

In Focus



Election is a rite?

While many would probably agree that our national, state, and local elections are rituals of a special breed, we hardly expect to find a "rite of election" in church. But long before our ancestors thought of electing their leaders, God was electing a people, selecting Israel, a rag-tag clan in a tiny corner of the earth, to be special, holy, a chosen people.

God did not choose them because they were noteworthy in any way; they were not powerful, strong, or particularly clever. But once they were chosen, they were God's forever. Even when they strayed, looking to other gods for hope or help, God clun to them fiercely, calling them back again and again when anyone else would gladly have let them go.

It is the same with us.

God chooses us, elects us, in Christ, to be a holy people, to be a church, to be signs of the reign of God on earth.

The catechumens who have been preparing for baptism and those who have been working with them for months (perhaps even for years) believe that God has chosen them to be one of

us, the baptized. At the rite of election, their godparents, sponsors, catechists, pastors, and friends can testify that God has chosen these people. They can offer the evidence of their lives among us, hearing and following God's word, praying with God's people, and taking part in the work and the communal life of God's church.

They are elected for baptism, chosen to be God's own in Christ Jesus, not because they earned or merited it, but because God wants it. And *that* is election by a landslide!

—From *Liturgy 90* Nov/Dec '96
Used with permission

On the First Sunday of Lent the catechumens sign their acceptance of God's "election," witnessed by their sponsors, before the parishioners assembled at Mass. The book in which their acceptance is recorded is called "The Book of the Elect." This book will be placed in the baptistry as a reminder to us throughout Lent of their desire for our prayers and our own need to pray for these companions on our journey to the Kingdom.

The Ethics of Cloning Examined

Dr. Darrel J. Kesler, professor of animal sciences at the U of I, will speak on "The Science and Ethics of Cloning" on Monday, Mar. 2, at 7 p.m. in St. Patrick's multipurpose room.

Dr. Kesler's research has focused on reproductive biotechnology, and he is currently investigating causes and methods to circumvent early embryo mortality.

He has given testimony to the U.S. Senate, and his research has been the focus of a *60 Minutes* television program. He recently served on a panel with Dr. Ian Wilmut on the science and ethics of cloning.

Dr. Kesler is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Embryo Transfer Society, and other organizations.

This presentation, sponsored by St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee, will enable you to become informed on this controversial topic and to put your questions to an accomplished scientist.

Can't be anything but IRISH on St. Patrick's Day!

Don't miss the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow or the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the parish center on Saturday, Mar. 14, 6-11 p.m.

We'll have our traditional Irish stew dinner, followed by dancing to the sounds of Prime Time Productions. Setups and door prizes are included in the price of your \$10 ticket. (No price increase over last year.) Dance-only tickets are \$5 each. Dinner will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., with dancing from 7:30 to 11 p.m.

Get your tickets at Sunday Coffee Shop, at Friday Fish Fries, or at the parish office, but be sure you have your ticket by Mar. 8! Sorry, no tickets can be purchased at the door.

This annual dance is loads of fun every year, so pull out your green and don't miss all the excitement!



Hmmm--what can I do for Lent?

Having some trouble deciding between giving up candy and being nice to everyone? Well, here are some other alternatives:

End a quarrel.

Seek out a forgotten friend.

Dismiss suspicion, replace it with trust.

Write a letter.

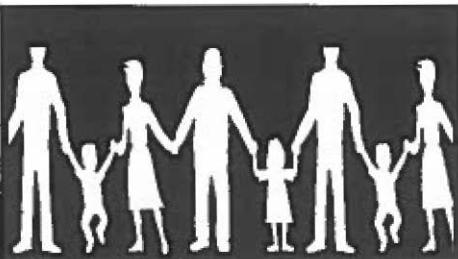
Share some treasure.

Give a soft answer.



Parish Council News

Because the Council was to meet as this issue goes to press, the February meeting will be covered in the next issue of *In Focus*.



