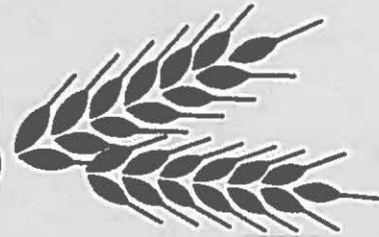


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Rights Are Paired with Responsibilities

The Catholic Church has a rich history of social teaching, and a key theme of the Church's social teaching is the rights and responsibilities of people.

Why should we be concerned with rights and responsibilities? We have been created in God's image, and that image is reflected in our human dignity. As we look at every human being, we should see the image of God reflected in that person, and be careful to acknowledge both the dignity and the human rights that are a part of that dignity.



What are these rights? Pope John Paul II praised the United Nations General Assembly's Universal Declaration of Human Rights as "one of the highest expressions of the human conscience in our time." The cornerstone of this Declaration is the acknowledgment of human dignity: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." To maintain human dignity, people have a fundamental right to life, food, shelter, health care, education, employment, and those things required for human decency. Some Catholic writers also include the right to participate in decisions that affect people's lives.

What, then, are our responsibilities? It is our responsibility to assure that all people can access their rights so that they can live with the dignity that reflects God. The U.S. Catholic Conference noted: "Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. This is the call of Jesus, the challenge of the prophets, and the living tradition of our Church...."

"As Catholics, we are not free to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient; to turn our backs on immigrants because

they lack the proper documents; to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power. Nor," they said, "can we neglect international responsibilities because the Cold War is over.... No polls or focus groups can release us from the responsibility to speak up for the voiceless, to act in accord with our moral convictions."

After all, Jesus said: "I assure you, as often as you did this for one of my least brothers or sisters, you did it for me." (Mt. 25:40)

As we reflect on rights and responsibilities, we realize how blessed we are to enjoy most of the rights that allow us to live with dignity. We must then honestly ask ourselves about responsibility. What are we doing with this blessing? What are we to do? Are we doing enough? Are we giving enough to the poor? As we examine our actions, what about our attitudes—do they reflect human dignity? Can we see the image of God in those we are accustomed to blaming for society's problems?

As we ask these questions we are humbled, because it is easy to take our blessings for granted. Yet there is much work to be done to assure that every human being on earth enjoys even the most basic of human rights. ■

Christ the Lord
is born today;
today the Savior
has appeared.
Earth echoes songs
of angel choirs
and archangels'
joyful praise.

Today on earth
Christ's friends exult:
Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!



Finding Help Facilities in the Church

Some features of St. Patrick's church that you should know about:

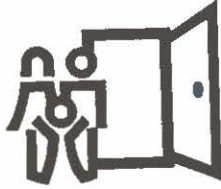
Emergency phone: In the room at the back of the church, to the right as you enter the church.

Restrooms: There are two. One is to the right inside the room where the telephone is located.

The other is in the room behind the baptismal font; go through the side exit and turn left, without going downstairs or outside. The restroom is on the left at the top of the ramp. This restroom provides better access for those with mobility impairments. You can get a drink of water in either restroom; there are paper cups in the medicine cabinets.

Holy water: Help yourself from the crock in the room behind the baptismal font.

Handicapped seating: The front row of pews; if you remain in the pews, the eucharistic ministers will bring communion to you there. There's also room for a



wheelchair at the ends of the two front pews and the two back pews. **Large-print hymnals:** These are kept on a shelf in a stand in the main vestibule of the church. They include words for the hymns, not the readings.

Crying room: Small children who are fretful or need to stretch their legs can be taken to the main vestibule, where they won't disturb others.

