

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



People Touching People

A letter of thanks from SVDP  
To our generous supporters:

Words cannot adequately express our appreciation to St. Patrick's parishioners for your support and generosity this year during the St. Vincent de Paul Society's annual drive to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to local needy families. Parishioners, 196 of you, donated \$4832 for food!

We want to thank all the volunteers who helped throughout this drive: Joe and Mary Sleeter, who ordered eggs from Arthur (Ill.); Len and Clara Butler, who picked them up; Dick Barrett for overseeing the ordering of the pies; Bill Van Cleave for suggesting the store with the best prices for food; Ray Wait and Martin Zeigler for picking up the food on Saturday afternoon (instead of watching the football game on TV); Kay Gingrich for organizing the list of needy families and individuals from the Mental Health Center; Louise Tanner for supplying the North End list of families who otherwise would not have had a special Thanksgiving.

We needed help to arrange the food for assembly into the food baskets; these people gave us their time: Madonna Buffo Stanford, Raven Buffo, Ann and Carrie Conner, Ray Wait, Martin Zeigler, Teresa Zapp, Michael and Chris Krassa, Mary Beth Ambrose, William Maher, Chuck Maty, Julia, Virginia Alane, Norma Kroes, Margaret and Wayne Oaks, George Pennacchi, Mary Tracy, Carolyn McElrath, and Paul Ziegler.

Thanks also to Cindy Kelly and the 40 members of the junior-high youth group who stepped up to the tables and filled 200 food baskets. Parents, you can be proud of your children! Their conduct and help for this project, giving of themselves at this young age, was a joy to see. They put love with every food item that went into the food baskets.

Also of tremendous help in this project were the Holy Cross SVDP members, who came to St. Patrick's to volunteer their time, some of them taking time from their jobs, to help deliver the food baskets: John Sherlock, Harry Forrester, Joe Lamb, Tom Shay, Mike Ducey, Jim Davis, Paul Miller, and Jack Dickson. We welcomed your support!

St. Patrick's parishioners also helped deliver food baskets: Joe Sleeter, Peggy Pennacchi, Carole Rebeiz, Norma Kroes, Norman Donze, Len Butler, Mary Fonner, Martin Zeigler, Joe Tobias, Jim Moffitt, Irma and Ray Wait, Kay Gingrich, and Mary Walsh. A job well done, feeding Christ's lambs!

"Thank you!" "God bless you!" We wish you could have heard them all, experienced the hugs and smiles that came with them. We were told over and over again to thank St. Patrick's people for their food. Each basket had \$30 worth of food, more than enough for a single meal. You have made many of the needy in this community very happy. Without your help the Society could not have reached these 200 families. We join our thanks to theirs.

Sophia Zeigler  
President, Urbana SVDP

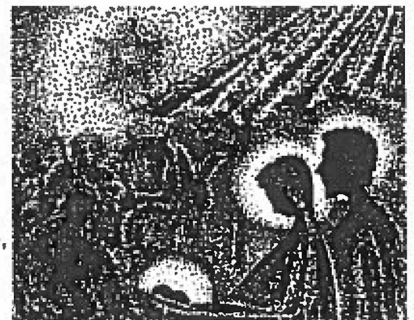


The Junior High Youth Group gathered to help feed the hungry, with love and food.

Sojourners, strangers,  
aimless we wander,  
weighted by fear  
and sin's isolation.

Then comes the news—  
in Christ, Jubilee!  
Jesus brings freedom,  
hope,  
return.

Pilgrims  
now with promise, purpose,  
we journey as family,  
welcoming strangers,  
as together we travel  
toward home.