Welcome to new parishioners Catherine and Erich Kugler, Greg Mazurek and Kris Kasperski, Raphael Onyeaghala, Norman Smith, Traci Swisher, Clarence and Frances Walton, Joseph and Eric Wiedman-Chamberlain.

Farewell to parishioners who have moved from C-U: Johann and Rachel Beda, Kay Keyer, Dolores Siegel.

We welcome the following recently baptized into our faith community: Miguel Angel Chavez, Julia Rose Welle, John Andrew Zwadlo, Morgann Elizabeth Graham, Keith Charles Lee.

Please pray for deceased parishioners: Miriam Gernon, George Michael.

Encourage youth.
Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
Keep a promise.
Find the time.
Forgo a grudge.
Forgive someone.
Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong.
Try to understand.
Flout envy.
Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else.
Appreciate.
Be kind; be gentle.

Laugh a little.
Laugh a little more.
Deserve confidence.
Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency.
Express your gratitude.
Visit your place of worship.
Welcome a stranger.
Gladden the heart of a child.
Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
What else did you think of while you were reading this? Is it, do you think, a suggestion from God? Oh, act on it!

I want to pray for Lent. How do I start?



Start the same way you would start when you get together with someone for a coffee break:

Relax. Let go of tensions, the day's problems. Let go of thoughts, images, memories.

Say what you have to say. Speak your mind. Tell Him how you feel.

Relax. Let Him do some talking. He knows. Be at peace, calm.

Listen! Listen to your *heart*, to what He has told you before. He is your Shepherd.

Relax. He is inviting you to believe Him, to trust Him, to love Him ... "I believe, I trust, I love You."

Listen to what He has said, done, experienced ... at Nazareth ... agonizing in the garden ... crucified ... "I will be with you always."

Relax. Respond with a single word ("Jesus," "Spirit," "Friend," "Lord," "Come") or with a phrase ("Make my heart like to Thine," "Lord, be merciful to me ...").

Let it all out ... fear ... anger ... loneliness ... sadness ... guilt ... thanks ... resentments ... desires ... love ... trust.

Relax. Read a short passage from Scripture that speaks to you or for you ... slowly ... praying it ... reflecting on Him, speaking ... letting your heart respond ... "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life."

Pray a rosary ... not concentrating on words, but simply lifting your heart

to Jesus with Mary ... Don't push them, or even try hard.

Relax. Rest in the Lord-Emmanuel ... be home with Him and yourself.

"Our Father ... " Yours, mine ... loving us always with affection (Jesus called Him "Daddy") ... giving us life ... blessings ... giving us His Spirit ... sharing Himself.

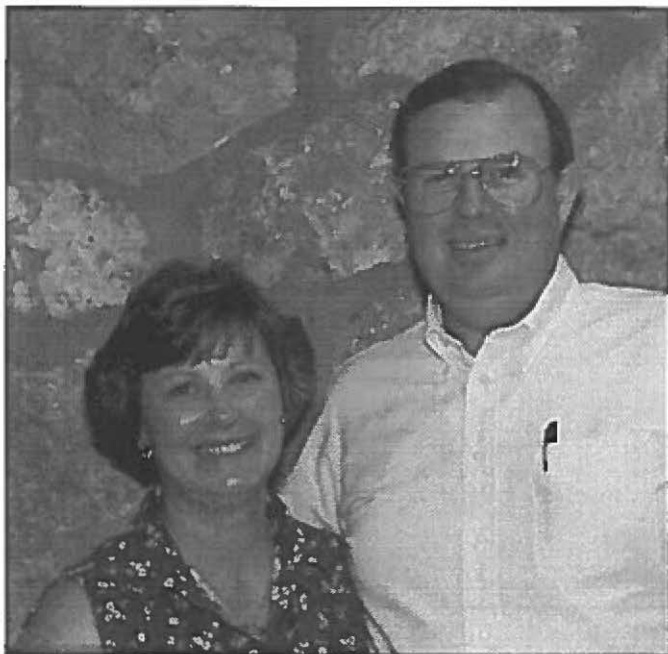
This brief description of how to start to pray summarizes volumes, the four types of prayer traditionally practiced in the Church:

