

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

In Focus



All come bearing gifts

This year marks the 15th anniversary of National Migration Week, sponsored by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Migration. Each year we are helped, through this observance, to realize the value and importance of our own individual and family heritage as well as the need to welcome and integrate newcomers and people on the move into the life of our country and Church.

The theme for this year's celebration is "All Come Bearing Gifts," employing the image of a quilt with fabrics imaging the color, beauty, and strength of individuals and cultures from around the world.

In the culturally diverse community in which we live, heavily influenced by the presence of the University of Illinois, we become increasingly aware that the fabric of our society is made up of the time, talent, and treasure that each person brings to its texture.

"The gifts of culture, skill, faith, and hope that each newcomer brings adds vitality and warmth," writes Bishop Theodore E. McCarrick, chair of the Bishops' Committee on Migration, while strengthening this dynamic fabric of our society. "The 1995 observance," he notes, "is intended to serve as a focal point of year-round efforts to open our hearts and

minds to the newest members of our Church and community."

St. Patrick's staff have been discussing ways in which we might, as a parish, be helped to these realizations and through them to celebrate the richness of diversity in our midst. Our observance of National Migration Week will begin Jan. 14-15, perhaps continuing over a period of two or three weeks, maybe even returning to this theme at times during the year, with opportunities to:

- (1) learn more about the various cultures and traditions that are part of our community and appreciate their enhancement to our lives;
- (2) pray for people worldwide who have had to flee their homes because of unjust, war, and persecution;
- (3) advocate for just legislation and human rights on behalf of immigrants, migrants, and refugees here in the U.S.;
- (4) engage in the social and cultural activities of various ethnicities in order to be educated and to enjoy.

"We are newcomers," Bishop McCarrick writes, "people on the move, even those born here in the U.S. who celebrate their heritage of parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who came to this

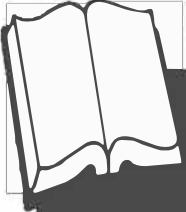
(continued on page 3)

O Lord Jesus,
stretch forth your hands
in blessing over your people
to heal and to restore
and to draw them to yourself
and to one another in love.
Amen.

Herr Jesus,
strecke deine Hande aus
und segne dein Volk
heile und erneuere es
und zieh alle hin zu dir
und zueinander in Liebe.
Amen.

Seigneur Jesus,
etends tes mains blessees pour repandre
ta benediction sur ton peuple
pour guerir et restaurer
pour attirer les tiens a toi
et les rapprocher les uns
des autres dans l'amour.
Amen.

Oh,
Senor Jesus,
extiende tus manos
para bendecir a tu pueblo
para sanar y restaurarlo.
Acercalo a ti y concede
que se una
en mutuo amor.
Amen.



in our parish library



Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment

By Joyce Rupp, OSM

Fresh Bread is a handbook meant to be used regularly throughout the year. It asks for a commitment of time each day. You begin on the first day of the month by reading and pondering the opening reflection and essay of the chapter, which establishes the month's theme. On the following days, you read and reflect on the related scripture texts suggested, one text per day. At month's end, you review your prayer activity for that month, either in writing or in quiet reflection.

So much for method. What about purpose? "We can so easily give in to discouragement or forget our vision and our dreams when we do not take time to integrate our outer world with our inner world. We remain fragmented instead of drawing together all the pieces into a wholeness that gives our life meaning.

"I am firmly convinced that we are effective in Christian leadership only if our hearts as well as our minds have come to know the God of our lives. I believe that this "knowing God" comes about in many ways but that it can be deeply rooted in us only with the nourishment of

regular personal prayer." So writes the author, Joyce Rupp, a member of the Servants of Mary, a gifted spiritual writer with a master's degree in religious education and graduate studies in spirituality and theology.

Here are a few of the chapter titles to give you a sense of the book:

Introduction. A Handful of Dough: Being the leaven of faith for others

January. A New Snowfall: Praying the message of freshness

February. The Courageous Heart: Growing through the hardships of life

March. The Hidden Treasure: Searching for what is missing in our lives during Lent

July. You Are a Letter from Jesus: Inviting Jesus' qualities into our lives

August. The Fearful Heart: Freeing our worries to enjoy life's goodness

November. The Gifts of Life, Love, and Time: Struggling between generosity and self-centeredness

As you can see, one's life can be changed by reading this book! ■

Blood donors urgently needed!

