

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Which Holydays Do You Remember?

Holydays usually fall on weekdays, when many of us have a hard time getting ourselves to Mass before or after a hard day at work or school. However, our colonial ancestors would have delighted in telling us how they faithfully attended holyday Mass 34 times a year!

During the recent U.S. bishops' annual fall meeting, many of us were surprised to learn that a country's bishops could change the number of holydays to be observed and that those holydays could vary from country to country as well as over time.

Our bishops considered whether to transfer observance of the feast of the Ascension of the Lord

from the Thursday 40 days after Easter to the following Sunday. They also considered whether to eliminate the obligation to attend Mass on the holydays for Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Assumption of Mary (Aug. 15), and the feast of All Saints (Nov. 1).

These proposals would have reduced the number of holydays in the United States for Latin-rite Catholics from 6 to 2. The proposals did not pass, but the bishops are still considering whether to eliminate the obligation to celebrate Mass on certain holydays (Jan. 1, Aug. 15, and Nov. 1) when these fall on Saturday or Monday.

The bishops' meeting brought holydays into the limelight, and many Catholics now wonder about their purpose and how it is that our

bishops are able to make changes regarding their observance.

The Code of Canon Law lists 10 holydays to be observed by the universal Church: Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Mary Mother of God, Immaculate Conception, Assumption, St. Joseph, Sts. Peter and Paul, and All Saints. The Code also states that the conference of bishops can abolish certain holydays or transfer them to a Sunday with the prior approval of the Holy See.

In 1983 the U.S. bishops reaffirmed the decision not to observe the feasts of St. Joseph and Sts. Peter and Paul as holydays and transferred the observance of the Epiphany and Corpus Christi to Sunday.

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*Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span!
Summer in winter, day in night!
Heaven in earth, and God in man!
Great little One! whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth...*

*To Thee, meek Majesty! soft King
Of simple graces and sweet loves:
Each of us his lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves;
Till burnt at last in fire of Thy fair eyes,
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice.*

*From "A Hymn as Sung by the Shepherds,"
by Richard Crashaw, 1613-49, a British Catholic poet*

What Do Sisters Do Today?



Sr. Charlene Cesario

St. Patrick's Pastoral Associate, Sr. Charlene Cesario, S.S.C.M., gives this insight into the work of women religious today—

no longer primarily teachers and nurses, but ..., well, see for yourself.

As Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana, I am charged with those activities designed especially for spiritual formation and with the facilitation and augmentation of the many lay ministries within the parish.

This responsibility calls for developing and administering such programs as seminars on the spiritual journey, group spiritual companionship in the Ignatian Exercises, individual spiritual direction, participation in liturgical/scriptural preparation for homilies at Sunday liturgies, and assisting and empowering others in parish renewal and retreat efforts.

My duties also include visiting the sick and elderly who are homebound or in nursing homes, regular visitation of the Catholic patients at Carle Hospital and parishioners at both Covenant Medical Center campuses, and being available as a pastoral, caring, staff person, open and flexible to the immediate needs of the parishioners.

As an advocate for the annulment process, a companion to those going through the grief process, and a member of the Parish Council and other committees, days and evenings readily become filled.

Right now I am engaged in the formation of two new ministries in

the parish: "Joyful Again," a healing retreat for those who have lost a spouse, and "Be-friender Ministry," a program of training and empowering others to companion one another during crises. And, with Carolyn McElrath, I will provide training and pastoral care for Christian base communities as a follow-up to our five-season parish RENEW process, just concluded.

For my religious community, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, I also serve as community replacer, a member on the Provincial Assembly and formation committee. I have been involved in the mentoring program for the temporary professed in the past.

All this is what one woman religious is doing at St. Patrick's!



Why Do Catechumens "Go Public"?

Have you ever wondered why adults interested in joining the Catholic Church are encouraged to make their formal commitment publicly, in front of the congregation at Mass? Has it puzzled you to see our catechumens stand in front of the congregation to be "sent forth" to break open the Word of God?