## in our parish library

### *The Song of the Seed*

By Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

In the days and weeks following Christmas, with the Mystery of Love Incarnate wrapped in silence drawing us, we are invited by the author to reflect on that Mystery and its place in our lives, to step back a little to take a better look, to see it from another perspective, perhaps, and so to see it more truly. She asks:

"What simple truths and values in our lives have been lost because of the busyness of our lives? Has our intimacy with God and others suffered because we have too readily embraced the distractions and noise surrounding us? Has the simplicity of earlier days been crowded out by our drive to possess or control? What sacred stories from the past are buried in our souls? What are we missing? What are we forgetting? What needs to be remembered and cherished? What needs to be forgiven? What needs to be healed? What are the treasures hidden in our fields? What is waiting to be discovered?"

With these probing questions she extends an invitation to quiet reflection: "A retreat is a time to step back and take a new look at our lives. It is not so much a time to learn new things as to remember and feel again some of the things we have forgotten. It is a time to be lovingly attentive to the needs of the soul."

A Benedictine who directs retreats and workshops throughout the U.S., Macrina Wiederkehr describes the theme and context for her book in this way: "A Word of power leapt from the heavens. It was the same Word that was *in the beginning* with God. This Word became God's enfleshed presence on the earth." She adds: "*The Song of the Seed* is an at-home retreat. The seed is the Word of God, and the song is your daily life centered around this Word. The parable of the sower and the seed from Luke's Gospel is the text for your retreat. The Sower (God) believes in the land of your heart and wants to be intimately involved in the daily, dusty ordinariness of your life."

This retreat can be done in the familiar environment of one's one home, alone or with a group of similar-minded individuals. The structure is simple, the resources complete. What is needed is only the desire to revive the deep yearning of the soul for God.

Macrina Wiederkehr is the author of *Tree Full of Angels* and *Seasons of Your Heart*, both of which are in our parish library.

### **Pray for life . . . . .**

On Jan. 22 a Community Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil will be held at St. Patrick's on the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Sponsored by the Pro-Life Committee of St. Patrick's and the Right to Life of Champaign County, this prayer service provides an opportunity for parishioners to unite with people of other faiths in praying for an end to abortion and other unnatural methods

for terminating life.

This year members of St. Patrick's faith community will be joined by individuals from Penfield, Peoria, and Danville as well as by members of other faith communities in Champaign and Urbana.

The service begins at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's church.

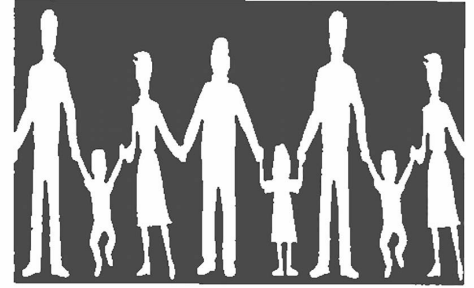
### **Council and K of C greet newcomers**

Families who joined the parish in the last year were invited to attend the Oct. 29 Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast as guests of the Knights and the Parish Council. The event was designed to welcome newcomers formally and to help them become more fully integrated into the life of the parish.

Six newcomer families enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast with all the trimmings,

prepared by the Knights. A large number of parishioners in attendance at the breakfast were present as the newcomers were welcomed by Mary Long, Parish Council president, and Chris Stohr, K of C Grand Knight.

All of the newcomers received a small gift from the parish and were approached individually by parishioners afterward. All in all, the event was a grand success!



**Welcome to new parishioners** Albert Bari, Dean Matthew Goedde, Darcy Hopfauf, Janet House.

**Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U:** Gregory and Bridget Danner, Arlene and John Fassola.

**Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's:** Mark Stephen Aber and Nancy Helen Greenwalt, Scott Victor Cimarusti and Julie Kay Arie, Myron Dwight Witruk and Rhea Louise Wait, Jason Andrew Atwood and Tamela Sue Clevenger.

**We welcome these recently baptized into our faith community:** Briana Nicole Stohr, Ceildidh Jordan Dicke, Lauren Elizabeth Britsky, Karrie Patrice Sturdyvin, Dakotah David Armbruster, Lucas James Weier, Stephan James Willard.

