

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## *The Triduum draws us into the heart of our identity as Church*

So well known as to need no other name, the central moment in the life of every Christian and of the Christian community as a whole is called simply "The Triduum" ("The Three Days")—or "Easter Triduum."

The Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with Vespers on Easter Sunday evening.

These days are the hinge-point of the year, the central moment around which all else revolves. They give

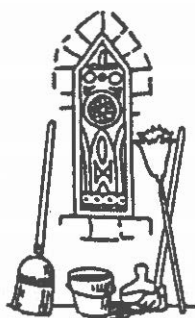
## *Spring cleaning a come-as-you-are party*

Lent is sometimes seen as a kind of spring cleaning for the soul. But there is another place in need of sprucing up this spring—St. Patrick's church.

If you've never joined our parish teens in cleaning the church, give it a try this year: Apr. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, or anytime in between.

Although the church is a large building, many hands really do make light work, and you just might even have a good time!

Reservations not required. Casual dress. Time commitment of your choice. Brooms, dust cloths, donuts, juice, coffee provided.



meaning to the Forty Days of Lent, which precede, and to the Fifty Days of Easter, which follow. They draw us into the heart of our identity as Church. The paschal mystery of Jesus's death and resurrection is the core of our faith, and our participation in that mystery through the celebration of baptism defines what it means to be Christian and what it means for the community to be Church.

The death and resurrection we celebrate is not just the historical event, but our dying and rising in Christ today. We focus our celebration especially around the catechumens who "come to the water" and rise from it to resurrected life. But we are all called to reenter the mystery each year, to die more fully to self and rise in the Lord:

"The body that lies lifeless in the tomb is ours. The body that rose again on the third day is ours. The body that ascended above all the heights of heaven to the right hand of the Father's glory is ours. If then we walk in the way of his commandments, ... we too are to rise to share his glory" (Leo the Great).

Thus we renew each year the promises of our baptism, uniting ourselves with the newly baptized in our midst. We gather around the font and remember who we are as we welcome new members into the community that is Church.

## *Parish Council membership an honor and a challenge*

By Jean Daly

My term as a member and as an officer of the Parish Council will come to a close in May. It has been an honor, an obligation, and a challenge. Being elected is an experience in itself, since it brings both elation and apprehension as one enters into a new phase of parish life.



Each month the Council meeting begins with prayer and reflection, led by one of the members, asking for the Lord's guidance; it closes with a prayer of thanksgiving led by our pastor, Fr. Remm. In between, we attend to the business at hand, which may be directly related to one of the committees of the parish, a phase of development, a problem brought up for consideration, plans for a parish event, review of new proposals, budgeting, community outreach, and many other matters that vary with the times.

Because of the broad scope of our work, it is imperative that we are able to communicate our ideas and listen to one another. The annual retreat for Council members, held early in the new Council year, gives us a chance to gather in a relaxed atmosphere where we share our faith and establish a feeling of camaraderie. Thus, both our faith and our friendship are present when we meet each month.

*Continued on page 5*

*Continued on page 5*

## The story of a vocation "You're going to— what?"

Liesje [Elisabeth] Schonken is the daughter of Mia Thomas-Buyst, a St. Patrick's parishioner. Liesje, who was born in Leuven, Belgium, spent much of her childhood here in Urbana, although she traveled extensively with her family on sabbaticals in Europe, Australia, and the United States. She speaks three languages fluently and as a teenager had eclectic tastes in music, ranging from rock and roll and folksongs to hymns. She excelled in athletics, winning several district medals in track (in Florida).

At one time Liesje considered attending the University of Illinois to major in child development. She decided, however, to return to Belgium, where she attended a Catholic college in Brussels for three years. On a trip to Italy, however, she discovered that God had other plans for her. This



Welcome to new parishioners Marie Bozinovich, Keith and Maria Cengel, Anita and Gregory Kaiser, Don and Iwona Kermath, Cheryl and Darrel Kesler, John Malone, David Schaaf, Elice and Tommy Setiawan.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Pauline Albers, Susan Butkus, Jill Ciolli, Michael and Patricia Koch, Joyce Rothgeb, Robin and Scott Schingel.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Mason Claude Clevenger, Hannah Elizabeth Mazurek, Jenna Lynn Langendorf.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Glenn "Gene" Lynch, Joseph A. Roedl, James Conerty, Dorothy Freehill.

is her story of her spiritual journey, which eventually led to a vocation to a cloistered religious life.

Dear friends,

Many of my English speaking friends have asked me to tell them more about my vocation. ... It's actually a very long story (many years), so I won't go into too many details. ...

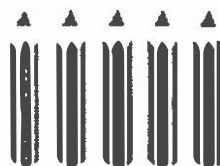
I had made the habit of praying quite some by myself (rosary and silent meditation), and I went to Mass quite regularly.

During the summer I went with my sister and niece on a vacation to Italy. As we were driving on Italian roads, we saw the sign "Monte Cassino" with a monastery or something drawn next to it. We went to take a peek ... and ended up by the tomb of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. This made quite an impression on me, and I became an avid fan of St. Benedict as I got to know him better.

When the monastery was closed to the public and we had to leave, we drove on. ... We saw a big basilica ahead and decided to have a look. It was a sanctuary named "Castello Perroso," and Our Lady had appeared there, like the Pieta, with Jesus at her feet. My sister Gertrude, who could express herself in Italian, was asking more information of a monk. When we wanted to leave, he asked, "Where will you sleep?" "Oh," we said, "we'll

Continued on page 4

## Holy Cross newsline



In Focus seeks a volunteer to gather and write about information of interest to parishioners about Holy Cross School programs, activities, and calendar events. More than 70 youngsters from over 50 St. Patrick's families are enrolled at Holy Cross School, and our readers are interested!

Please call Dorothy Maduzia (367-2819) or Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) if this role appeals to you.