On the first Sunday of Advent, seven adults stood before the parishioners who were assembled at 9 a.m. Mass and publicly declared their desire for "the fullness of faith." On the second Sunday of Advent, eleven others who were unable to do so the previous week made the same declaration before a small group of friends and spon-

sors in St. Patrick's lounge. All nineteen catechumens will be sent forth from Mass each time they meet from now until Lent, while they study our faith and try to discern whether they wish to receive the fullness of faith by joining the Church at Easter.

Holy Mother Church has two very specific reasons for making this process, called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a public one. First of all, it is intended to encourage us, "the faithful," in our faith. If these people are willing to stand in front of us and declare their desire to join our community, should it not give us the courage to practice our faith more openly?

Secondly, the Church is asking us to pray for our catechumens. Our prayers are bound to be more personal and meaningful, both to us and for the catechumens, when we can use the name, matched with the face, of each person for whom we pray.

So when our catechumens are sent forth from Mass, let them be a reminder to us to pray that God will guide them in their quest and will grant us the courage to follow their example of faithfulness.



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news

items for the February issue of In Focus is January 12.



First Confession: A Parish Reflects

With their families they came into church on a snowy Tuesday evening in December. 28 third- and fourth-graders, drawn close in 4 weeks of preparation, were ready to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They greeted one another confidently as they dipped cold fingers in holy water.

In the softly lighted church, the first violet candle of Advent glimmered against the green wreath. The communal penance service, adapted for the children, was about to begin. Individual private Reconciliation for the children, and for the adults who so chose, would follow.

When the families were seated, a gathering hymn was sung as a Bible and a banner the children had made were carried in procession to begin the celebration of Reconciliation.

What were their thoughts and the thoughts of those who prayed with them? Let's imagine . . .

A child: I love our banner! We made up the words for it: "Kindness, Caring, Loving, Helpfulness." Sometimes we don't do all those, and we're sorry. But it's all right, when we forgive each other. We can tell the priest, and God knows, and He forgives us, and we can try harder next time.

A father: What a job to get us all here tonight! I hope that child of ours has really reached the age of reason. We've been teaching our children, at home, to say "I'm sorry" and to forgive. Tonight is different, outside the family ... a larger world. Mom and I will lead our child to the Reconciliation room to meet Father face to face, and then we'll leave our child there, in privacy. I think I'll receive the sacrament of Reconciliation then, up by the altar.

A mother: That child certainly looks nice ... I can't remember my own first confession. Maybe the

next Sunday was First Communion and all I was thinking about was my new white dress, the presents, the party. This child understands better, I think, than I did about hurting relationships. We'll have a personal moment here tonight, to share forgiveness in the family.

A younger brother: Mom said to be quiet and don't play with the velcro on my boots. It's hard to sit and be quiet so long. But you have to, I guess, in church. Dad says to give God a chance to talk. I can't wait till next year, when it's my turn for the sacrament of Reconciliation!

A godmother: Darling innocent, if you use this sacrament, I promise you that it will give you self-knowledge, courage to be good, and counseling if you need it. Even standing in line for confession will give you comfort in the common need for forgiveness.

A catechist: In four weeks of classes these kids have really grown close together. It's wonderful to see how reassured they've become, learning that they can be forgiven, and taken back into the group if by some selfishness they've broken that bond with others in the group. This is what we've tried to give



them, this basic understanding.

A priest: This new way of celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, without the dark box and the faceless priest or penitent, is a great improvement. The children have prepared to acknowledge their faults with a good deal less fear. It's a joy to talk with them and to give them assurance of God's forgiveness.

Impossible to imagine the Lord's thoughts as the children accepted that long-ago invitation to come to him.

All present, young and old, joined in a closing song, then continued their celebration at a reception in the parish center.

The following children were welcomed to their first celebration of Reconciliation:

Hillary Beckman, Tony Bosley, Drew Bunyan, Mike Bullard, Lucas Caleri, Zachary Chinapah, Anne Crossetti; Laura David, Joey and Rose DiPietro, Mark Douglas, Ben Fox, Alan Howard, Jordan Lawhead, Theresa Lawrence, Larry McMahon, Robbie McCartney, Nicky and Wally Musumeci; Margaret Olson, Nicole Parker, Jamie Peyton, Diane Plewa, Dan Prazak, Jason Retz, Todd Schiff, Brian Weber, Jacob Youakim.