**Please pray for our deceased parishioners:** Jennie J. D'Urso, Dominick A. Santi, Maria Pia Gratton, Thomas J. Tyrrell, Mary Elizabeth Nemeth, Raymond Heinzen, Judith Arie.



*Deadline for submission  
of information, articles,  
and news items  
for the next issue  
of In Focus  
is January 14.*

## St. Patrick's Parish Council News

At their December meeting Parish Council members heard from Mary Fonner about Matthew House, founded in 1982 by Tamara Youngman to answer the needs of single minority mothers with very low incomes by helping their children.

Many of the children are traumatized; Tamara works at restoring a sense of self-worth and personal dignity through the one-on-one attention she gives them. Children come on Saturdays and after school on weekdays.

Tamara welcomes, needs, volunteers to pick up children after school and take them to Matthew House. Volunteers are also needed to take children to church, give them lunch, and take them home.

The house and property for Matthew House, at 402 E. Park, as well as the house next door, have been purchased and remodeled; the next step is to build a chapel at the back of the lot. (A large portion of the funding for the chapel has already been secured, but donations are still needed.) Pillows in neutral tones and made with natural materials are also being sought for the chapel.

On environmental matters, it was noted that there are many green "St. Patrick's" mugs still available for purchase. Members were reminded to use two-sided copying (although sometimes hexed by the parish copier) whenever possible and to recycle no-longer-needed reports and other documents.

The Council's Epiphany celebration, which has been expanded

to include all committee members in an expression of appreciation for their ongoing volunteerism on behalf of the parish, is to take place on Saturday, Jan. 6. The dinner will be catered by The Great Impasta, and the Uni High Madrigals have been invited to perform.

Attendance at this year's Trees of Christmas display was so far behind attendance in earlier years that St. Patrick's Guild will discuss whether or not to offer it again next year. The Lunch with Santa event was very well attended; some families without reservations had to be turned away at the door.

Council members agreed to tithe the Christmas collection on behalf of our sister church in the Holy Land, the Church of the Assumption in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem. Funds for helping the poor there will be greatly appreciated. What remains from the Christmas collection will be deposited in St. Patrick's Centennial Fund.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Jan. 18. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.



## New Catechism a wonderful resource

"I probably wouldn't have read the Catechism without the class prodding to get me through it," confessed one of the 25 participants in the six-week study of the new Catechism of the Catholic Church facilitated by

Carolyn McElrath, director of religious education at St. Patrick's.

"It is really a rich and wonderful resource containing just about anything you'd ever want to know about Catholic belief and practice," said yet another of the participants. "It really pulls together the rich treasury of the Church, with quotes from the early Church Fathers as well as from the documents of Vatican II."



Some participants in the study of the new Catechism, from the left: Kathy Lee, Nancy Steerman, Mike Krassa, Carol Rapp, Nancy Susedik, Maureen Frantz, Mary Graham, Marilyn Taylor, Sr. Soledad, Sr. Robert.

Most participants admitted to not having been able to read carefully all of the new Catechism in the relatively short time of the study. "But hopefully the confidence level in being able to sit down and read it, and to speak out of it, has increased," said Carolyn. "That's all we were really trying to accomplish, to help people feel more confident in speaking about their faith on the basis of the Catechism and to help them internalize it by

spending this time reading and thinking about their faith."

For those who missed this opportunity to read the new Catechism in a class setting, there will be future opportunities. As Carolyn observed, "The Catechism will be with us for a long time as a normative statement of our Catholic belief and practice," so sessions are sure to be offered again, perhaps as often as once a year.

# Youngsters celebrate First Reconciliation

*Come, Lord Jesus. You are our light. We know that when we walk in your light, we are light to one another.*

*But we also know that sometimes we walk in darkness. We come together this evening to seek your forgiveness and your healing love.*

*Lord God, may your light shine in our hearts. May we become one with each other and with you. We ask this through Jesus, your son.*

So prayed 44 boys and girls from St. Patrick's families who gathered on Dec. 5 to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Four others, students at Holy Cross, followed on Dec. 9.