## What name would you choose for the Catholic high school?

Forty-three responses were received from St. Patrick's parishioners suggesting names for the new Catholic High School. Twenty-one separate names were submitted.

The following names received the highest number of responses:

1. *Joseph Cardinal Bernadin* (8): An inspiration, prince of the Church, archdiocesan head, religious spirituality, dedication, teaching, education, humility, integrity, leadership, honesty, humanitarian, exemplary life, impact on Catholics and non-Catholics, role in merging issues of justice, fairness, and quality of life.

2. *Kinder High*, Msgr. Paul Kinder High (7): Born and raised in Urbana and in the Diocese of Peoria, wonderfully learned spiritual person who touched the lives of many people in this area, profound sensitivity to young people, to honor his memory and service to the community, a gift of God to all of us; a giving, caring, loving person; Kinder means child or youth.

3. *Mother Teresa* (7): In respect for all she did on earth, example of true living in the spirit of Jesus, compassion for the poor, example to young people, love for children and families, exalted in Catholicism, reminder of our need for charity, honor the women of the Church.

4. *St. Mary's Catholic High School* (6): Variations included "Mary's Children," "Immaculate Conception," "Our Lady of the Prairie," "Notre Dame de Pres" and "Joseph and Mary." Mother Church of the area, Mother of God and our Mother, Seat of Wisdom (#721, p. 208 Catechism), sign of good things to come.

5. *Holy Family High School* (3): As a co-ed school, role model/identification should be chosen for our youth that is compelling and immediate and of the highest spirituality; this name would reinforce the family as the basic cell of society and contrast with divorce, alternate life-styles, same sex marriages and abortion.

6. *St. Francis of Assisi* (2): Saint of peace; the world, country, and town needs peace; flows good with sports.

## Roncalli Society's Spring Gathering features Fr. George Clements

On Saturday, Apr. 18, Fr. George Clements will share his gospel vision with the Roncalli Society's members and guests.

Fr. Clements is widely known for his humanitarian work and his successful efforts to build coalitions in support of economic and social justice. His programs One Church-One Child, One Church-One Addict, and One Church-One Inmate reflect his dedication to improving the lives of the least fortunate. He was recognized for his work on behalf of his African brothers and sisters when, in 1989, he was named a Chief of the Yoruba Tribe in Imeko, Nigeria.

A native Chicagoan, Fr. Clements was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1957. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy and a B.A. in Sacred Theology. He served as pastor of Holy Angels Church (Chicago) from 1969 to 1991. He was a founder of both the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the African American Police League.

In 1981 he became the first priest to adopt a child, and subsequently adopted three others.

Without doubt Fr. Clements has experience, enthusiasm, and gospel vision to share!

The Spring Gathering will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 1508 Moss Ave., Peoria. Registration and socializing begin at 8:15 a.m.; the program starts at 9:15 a.m. For Society members, registration is free; for guests, \$5.



*On behalf of the James Conerty family, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent flowers, food, and cards, and to those who offered their prayers and Masses. We appreciate all that you did to help us during this time of grieving as we move on in the memory of our dear Jim.*

## Would you like to help the poor?

- Can you spare
- 2-3 hours a week?
  - 2-3 hours a month?
  - 2-3 hours occasionally?

Despite press reports about the healthy economy and low unemployment, many people are unable to provide food for themselves and their families.

Recent issues of *In Focus* have described the St. Vincent de Paul Society's involvement in several food programs to help feed the poor of our community. On Mondays they receive all the food leftovers from Town and Country Catering Service—and the creative process begins.

*What kind of soup do we make today?* Members prepare many nutritious and interesting combinations. The soup is packaged in gallon containers for the noon meal program at the St. Jude Catholic Worker House. Many compliments have been received from the staff and participants for the delicious soups. Did you realize that barbecue sauce adds a little zing to a soup? That pasta salad with vinegar and oil dressing can be rinsed and added to

Preregistration is strongly encouraged, although walk-ins will be accommodated. Interested persons are welcome to join the Society at this time (\$20 for individuals, \$30 for couples) with no additional charge for registration. (No one will be denied either membership or conference participation due to inability to pay.)

The Roncalli Society, a group of priests, religious, and lay women and men of the Diocese of Peoria, has as its theme remaining faithful to the spirit of Vatican II within today's Church. For information about the Society and its goals, or to register for the Spring Gathering, call or write to Rick and Susan Heiser (309/828-2507, 309/452-0069), 810 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, IL 61701.



People Touching People

soups? These are just a couple of our soup makers' innovations.

*What do we do with the remainder of the food?* Pieces of roast chicken and roast beef, canned and fresh fruits, desserts, etc., are packaged for distribution to people who come to pick up a bag of groceries from the SVDP food pantry at 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Other vegetables, pasta, and meats are packaged and frozen for use in the next batch of soup. Small groups of parishioners work at these tasks each Monday morning when food is available; they'd like to increase the number of helpers.

*Can you help?* No experience necessary. Resumes not required. All applicants gratefully accepted. The experienced will tell or show you all you need to know!

*If you can spare a few hours weekly or monthly or even just occasionally, call Sophia Zeigler (328-2671) and tell her you'd like to help feed the poor and hungry.*



*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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*Associates:* Carol Bosley, Mary Fonner, Julie Herman, Dorothy Maduzia, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Joan Poletti, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika.

*Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Mary Lee Brady, Bob, Artha Chamberlain, Judy Conover, Nancy Costa, Jean Daly, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Pat Minogue, Frank Modica, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Mia Thomas-Buyst, Irene Vattano, Peggy Whelan, Jennifer L. Woodruff. This issue was paced by Andrew Hunt.*

Continued from Page 2

sleep outside." He replied, "Oh no, you mustn't do that; come with me. I will take you to the sisters and you can sleep there." And so we went to the sisters (they are "new"

Franciscans; they have a special devotion to St. Maximilian Kolbe and are semi-cloistered).