Vocal or silent prayer (*Oratio*)
Spiritual reading (*Lectio Divina*)
Meditation (*Meditation*)
Contemplation (*Contemplation*)

Usually we go from one to another in a 30-45-minute period. (That's the way coffee breaks are.) It sounds easy; it is simple—we complicate it—but it requires both regular practice and self-discipline. (Take tea; it's milder, more relaxing!)

G.K.

Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.



Priscilla and Dan Murphy

St. Patrick's Offers Married Couples Retreat In March

A retreat for married couples will be held on Saturday, Mar. 28, at St. Patrick's parish center. The program will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude with 5:00 p.m. Mass in the church.

Deacon Dan Murphy and his wife, Pris, will lead the retreat. Together they have facilitated retreats for RCIA participants, and both have served as spiritual directors in other parishes.

Because of the timing of the retreat, two weeks before Easter, they plan to tie the marriage journey into the Lenten journey. Their goal: "That couples would spend a day of recollection on the sacrament of marriage."

The retreat is sponsored by St. Patrick's Evangelization Team.

Over 21 and having fun!

Have you ever wondered how you could meet people, become more involved in the parish, and have fun while learning something about yourself and your church? If you are age 21 or older and want to build friendships and grow in your faith, the Over 21 Club may be just for you.

One day you may see this group of folks playing billiards or miniature golfing, and find them engaged in a discussion about the Book of Job the next. The range of activities varies and certainly there is something to fit your interests.



The Over 21 Club is currently thirteen members strong, mostly single adults between the ages of 21 and 38. The number of times they meet varies depending upon the members' schedules, but they try to fit in a potluck dinner or game of bowling on a regular basis.

In addition, a few times each year they participate in a community Bible study, which brings them together once a week for ten weeks. This gives them the chance to share their ideas, strengthen their faith, and build relationships to last for years to come.

Does all this sound good to you? If so, you can contact the group's coordinator, Cindy Shaw (384-2299) to find out about upcoming events and details on how to become involved. In the meantime, start chalking your pool cue and practicing your putts so you will be ready for the next Over 21 Club event!

In Focus

St. Patrick's *In Focus* is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mail bin in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board:

Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752; Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Christi Hegstad, 365-4562 (chegstad@uiuc.edu); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@knight.cml.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Katharine Schrader, 344-5995; Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (m-whelan@uiuc.edu).

Associates: Carol Bosley, Mary Fanner, 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, Judy Conover, Christi Hegstad, Fr. Gene Kane, Knights of Columbus, Cliff Maduzia, Lori McDonough, Peggy McKown, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Phil Musser, Lu Pillar, Leslie Risatti, Peggy Whelan, Sophia Zeigler. This issue was pagged by Joan and Ed Poletti.

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

K of C fish fries return

The Urbana Knights of Columbus fish fries, a long-standing Lenten tradition at St. Patrick's, will resume at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, and will continue every Friday through Apr. 3.

Dinner includes North Atlantic cod, french fries, cole slaw, and a beverage. Desserts are 75 cents extra, and soft drinks are an additional 50 cents.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$13 for families.

The fish fries are held in the main hall of the parish center, and this year's offerings will be prepared in the newly remodeled parish kitchen.

Proceeds from the fish fries are used for a number of projects, including the Father Charles Martell Scholarships, aid to local families, and assistance to the Special Olympics and other programs for the developmentally disabled.

Laetare Sunday: Easter is coming!

Each Mass has an entrance antiphon, a sentence or two that can be sung at the beginning of Mass. In times past, each Sunday took its name from the first word (in Latin) of the day's antiphon. The antiphon for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is from Isaiah; it begins "Rejoice, Jerusalem! Come together, you who love her." The Latin word used for "rejoice" is "laetare"—so the Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday.