Special thanks to Jan Lipska, coordinator of our parish's children's program; to catechists Irene Bullard, Diane Musumeci, Mary Tierney, and Deb Wagner; to the parents whose cooperation made this night possible; and to the parents of last year's class, led by Tim and Jeanie Brenner of St. Joseph, or organizing the reception.

What Is a Base Community?

"Nothing happens unless there is first a dream!" Carl Sandburg once said.

If one of your dreams is to find a group of people who share your faith and want to talk about it as well as to listen, ...

If your dream is to support others in your faith community and be supported as well through prayer and genuine caring, ...

If your dream is to go out and do for others as we were called to do by Christ, ...

... then a base community may be just what you're looking for.

A base community is a dialogue group, not a debate or discussion group. You don't have to be well educated or clever with words. Each participant in a dialogue shares from his or her own lived experiences. There is no winner, and there are no losers.

Members of a base community meet "in the name of the Lord." The meeting is not a social event, although socializing should follow the serious business of the gathering.

A base community consists of 10-15 members, just enough to fit into a living room.

Dialoguing will be slow going at first. Be patient with one another and with the initial ineffectiveness of the group. There is no community without tears. And it usually takes more time than you think it should.

To begin, make a short-term commitment. If you have found people who share your own objectives and schedule, agree to meet for at least six times and then re-evaluate. By that time you should know whether you want to make a longer commitment and whether the meetings are important to you. In any case, be faithful to your commitment. Don't quit just because you have had one or two bad meetings.

There is no fixed format for the

meeting. It should be done in the name of the Lord and include shared prayer, some processing of Scripture, and some dialoguing about "gut" issues.

Leadership is a shared responsibility. Members meet as equals.

Outings, shared retreats, guest speakers, movies, magazine articles, and books: just a few of the many ideas for the meetings.

Agree on a definite time limit for the meetings—two hours, maximum. It is also suggested that you meet twice a month, at least in the beginning.

These suggestions are taken from *Redemptive Intimacy*, by Dick Westley, who himself formed a base community in his neighborhood as a help to his experience of Church. Dick Westley, twice a guest speaker at St. Patrick's, was instrumental in the formation of some of our parish base communities.

On Jan. 25-26 St. Patrick's parish will "dialogue" on base communities, providing answers to questions and opportunities to form them.



Parish Council News

The December Council meeting was brief to give members the opportunity to meet and greet members of the standing Council committees on their arrival for the planned Appreciation Night festivities.

Cathy Salika, chair of the search committee to fill the position of Music Director, reported that the search is still on. On a

temporary basis a choir director has been engaged to work with our parish choirs in preparation for Advent and Christmas. Substitute organists have been filling in as needed and as available until our position is filled.

Although the Needs Assessment Survey is now complete, with 140 responses from the 200 or so mailed out, results will not be presented to the Council until next month. Parishioners who were not included in the random sampling of the parish for this survey may pick up a copy of the survey, complete it, and send it in. These responses will not be merged with the official survey responses but will serve useful for comparison and provide an expanded base of input from the parish.

A proposed revision of the Parish Mission Statement was submitted to the Council by the ad hoc committee charged with reviewing it. Action on it was deferred to give Council members the opportunity to give it prayerful consideration.

Members were reminded that proposals for new programs are due by Dec. 6, and that committee one-year objectives or goals are due at the next Council meeting.

President Carol Bosley noted that St. Patrick's Guild has announced a St. Joseph's Day family celebration, tentatively scheduled for Mar. 22, and the return of the "Trees of Christmas" next year, Dec. 4-9, 1992.

The next meeting of the Parish Council takes place on Dec. 19. All parishioners are welcome at these open parish meetings.



The Communion Rite

The task in any parish is to establish a steady practice that allows the communion rite to be a focus of full, conscious, and active participation. The task is to restore this rite to an assembly that will know in its heart and soul and its muscles too that in doing these deeds—Lord's Prayer, peace greeting, Lamb of God, communion procession, eating and drinking Christ's body and blood, keeping silence, praying together—we become what we are, the body of Christ.