Reconciliation room: The reconciliation room is at the back of the church in the southwest corner. One can either kneel at the screen just inside the door or walk around it to sit face to face with the priest for the sacrament. Two lights outside the room will help you to know when you may enter: the light on top is green when the priest is present; the second light is green when you may enter, red when another person is with the priest. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday, 4:00-4:45 p.m. and 6:00-6:30 p.m. You can also call the parish office (367-2665) to make an appointment with a priest for an alternative time. ■

Christian Unity Octave

Christians around the world join in prayer for unity among Christians every year during the week of Jan. 18-25. St. Patrick's parishioners participate in ecumenical activities such as Empty Tomb workdays, the Dialogue into the Millennium lecture series, the March for Jesus church walks, and many more. These opportunities for cooperation and community building are regularly mentioned in the bulletin and *In Focus*.

In addition, the pastors of area churches meet on a regular basis. Fr. George Remm participates in all three of these groups:

The mission of *Religious Leaders for Community Care* is "to unite the religious leaders of Champaign County through racial reconciliation and working together for the social, ethical, economic, and spiritual betterment of all people who live in our communities." This group meets monthly on Saturdays. Their meetings begin with prayer and include discussion of community resources and social issues.

The *Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Association* meets

bimonthly. Because it meets on weekdays, its members tend to come from the larger churches that have full-time ministers. Meetings provide an opportunity for the ministers to get to know one another and to hear about activities at their churches, providing a basis for cooperation in a number of areas. Once a year, the group meets for a full day of prayer and reflection.

Ecumenical Dialogue consists of a small group of pastors who meet twice a month at St. Patrick's. They read and discuss books of common interest. ■

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

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 and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Joyce Baird, Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradymarylbrady@aol.com); Artha Chamberlain, 344-6645; Carolyn McElrath, 278-2126; Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or 244-4701 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Frank Modica, 367-4133 (modicafr@knight.cmi.k12.il.us); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uiuc.edu); Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Carol Bosley, Morene Christman, Mary Fonner, Lori and Tom McDonough, Marty Perry, Joan Poletti, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Tom Schlueter.

Articles and information for this issue were contributed by Mary Lee Brady, Russell Dietrich-Rybicki, Frances Drone-Silvers, Helen Halpin, Mary Long, Lori McDonough, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. George Remm, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Nancy Steerman, Elizabeth Talbot, Peggy Whelan. This issue was pagged by Tom Schlueter.

The Power of Prayer —

Holy Cross Parish will host the 13th Annual Community Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil on Monday, Jan. 22.

This prayer service is for all those concerned about the Supreme Court **Roe v. Wade** abortion decision. In addition to praying for the unborn, those attending the Vigil also pray for healing for families who have been touched by this controversial issue.

The prayer vigil will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, located at 404 W. Clark, Champaign. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this compelling and powerful service.

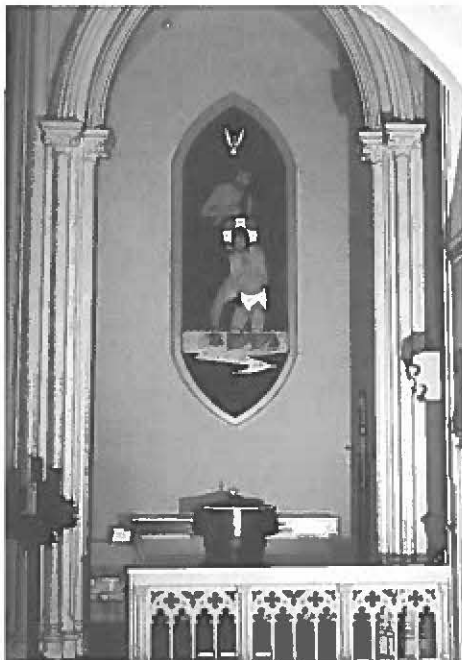
Parishioner's Sculpture Graces St. Patrick's Christenings

Take a look at the wood carving over the east side altar in our church. The depiction of the "Baptism of Jesus" by parishioner Nicholas Britsky depicts the water of the river flowing down toward the space where the Church welcomes new members through Baptism.

Nick Britsky, a retired professor of art at the University of Illinois, has been a parishioner since 1950. Crafted by Nick and completed in 1981, "The Rising Christ" crucifix suspended above the main altar is Nick's only second effort at sculpture. It is suspended from the ceiling of the sanctuary by 20-foot stainless steel wires.