Yes, Easter is coming!— With joy the Church begins to count the days. Just as on the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) the Church felt the thrill and happiness of Christmas, so now we anticipate the joy of Easter. It gives the catechumens a foretaste of the good things Easter brings: the grace of divine heritage, a spiritual mother in holy Church, Eucharist as the true manna. And we ourselves experience a new consciousness of these tremendous blessings.

In a wonderful and mysterious way the Easter celebration is a homecoming. It is a march into heaven. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we are halfway to Easter. "Rejoice!"



People helping people, Part II

Although it may really be impossible to name each and every person who regularly helps the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its work of helping people, Sophia Zeigler, president of the local chapter, wants to try. Here is her continuation of the acknowledgments begun in the last issue of *In Focus*:

Twice a month pantry food items are picked up from the Food Bank by volunteers Byron DeHaven, Chuck Matz, Martin Zeigler, Oscar Kocher, and Bill VanCleave. The Society pays 18 cents a pound for food items from the Food Bank, but food from the USDA (12 different items), received once a month, is free.

Volunteer Rosemary Laughlin (St. Patrick's organist for many years) has been handing out food bags on Thursday afternoons to the hungry who come for help. Rosemary continues the work of her father-in-law, Bill, who was an active member of the Society from its reorganization in the early 1970s until his death a few years ago.

The Society receives help from teens as well, "excellent volunteers," according to Sophia. Erin Hatch, a Centennial High School student, comes in every Friday to package food items. A few years ago her grandfather brought her to help as her service project; now she drives herself and still wants to help the needy in this way.

From DSC Services, Teresa Brennan Pomatto, a counselor, brings three clients—one in a wheelchair—to bag food every Tuesday afternoon. The three girls told her that this is their favorite place to come, to help. Why? There are really two reasons: the first is that they are able to give of themselves this way, and the second? They enjoy treats after a job well done!

Another faithful volunteer, Peggy Pennacchi, came in every Thursday to deliver bread donated by the St. Louis Bread Company. She was also the Society's secretary—until she became the mother of triplets last spring, when she had to retire. Her



husband, George, is the Society's treasurer, and keeps members informed about the triplets and their mother.

Rose Breen and Sophia are more than pleased to pick up leftover food items donated by Town & Country Catering Service—all of which are used to feed the hungry. "Thank you, Matt Fejes," says Sophia; "your party foods fill our refrigerators and freezers with soup for the Catholic Worker House's soup kitchen.

"Thank you *all* for your support, which enables the Society to help the ones in need!"

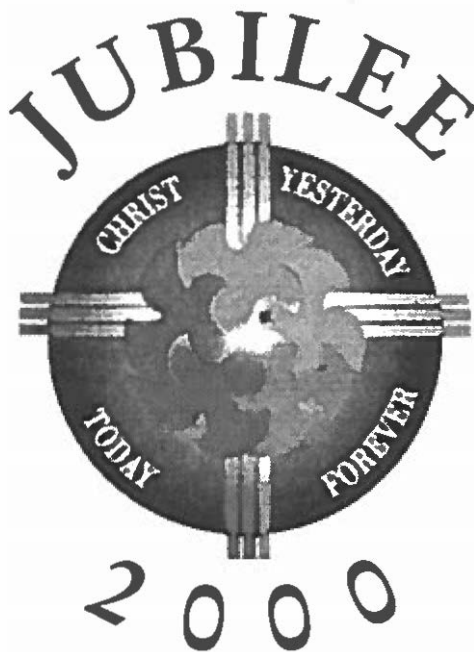
Sophia asks that we continue to bring in plastic containers with lids (1, 1-1/2, and 2 lb. containers) and the large paper grocery bags—"We double-bag the food we give away, and in 1997 we used 3,316 paper bags! And many more of the plastic containers!"

"We are very blessed with your support in so many ways through all these years. *Thank you!*"

From Cliff Maduzia: An Evangelization Minute

I have been unemployed since Nov. 7. Since then I have been powerfully moved by many people.

