penitential season, celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is appropriate to our preparation for Christmas. One of the important figures in Scripture during Advent is John the Baptist, who calls out from the desert "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand!" If we recognize areas in our lives that are not as open to God's coming as might be, Reconciliation offers us a means of setting things right again with God, with neighbor (spouse, children, parents, friends, others of our faith community, even the stranger encountered on street or bus or store), and—significantly—with self. And it's amazing what happiness, what joy the experience of Reconciliation brings; truly a celebration of God's goodness, mercy, love in our lives!

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps to draw us closer as a community of faith. When we gather for Sunday Mass, we recognize the faith we share; in the same way, when we gather for communal Reconciliation we recognize our shared need for forgiveness.

For some, the communal celebration of Reconciliation is a reminder of the responsibility that each of us has to our faith community. Sin weakens the sinner and thereby weakens the whole community. In our communal celebration we express a desire for reconciliation with the community and pray that each one present may turn again to God; in this way the community regains the strength and unity that had been lost to sin.

The communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in area churches on three

continued page 7



Meet Cindy Mottin, junior high program coordinator

Junior-high religious education promises plenty of sparkle and spark with Cindy Mottin (pronounced MO-tun) as new program coordinator this year.

Cindy learned the ropes as adviser to junior girls' groups in her hometown of Collinsville as well as right here in Champaign.

A parishioner since 1982, Cindy taught

junior-high religious education for two years. This year she and her catechists plan Sunday evening sessions for seventh- and eighth-graders. These sessions include discussion and small-group sharing on spiritual themes; they also include socializing and snacks and just plain fun.

Cindy, who is single and a personnel officer at the University of Illinois, also serves on the Parish Council's Personnel Committee. For fun, she finds time for theater, watching sports, and refinishing furniture. ■



Meet Rosemary Mathy, family life program coordinator

Rosemary Mathy, new coordinator of St. Patrick's Family Life program, holds out a warm welcome to all who are interested in helping with any of the parish programs in support of family life:

assisting others to prepare for marriage, helping new and prospective parents deepen their understanding of Baptism in preparation for their child's birth to new life in Christ, bringing TLC to the Sunday nursery, offering companionship and enabling support to those who have lost a spouse through death or divorce, providing opportunities for young adults to get together for fun and service, ...

With her husband, Jean-Philippe, Rosemary served first-grade parishioners as a catechist for a year. She is a recent graduate of the two-year diocesan Lay Ministry Leadership Program, completing an intensive study of family life issues and dynamics under the auspices of the

diocese's Family Life Office.

Rosemary was born in Massachusetts and has lived in New Jersey and California. She taught French—in France!—and is a part-time student of nursing at Parkland Community College, finding time to study even with two youngsters, five and eight years old.

She calls her enthusiasm for parish service a gift—and so it shall be, for any and all whom she serves in her chosen field. ■



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the January Issue of In Focus is December 13.



in our parish library

The Coming of God

by *Maria Boulding*

The word "advent" literally means "coming"; for Christians it means the coming of God. But is he coming? Can he come in the midst of an all-too-hectic season marred by news of war, exhaustion, commercialism, signs of external and internal misery all around?

Maria Boulding, a contemplative nun at Stanbrook Abbey, Great Britain, addresses these very questions in *The Coming of God*. Advent, at the onset of winter, is a time of innerdesert, when our limitations, our brokenness, the chaos of our lives are felt acutely. Using both Scripture and the insights of our spiritual tradition, Boulding shows simply and forcefully that Christ's coming is found precisely in those moments of tedium, loneliness, or helpless need, which can become blessed times if we but continue to trust in God's love, his creative spirit revealed in the manger and the cross.

Writing on the longing for God, the risk of promise, and the winters of the spirit, Boulding leads the

reader to "glory reinterpreted" and the "sacrament of Advent," the comforting realization that God's promise "works out in ordinariness ... and the humdrum quality of most of our experience."

This is Advent: to do ordinary things, to live in fidelity, to ponder mysteries we—like Mary—do not fully understand. And, like Mary, we are called to listen to the age-old promise, reflect on the word, and learn to live in attentive hope.

In our parish library.

Sun Space

by *Daniel Kobialka*

This sound cassette presents a rich, lush version of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," with thematic material from his Ninth Symphony. The result is a deep, long-lasting feeling of inner beauty and peace. [45 min.]

Available on request from Sr. Charlene Cesario. ■



Welcome to new parishioners Josephine Bartz, Svtjpto Budiman, Edith Dwyer, Albert and Anita Gentile, Michael Hitz, Margaret Koenn, John and Kelsey Lorenzen, Joseph Rasmussen, Lucille Salika, David and Linda Uttal.

Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Judith Barnes, David and Elizabeth Cook, Coleen Golema, Frances and Joseph Hulseman, James and Jane McMullen, Gary Whitmer.

Congratulations to the following couples recently married at St. Patrick's: Natalie Rebeiz and Sean Arkins, Kendall Joan Rafter and John Robert Abelson, Brandy Jo Bohlen and Richard Lee Matteson.

We welcome those recently baptized to our faith community: Alexandra Anne Gremer, Rachel Marie Trummer, Molly Marie Cinker.

Please pray for Michael Lee Buchanan, deceased. ✝

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

Mary Fonner

Cranberry Salad

- 2 c sugar
- 1 6-oz pkg strawberry gelatin
- 2 1/2 - 3 c hot water
- 3 apples
- 1 orange
- 1 lb cranberries

Dissolve sugar and gelatin in very hot water. Grind whole apples, orange, and cranberries, removing only seeds and apple cores. Add ground fruit to cooled sugar-

gelatin mixture; if fruit is very juicy, reduce amount of liquid used. Pour into 2-quart bowl, and refrigerate until firm. Makes 16 1/2-cup servings.





Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray or us!

On Dec. 9, 1531, Juan Diego was on his way to Tlateloco to attend a special Mass in honor of the Virgin Mary. As he approached Tepeyac Hill,

once the site of the temple of the Aztec corn goddess, Tonantzin, where pagan rites involved human sacrifice, he was startled by the sudden appearance of a beautiful young woman with Aztec features.

Speaking the native language of Nahuatl, the woman claimed to be the Virgin Mary. She asked Juan to tell the bishop of New Spain that she wished to have a sanctuary built on that site as a sign of her love, compassion, and protection of the people.

Juan, a simple man, felt inadequate for the task, a feeling reinforced by the skepticism with which his initial inquiries were met. The recently appointed bishop, Don Juan de Zumarraga, listened intently but could not believe in the apparition or the message; he told Juan to return in a few days, perhaps with some sign that the woman was the Mother of God.

On Dec. 12 Juan again saw the beautiful young Aztec woman; she told him to pick roses from Tepeyac Hill and carry them to the bishop. Juan folded several roses into his rough, cactus-fiber cloak, and returned to the bishop.

When he dropped the cloak to present the roses, the bishop was

astonished to see a full-length portrait of the Virgin Mother of God, with Aztec features just as Juan had described her. The bishop quickly authorized construction of the sanctuary, where the cloak was kept until it was moved to the large basilica erected in 1709 at the base of the hill. There it resides today, both the rough gunnysack-like fabric and the image in fine condition after 460 years.

Although the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe were never officially confirmed as "worthy of belief" as were others in later centuries, the story of the apparitions profoundly moved the Indians of that time. The image of Mary, pregnant, as an Indian herself, shining like the sun and moon together, helped them understand that the faith was meant for them just as it was for the Spaniards. In the following decade 8 million Indians were baptized.

In 1754 Pope Benedict XIV authorized a Mass and Office under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe for celebration on Dec. 12. And in 1945 Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Guadalupe Virgin the patroness of the Americas.

Juan had lived his 57 years as a simple Aztec peasant, but that morning changed his life and the lives of countless others. His assent, like Mary's own, to matters he did not fully understand and to a task for which he felt unprepared and inadequate bore a rich harvest in faith, even to this day. ■

Reconciliation, *continued* from page 4

consecutive nights, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Consider making one of these celebrations part of your Advent preparation this year.

Monday, Dec. 14, at St. Matthew's

Tuesday, Dec. 15, at St. Patrick's

Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Holy Cross

Opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be provided during the usual Saturday afternoon and evening hours and at these special times: Monday, Dec. 21, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. And of course our priests are always willing to make individual appointments with anyone who cannot come at the set times. ■

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.

Associates: Amy Fahey, Dorothy Maduzia, Donna Price, Carole Rebeiz.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Barb and Rodger Adams, Carol Bosley, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Mary Fonner, Dorothy Maduzia, Mary Lou Menches, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Cathy Salika, Peggy Whelan, Joseph Youakim.



December 1992

SAINT PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA

Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00pm , 7:30 pm First Reconciliation 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:30pm Development Comm	2 5:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Religious Ed: Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed: St. Joe 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir (10:30a Mass) 7:00pm Pro Life 7:00pm RCIA	3 9:30am Archives 6:45pm Choir (9a Mass) 7:00pm BeFriender Comm 7:30pm Personnel Comm 7:30pm Child Lit Choir	4 10:45am Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Trees of Christmas</div>
6 9:00am , 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9:00am Rite of Acceptance of Catechumens at Mass 9:30am RCIA 10:15am Child Lit 6:30pm Junior High Youth Group	7 9:30am Mothers Group <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5:15pm Mass - Immaculate Conception</div> 7:00pm Education Comm 7:15pm GROW 7:30pm Liturgy Comm	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">7:00am , 12:10p and 5:15 p Mass - Immaculate Conception</div> 7:00pm Financial Affairs Comm 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Comm	9 12:45pm MM Bldg Rllg 5:00pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Relg Ed: Urbana 6:30pm Relg Ed: St Joe 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir (10:30a) 7:00pm RCIA 7:15pm Bldg & Grnds	10 6:45pm Choir (9a Mass) 7:00pm Baptism Prep	11 10:30am Fontana NH, Mass 10:45am Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass 7:00pm Story of Christmas (slides)	12 9:30am -2p Day of Reflection
Trees of Christmas						
13 8:00am Hospitality Table 9:00am , 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 9:30am RCIA 10:15am Child Lit 6:30pm Junior High Youth Group	14 7:15pm GROW 7:30pm Communal Penance - St. Matthew's	15 7:00pm Beginning Experience 7:30pm Communal Penance - St. Patrick's	16 5:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Religious Ed: Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed: St. Joe 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir (10:30a Mass) 7:30pm Communal Penance - Holy Cross	17 6:45pm Choir (9a Mass) 7:30pm Parish Council	18 10:30am Urbana NH, Mass 10:45am Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	19
20 9:00am , 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed 10:15am Child Lit 5:30pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm Junior High Youth Group	21 9:30am Mothers Group 4:00pm -6p Individual Confessions 7:15pm GROW 7:30pm Social Action Comm	22 1:45pm Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass 7:00pm -8p Individual Confessions	23 5:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir (10:30a Mass)	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Christmas Eve</div> 4, 6p Masa (families with children), 10:30p Mass	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Christmas Day</div> 7:30a, 10:30a, 12 noon Masses	26
27	28 7:15pm GROW	29 1:45pm Champaign County Nursing Home, Mass	30 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Communications Comm	31 5:15pm Mass for Holy Day New Year's Eve		

MM=Medical Missions SVDP=St. Vincent de Paul