We weren't allowed to eat with the community, but they gave us a room with several beds, and in the morning we were allowed to go to Mass with them. Now, that was really something! I'll never forget that time at prayer with the sisters. Up to then, I'd never really thought much about convents, but this really set something afire. They seemed so happy and joyful, and they were very kind to us.

So St. Benedict and these sisters set me thinking about vocation. Later, in Assisi, I came across a little pamphlet with large letters printed on it (in Italian): "Consider your vocation." Our Lord gave me so many hints that in the end I thought, "Well, I suppose I'll end up becoming a nun somehow." In a way this frightened me because I wasn't all that well informed about convents, etc., and I led a rather active life. Also I knew that it wouldn't be for the near future, because I wasn't ready for it yet (spiritually and practically).

In prayer I ended up giving God my okay, my "fiat," thinking that He'll probably know what He's doing and wants me to be happy. I also kept my eyes open and looked around a bit at different convents and orders. There are so many of them! If the choice were mine, I wouldn't know where to go. I told God, in prayer, that if He wanted me to enter, to tell me where, when, how, ... and to arrange everything for me, because I felt like quite an ignoramus about this.

At a certain moment God did take action. Somebody invited me to visit the Poor Clares of Nusselt [Belgium]. I agreed, and went to visit. And when I was in the convent, talking to the sisters, I felt this—*click*. This was it, I knew it. The better I got to know the sisters, the more it became clear to me that this was it. Actually, I was rather surprised that it was the Poor Clares.



## in our parish library

### *The Ways of the Spirit*

By Evelyn Underhill

Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941) was a gifted writer and speaker, one of the spiritual leaders of our time. Her book *Mysticism* is a classic that is still widely read and continues to inspire. Conducting retreats for both clergy and laity, she developed twelve retreat topics, eight of which were later published. The four retreats in this book were recovered from handwritten, unpublished documents in the Underhill archives.

In these retreats, published for the first time in *The Ways of the Spirit*, Underhill takes up some of the timeless themes of the spiritual life: the call of God, sanctity, inner grace, and the end for which we were created. Her humor and metaphorical writing is part of the charm of her retreats; her warmth and joy are

obvious. She is tender and compassionate as she speaks to us where we are, awakens us, draws out our hidden hunger and potential for commitment.

In the retreat "Sanctity: The Perfection of Love," she develops the themes of Love, Joy, Peace, Prayer, The Communion of Saints, Growth and Service.

In "The End for Which We Were Made" she considers God, The Soul, Election, The Creative Personality, Adoration, Charity.

"Inner Grace and Outward Sign" develops themes of Courage, Generosity, Patience, Adoration, Communion, Cooperation.

In "The Call of God" Underhill expands on Vision, Penitence, Consecration, Members of Christ, Children of God, Inheritors of the Kingdom.

Take up *In the Ways of the Spirit* to give yourself a treat—and a retreat.

At first I didn't really know their specific spirituality very well, being an avid fan of St. Benedict. But the better I got to know the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare, the more I became convinced that this was it.

Of course, at that moment I still had to grow in my vocation—it isn't good to rush things. One must wait for the moment and meanwhile prepare oneself.

When I knew the time had come, I told the people in my neighborhood, classmates, and of course my family. Reactions varied. Entering the convent actually "went by itself." God *had* arranged everything for me; I just had to go with Him.

Of course, I had some difficulties; not everybody was all that happy about my doing this. Some people stared at me, bewildered. "You're going to—what?" with a facial expression that seemed to say, "Gee, she seemed so sane up to now." I kept

trying to explain the unexplainable, which was quite frustrating at times.

I'm very happy that my family accepted it so well. They had seen it coming and were really happy for me. Also I seemed to have gotten some people to think about religion. I'm getting a lot of mail from friends and ex-classmates with questions. ... In the end, if I reread all of this, all you see is "facts." It is very difficult to explain the Love of God, which became so irresistible for me that I just had to respond to His Will....

Mother Teresa (of Calcutta) says it is everybody's task to become a saint. Well, with the grace of God (a lot of grace of God), I hope to realize this and "drag" as many people as possible with me through prayer. For I believe very strongly in the force of prayer (and carrying crosses). So, until we meet in heaven, God bless you!

United in prayer,  
Liesje/Elisabeth

The Triduum continued from Page 1



## Holy Thursday

After he had washed their feet, he put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them:

*Do you understand  
what I just did for you?  
You address me as "Teacher"  
and "Lord," and fittingly enough,  
for that is what I am.  
But if I washed your feet—  
I who am Teacher and Lord—  
then you must wash  
each other's feet.  
What I just did was  
to give you an example:  
as I have done, so you must do.*

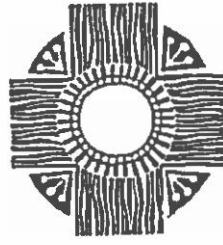
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Membership continued from Page 1

By diocesan statute the Council is not a governing body; it functions as an advisory body to the pastor. However, this fact does not lessen our responsibility; the pastor relies on members' ability to absorb and interpret information, to listen to committees and to parishioners, and, after discussion, to present a logical determination or disposition of a presentation.

Each Council member is also appointed as liaison to one of the standing committees of the Council. As such, the member serves as the "communicator" between the committee and the Council, attends the regular committee meetings in addition to the Council meetings, and submits a written report of the committee meeting to the Council. Thus the "voice" of each committee is heard.

It is with humble gratitude that I leave the Council—my thanks to the many members I have worked with the past three years, and my thanks to



## Good Friday

This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.

We worship you, Lord,  
we venerate your cross,  
we praise your resurrection.

Through your cross  
you brought joy to the world.



## Easter Sunday

*Regina caeli, laetare—  
Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia!  
For the Lord whom you were worthy  
to bear, Alleluia!  
Has risen as he said, Alleluia!  
Pray for us to God, Alleluia!*

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the parishioners of St. Patrick's for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

May you all be richly blessed!