The next blood drive at St. Patrick's will take place on Sunday, Jan. 22.

The Champaign County Blood Bank will be set up in the multipurpose room of the parish center from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to take your donation of blood.

At this time of year your gift of blood is most especially needed. Think of it—what other gift can you think of that saves lives and costs you nothing?

Call Tom or Lori McDonough (367-3171) or the parish office (367-2665) if you can help.



Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of...

Louise Lawhead

Banana Nut Salad

- 1 c sugar
- 4 T cornstarch
- 1 egg
- 1/3 c lemon juice
- 1 T margarine
- 2 c water
- 1-2 bananas, sliced
- 1 c crushed peanuts

In a saucepan mix sugar and cornstarch; stir in remaining ingredi-



ents. Cook over low heat, stirring often, until thickened. Cool.

Layer the pudding with sliced bananas and crushed peanuts in a serving dish. (Crushed graham crackers, about 1/3 pkg, may be substituted for the peanuts.)



All Come Bearing Gifts... (continued from page 1)

country—as people do today—seeking peace and justice.

“We, each of us, come bearing gifts.

Each of these gifts adds to the fabric of our society as a whole. And this fabric is a weaving together of such values as family, enterprise, culture, faith, skill, and a desire to strengthen community life in America.”

National Migration Week is a time officially designated for us to recognize the richness of the fabric of our local community and celebrate this richness through prayer, educational events, service opportunities, and cultural festivities. A celebration that we might find ways to continue through the years of our days journeying together in God's Kingdom.



From "Fresh Bread"

“A whole batch of bread is made holy if the first handful of dough is made holy.”
(Romans 11:16)

Jesus, first Bread blessed and broken, you ask me to be your leaven. You lift me to your Father and gift me with your loving.

I, just a handful of dough, am asked to be the leaven for a whole batch of people so that faith will rise in hearts. It is humbling to be your leaven. It is risky to be your holy. It is goodness to be your dough.

I, just a handful of dough, am called by you to be kneaded, to bear the imprints of trust, giving life shaped by daily dyings.

I, just a handful of dough, know so little about being leaven. Yet you lift me up repeatedly, telling me that you love me, assuring me with the truth that you are my rising strength.

Jesus, first one blessed and broken, make of me a good handful of dough, one who trusts enough to be kneaded, one who loves enough to be shared. ■

This American saint ministered to immigrants

John Nepomucene Neumann was born in Bohemia on Mar. 20, 1811. Growing up in a large family, he demonstrated an amazing ability to learn languages.

At the age of 20 he entered the seminary, where he heard about the desperate situation of the Church in the New World. He applied for ordination at several American dioceses but received no reply. Finally, trusting in God, he sailed for America. He arrived in New York City in 1836, just one more poor immigrant; all he had left were the clothes he wore and a suitcase full of books—even his hat had been stolen.

The bishop of New York was delighted to see John. He immediately ordained him and put him to work serving the poor immigrants around Buffalo. John visited his German, French, Irish, and Scottish parishioners on horseback, speaking with all in their own languages.

After 4 years John entered the Redemptorists for spiritual support. He soon became the head of all Redemptorist priests in America. He ministered vigorously to the large number of Catholic immigrants arriving in the 1840s, established churches, preached, and comforted the sick.

He was especially fond of teaching the young people through catechetical instruction; he established Catholic schools and wrote two catechisms.

In 1852, John was appointed Bishop of Philadelphia, the largest U.S. diocese at the time. In just 8 years he built 50 churches and 100 Catholic schools. He also managed to continue writing as a way to spread the faith even further.

John Nepomucene Neumann died of a stroke in 1860 at the age of 50. In 1963 he was beatified, and on June 19, 1977, he was canonized, the first American bishop so honored.

We remember this American saint on Jan. 5. ■



Welcome to new parishioners Patricia Bisgrove, Janice Cleary, Todd Cler, Jacqueline and Paul Colussi, Vanessa Faurie and Ray Elliott, Judy Krajnak, Stephen Meyer, Norman Smith, Ralph and Sheryl Trummer.