Parents and other parishioners welcome all of these young people to this sacrament of peace. We pray that they continue



*Before the service, Fr. Remm extends his hands over Sean Price and explains what the sign of absolution means.*

to grow in God's love and forgiveness:

Nick Bialeschki, Madeline Blair, Mitch Blair, Thu Bui, Sara Burch, Sam Call, Brittany Collenberger, Nicole Denhart, Matthew Depew, Alyssa Durant, Carly Eifert, Rachel Faught, Emily Floess;

Ashley Graham, Alfred Handal, Merla Hubler, Jackie Johnston, Jennifer Johnston, Rosemary Keane, Katie Korder, Christopher Krassa, Sean Landsman, Kelsey Lee, Matthew Maduzia, John Marlin, Kate Marlin;

Patricia Mathy, Brian Melander, Jason Miklasz, Andrew Miller, Iain Millsap, Hung Nguyen, Quynh Nguyen, Quynh-Nhu Nguyen, Tu Nguyen, Mercedes Panepinto, Lisa Portis, Sean Price;

Megan Raab, Joshua Rackers, Addam Randall, Kelly Jo Redmon, Andrea Rivas, Rebecca Schrepfer, Bridget Soltau, Justin Stutes, Nancy Truong, Suzanne Truong.

## What was that again?

Have you ever heard something in the readings at Mass that made you curious but it didn't come up in the homily? This can easily happen, because the readings from Scripture are so rich with themes and meanings and possible applications to our day-to-day lives that the homilist has to make a choice. And, of course, homilists are not trying to give a lecture on the Bible; they are trying to help us see how to live it.

For example, a few weeks ago we heard the story of Naaman, the Syrian, who was healed of leprosy by the prophet Elijah. Naaman asked Elijah for two mule loads of earth. What was that all about, did you wonder?

One thing that you can do when a question like this occurs to you is to look up the reading in your Bible at home. (The readings for Sunday's Mass and for weekday Masses are listed in the parish bulletin to make it easy for you to find them.) Maybe reading it again will help you understand it better. Often your Bible will include a footnote to explain a difficult or obscure passage.

The readings from Scripture used at Mass are taken from the *New American*

*Bible*. It might be easier for you to find the passage that raised a question if you look it up in the *New American Bible*, which also provides helpful footnotes. Sometimes it helps to look at a different translation that expresses passages differently, so don't give up if you don't have a *New American Bible*.

Something else you might do is to ask someone else your question. We are often able to help one another this way, one person sharing understandings with another. And you can usually find members of our parish staff greeting people after Mass—if you can wait for a moment, you might have just the opportunity you need to ask your question and get an answer.

If you're especially curious, you can try looking in the parish library for helpful commentaries, some on the whole Bible, some on individual books in the Bible. Most of these are shelved together with the call number 220 on their spines.

So. What was that about the two mule loads of earth? Well, Naaman thought that the God of Israel had to be worshipped in Israel, so he wanted to take a bit of Israel home with him to Aram, so he could build an altar on it there.

## Andre Bessette a modern-day saint

Many St. Patrick's parishioners were alive at the same time as our January saint, Andre Bessette, who lived from 1845 to 1937. Others, in fact, may remember hearing about this man, whose tremendous devotion to St. Joseph led to his recognition as a healer of physical ills.

The eighth of 12 children born into a French Canadian family, Andre was a sick and weak child. At the age of twelve Andre was adopted upon the death of both his parents. He attempted to make his way in life first as a shoemaker, then as a baker, and later as a blacksmith, but did not succeed.

During the Civil War he worked in the U.S., and at the age of 25 he applied to gain entrance into the Congregation of the Holy Cross. At first he was rejected because of his poor health, but eventually the superiors reconsidered and Andre was received into the order, where he served as doorkeeper, sacristan, laundry worker, and messenger.