Nick Britsky, a familiar figure at 9:00 a.m. Mass, is shown here in his studio with a current art project.



The baptistry at St. Patrick's is graced by Nick Britsky's sculpture of the baptism of Jesus by John.

In 1983, commissioned by the parish for additional artwork, Nick designed and crafted the "Baptism of Jesus" as well as the "Tongues of Fire" over the west side altar. He also repainted the statue of Mary and designed and made the stained plexiglass window and candelabra for the Marian shrine in the rear of the church. Even the statue of our patron, St. Patrick, standing in the church vestibule,

benefitted from Nick's artistic talents.

A parishioner has commented that what she likes best about the "Baptism of Jesus" is that Jesus' face is the same as that on "The Rising Christ." Asked how he imagined the appearance of Our Lord, Nick replied, "My impression of Jesus' physical appearance is of a wiry, outdoor type, probably suntanned. This is based on three visits that my wife, Anne, and I made to the Holy Land. We saw people who lived off the land, who probably looked much the same as Jesus looked."

Asked whether he used live models for St. John or for Jesus, Nick responded, "No. I think some inspiration came from the Renaissance pictures that I studied in Italy. They had great similarity in the face of Jesus. The Shroud of Turin was another source."

The "Baptism" sculpture stands 10 ft. tall, while the figures of St. John and Jesus are each about 6 ft. tall. The background consists of brown burlap.

In describing how he worked, Nick said: "I carved the figures in low relief out of a soft, white wood. In the water portion of the sculpture, I made one-quarter to three-eighths inch cuts to make the

water "flow." I covered the carving with silky white fiberglass cloth, to which I added a fine sawdust to cut down on glare. Then I sprayed the piece with clear lacquer and finally painted the figures. The sculpture is very durable." Below the Baptism sculpture stands the walnut baptismal font.

Thanks to Nick's art, our faith is renewed and deepened, especially at the time of the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 8. ■

Searching, Searching, Searching...

The search for a volunteer editor for *In Focus* continues.

If you can (1) participate in the Communications Committee's monthly planning sessions, (2) assemble writings submitted on paper, on disk, and via e-mail into a single file for the volunteer who pages the issue, and (3) select appropriate illustrations from available resources—then please don't hold back.

Mary Lou Menches (344-1125) will be happy to answer questions or work with you to get you started. Call now to volunteer!



in our parish library

Ecumenism is a challenging concept. There are so many divisions that it is difficult to imagine unity among all Christians. The Christian Unity Octave is a time to think about and pray for that unity. If you would like to explore what some theologians have to say about ecumenism, try these books:

The Council, Reform and Reunion, by Hans Kung (270 KUN). Kung says that the three qualities needed for unity are charity, humility, and ruthless honesty. Kung wrote this book at the time of the Second

Vatican Council, and it is interesting to see how far we've come since then, but of course, there is still a need for much more work.

A Practical Guide to Ecumenism, by John B. Sheerin (262.1 She). Fr. Sheerin writes about the history of ecumenism, including secular ecumenism, which he sees as a very productive form of ecumenical activity.

If you prefer to read something shorter, you can go to the National Council of Catholic Bishops Web site and do a search on the word

ecumenism. You will find several articles. Two that are of particular interest are "Making Ecumenism Every Catholic's Concern" and "One Table of the Lord: The Goal of Ecumenism."

If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the library, or want to know whether the library has something on a subject of interest to you, please call Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458), parish library coordinator. She will be pleased to help. ■

Amazing Grace

An exciting new Bible Study series entitled "A Study of Ephesians: Amazing Grace/Privileged Calling, a Look at Our Riches and Responsibilities in Christ," is set to begin the week of Jan. 14.