Farewell to the following parishioners who have moved from C-U: Elaine and Thomas Dupree.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Rebecca Ann Harmon and Dana Joseph Eveland, Susan Elaine Woody and Edward Arthur Schaller, Jr., Juana Yadira Gonzalez and Domingo Porron.

We welcome the following, recently baptized into our faith community: William Stephen Justice, Tatiana Ramburger, Christopher Steven Heater, Chloe Elizabeth Burgener, Madeline Nicole Kangas.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Doris McCloud. ✨ ✨

Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is January 15.



Parish Council News



At their December meeting, Parish Council members were addressed by Mary Johnson, who described the purpose and functions of the local Pax Christi chapter. The group meets monthly for prayer, discussion, and study of relevant materials. Many of the members work with the St. Jude Catholic Worker House and all are committed to nonviolence.

Members of the Council's executive committee continue to examine the Needs Assessment Survey taken a year or two ago as a guide for opportunities for adult education and evangelization in relation to parish development.

Fr. Remm mentioned that the Howard Braren Co. (Davenport) has been engaged to conduct the feasibility study for a Catholic high school in the C-U area. In the first phase, to be completed by Mar. 3, the firm will research the potential student population for a Catholic high school over the next 8 years. The diocesan oversight committee will meet Mar. 13 to examine the firm's report on conclusion of the first phase before the second phase, researching the cost of a building and equipment for such a school, is undertaken.

With almost all committee objectives

for the next calendar year now in hand, the Council will see to distribution of these.

Bob Haessly reported that, speaking for the group of parishioners seeking restoration of Stations of the Cross to St. Patrick's church, Verne Kroes thanked the Council for the attention given to it through the work of the ad hoc committee. He trusted that the architecture of the church did not weigh more than the needs of parishioners in the decision making of the committee, and he added that the parishioners hoping for Stations were reassured to know that this matter would again come under consideration for the parish's observance of the church's centennial.

The Council expressed appreciation to the high schoolers who helped during the Lunch with Santa, to Kay Evans for her work on the Advent banner, to the Guild for their work in preparing for and staffing the Trees of Christmas display, to Harold Poeschel for the trees used in the display, and to Dean's Blueprint for donating services and materials for parish projects.

The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 19. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. ■



Parish children celebrated First Reconciliation November 29

During the first week of Advent, St. Patrick's second-, third-, and fourth-graders celebrated the sacrament of forgiveness for the first time.

During four weeks of classes, the children and their parents studied the history and significance of the sacrament of Reconciliation with catechists Julie Benning, Linda Bowers, Mary Tierney, and Deb Wagner, with Fr. Remm, and with children's program coordinator, Ellen Amberg.

The youngsters learned an examination of conscience appropriate to their age and maturity and, as a help in becoming acquainted with the rite, they witnessed and even made "pretend" confessions to a priest as a role-play of the sacrament. (A role-play was also done with the parents.)

Parents and catechists alike were especially grateful to Jean Tierney and Clare Tierney for babysitting during the four class sessions!

The First Reconciliation service consisted of a procession, singing, and Scripture reading to introduce the theme of God's forgiveness. Then each child was presented by his or her parents to the priest for sacramental confession and absolution. Older brothers and sisters and parents were also invited to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Fathers Britto Berchmans, Joe Hogan, and Tom Royer assisted Father George Remm.

After the service, refreshments were served in the parish center.

Please remember in your prayers these youngsters, who so recently celebrated their First Reconciliation:

Jaclyn Althaus, Elizabeth Amberg, Jarad Beckman, Matthew Cech, Carrie Conner, Lauren Cylkowski, David Depew, Eric Depew, Gregory Durant, Amanda Heater, Andrew Helregel, Jamie Henkelman, Elizabeth Keane, Steven Kimball, Ryan Kirby,

Danny Laesch, Jamie McCartney, Allison McLemore, Timothy Miller, Christine Misztal, Deanna Perrone, Maddy Pierce, Alce Schingel, Teresa Sonka, Kevin Stanford, Amy Strong, Pascal Youakim. ■

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: Cathy Saliika, 367-7861; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701; Gary Riskowski, 344-4394; Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Yvonne Barger, Amy Fahey, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Carole Rebeiz.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Judy Conover, Louise Lawhead, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Bea Pavia, Lu Pillar, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Gary Riskowski, Mark Simon, Alta Tarter.