A house-bound elderly woman, whose family rarely visits and who has few friends, called to comfort me.



At the unemployment office, I met 64-year-old Dominic. He has been out of work for over a year. Dominic is a Catholic who is full of love for others, but he is getting beaten down through repeated rejections from employers who will not hire him because he is "too old."

He keeps reassuring me that I'll get a job soon.

Bob is in his forties and has been out of work for 14 months. He is taking odd jobs to make ends meet. He refuses to pursue strong job leads outside Champaign-Urbana so he can stay close to his teenaged child, who lives with his ex-wife.

Bob, Dominic, and several others of us have set up an unemployed persons' support group. We wrote a mission statement in which we have committed ourselves to reaching out to help others through service. We realize that there are many people who really need our help.

These people are open to Jesus's love, as witnessed by their compassionate caring. They have reached out to me; I hope to reach out to others.

Reaching out starts with prayer and ends with love being shared.

To be strong in reaching out, we need to pray, to be renewed. One way for these people and for the parish to find spiritual renewal is to attend the pre-Lenten retreat in February here at St. Patrick's. Pray daily that Jesus will send His Spirit to renew all of us.

Attend the 8 a.m. Mass on that day even if you are not attending the retreat so that Jesus knows that you want His renewal.

Pray that Jesus will open our hearts so that we will better understand how to reach out to others.

What kids say to God

Dear God,
Is it true that my father won't get into Heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house?

Anita

Dear God,
Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that, or was it an accident?

Norma

Dear God,
Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now?

Jane

--From an e-mail correspondent

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of ... Peggy McKown



- 2 c flour
- 1 c rolled oats (quick or old fashioned)
- 2 t baking soda
- 1 c margarine or butter
- 2 c sugar
- 2 c mashed ripe bananas (best if not overripe)
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 c chopped walnuts

Glaze

- 1 c powdered sugar
- 1 T lemon juice
- 1/2 t maple flavoring

Maple Oat Banana Bread

Spray or grease tube or bundt pan and dust lightly with granulated sugar. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a small bowl combine flour, rolled oats, baking soda; toss mixture and set aside. In mixer bowl cream margarine and sugar; mix in bananas, eggs, walnuts. Add dry ingredients and mix on low to medium speed until thoroughly blended. Pour into prepared pan; bake 60-80 minutes, or until a pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan 5 minutes, then turn out onto rack and cool completely.

To glaze, mix powdered sugar, lemon juice, and maple flavoring until smooth. Gradually stir in enough water to make a glaze that is smooth and pourable. Drizzle over bread.



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 anyway; 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). We'll keep our collective fingers crossed meanwhile!

Wife and mother, St. Frances of Rome saw Jesus in the poor

As a young woman, Frances wanted to dedicate her life to the service of God by joining a religious community. Her parents objected and arranged her marriage to a nobleman in Rome.

Rather than become despondent at her fate, she devoted her life to God by becoming a devoted wife and mother and gave much of her time and energy to care of the poor. In this she was assisted by her sister-in-law, Vannoza, and supported by her husband. Together, she and Vannoza took baskets of food to the poor throughout the city of Rome.

When plague broke out, Rome was hard hit; one of Frances's sons died. Meanwhile, during a civil war, her husband and other son were imprisoned. Under all these hardships Frances continued to assist the poor. Over time she sold all of her possessions for this purpose. She also gave over part of her castle for use as a hospital,

where she helped to feed and clothe and nurse the sick and suffering.

Eventually Frances asked for and was granted permission to establish a society of women bound by no vows but dedicated to the service of the poor. After her husband's death, she lived with the society she founded until her own death.

Frances, like Mother Teresa in more recent times, is an example to us all. Unlike Mother Teresa, however, Frances did not require vows. Hers was a society of ordinary women doing whatever they could to help the poor and the sick.