*Jean Daly, outgoing president of the Parish Council, was elected to the Council in April 1995 and served as secretary and vice-president before her election to the presidency in 1997.*



## Holy Saturday Night

Let this flame mingle  
with the lights of heaven  
and continue bravely burning  
to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star that never sets  
find this flame still burning:  
Christ, that Morning Star,  
who came back from the dead,  
and shed his peaceful light  
on all humankind,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever.

*Christ our Light!  
Thanks be to God!*

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## Advent for a dancing God

*The following poem was written by Jennifer L. Woodruff, associate pastor of discipleship at First United Methodist Church in Champaign. Both she and her publisher have very graciously given permission for its reproduction here.*

*God is dancing still. Why, I do not know:  
wild rains are blowing, and the night is  
deep;  
wind shatters all our human hopes; we weep  
for what was lost yet never was let go.*

*How he is whirling in the wind and rain,  
still terrible and passionate and dear;  
one step too far away, one breath too near,  
we fear lest he might never come again.*

*God is dancing still, though we build a wall  
and make some little bricks, and hold our  
hands*

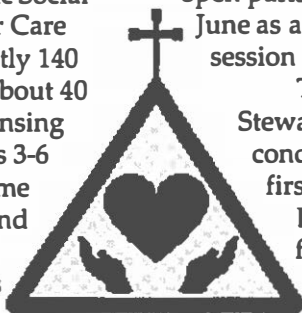
Continued on Page 10

## Parish Council News

Continuing their informational presentations about social action in the community, Council members listened as Stan Oglesby of Catholic Social Service outlined the Foster Care Program. There are currently 140 active foster parents and about 40 others undergoing the licensing process. Licensing requires 3-6 months and includes a home visit, background check, and 3 letters of reference. Case workers visit foster homes at least every six months, or more often depending on circumstances. Compensation to foster parents depends on the level of supervision needed or special medical or other needs of the children.

In their review of data from the parish needs assessment survey, members looked at responses to the second question, which indicate that while parishioners feel a part of the parish and the Universal Church, they don't feel a part of the diocese. Regarding volunteerism, only 8% of respondents acknowledged a responsibility to volunteer; 7% didn't know. As to whether their volunteerism was appreciated, 6% didn't think so and 18% didn't know. Council members considered these numbers high and discussed ways to convey a sense of appreciation for volunteers' time and effort.

In discussing the third question, about what makes up key aspects of the mission of the parish, Council members acknowledged respondents' 81%-85% agreement on such key aspects as inviting all to join in God's work, sharing the good news of the Gospel, and nurturing the sacramental and spiritual life of parishioners. They agreed that parish outreach in response to known needs is good, but that parishioners should be encouraged to help others even without parish sponsorship of specific ways for doing this. A significant number of respondents (66% and 58%, respectively) felt that a key aspect of the parish mission is to meet the physical/temporal needs of parishioners



and the surrounding community.

A Centennial Committee of 7-10 people will soon be formed and an open parish meeting will be held in June as an information-gathering session about what should be done.

The diocesan Annual Stewardship Appeal will be conducted at St. Patrick's on the first weekend in May.

Latino ministry was transferred from St. Patrick's to St. John's (campus), effective Ash Wednesday, because two priests there speak Spanish fluently. Although the Hispanic coordinator position at St. Patrick's will not be needed now, \$1500 will still be allocated to support the area's ministry to Hispanics.

The ad hoc election committee reported 8 candidates for the April 18-19 election of 3 new Council members: Dwain Berggren, Tim Brenner, Howard Cahill, Tom Cech, Jeff Hegstad, Judy Huelsbusch, Pulchratia

Kinney, and Terry Moreau.

The Council has set Apr. 18-19 as Volunteer Week to demonstrate appreciation of each and every volunteer. Recognition will take a variety of forms, including a ribbon for each volunteer coming to Mass that weekend.

Members voted unanimous approval of the Parish Nurse program and the proposal to establish a parish Vocations Committee. They also accepted the Financial Affairs Committee's projection of \$476,700 income for FY 1998-99.

These notes have been necessarily selective because they cover both February and March meetings of the Council. Complete minutes of Council meetings are posted on the bulletin boards in the office wing of the parish center and in the church vestibule for those who are interested in a fuller commentary.

The next meeting of the Council will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 16. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings.

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### *From Religious Leaders for Community Care* The C-U Good News

The Study Circles Kickoff, scheduled for this weekend (Saturday, Mar. 28), features Rev. Charles Nash, New Hope Church of God in Christ, as speaker. Hundreds of people in the C-U community have made the commitment to share two hours in conversation for five weeks. This specific step toward better racial understanding involves groups of 10-15 people representing the racial diversity of C-U, who have agreed to meet with trained facilitators during March and April in a format proven successful in other cities nationwide. Although groups will have already been formed, it's not too late to inquire about participating. For information, call Hal Anderson (328-6886) or Peter Dyck (643-2789).

The Children's Choir Concert will

be held at Faith United Methodist Church (1719 S. Prospect C.) on Sunday, Apr. 19, at 6 p.m. The concert, whose theme is "Celebrating the empty tomb!" will provide an opportunity to support Empty Tomb's ministries through the taking up of an offering at this event.

Toward more welcoming and inclusive schools, a meeting of religious leaders with school officials last November was followed by a newsletter, sent to every religious community, advocating a new mindset for churches to work more closely with students, parents, teachers, and administrators. On May 8, 9-11 a.m., at a follow-up breakfast meeting for all concerned, participants will hear what has happened and plan for what still needs to happen.



*Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is April 5.*

From Nancy Costa:

## An Evangelization Minute

February is notorious for bad weather. Yet in this month usually known for ice and snow can be found opportunities to warm even the coldest of hearts.

Of course, we're all familiar with Valentine's Day, the one day of the year set aside to celebrate publicly, as well as privately, romantic love. There was also the relatively new Random Acts of Kindness Week, which encouraged people to do an unexpected good deed for others to enrich their lives. And for the last several years February has been designated "Black History Month" as people of all races are looking to understand themselves and one another better than ever before.