**On tap:
St. Patrick's New
Year's
Eve Gala**

You are invited to see the old year out and the new year in. Polish your dancing shoes and prepare for an evening of fellowship, music, food, and fun!

Saturday, December 31
8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
\$6.50 per person
Dance to "Music in Motion"

Tickets available at Coffee Shop after 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses or at the parish office, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.) ■



**Prayer vigil for life
on January 27**

St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee invites you to join in the seventh annual Community Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil on Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

This vigil is usually held on Jan. 22, anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, to focus on the gift of life and to remember the millions of children denied life through abortion. This year the date has been changed to accommodate those traveling to the rally in Washington, D.C.

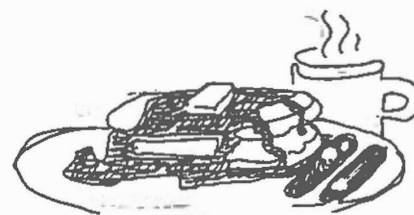
Featured this year will be an update by Ron Janowski, president of Right to Life of Champaign County, Rev. Willie Jones of the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, and Pastor Bill Maier of the Twin City Bible Church of Urbana.

David and Cindy Howie, of "Sons and Daughters," will present a musical witness to life.

The vigil, which usually lasts about an hour, includes a candlelight procession and presentation of roses, symbolic of life. The evening of witness, worship, and sharing concludes with a reception in the multipurpose room. Baby sitting is provided in the parish center nursery to make it possible for young families to participate.

All parishioners are invited to join other Christians from the community in this powerful, ecumenical prayer service.

Call Lu Pillar (344-4909) or the parish office (367-2665) for more information or to volunteer cookies for the reception. ■



**Pancake Breakfast
coming up!**

Flip through your calendar for 1995 and circle Jan. 29 and Apr. 30. On these fifth Sundays the Knights of Columbus (Urbana Council) will host a "Fifth Sunday of the Month Pancake Breakfast."

Tickets will be sold at the door: \$4 per adult, \$2 per child, \$10 per family. Proceeds not only support K of C programs and special events or purchases for the developmentally handicapped, but also enable the Knights to provide for specific parish needs (such as the new furnace needed for the parish center) and the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship (last year awarded to four graduating seniors from the parish).

Watch the weekly bulletin for details as the date draws near, and plan to lend your support to this worthy (and tasty) enterprise! ■



**Hidden meanings
in the 12 days
of Christmas?**

The following has been excerpted from A Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals. It is provided for In Focus readers by Bea Pavia, who first shared it with our parish altar servers.

One English Christmas carol well known worldwide today is ... more than a repetitious tune with pretty phrases and twelve gifts. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is a song with different levels

of meaning.

From 1558 to 1829, the Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. During this period, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as a catechism song for young Catholics. The hidden meanings of the song's gifts were intended to help the children remember lessons of their faith.

Instead of referring to an earthly suitor, the "true love" mentioned in the song refers to God himself.

The *partridge in a pear tree* is Jesus Christ. In the song, Christ is symbolically represented as a mother partridge, which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings.

The meanings of the other symbols are:
Two turtle doves: the Old and New Testaments

Three French hens: faith, hope, and charity

Four calling birds: the four Gospels

Five golden rings: the first five books of

the Old Testament, which give the history of humankind's fall from grace

Six geese a-laying: the six days of creation

Seven swans a-swimming: seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord)

Eight maids a-milking: the eight Beatitudes

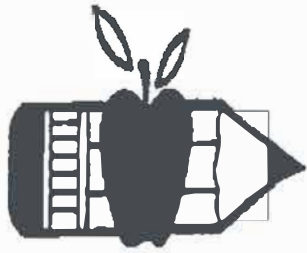
Nine ladies dancing: nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control)

Ten lords a-leaping: the Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful disciples

Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. ■





On building a Christmas banner

The Holy Cross School Newsline

Teachers at Holy Cross School spent much time preparing children for Christmas during Advent. The sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to youngsters in grades 2 - 8 on Dec. 20. Each class selected its special project for the season, and school closed for Christmas Break Dec. 21, with a prayer service on the Jesse Tree.