By looking for and finding Jesus in all our brothers and sisters, we too can give our lives to God. The life of Frances of Rome calls us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows; it is part of the Christian's life to aid the needy. Frances was a great example of how to live a truly Christian life. We honor her on Mar. 9.

Archives Committee Parish History "Question of the Month"

This month the Archives Committee asks for information on the early presidents of St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society, precursor of St. Patrick's Guild.

The following women were president of the Society in its early years, but the dates of their service are unknown. The committee has a complete list of presidents after 1926, including

the years they served, but would like to be able to acknowledge appropriately the service of these women:

Miss Mary Dougherty

Mrs. Thomas Daly

Mrs. John Houlihan

Mrs. Timothy Riordan

Mrs. Charles (Grace) Whitmore

(Mrs. Whitmore's term ended in 1926;

does anyone know the starting date?)

Please drop the committee a note addressed to: Archives Committee, St. Patrick's Church, 708 W. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61801. If you prefer, you may place it in the committee's mailbox in the parish center or call Judy Conover (367-2109). The committee thanks you for your help!

The Saints of Ireland By Mary Ryan D'Arcy



in our parish library

Mary Ryan D'Arcy, of Delavan (Ill.), was 79 years of age when this book was published after 30 years of research in libraries and of correspondence with scholars throughout the U.S., Ireland, England, and the Continent. Over the years she amassed an enormous collection of file cards, books, and papers, which she eventually boiled down to a vast number of pages carefully written in longhand and then, at the age of 65, taught herself to type to produce the ms for this chronological account of the lives and works of Ireland's saints and missionaries at home and abroad.

"It all began," the author writes, "with a prayer book from Ireland that had a litany of the Irish saints. There were all of those names I had never even heard of. I soon found out that not only is their importance little to be gathered from the material one may find in available general lives of the saints, but also ... the really good books on the Irish saints are far from easily obtainable." And so she set out on her great adventure.

The Saints of Ireland is a gold mine of information on the extraordinary cultural and spiritual contribution of the Irish over the centuries. Leading scholars of this century, e.g., Toynbee and Daniel-Rops, have not hesitated to say that, culturally speaking, all Europe is in debt to Ireland. For America the missionary spirit that is the legacy of the Irish multitude of saints has been a seemingly inexhaustible source of Irish priests and nuns preaching and teaching and inspiring generation after generation of American Catholics. An exciting, extraordinary story, told by an extraordinary woman.

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 (344-11 5) if this role appeals to you.

Believing the call

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

Before the holiness of God
Isaiah was stopped,
stricken,
could not speak.
Unworthy, unwilling
confessing—

forgiven, freed!

Isaiah believed the call,
was willing to be sent

in the power of love
to live
and speak for God.

And do we believe our call?
Are we changed, forgiven,
freed,
empowered by love
to be sent
to live
and speak for God?

Holy One, as you called
Isaiah, you call me. Like
Isaiah, let me respond, "Here
am I; send me!"

—From *Alive Now* Jan/Feb '98
Used with permission

Computer jargon may be here to stay

- Cursor: profane person
- Netscape: jump from a burning building
- Floppy disk: record album left in the sun
- Hard drive: trip through Chicago's Loop during rush hour
- World Wide Web: *big cobweb!*
- Web browser: person not working very hard to remove same
- Internet: lining of a jacket or dress; petticoat
- Surfing the net: tennis technique
- Modem: as in "modem down"
- Windows: nobody does 'em
- DOS: German article, as in "Das Kapital"
- Hardware: sold at Ace
- Software: must be laundered in Woolite
- Menu: what's for dinner?
- Mainframe: picture of the boss
- Dot com: broken English for "very quiet weather"
- AOL: short for "AWOL"
- Backup: get angry, defensive; also, back up
- Megahertz: hurts a *lot!*
- Apple: Apple. (That's easy!)
- Database: good place to go on a date
- Online: neat handwriting
- E-mail: female?
- Retrieving a file: smart dog!
- Default: "... is not in our stars, but in ourselves."
- Srch:F6X (*April Fool!*)



Deadline for submission of information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 18.