The Scriptures have also given us an insight into the mystery and the wonder of the gift of love. A few weeks ago we heard the beautiful words of First Corinthians telling us what love is. It told us just as clearly what love is not.

Last week we joined Jesus and his

## What kids say to God

Dear God,

Who draws the lines around the countries? —*Nan*

Dear God,

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? —*Neil*

Dear God,

What does it mean, You are a Jealous God? I thought You had everything. —*Jane*

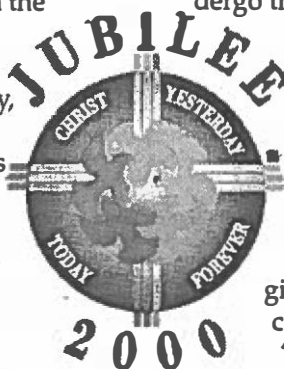
Dear God,

Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you"? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother! —*Darla*

—From an e-mail correspondent

disciples on the side of a mountain as he assured us that we are a sign of hope in the world as we endure trials and abasement. Today we heard the most difficult command, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." Hard words, yes, but not impossible. As we continually undergo the process of conversion, we are formed in Christ so we are able to express our connection between ourselves, God, and our community.

Long after the valentine flowers have wilted and the cards and gifts have been put away, we can proclaim with St. Paul, "In the end there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."



## Each of us has a piece of God

Several years ago I had a wonderful conversation with my youngest son, Chris (he was about six at the time). As I was putting him to bed, I gently tapped his chest with my finger and asked, "Do you know what you have in there?"

He responded, "My guts?"

"Yes," I said, "but also a piece of God."

"In my guts?" He looked puzzled.

"Well, not in your guts, but each of us has a piece of God. It's our gift from God."

He smiled and tapped my chest. "And you have a piece of God too, Daddy?"

"Yes, and Mommy, and your brothers, and Grandpa, ..." We both smiled. Then came the clincher: "and," I said, "even Jessica." (Jessica was a stereotypical "spoiled rich kid" who whined and cried and demanded her way; she was in Chris's daycare group.)

Chris became very serious, saying, "No, Daddy, Jessica does not have a piece of God in her," and later, "I have

## In Focus needs computer volunteer

If you enjoy reading *In Focus* and find that it helps you know more about St. Patrick's and the people who are Church here, if you can use page-layout software and spare a few hours to page the newsletter, please call to volunteer. Even if you can't commit to putting in the time each month but can do it occasionally, please do call; we'd like to set up a roster of page-layout artists with rotating responsibility so the task remains a pleasant and creative one, and not a burden.

If you can help, call Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 evenings, 244-4701 days). Or leave your name and a message at the parish office (367-2665).

been knowing her more than you, she just doesn't!"

When I told him that everyone has a piece of God in them, no matter what, that God doesn't skip anyone, he smiled and said, "Well, it must be covered up with a lot of junk!" We agreed, and began talking about ways to "uncover it" or "move the junk out of the way."

When I look at those around me, I always try (hard as it often is) to follow Chris's advice to "move the junk" and "find the piece of God." When I meditate/pray, I am hoping to (among other things) move my own junk so that the "piece of God" in me can become more evident.

Bob

*When we share our faith stories, we are changed; and those listening to us are changed as well. In Focus welcomes faith stories that tell of God's working in our lives. Send yours to the Communications Committee, c/o St. Patrick's, or drop it off at the parish office. Be sure to include your name and a telephone number where you may be reached. Names will be withheld on request.*

## Brandon Lipska and Jean-Philippe Mathy soon to leave coordinator posts

This month's focus is on two religious-education coordinators whose terms of service to our parish will end in May. Brandon Lipska has been coordinator of the parish's junior high program for the past year and helped with it for a few years before that. Jean-Philippe Mathy has been coordinator of the senior high program for about three years. They are both familiar faces in the parish, but unless you are a teen or a teen's parent, you may not have been aware of their ministry to our youth.

Brandon, the older son of Jan and Lloyd Lipska, grew up in St. Patrick's Parish. Most parishioners remember his mother, Jan, who was coordinator of the children's program for many years. His family moved to Kansas when Brandon was a freshman at the U of I. St. Patrick's is home to him, and the parish staff is like family.



Brandon Lipska

The junior high program, which meets on the first three Sundays of the month at 6:30 p.m., has been focusing on Jesus this year: how what Jesus did in life affects our lives and how he is part of our lives here. Brandon hopes students will become more open to closeness with Jesus.

The junior high program also includes service projects, such as plans to help clean the church and grounds on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Students also filled a large box with gifts for the Latino children at Christmas. They alternate with senior high students in planning teen liturgies. The teens help choose teen lectors and ushers, give Father Remm input on the homily based on the readings of that Sunday and suggest songs to be used. Brandon is hoping for full junior high participation in the next teen liturgy, the first Sunday of May.

In May, Brandon will graduate with

a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, concentrating on power and energy systems. He has accepted a job with General Electric in their two-year Technical Leadership Program. He is very excited about the opportunity to be a manager on the floor of a production facility, coordinating one part of a plant while he learns leadership and technical skills.

Brandon says, "Every Sunday I see people who know me (at St. Patrick's) and they say, 'Tell your Mom I said hi.' I'm really going to miss St. Pat's!"

When Jean-Philippe Mathy first took on the position of senior high coordinator, there were many questions from parents about the program—among other things, about the fact that all students in each class studied the same material for long periods and were together in large classes with little choice of subject matter. As a result of discussions with parents, Father Remm, DRE Carolyn McElrath, and Jean-Philippe, the program was revised.

The new program consists of two or three five-week mini-courses taught at the same time to groups of 10-20 students. The subjects of the mini-courses include Understanding Catholicism, Eucharist, Moral Decision-Making, Media and Religion, Finding Jesus in Daily Life, and the History of Protestantism and Catholicism.