Most of his night hours Andre spent on his knees praying—always with a statue of St. Joseph close by. He also visited and prayed with the sick then, rubbing them with oil from the lamp in the chapel. Word of his healing powers began to spread; during one epidemic, when Andre volunteered to nurse the sick, not one person died. The trickle of sick people seeking his help became a flood.

Andre's simple gift of prayer and his humility made him precious to the Lord and beloved by those who came to know him. By the time he died at the age of 91 he was known all over Canada; half a million people are said to have filed past the coffin of this humble man.

We commemorate Andre Bessette on Jan. 6.

# Teens enjoy doing for others

"It feels really good to do something for other people, to know that some kid will have a present at Christmas who might not have had one otherwise." This seemed a consensus among the senior-high students who participated in St. Patrick's Youth Group Advent Service Project on Sunday evening, Dec. 17.

Several projects were presented for students' choice that evening. Some students helped to make soup for the Catholic Worker House. Others brought gifts of toys, games, and clothing for all ages and helped to wrap them for later

distribution to the needy. Yet others designed homemade greeting cards for parish shut-ins.

"It may be that we can have only a small impact, but service is an essential component of all our religious education programs here at St. Patrick's," observed Carolyn McElrath, director of our parish religious education program. "Service projects help to increase our awareness and sense of responsibility to help with the problems of hunger and poverty in our world."



## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ...

Norma Kroes

### Apple Bread

- ½ c margarine
- 1 c sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 t vanilla
- 2 c flour
- ½ t salt
- 1 t baking soda
- ¼ t nutmeg
- ¼ t cinnamon
- ½ c sour milk or orange juice
- 1 c chopped apples
- ½ c chopped walnuts

Cream together margarine and



sugar; add eggs and vanilla. Combine dry ingredients and add alternately with sour milk or orange juice to the creamed mixture. Stir in apples and nuts. Bake in greased 9 x 5 loaf pan at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes. Can add ½ cup raisins (soak first in warm water) or chopped cranberries for variation.



## "A very big thank you . . ."

The Building and Grounds Committee members are grateful.

Why?

Well, members of St. Patrick's Guild recently made two very generous gifts to the parish, upgrading parish facilities with reupholstered chairs and newly installed carpeting in the multi-purpose room. They have not only made very noticeable improvements but have chosen a beautiful way of showing their dedication to our parish.

But that's not the only reason the Building and Grounds Committee members are grateful.

Just suppose you got a call on a bitterly cold night to hear that someone's furnace wasn't working and you really had to do something about it right away. Well, that did happen.

The furnace that heats the second floor of the priests' residence gave up one day, and it was indeed bitterly cold outside. The committee called on Ray's Heating and Air Conditioning for a bid to replace the furnace (which after all was quite old). The response was quite a generous one—a new furnace and labor at no charge! Both the furnace and the labor to install it were donated entirely by parishioner Pat Dill. (Santa was surely grateful too!)

## Christmas Greetings *from Susan Nagele:*

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be writing this fourth Christmas letter from Nimule! We just celebrated Thanksgiving Day on the foundation of a kitchen which we stopped building in January 1994 because of insecurity at that time. We invited about 30 people to share our chickens, ducks, and goat to thank God and them for the many blessings we've received this past year.

The year began with an outbreak of meningitis in the two camps of displaced people where we work. The camps are located 15 miles, 23 km or one to two hours away, depending on the rain and road. The population at risk was estimated to be around 30,000, and all the local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and local authorities pulled together to provide immunizations. In the middle of the project the government of Sudan shelled Nimule, and the other NGOs relocated to Uganda temporarily. Fortunately, the type of meningitis wasn't too strong and the immunization campaign seemed to help. We had only 20 documented cases and one death, a five-month-old boy who came after five days and was too young for the vaccine.