In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul unfolds for us the incredible hope, amazing riches, and power we have in Jesus Christ. Paul longs for us to grasp how much God loves us and how much He seeks to do immeasurably great things in our lives. Paul then encourages us to live our lives in a way that is worthy of our calling to be God's family and of our privileged responsibility to reflect that calling to others around us. These riches and responsibilities can be embraced by each of us personally, but the special focus of this letter is the call to embrace them together as a community.

In this study participants will look at the history of the early

Church in Ephesus, how the Church began there as a small group with significant leadership from lay leaders, and how the Church there grew to influence the community significantly, even helping to launch other fellowships. This is a model for how we ourselves can grow in the unity of the People of God. The study will have direct and timely application in our own lives.

A new aspect of the spring Ephesians study is that it will have an accompanying "Daily Devotional" that includes a short meditation for each day of the week during the ten-week study—a wonderful tool to encourage a regular daily quiet time with the Lord!

You are invited to join one of St. Patrick's many small Bible Study groups. Whether you are a newcomer to Bible Study or an old hand at it, you will enjoy the comfortable atmosphere, faith sharing, and fun of this small group format. Please call Mary Long (hm: 328-2989; wk: 367-2665) today to become a member of a group and enhance your personal journey with God.

Whether already participating in Bible Study or merely interested in checking it out, you are invited to

an "Overview of Ephesians" on Saturday, Jan. 6, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (coffee, donuts, and fellowship begin at 8:30 a.m.) in St. Patrick's Parish Hall. Dr. Ken Cuffey, Director of the Christian Studies Center and a Biblical scholar, will share his knowledge and insights of the history of Ephesus and the setting of Paul's letter as a kick-off to the beginning of the spring Bible Study. ■

Help Needed to Provide Meals on Wheels

St. Patrick's Parish is responsible for delivering meals on three routes from Monday through Friday, Feb. 12-16. Each route needs a driver and a "runner." The latter serves as navigator and brings the meals to the homes of people eagerly awaiting them. Meals are picked up at the Illini Union at 10:30 a.m., and routes are usually completed by 12:30 p.m.

If you can help one or more days, please call Elizabeth Talbot (351-6039). This is not an arduous task but a much appreciated one. Shut-ins are grateful for the hot meal and a warm smile.

Children Joyfully Welcome God's Forgiveness

Following a six-week period of special preparation, children of St. Patrick's joyfully celebrated their First Reconciliation at St. Patrick's on Dec. 5, along with their parents and older brothers and sisters who wished to participate in the sacrament.

They began the evening service by singing "My First Reconciliation Song" (words by Joseph Sweeney, music by Johnny Morris):

Jesus, You who blessed the children,
Bless me as I come to You.
Bless my mouth to sing your praises
For each day so fresh and new.
Bless my hands to do Your will and
Comfort people weak and ill.
Bless my feet to follow You and
Walk Your path so just and true.

Bless my ears that hear You tell me
To be the best I can be.
Bless my eyes to see the beauty
Of the love You have for me.
Bless my heart to know Your love and
Feel Your mercy from above.
Bless my friends and family and
Keep them safe and close to Thee.

The following St. Patrick's parish children celebrated their First Reconciliation at this service: Angela Anderson, Julian Boswell, Austin Berlocher,

Daniel Brown, Thomas Brown, Josh Cocagne, Luke Cottingham, Claire Drone-Silvers, Alicia Drook, Katherine Floess, Gabriel Foote, Cora Freidhof, Jessica Glazier, Jacob Hopkins, Thomas Jean, Francesca Johnson, Kelsey Kaiser, Jessica Kerby,



Aidan Kerns, Josh Krueger, Christopher Long, Sarah Maloney, Kori McGraw, Sarah McMahan, Gracie Mayer, Margarita Mouschovias, Jackson Nguyen, Kaleigh Niccum, Desiree Panepinto, Jordan Pardick, William Pardick, Dustin Ragle, Tony Rasmussen, Jeffrey Roeper, Mark Sandwick, Marco Sardela, Pedro Sardela, Betsy Schuele, Caitlin Schutz, Sydnie Silbernagel, Shelby Simmering, Shane Towns, Arianna Valocchi, Kurtis Wahl, Buck Walsh, Dana Williams, and Eleni Yannelis. ■

Searching for Names

The St. Patrick's Parish Archives Committee is trying to update the list of all parishioners who have ever served as members of the Social Action Committee. If you are aware of anyone who was a member of that committee but whose name does not appear in the following list, please call Nancy Steerman (328-1217). An asterisk (*) marks the name of one who chaired the committee.