The mini-courses make a coordinator's job harder because of the need for more teachers. Jean-Philippe asks for the support of the parish in his effort to find teachers, especially when a new coordinator is chosen to succeed him.

Students can choose from the 2-3 courses offered in the fall. In the spring of this year and in alternate springs, juniors and seniors take

Confirmation classes, and freshmen and sophomores have fewer choices of mini-courses. Carolyn McElrath wrote the Confirmation program and Carolyn, Jean-Philippe, Lauren Bonse, and Mary Tierney are the teachers.

Jean-Philippe points out that senior high students are from two parishes (St. Patrick's and St. Mary's), two communities in St. Patrick's (Urbana and St. Joseph), and four high schools (Urbana, Uni, St. Joe-Ogden, and Central), so they don't really know each other from school. Yet many of them have been in the parish long

*Continued on page 11*

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## Parish Wish List

The parish wish list is intended to present to parishioners a list of items that, although not included in the parish budget, might be acquired through earmarked donations. Such items in the past have included the patio and benches on the east side of the church and coat racks used for large gatherings in the parish center.

Items on the wish list are not absolutely essential to the running of the parish, but they open new opportunities for enriching the spiritual or community life of the parish for helping parish organizations do their work more effectively.

The Archives Committee has requested that the following items be placed on the parish wish list:

- Funds to duplicate and preserve the blueprints for the church. St. Patrick's has only one copy now, and it is getting worn. The committee is looking into options and costs.
- Desktop publishing software to be used to prepare the parish history in time for the parish's centennial in 2001, at about \$700.
- A second fireproof file cabinets for the parish archives, at \$800.

Fr. Remm will be happy to discuss the purpose of the wish list with interested parishioners or to answer questions about items on it. Donations in any amount will be gratefully received; it is not necessary to contribute the whole amount for any item.



Jean-Philippe Mathy



## From the Council of Congregations: "Thanks!"

Marguerite Maguire and Joan Causeman of St. Patrick's have driven patients to and from therapy sessions and from hospitals to nursing homes. Franne Davis is another parishioner who has volunteered for the Council of Congregations in C-U's Hospital Support Program, filling occasional small emergency needs of hospital patients. No need seems greater than the kindness of volunteers who respond.

Parish members have also served in the Friendly Visiting (at Home or Nursing Home) Program. Jan Bellington shopped for groceries several weeks for an injured parishioner. Visits from Kathy Dyson eased loneliness for a blind member of Salem Baptist Church. Roy Meyer was that special visitor to men at Champaign County Nursing Home. Earlene Barnes was herself unable to drive to the store for groceries for a patient, so she prevailed on a friend to take the wheel. Meg Grady brought cheer to a teenager confined to Carle Arbours. Victoria Pifalo, moved by gratitude for grandmothers, visited an elderly woman trying to remain independent. Kendall Rafter did the same with an elderly artist, new to town.

These volunteers in Friendly Visiting tried to build long-term relationships with their friends in need, sharing interests and offering companionship. Not all their services are recent, but they are unforgettable.

As memorable is child care given at Sinai Temple during the high holy days by Mary Fonner, Cesaria Lancaster, Carole Rebeiz, Leo Wood, and others. Among those unnamed here, but much appreciated, are the parishioners who signed up to help, but for various reasons and circumstances were not called.

A more striking example of need and fulfillment required cooperation from volunteers in several congregations. The call from the hospital social



worker asked help for a patient recovering from leg amputation. She needed her upstairs apartment closed and her possessions moved to a new, main floor apartment at Washington Square in Champaign. Volunteers from Urbana Presbyterian, Champaign Presbyterian, St. Patrick's, Holy Cross, and Sinai Temple each took on part of the task. The patient was driven to the Housing Office to sign her new lease. Volunteers cleared out her old apartment and moved her things, some of which she had packed in readiness, to the new place. Moving in meant unpacking and arranging a new home in the hope of suiting unknown tastes and needs. One volunteer tackled the kitchen. St. Patrick's Ardsley Yanchus took on the bedroom. She made the bed ready with a neat spread, laid out what seemed to belong on the dresser, and hung some pictures. Her husband, Harold, realizing that the unpacked cartons took up space needed for a path for the wheelchair, piled them up and carried them to the recycling area.

Everyone pitched in to fix up the new home. Bernadine Hettinger of Holy Cross shopped for basic foods to stock the refrigerator, and finally, when all was ready, picked up the happy patient and brought her home.

Help needed is not often like this. When called for the recurring smaller services, you are always free to say you can't make it this time. But wouldn't you like to try, when you can? For more information, call Peggy Whelan (367-3668), St. Patrick's representative on the Council of Congregations.

*The Hawaii Catholic Herald, a diocesan newspaper, describes one school's success in teaching young children to meditate. In the words of one child, "Sometimes [to pray] you don't need any words at all. When you are very quiet, something wonderful can happen on the inside. Jesus is there."*

## The Light and the Water



### The Light

The Easter Vigil begins with a procession led by the elevated Easter candle, bringing to mind the journey of God's people. The journey from darkness to the great light. The light of Christ shining in our church and in our lives. In a church lit by many tiny candles all kindled at the Easter candle, a great chant of thanksgiving is made. The chant speaks of a blessed night which gained for us salvation through our wondrous Redeemer. Little wonder that this candle is lit at baptism to celebrate the beginning of our Christian life, and also at funerals to celebrate our new life with Christ, indeed the Light of the world.

Christ our Light!  
Thanks be to God!



### The Water

The blessing of the baptismal water occurs at the Easter Vigil liturgy following the Liturgy of the Word. If one retains the word in mind and heart and soul, the significance of the baptismal rite, which allows us to become part of all the wonders that God has done throughout the ages, becomes more apparent. It is a time when we recommit our lives to God and at the same time welcome new members into the Body of Christ. A time when we celebrate our faith in a very special way. It is a true joy to renew our baptismal promises, particularly when new members of the Church are being initiated into our faith, making our promises a commitment both to God and to community.