From Mar. 28 to Jul. 28 we enjoyed a ceasefire. It was a relief for everyone to be able to start planting crops and building huts and not have to be afraid of bombs or shells. We put up huts with mud walls, grass roofs, and cement floors in both of the health centers and finally had some shelter from the weather for the patients.

In July I had a wonderful vacation with my parents and brother, Paul, in Ireland. Several Kiltegan priests who have worked in Sudan were home on their holidays, and we were treated royally. They showed us their beautiful country, warm hospitable families, and a rich history of religious tradition, oppression, and struggle. The memories of that visit and those people still make my heart smile.

God must have known I'd need those memories because the war resumed in August. The camps were bombed twice, first on Aug. 17 and again on Oct. 9. Miraculously, no one was injured in the first incident, but two civilians were killed and four seriously injured in October. Land mines in northern Uganda made the roads unsafe, and we felt like we were back in the same leaky, shifting boat of earlier days.

Then, on Oct. 25, the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA—the "administrative authority" here) began a surprise offensive and in only 2-3 days pushed the government troops back from three fronts—two of which were threats to the camps and Nimule. The shelling is now off in the distance, and the bombers come only occasionally to our locations to have a look. For once, the fronts are away from civilian populations and the people in the camps are relieved to know they can stay in their homes for now.

For the first time in four years I am able to produce an accounting of the money we have spent. Many of you have supported us financially. Your contributions are included in the figure of \$15,000 contributed by the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful (MMAF). Actually, some of this money was saved from the previous year too. These monies are less restricted, so they help us out in emergencies. I used them when the Sudanese authorities failed to honor their agreements to help in building the health center, to pay hospital fees in Uganda for patients who needed referrals, and to provide some incentives for the health care workers.

Some of the people who would like to thank you are among the following: Onesimu Yuma Taban, the health care coordinator in Mogali II camp, died with dignity in April of probable AIDS. He was a well-loved nurse, and those who knew his diagnosis showed him only compassion and love. Deng Ding, a ten-year-old boy with club feet since birth, has had one foot corrected surgically in Uganda and is awaiting a prosthesis. His big beautiful smile got even bigger!

Regina can share not only her thanks but the sufferings of her life that echo the Christmas story of many years ago. She has been pregnant nine times. Only one girl survived and was taken by her husband many years ago. (Girls are valuable because they bring the dowry to their family when they are married.) Regina is from a small tribe called the Pari; they've suffered a lot from discrimination by other, more populous, tribes in the camp. She got pregnant this year and was threatened, beaten, and had to move to a friend's house for safety. She's also one of the traditional birth attendants who works with us; through it all she never gave up, she tried to love her enemies and find peaceful solutions. She always brightened our clinic with her happy smile and caring manner. In October she delivered a healthy baby girl.

We hope all newborns will grow up in a world that has not only heard Jesus' message of peace and love but responded to it. We thank you for your responses of prayer and support for us and hope your lives this coming year are filled with more peace and much joy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

## Joshua leads many to new appreciation of Scripture

"It was a very important experience in our lives. Comparing it with other Bible studies I've done, I found this one easier, even though Joshua was harder to understand. The author [of the study] let us put our own personal view into it."

This was Jean Hackett's response to the question "What did you gain from the study of Joshua?" Jean was one of a group of nearly 80 area Catholics who spent 10 weeks studying the book of Joshua as part of the C-U area Community Bible Study. The larger group included approximately 450 people of various religious affiliations.

With approval from the Parish Council, CBS found its way to St. Patrick's in the fall of 1994 when Mary Long and Margy Palmisano started a leaders group for a study of St. Paul. They eventually assembled a group of 17, whom they hoped would serve as leaders of other groups. With enough leaders for nine groups at St. Patrick's as well as one at St. Mary's, the program was under way.

The makeup of the leaders group changed somewhat during the year as new members were added and others moved on to answer different calls on time and talent.

Participants in the recently completed study of Joshua expressed a variety of impressions.