We learn here what it looks like and sounds like and feels like to be that body and so begin little by little to keep on being that way.

In the eucharistic prayer and the communion rite we are the baptized, those who have assembled on the Lord's Day to do once again what is the right and the duty of the baptized.

Here we bring our hunger for the reign of God—and that is why we come fasting to this liturgy—and here we are fed with a morsel of the bread of the poor and a sip of the heavenly banquet.

Here we have joined ourselves to one another in a broken loaf and common cup, joined ourselves with absolutely none of the world's distinctions. And we have joined in communion also with all the baptized who ever came to this table.

In some sense—because baptism makes us not members of a club but nonmembers of every club, thus only human brothers and sisters—we have joined with everyone, facing what evil has made of our world, yet glimpsing and tasting the reign of God.

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Holydays, continued from page 1

During the colonial era, Catholics in what is now the United States observed 34 holydays. The number was gradually reduced over time, and the American bishops agreed on the present number, 6, at the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884.

What is expected of a Catholic on a holyday? A holyday is a feast to be celebrated in the same manner as Sunday—that is, by celebrating Mass and by abstaining from unnecessary work. Sunday is the focus of the whole liturgical year, the day when we celebrate our salvation in Christ's death and resurrection. On holydays we do the same but with a different focus; by celebrating the Eucharist as a community, we declare the importance of the feast in the life of the Church—that is, in our own lives.

Holydays, along with Sundays, form the liturgical year to help teach and remind us of Christ's redeeming work. Through the cycle of the liturgical year the mystery of Christ's redeeming work is unveiled. We are reminded

of Mary's Immaculate Conception, Jesus' birth, Mary as the mother of the divine Jesus, God providing the hope of salvation to all, Jesus' resurrection, and Mary's assumption.

The liturgical year also reminds us of the great gift of the Eucharist, the great saints, and finally all of the saints. In essence, the progression of holydays reminds us of the unfolding of God's plan for our salvation and our ultimate reward if we submit to that plan.



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.

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Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Sr. Charlene Cesario, Helene Kocich, Mary Lou Menches, Lenore Nagel, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Peggy Whelan.

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Carol Betts

Cranberry Tart

- 4 c cranberries
- 2 c sugar
- 1 c chopped pecans
- 2 eggs
- 1 c flour
- 1/4 c melted shortening
- 1/2 c melted butter

Grease a 10-inch quiche or pie pan. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Spread cranberries over the bottom of the pie pan and sprinkle with 1 cup sugar and pecans.



In a small mixing bowl beat eggs at high speed until frothy. Add remaining sugar, and beat until well combined. At low speed mix in flour, shortening, and butter; at medium speed, beat until blended.

Pour batter over cranberries and bake for 1 hour, or until golden. Serve hot or cold, with sweetened whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 8-10.



27 Nov. 1991

Dr. Susan Nagele Writes:

Many, many warm greetings from Torit in Southern Sudan. (It is getting hotter here as the rains stopped several weeks ago.)

As Christmas approaches, the story of the birth of a little boy in Bethlehem who came to bring a message of peace and good will to all takes on a new light. This is the first time I have lived in a war zone, and I now know how much war affects people's lives and my own.

"For my own security" I am required to report to the security office before traveling outside Torit. On one visit I was given a security officer to accompany me. He wanted to bring along a man who had hidden an AK 47 in a bag, even though it is a well-known policy that we don't transport uniformed military personnel or weapons.

On another trip we were giving some health education on AIDS, and one of the community health workers suggested that the way to deal with the problem is to isolate people with AIDS and shoot them. Rumor has it that some women in Western Equatoria were shot because they were thought to have AIDS. Another rumor says that the first woman with AIDS in Torit will be brought to the town square, all the other women will be called there, and she will be shot before their eyes.

As horrifying as this sounds, it makes complete sense in this context. This is the same method the Khartoum government and the warring factions in the SPLA have chosen to solve their problems.

So we Christians who believe in Jesus and his message of peace try to be faithful to the Gospel in the way we live our lives. The bishops of the liberated areas have been in Nairobi for several weeks facilitating peace talks between the two factions in the SPLA, and last night we heard some hopeful news on the BBC.