On Jan. 21-22 students will perform the Rodgers and Hammerstein play "Once upon a Mattress," based on the well-known story about the Princess and the Pea.

Catholic Schools Week will be observed Jan. 29 - Feb. 3. Special activities together with an open house will mark Holy Cross School's participation in this national event.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the school will launch an earth-stewardship program called HCS-WE-CYCLE. The goals of the program are to reduce waste and to recycle. All areas of the school will be involved, including classrooms, cafeteria, maintenance operation, and the office.

General Mills has given Holy Cross School the opportunity to participate in its School Change Programs. The company will reward the school with 25 cents for each General Mills cereal UPC label turned in. The school's goal is to raise \$875 for school supplies and programs for this school year.

Rainbows for All God's Children will begin in January. This school-sponsored program is a support group designed specifically for children in a family that has suffered as a result of divorce, separation, or death. It is offered at no charge.

The Holy Cross School After School Enrichment Program will begin in the spring. Formerly known as After School Specials, this program is coordinated through Parkland College to give students the opportunity to take classes for their enjoyment. ■



It takes teamwork to design and make an oversized banner, and our new Christmas banner was no exception. Chris Main, parish coordinator for liturgical art and environment, talked over some ideas for the banner with parishioner Janice Cleary, who works as an illustrator at CERL.

One of the ideas involved depicting the Holy Family, difficult to execute in fabric, so instead Janice portrayed the Christmas star hovering over Bethlehem. Doing some research at the public library, she found a book about Bethlehem with pictures of older buildings that served as models for her design.

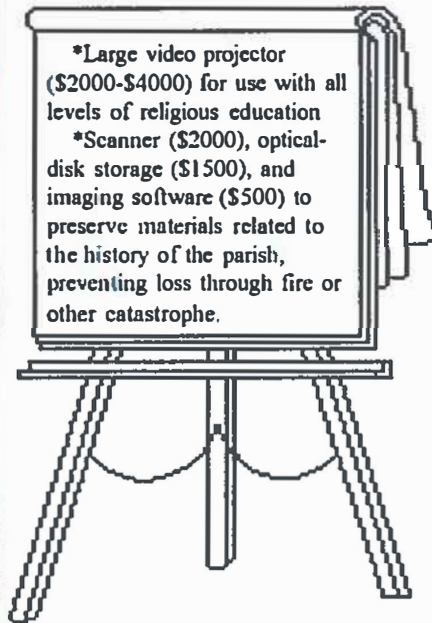
Janice's illustration was then enlarged (at Dean's Superior Blueprint) to serve as a pattern for the banner. Kay Evans selected fabrics in a variety of colors and textures that bring the town of Bethlehem to life and sewed through several thicknesses of fabric to prepare it for mounting on the banner.

Shirley Splittstoesser, who had volunteered to help with sewing, took on the star as her project. Really three stars, white on blue on gold, this part of the banner is about five feet high and about three feet wide—with lots and lots of rays tapering to those needle-sharp points that pose a serious challenge to any seamstress!

The result of this team effort will be put in place in the sanctuary on Dec. 23, accompanied by the now-traditional angel banners (created several years ago by Carol Subick) and the Christmas creche, to enhance our parish worship. ■

What's on St. Patrick's Wish List?

The parish wish list at present includes the following:



*Large video projector (\$2000-\$4000) for use with all levels of religious education

*Scanner (\$2000), optical-disk storage (\$1500), and imaging software (\$500) to preserve materials related to the history of the parish, preventing loss through fire or other catastrophe.

Fr. George Remm will be happy to discuss the purpose of the wish list with interested parishioners or to answer questions about individual items on it.