## Mass for Hispanics now at St. John's Chapel

The care of the Latino population in C-U took a new direction on Ash Wednesday. St. John's Catholic Chapel in Champaign at the University of Illinois, with two priests who can speak Spanish, offered Mass in Spanish on Ash Wednesday and on every Sunday thereafter at 1:30 p.m.

Fathers Tom Gibson and Ben Rodrigues, both fluent in the Spanish language, are able to preach and hear confessions in Spanish and thus have been given the care of Latino students and Latino workers in the community by Bishop Myers.

After about a year and a half of ministry to the Hispanics in the C-U area, at what proved to be the last Mass for Hispanics at St. Patrick's, Fr. Remm encouraged the congregation to participate in the Masses in Spanish that would henceforth be offered at St. John's. He immediately added: "You are, of course, welcome to attend any of our regular Masses here at St. Patrick's, or at any of the Catholic parishes in the community.

"We have come to love you. But we recognize our limitations in serving you since we cannot preach, counsel, and communicate directly in your beautiful language. We hope that the priests at St. John's who know Spanish will be able to nurture your life with God. Please give them your help and assistance in reaching more Latino people and in celebrating the Sunday Liturgy.

"May God bless you and your families in every way."

Fr. George Wuellner, one of the priests who volunteered monthly to offer Mass in Spanish at St. Patrick's for the Hispanics, in thanking Fr. Remm and the parish, wrote: "I know you shall miss these Sunday Liturgies as we who were privileged to celebrate with you will miss them ... but as Father Remm said, we recognize our limitations and give our support and prayers to the priests at St. John's and the beautiful Latino people. *Gracias, St. Patrick!*"

## Addendum to the "X-Libris Files" of St. Patrick's

"The truth is out there"—a familiar quotation from the popular television series "The X Files." Actually the truth may be closer than we think—as close as St. Patrick's parish library.

The success of the Community Bible Study in St. Patrick's parish and throughout the C-U community is one indication of the increasing importance that this method of discerning God's message is becoming to many people. *The Bible Today* is a bimonthly magazine available in our library. The March/April 1998 edition contains nine articles, at least three of which are specifically relevant to the Lenten/Easter seasons: "Jesus, Disciples, and Jewish Feasts in John," "Passover in the Gospel of John," and "Psalm 22 and the Paschal Mystery." For knowledge seekers, especially those interested in Bible study, this periodical is a good source of up-to-date information.

*U.S. Catholic* is a monthly magazine with interesting articles written in a "reader friendly" manner. In the Feb. 1998 issue, Bishop Kenneth Untener asks, "Lord, Who Threw Out These 40 Days? Seven Steps toward Restoring Lent." In this article he states, "No one drifts along the path of discipleship. It takes clear intent, and it takes grit. Lent revolves around one question: Are we or aren't we disciples of the Lord?" That's challenging!

Other thought-provoking articles such as "What good came out of Nazareth" (about the hidden years that influenced Jesus's vision and mission) and "Eucharist: Broken bread makes us whole" plus monthly columns make *U.S. Catholic* informational and a "good read."

*Youth Update* is a monthly newsletter, each issue focusing on one topic or theme of interest to teenage readers. Articles such as "Make a Friend by Being a Friend," "Confirmation: 7 Symbols in 1 Sacrament," and "Helping a Friend Face Serious Illness" are written in an appealing

and informal manner. For group leaders a leader's guide enables a group to derive maximum benefit from reading and discussion.

"Blessings are to be discovered, voiced, and lived in our day-to-day life," says David Adam in *The Open Gate* (also in our library). This thought is fully expressed in a new book, *Blessings for God's People, a Book of Blessings for All Occasions*. It is divided into daily, weekly, yearly, and occasional blessings. Mostly these are blessings to be shared and celebrated in everyday life: the blessing of pets, a blessing before travel, a blessing of children before bedtime, for example. With a little time and effort, we can bring the spiritual sides and practical sides of our lives in harmony.

...Make me a blessing,  
Wherever I roam  
Make me a blessing.  
That people may see  
I am a blessing,  
For You are with me.

From *The Open Gate*, by David Adam

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Continued from Page 5

against the rain; his ruthless love demands  
not half our room nor half our door but all.

O in the darkness of a night gone out  
come find me once again, descend, be born,  
be racked by wind and crucified and torn  
yet never stop the dance. How could I doubt

Your peace more frightening than any pain,  
your dark embrace that burns and purifies,  
the searching sharp enchantment of your  
eyes,  
the absolute perfection of your flame?

God of all wind, all dance, all fire, all grace,  
heal what I cannot hold, receive my prayer  
and give me strength, surrendering, to bear  
the dark and dancing splendor of your face.

—Reprinted from *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life* (March/April 1998), Vol. XIII, No. 2. Copyright 1998 by The Upper Room.

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer, someone you should know

*There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

—John 15:13

April 9 is the fifty-third anniversary of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was 39 years old when he was hanged in a Nazi concentration camp for his participation in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, leader of Nazi Germany.

Why should anyone today care that one Lutheran minister died 53 years ago in Flossenburg concentration camp? Many other men and women died on April 9, 1945, and they remain faceless and nameless, except perhaps to their families and friends.

Yet today Bonhoeffer is hailed by many as a modern saint, a martyr for his faith. His works, most notably books such as *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Ethics*, are widely read and quoted by Christians from many different backgrounds.

Bonhoeffer was ordained a Lutheran minister, beginning his ministry when Hitler was rising to power in Germany during the early 1930s. Bonhoeffer became an early and eloquent opponent of Nazism, and he especially spoke out against the influences of Nazism within the German churches.

To combat the corrupting influences of Nazism, Bonhoeffer aligned himself with leaders of the "Confessing Church," Christians who advocated separation from churches that identified themselves too closely with the racist and nationalist policies of Hitler. He helped to establish an underground seminary in Germany that trained ministers for the Confessing Church.