Bishop Taban, of our diocese, announced that a cease fire was agreed to by both sides, to begin at 6 a.m. today. We hope the fighting will stop, because at the moment there are 100,000 - 200,000 people walking south toward Uganda in fear for their lives. They have absolutely nothing, no food, clothes, shelter, or health care.

Liz Mach, the nurse with whom I will be working, comes to Nairobi Dec. 31. In February I will attend a medical conference in Nairobi. After that we will return together to Torit.

If our presence can bring some hope and light and life to the people we live and work with, I will be satisfied. But more than anything, we pray for peace.

For each of you and your families, I wish the peace and joy and love of this holiday season.

Please welcome new parishioners Regina Dawn Dartt, Cindy and David Howie, Grace Knight, Theresa Simonich, Linda and Ray Strange, Theresa Vahling.



Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Carlos and Maria Diaz, Catherine Kuo.



We welcome the following newly baptized into our faith community: Mary Elizabeth Kimball, Rachel Elizabeth Caulfield, Cody Douglas Randolph, Lauren Westhusing, Abby Christine Brown, Ashleigh Ione Ducey, Scott Allen McWethy, Patrick Franz Keane, William Theodore Kernan, Sandra Anne Zerkle.



Congratulations to newlyweds Anthony Lee Moore and Kimberly Kay Brandon, Richard John Henry and Bridget Anne Snyder.



Please pray for the following recently deceased members of our parish: William Eugene Kiesewetter, Dorothy E. Thompson.





January 1992



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
 TNI: Twenties 'n' Thirties

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Masses: 7a, 12:10p and 5:15p	2 Office Closed 1:30p Discussion Group 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p Pro-Life	3 10:45a CCNH, Mass 5:15p Holy Hour 7p Homily Prep	4 6:30p Parish Council Epiphany Dinner
5 8a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed. 10:15a Child Lit	6 7p Education Comm mtg 7:15p GROW 7:30p Liturgy Comm mtg	7 9a Funeral Schola 1:45p Rosary, CCNH 7p Beginning Experience	8 12:45p MM Bandage Rolling Religious Ed: 6p Urbana 6:30p St. Joe 7p Choir 7p SVDP 7:15p Bldg & Grd	9 1:30p Discussion Group 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Baptism Prep 7p Child Lit Choir	10 10:30a Fontana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass	11 5p RCIA and pot- luck
12 8a Hospitality table 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed. 10:15a Child Lit	13 12:40p Guild Brown Bag 7p Facilitator Training 7:15p GROW	14 1:45p Rosary, CCNH 7p Financial Affairs mtg 7:30p Parish Council Exo Com 7:30p Befriender Info	15 Religious Ed: 6p Urbana 6:30p St. Joe 7p Choir 7p RCIA 7p SVDP	16 1:30p Discussion Group 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Child Lit Choir	17 10:30a Urbana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass	18
19 8a Library 9a, 11a, 6:30p Religious Ed. 10:15a Child Lit 7:30p RCIA	20 7p Cursillo Steering 7p Facilitator Training 7:15p GROW 7:30p Social Ac- tion Comm mtg	21 9a Funeral Schola 1:45p Rosary, CCNH 6:30p Catechist Apprecn Dinner 7p Beginning Exp 7p Spiritual Journey	22 12:45p MM Bndg Rollg Religious Ed: 6p Urbana 6:30p St. Joe 7p Choir 7p Pro-Life Prayer Vigil 7p RCIA 7p SVDP	23 1:30p Discussion Group 6:45p Folk Choir 7:30p KC 7:30p Parish Council	24 10:30a Americana NH, Mass 10:45a CCNH, Mass KC Men's Stag	25 Catechist Retreat
26 9a RCIA	27 7p Facilitator Training 7:15p GROW 7:30p Remember- ing Church	28 1:45p Rosary, CCNH 7p Homily Prep 7p Spiritual Journey	29 7p Choir 7p Communica- tions Comm mtg 7p RCIA 7p SVDP	30 1:30p Discussion Group 6:45p Folk Choir 7p Child Lit Choir 7:30p Liturgy Ministers Ap- preciation Night	31 10:45a CCNH, Mass	

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, URBANA