Answers

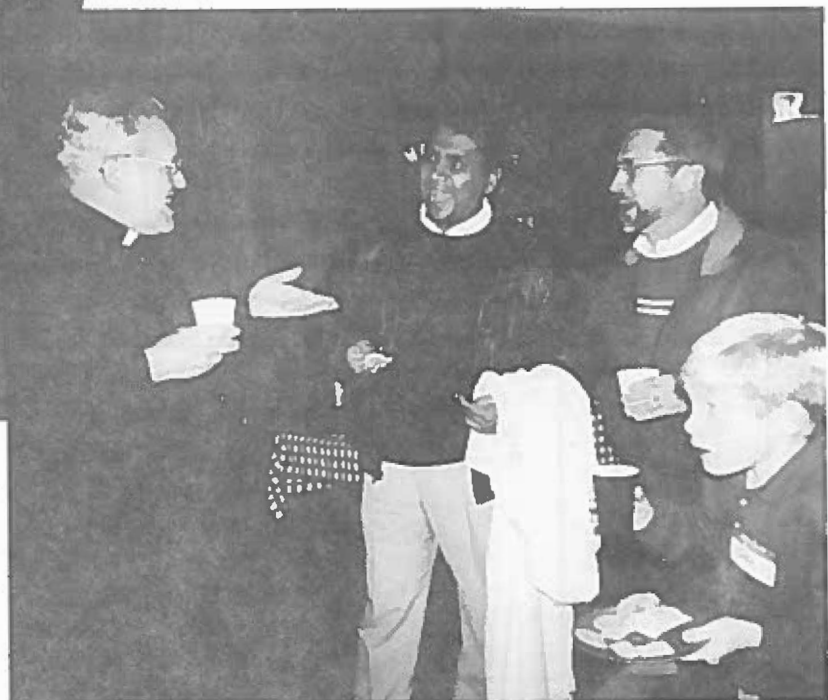
Once I thought that in teaching others I had to have all the answers to hard questions, wrapped up as a gift, neatly tied, secured.

When I couldn't, I thought I'd failed.

Freedom came through wiser teachers and through life's lessons when I realized I do not bear responsibility for another's set of answers.

The real gift is to be open, to risk the questions, to share our stories in faith, and to recognize that growth comes to each through struggle, and, sometimes, answers come as we live in Spirit and hold each other in love.






Clockwise, starting from bottom left: second graders' Christmas pageant; teen bell choir rehearses; harvesting the Trees of Christmas, donated by Harold Poeschl; Austrian tree the newcomer this year; Fr. Remm, Fr. Britto, and the Laesches enjoy refreshments (and one another) after First Reconciliation.



January 1995

St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, and noon	2 Parish Office Closed 7:00pm Centering Prayer	3 7:00pm Beginning Experience	4 6:00pm Religious Ed - Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed - St. Joe 7:00pm Pro-Life Com 7:00pm SVDP	5 10:15am Moms' Group 7:00pm Communications Com	6 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	7 7:00pm High School "Lock In"
8 9:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Religious Ed - Jr & Sr High	9 7:00pm Centering Prayer	10 6:00pm Education Appreciation Evening 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:30pm Parish Council Executive Com	11 6:00pm Religious Ed - Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed - St. Joe 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA 7:00pm Building & Grounds Com	12 7:00pm Baptism Prep	13 10:30am Mass-Urbana NH 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	14 8:45am Trustees' Meeting
15 9:00am RCIA 9:00am Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed 4:00pm Handbell Choir 5:30pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm Religious Ed - Jr & Sr High	16 7:00pm Centering Prayer	17 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Beginning Experience	18 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Religious Ed - Urbana 6:30pm Religious Ed - St. Joe 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA	19 10:15am Moms' Group 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council	20 10:30am Mass-Clark/Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	21 7:00pm Cursillo
22 Blood Drive Today 8:15-12:15 9:00am Religious Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 11:00am Religious Ed 5:00pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Religious Ed - Jr & Sr High	23 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	24 7:00pm Homily Prep 7:00pm Social Action Com	25 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA	26 9:30am Archives Com 6:45pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Communications Com	27 10:30am Mass-Americana NH, Urbana 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 7:30pm Pro-Life Vigil and Reception	28 Library Open House 4-5 pm
29 K of C Pancake Breakfast Library Open House 9am-noon 9:00am RCIA	30 7:00pm Centering Prayer	31 9:30am Funeral Schola	<p>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.</p> <p> Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is January 15.</p>			