Because of his ardent opposition to Hitler, Bonhoeffer was forbidden to lecture in any German universities. Yet he continued clandestinely to teach and train groups of ministers for the church.

American friends were able to bring him to America in 1939, several months before war broke out in

Europe, but he decided to return to Germany. He was on one of the last ships returning to Germany before Hitler attacked Poland.

During the war Bonhoeffer was able to get a position with German counter-intelligence, allowing him to travel widely in Europe for several years using an official government passport. However, he was arrested in 1943, along with his brothers-in-law and sisters.

In his heart Bonhoeffer was a pacifist. At one time he earnestly desired to visit Gandhi in Europe. Yet he actively participated in a conspiracy to assassinate Hitler. In one of his books he wrote: "If a drunken man is at the wheel, it is not just the minister's job to comfort the relations of those he has killed, but if possible to seize the steering wheel."

While Bonhoeffer was in prison, he continued to write letters to friends and long passages for projected books, and these writings are the basis for most of what we know about his teachings today.

From his prison cell he wrote: "The whole world belongs to Christ, not merely one religious sphere within it. The church must suffer and live in the world."

And "The church is Christ's presence on earth. That is the only reason why it has authority."

*Continued from Page 8*

enough to become at least acquainted.

Jean-Philippe enjoyed working with the youth of our parish: "It's important to keep the young people attached to Church." At a time when they seem far from the Church," he says, "they have a lot of spirituality, but they don't link it to Church.

A philosopher by training and a Professor of French at the U of I, Jean-Philippe likes teaching French literature and culture. He is always trying to grow in spiritual life, especially through spiritual reading. He also enjoys his children, Gabriel, Patricia, and Christopher, and is very involved in their activities. His wife, Rosemary, is coordinator of family life at St. Patrick's.

Jean-Philippe's research on modern and contemporary France and comparative literature has led to a published book on how French and European writers view and represent America in their works. He is currently working on a manuscript of recent debates in France and the U.S. about national identity and multiculturalism.

Thank you, Brandon and Jean-Philippe, for serving our youth at this important time in their lives.

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

Lori McDonough

#### Sour Cream 'n' Dill Chicken

8 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves  
pepper to taste  
1 can (10 3/4 oz) low-fat condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted  
1 envelope dry onion soup mix

1 cup (8 oz) light sour cream  
1 T lemon juice  
1 T chopped fresh dill (or 1 t dill weed)  
1 can (4 oz) sliced mushrooms, drained  
paprika

Place chicken in a single layer in a 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan coated with nonstick cooking spray. Sprinkle with pepper. Combine soup, soup mix, sour cream, lemon juice, dill, and mushrooms; pour over chicken. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 1 hour, or until chicken is tender and juices run clear. Yield: 8 servings. (Good served over noodles.)



# Easter

# April 1998

St. Patrick's Parish  
Urbana, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<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. The deadline for the next issue of In Focus is April 5, 1998.</p>			7:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Monks Group 3:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 pm Children's Choir 6:00 pm Children's RelEd St. Pat's 6:30 pm Children's RelEd St. Joe 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm RCIA 7:30 pm Communal Penance St. Marthe's (Champaign)	7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Re-Membering Church 7:30 pm Building & Grounds	10:45 am Mass Champaign Cnty Nursing Home 5:15 pm Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm K of C Fish Fry 7:00 pm Children's Liturgy	Children's Liturgy All Day 2:00 pm Ikebana Flower Show sponsored by the Guild 5:00 pm Teen Liturgy-Confirmation Retreat	
			1	2	3	4	
9:00 am RCIA 9:00 & 11:00 am Religious Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Jr/Hi EL Ed  Palm Sunday	7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Education 7:00 pm Pro-Life Com	7:30 pm Parish Council Exec Com 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Individual Confessions	9:30 am Funeral Schola 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 pm Children's Choir 6:00 pm Children's RelEd St. Pat's 6:30 pm Children's RelEd St. Joe 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm RCIA 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Individual Confessions	7:00 am Morning Prayer 4:00 pm Server Practice 5:45 pm First Communion Seder 7:00 pm Baptism Preparation 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Thursday	7:00 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Server Practice 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion Good Friday	8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Catechumen Preparation 1:00 pm Server Practice 7:30 pm Easter Vigil Service Reception for Neophytes follows Holy Saturday	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
6:30 pm Bible Study  Easter Rejoice, He is Risen!	7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Evangelization Team Parish Office Closed	7:00 pm Financial Affairs 7:00 pm First Communion Prep 7:00 pm Social Action	9:30 am Monks Group 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 pm Children's Choir 6:00 pm Children's RelEd St. Pat's 6:30 pm Children's RelEd St. Joe 7:00 pm Choir	7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Evangelization Team 7:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Re-Membering Church	10:30 am Mass Clark Lindsey 10:45 am Mass Champaign Cnty Nursing Home	7:00 pm Confirmation Practice 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Natural Family Planning Parish Council Elections at 5:00 pm Mass	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
All Masses- Parish Council Elections 9:00 & 11:00 am Rel Ed 10:15 Children's Liturgy 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Jr/Hi Rel Ed	7:00 pm Centering Prayer	7:00 pm First Communion Prep	9:30 am Funeral Schola 5:00 pm SVDP 5:15 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Choir	7:00 pm Confirmation	10:30 am Mass Manor Care 10:45 am Mass Champaign Cnty Nursing Home		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
1:30 pm First Communion Celebrations 2:00 pm Mass 4:00 pm Mass 6:30 pm Bible Study	9:30 am Archives 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Liturgy 7:30 pm ASA Worker's Meeting	7:00 pm Homily Prep	5:00 pm SVDP 7:00 pm Choir	7:00 pm Communications Com 7:00 pm Choir	RelEd- Religious Education SVDP- St. Vincent DePaul		
26	27	28	29	30			