Margaret Adamek,
*Deacon Rodger Adams,
Michael Andrejasich,
Carolyn Artz, Kurt Austin,
Steve Beckett, Dwain Berggren, Roseann Black,
Peter Bloome, Deb Booth,
Carol Bosley, Claire Bruce,
*Mary Collins, Mary Corcoran, Freda DeCerbo (Hodits), Kathy DelSanto, Jeannie Donovan (Rasmussen), Helen Dorning, Fr. George Dorsey, John Dorsey, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Gaye Dunn, Terese Engolz, Margaret Erlandson, Charlene Floreani, Lisa



Foley, Mary Fonner, Chris Freidhof, *Bob Haessly, Charles Halpin, Mike Healey, Ron Hicks, Suzanne Hoban, Bernadette Hughes, Paul Hughes, Richard Keane, *Don Keefer, Miriam Lancaster (Nirider) (Meyer), Bernadette Laumann, *Gary Laumann, *Leon Mayer, Patricia Mayer, Jason McArthur, Deacon Bill McClellan, Brendan McKiernan, Alice McLaughlin, Jacqueline Mohalley, Margaret Munoz, Deacon Dan Murphy, Margaret Nadwomey, Viet Nguyen, Navina Noronha, Barb Peckham, John Ralston, Carole Rebeiz, Dave Riddle, Delroy Robinson, *Gabriella Roussos, Bruce Rummenie, Michael Ruptsch, Ann Shafer, Margaret Stewart, *Bob Theobald, *Elaine Theobald, Margaret Whelan, Julie Wurth, Joseph Youakim, and Martin Zeigler. ■

KCs Offer Superbowl Sunday Breakfast —

Come one, come all, to the Superbowl Sunday Breakfast, from 8 to 11 a.m., sponsored by the Urbana Knights of Columbus. Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin for further details.

St. Raymond of Penyafort: "Wisdom is Not for Sale"

Raymond of Penyafort was born in 1175 in Catalonia, Spain. At the age of twenty he taught philosophy in Barcelona. He took no pay for his teaching since, he said, "Wisdom is not for sale." In 1222 he joined the Order of Preachers, whose founder, St. Dominic, had recently died.

During his early years as a Dominican, Raymond worked for the conversion of the Moors in Spain and, with St. Peter Nolasco, founded the Mercedarian Order for the ransom of Christian captives of the Moors. In 1230, Pope Gregory IX called him to Rome, and he served as a canonist for the pope, beginning a collection of Church laws that would become the basis for the Codex of Canon Law.

When he was appointed archbishop of Tarragona in 1235, he became so sick that the pope relieved him of this office. In 1238, he was elected Master-General of the Dominicans but resigned after two years to continue his work in Spain, founding language schools for the study of Hebrew and Arabic at Barcelona and at Tunis, in North Africa.

His ideas and his energies were prodigious. He badgered Dominican superiors to send young Dominicans to his language school in Spain, he encouraged St. Thomas Aquinas to write his *Summa Contra Gentiles* as a handbook for Christian missionaries, and he became a legend in his order in his own lifetime.

When Raymond died in 1275 at 100 years of age, the Dominican Order was established throughout Europe, it had produced the genius of St. Thomas Aquinas, and its teachers were to be found in all the great universities of Europe. King Alphonsus of Castille and King James of Aragon, along with their royal families, attended Raymond's funeral, and his tomb soon became the scene of countless miracles. He is one of the great lights of the Dominican Order.

St. Raymond's genius was inspired by faith, and that faith led to great works for God. He used all his talents for the work of the Lord. As Christians, we should try to do the same.