Anya Pavia, of the teen study group, observed: "I made a lot of close friends, and we're continuing [the group meetings] until the next study starts. It gave us a chance to compare our thoughts. At the age we are, we're kind of unsure about our religion, and it gave us a chance to talk things over."

The publicity-shy adult leader of the teen group agreed. "The teenagers found it a way to promote discussion about areas of their own lives. We talked about the warring times and how, like Joshua, we can remain faithful without fully understanding." She added, "Joshua was so neat because it talked about the Promised Land. It's the first time I've been able to make that link with what the people of the Holy Land are still struggling with today."

Jim Mayer was at the parish center by 7 a.m. on Wednesdays with the men's group. Even at that early hour he said he gained a better understanding of the Old Testament and felt closer to the God of the Old Testament. "I think more fullness of our faith can happen if we appreciate all of scripture," he said. "The bonding of that group of guys was something special." He added that one member of the group, David Howie, was so inspired by the story of Joshua and the Israelites that he wrote a song about it. David's song, "Twelve Stones," commemorates the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River.

Tom Delanty, of the Wednesday evening

mixed group, admitted that he is not generally fond of a lot of "Old Testament stuff," but said that the study made it much more relevant. "I found it a more interesting experience in reading than I thought it would be."

Joseph Youakim, a native of Palestine, enriched the Monday night group's study with a slide show of the Holy Land. Although he has firsthand knowledge of the countryside and an understanding of the history of the land and peoples, he does not claim a special advantage. His comment on the 10-week study: "It was enriching to my faith and spirituality. ... Faith is always a continuing process, which makes it exciting. ... If I share my faith, I learn. I see God through others because each has God inside."

Laura Andrejasich and her husband, Mike, were coleaders of the Tuesday evening group, which began as a men's Cursillo prayer group. Laura said of the experience, "It challenged me to spend more time in prayer and study. It reminded me to rely on God and give God the credit due Him."

John Deponai, a member of St. Patrick's Over-21 Club and a member of Holy Cross Parish, gave this evaluation of his learning experience with the Bible study: "I grew a lot over the period and benefited from it greatly." He was also grateful that he "met so many nice people."

As a teacher of religion at Holy Cross School, Barb Yount "found the study very interesting, especially since I'm teaching Old Testament. ... One day I found that it fit right in with what we were studying. One morning I used it also with my daughter." In addition to what she learned about long-ago biblical times, Barb said she "learned to be more prayerful."

The leader of the Friday morning women's group felt that the group study helped her to grow spiritually and found that "it's a wonderful way to build community."

Chris Main, leader of the Monday morning women's group, commented, "It impressed upon me the need to call upon the Holy Spirit in decision making. ... Since the Joshua study, I've been asking the Holy Spirit to guide me in making decisions, especially those that affect my family and friends."

Speaking as leader of a group from St. Mary's Parish, Sandy Volk expressed gratitude: "We were really grateful that you gave us the support we needed to get going."

Although the book of Joshua provided a good learning experience, many said that they will be glad to move from Old Testament to New with the study of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans in January.

New participants are welcome. If you think you might like to take part in this adventurous study of scripture, watch the weekly parish bulletin for information, pick

the time most convenient for you, and call Mary Long (328-2989) or Margy Palmisano (367-5510) to sign on.

## St. Patrick's Theater Group

Have you sometimes wished that you could attend some of the plays and operas that are presented in our area at the Krannert Center, the Virginia Theater, the Station Theater, the Monticello Camp Creek Playhouse, Sunshine Dinner Theater, The Little Theater on the Square (Sullivan)? You sometimes find that you don't have someone in particular to go with you: you are single, or widowed, your spouse doesn't like to go to plays, you just never get around to planning, or you need a ride because you can't drive at night.