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.

A Lenten Prayer

*Like the relentless ocean waves foaming on the shore,
Your Spirit ebbs and flows throughout creation--
throughout all eternity.*

*Who can know the height or depth of Your majesty?
You are greater than the vastness of the universe
with its myriad heavenly bodies.
You are greater than time itself, spanning the countless
aeons between the beginning and the end.*

*And yet You, with infinite humility, deigned to
come to earth as a mere child.*

To give all for us.

*Who are we that the God of all that is and will be
should sacrifice so much?*

*Forgive us, Lord, for the hardness of our hearts
in rejecting Your gesture of love and friendship.*

*Forgive us for our failure to surrender our self-interest
to Your will.*

*For we have been captured by the attachments of this world,
which we pursue in deadly earnest,
knowing inwardly that they neither fulfill nor satisfy.*

*We choose the world and its allurements,
temporary and transient,
over the permanent and everlasting.*

O Lord, help us to be Yours.

*We are weak and easily distracted.
Because of our self-seeking we withhold mercy toward
others who cry out in need.*

*Instead of exemplifying the love of Your Kingdom,
we judge with harshness.*

*We reject others, even those close to us.
Instead of weeping with those who mourn,
feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked,
we turn away.*

Lord, how helpless we are to do good on our own!

*It is only through Your assistance and intervention
that we can overcome our preoccupation with self.*

*Come to us, Lord, do not abandon us to ourselves--
it is only through You that we can be what You intend.*

Change our hearts and let them be as gentle and humble as the Child's who graced the manger.

Amen.


Phil Musser

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.



March 1998

St. Patrick's Parish

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1 9:00am RCIA 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study, Leaders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed | 2 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Dr. Kesler on "The Science and Ethics of Cloning" | 3 7:00pm Over 21 Club 8:00pm Personnel Com | 4 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, Urbana 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA | 5 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Confirmation Prep for Adults 7:00pm Building & Grounds Com | 6 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm -7:00pm Fish Fry | 7 |
| 8 9:00am RCIA 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study, Leaders 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed | 9 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Evangelization Team 7:00pm Social Action Com | 10 12:40pm Catholic Daughters of Amer. Lunch & Mtg 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm First Communion Class 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com | 11 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Funeral Schola 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, Urbana 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA | 12 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Baptism Prep 7:00pm Re-Membering Church 7:00pm Confirmation Prep for Adults | 13 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm -7:00pm Fish Fry | 14  6:30pm -11:30pm St. Patrick's Dinner Dance |
| 15 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Teen Reconciliation Service 6:30pm Bible Study, Leaders | 16 7:00pm Centering Prayer | 17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00pm Over 21 Club 7:00pm First Communion Class | 18 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Moms Group 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:00pm Children's Reconciliation Service 7:00pm RCIA 7:30pm Choir | 19 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Re-Membering Church 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Confirmation Prep for Adults | 20 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm -7:00pm Fish Fry 10:30pm Mass-Clark-Lindsey | 21 |
| 22 9:00am RCIA 6:30pm Bible Study, Leaders | 23 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Liturgy Com | 24 7:00pm Homily Prep 7:00pm Over 21 Club | 25 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Funeral Schola 3:00pm Bible Study 5:00pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA | 26 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Re-Membering Church 7:00pm Communications 7:00pm Confirmation Prep for Adults | 27 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm -7:00pm Fish Fry | 28 9:00am -5:00pm Married Couples Retreat |
| 29 9:00am RCIA 6:30pm Bible Study, Leaders | 30 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Communal Reconciliation, Holy Cross | 31 7:30pm Communal Reconciliation, St. Patrick's | <p>Because the In Focus calendar is prepared in advance of scheduled events and meetings, please check the weekly bulletin to confirm dates and times for specific listings.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of In Focus is March 15.</p> | | | |