We honor him on his feastday, Jan. 7. ■

Quick Fixin's from the Kitchen of... Helen Halpin

Sweet and Sour Chicken

3/4 lbs boneless, cubed chicken breast
1 T oil
1 c green pepper strips
1 T cornstarch
1/4 c light soy sauce
1 8-oz can pineapple tidbits with juice
3 T vinegar
3 T brown sugar
1/2 t ground ginger
1/2 t garlic powder
1 1/2 c instant rice



Cook and stir chicken in hot oil until well browned. Add peppers; cook and stir two minutes. Mix together cornstarch and soy sauce, and add to pan along with the pineapple and juice, vinegar, sugar, ginger, and garlic. Bring to full boil. Meanwhile, prepare rice according to package directions. Serve chicken mixture over rice.

Welcome to Laney Michelle Menees, baptized into our faith community.

Congratulations to Kathryn Anne Smith and Michael James Graham, married at St. Patrick's.



Please pray for deceased parishioners Margaret Kirwan, Violet Mary Gaschler, Harold W. "Red" Pearson, William Thomas Shumate, Louise Kannapel.



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

Good Things Happening... January at St. Patrick's

- 1 Mary, Mother of God
- 6 Overview of Ephesians
- 14 Study of Ephesians Begins
- 21 CREW Bingo
- 22 Memorial Prayer Vigil
- 28 KC Superbowl Breakfast
Blood Pressure Screening

Honoring National Migration Week

He prayed—it wasn't my religion.
He ate—it wasn't what I ate.
He spoke—it wasn't my language.
He dressed—it wasn't what I wore.
He took my hand—it wasn't the color of mine,
But when he laughed—it was how I laughed,
And when he cried—it was how I cried.

By Amy Maddox (16 years old) in Sara Bullard's "Teaching Tolerance Magazine," Tuscaloosa, Ala.: *Southern Poverty Law Review*, Spring 1995, p. 65.





January 2001

St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00am Mass (no obligation)	2 7:00pm Financial Affairs Com 7:00pm Homily Prep	3 9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir	4 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm Building & Grounds Com	5 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	6 8:30-11:00am Bible Study "Overview of Ephesians" Seminar
7 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 10:15am Children's Liturgy 12:00pm Teen Liturgy 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed	8 7:00pm Education Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:00pm Social Action Com	9 7:30pm Parish Council Exec Com	10 9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir	11 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Baptism Prep	12 10:30am Mass-Care Center 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	13
14 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 4:30pm Teen Choir 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	15 Dr. Martin Luther King Day 12:00pm Parish Office Closed 7:00pm Centering Prayer	16 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Mass-Canterbury Ridge 7:00pm Liturgy Committee	17 9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	18 6:45am Men's Bible Study 4:30-6:00pm Education Staff 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Parish Council 7:00pm Over 21	19 10:30am Mass-Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	20
21 9:00am & 11:00am Children's Rel Ed 9:00am RCIA 10:15am Children's Liturgy 10:15am Knights of Columbus 1:00-3:00pm CREW Bingo 6:30pm Jr/Sr High Rel Ed 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	22 9:30am Archives Com 7:00pm Centering Prayer	23 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm WATCH Board Mtg 7:00pm Homily Prep	24 9:00am Mom's Group 9:30am Funeral Schola 5:00pm SVDP 6:00pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Pat's 6:30pm Children's Rel Ed, St. Joe 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA	25 6:45am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Communications Com 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Over 21	26 10:30am Mass-Manor Care 10:45am Mass-Champaign Cty NH	27
28 8:00am-11:00pm K of C Superbowl Breakfast 8:30am-12:00pm Blood Pressure Screening 9:00am RCIA 4:30pm Teen Choir 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders	29 7:00pm Centering Prayer	30 9:30am Bible Study	31 9:00am Mom's Group 5:00pm SVDP 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm RCIA			

SVDP=St Vincent de Paul NH=Nursing Home