Well, here is an opportunity for you, right here at St. Patrick's. Fr. Remm likes to go to plays, so a few years ago he and Helen Barrymore, Florence Chevalier, Judy Conover, Mary Lou Menches, Jean Daly, Mary Corcoran, and several others formed the St. Patrick's Theater Group. (Since that beginning quite a few others have joined the group, including Mary Lee Brady, Grace Bowen, Rose Breen, Rose Brown, Connie Cimeno, Sr. Marie Golla, Nancy Haessly, Norma Kroes, Terry Moreau, Lenore Nagele, Cathy Salika, Lucille Salika, Peggy Whelan, Teresa Zapp, and, recently, Fr. Eugene Kane. (Sorry if we missed a few names!))

Not everyone goes to all the plays since interests differ, other responsibilities may be pressing, or finances are low. But at least the opportunities are given.

A few times a year those who wish to help choose the lineup of selections get together over coffee and donuts to review upcoming productions. One or two selections are made for each month. Then a mailing lets the group know of the plays selected and the cost of tickets. Once everyone has been heard from, a group order is placed so we can be seated together.

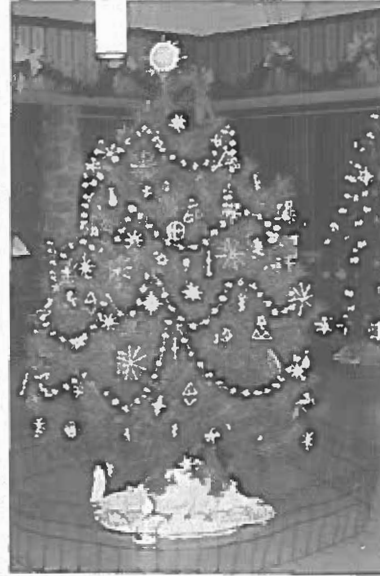
Some of the participants like to gather for supper before the play. Others just meet at the theater. Sometimes there is an opportunity for dessert after the play to share impressions and the excitement of our reactions.

The St. Patrick's Theater Group is open to all. Consider this your invitation to join. If interested call or write Judy Conover, 605 E. Florida, Urbana, IL 61801, 367-2109.

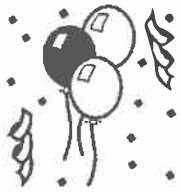
A letter listing some spring and summer selections has just gone out to current members. Because there is a Jan. 10 deadline for obtaining tickets to some of the events, you may want to get in touch with Judy soon if you'd like to be included.

Remember, "The play's the thing!"

# Parish Night The Trees of Christmas 1995







# January 1996

## St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00am Mass & Breakfast	<b>2</b> 6:45pm Beginning Experience 7:00pm Homily Prep	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SVDP	<b>4</b> 10:15am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Communications Com	<b>5</b> 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH 1:30pm Church Women United	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Parish Council Epiphany Party
	Parish Office Closed					
<b>7</b> Epiphany 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Jr & Sr High Religious Ed	<b>8</b> 10:45am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>9</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Financial Affairs 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	<b>10</b> 9:00am Guild Mtg. 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	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Building & Grounds Com 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Baptism Prep	<b>12</b> 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00am RCIA 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Jr & Sr High Religious Ed	<b>15</b> 10:45am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Catechist Appreciation Dinner 6:45pm Beginning Experience	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> 10:15am Moms Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Parish Council 7:30pm Pax Christi	<b>19</b> 10:30am Mass- Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	<b>20</b> 10:00am Library Volunteers Mtg
<b>21</b> 9:00am RCIA 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Religious Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Jr & Sr High Religious Ed	<b>22</b> 9:30am Archives Com 10:45am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer	<b>23</b> 9:30am Funeral Schola 7:00pm Social Action Com 7:00pm Homily Prep	<b>24</b> 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	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 10:30am Mass- Americana Urbana NH 10:45am Mass- Champaign Cty NH	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00am RCIA 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10:45am Rosary- Champaign Cty NH 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com	<b>30</b> 6:45pm Beginning Experience	<b>31</b> 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm SVDP 7:00pm RCIA			