

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



www.stpatsurbana.org

## Are We Ready for Easter?

In a couple of weeks, on Palm Sunday, we will meet outside our normal place of worship to hear about how Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph. Then we will bless palm branches—branches carried by pilgrims. And like the children of Jerusalem we will walk and sing in procession, a procession to the supper table, the cross, and the tomb.

When we accept the palm branches, we promise to live as pilgrims, to move through this life with and to Jesus. Like the Israelites in the desert, we are only passing through. Like Christ himself, we go about carrying good news, even when we walk the way of tears.

Come prepared to walk and sing together as fellow travelers. We will walk behind our cross to our holy table, Jerusalem—in our own neighborhood. And this procession will be practice for an even more awesome journey that we will make soon after,

the Easter Vigil procession to the tomb, our font, that place where we die to sin and rise in love.



But what of Easter? Will we be ready for Easter? In the current issue of *U.S. Catholic* (April 2003, pp. 13-15) Sr. Joan Chittister writes: “We love to think of Easter as the feast of dazzling light. We get up on Easter

Sunday morning knowing that the sorrow of Good Friday is finally ended, that Jesus is vindicated, that the faith of the disciples is confirmed for all to see, and that everyone lived happily ever after. On the contrary,” she continues, “Easter is raw reality. Easter stands in stark witness, not to the meaning of death but to the meaning of what it is to go on despite death.... To celebrate Easter means to stand in the light of the empty tomb and decide what to do next.”

Will we be a Mary Magdalene, clinging to belief? But Jesus asks Mary to speak out, to witness to his everlasting presence among the cripples and the lepers and the women and the poor. He asks her to be his voice, to speak the truth that no one wants to hear, to turn the world upside down with the truth: Jesus lives. If we go with Mary to the empty tomb, are we

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## Spring morning of renewal for Liturgical Ministers

St. Patrick's Liturgy Committee invites all adult liturgical ministers to a morning of renewal on Saturday,



Apr. 5. Fr. Dennis Smolarski, S.J., will lead participants in learning, sharing, and reflecting on the meaning of Sunday Eucharist and what it means to serve as a liturgical minister.

The morning will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the church, followed by continental breakfast at 8:30 and the program, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., in the parish center.

Many will remember Fr. Smolarski from his days of filling in for our priests and his insightful homilies at Mass. Others will have read his Q & A

in the liturgical magazine *Rite*, formerly known as *Liturgy 90*, or one or another of his books about the Mass.

If you are a cantor, choir member, lector, eucharistic minister, usher, liturgical arts minister, or sacristy assistant, this morning of renewal has been planned for you.

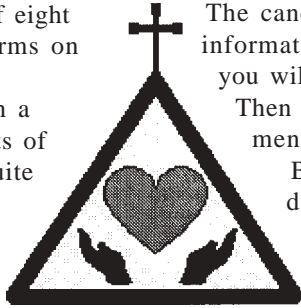
Please RSVP by Wednesday, Apr. 2, by calling the parish office (367-2665) so that all can be comfortably accommodated.

## Eight Council candidates look for your vote

Next weekend, Apr. 5-6, St. Patrick's parishioners will exercise their voting privilege by electing four of eight candidates to three-year terms on the Parish Council.

In this weekend's bulletin a brochure lists the basic facts of the election process. It's quite simple, really: all parishioners 16 years old or older may vote, and each may vote for up to four of the candidates (including a write-in vote if desired), to fill the four vacancies created as four members rotate off the Council having completed their terms of service.

The brochure also provides some information about each of the candidates: a brief biographical sketch, formative background or experience that the candidate perceives as helpful to an aspiring member of the Council,



and what the candidate believes the parish's near-future goals should be. The candidates have provided this information about themselves, so you will want to read it carefully. Then pray for the gift of discernment and vote.

Ballots will be distributed during the announcements near the conclusion of each Mass next weekend so that all eligible parishioners present may vote before leaving the church.

For those who cannot be present, absentee ballots can be filled out and turned in to the parish office during the week of Mar. 31-Apr. 4 during office hours: 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Questions? Call Dwight Raab (469-7045), election committee chair and out-going president of the Council.

## KCs announce youth essay contest

The Urbana Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a youth essay contest on the theme of "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society." The topic to be discussed is inspired by words from Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*: "There can be no true democracy without a recognition of every person's dignity and without respect for his or her rights. Nor can there be true peace unless life is defended and promoted."

The contest is open to Catholic students in grades 7-12. Essays of 500-750 words reflecting the assigned theme and topic should be submitted on 8" x 11 inch paper. A separate page listing the student's name, grade, and school should be attached to the essay.

Entries can be submitted to Arden Howey, Joseph Youakim, or any Urbana Knight. Certificates and prizes will be awarded in May.

## Meals on Wheels takes its cue from USPS

Many thanks to the generous and hardy parishioners who delivered meals the week of Feb. 10. Neither rain nor sleet nor freezing rain nor snow kept these faithful from their



appointed rounds: Margaret Blume, Joe Costa, Connie Difanis, Joyce Dill, Frances Drone-Silvers, Matt Herron, Richard Keane, Cesaria Lancaster, Pat Morgan, Kay Schaller, Elizabeth Talbot, and Donna Thompson.

If you are willing to serve as a coordinator for the deliveries from June 30 through July 3, please call Elizabeth Talbot (351-6039).

## Easter

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ready to speak this truth to power, to heal those crippled by the system, to cure the lepers of their social diseases, to raise women from the deadening effects of sexism, and to call the apostles to do the same?

Will we be a Peter, playing it safe? If this is to be Easter for us, then like Peter we are going to have to go all the way this time. We are going to have to come out of the tomb prepared to suffer, perhaps, for what we see but to this point have been reluctant to say. We are going to have to stand publicly with those who believed what Jesus believed and risk our own reputations if need be.

Will we be a John, lost in contemplation? If there is a temptation in the spiritual life, it is certainly to use prayer as an excuse for not doing anything. But to pray is to come to understand the plight of the poor, the cries of the oppressed, the will of God for the world. Like John, the person of prayer knows that it is one thing to live in the wonder of the Resurrection, but it is entirely another to proclaim, even to ourselves, what an empty tomb implies: If Jesus is risen, we can't stop at the baptismal font and tell ourselves we've done it all, we've been faithful to the end.

No, we have no choice but to go in, put on the leftover garments ourselves, and follow Jesus where the poor cry for food and cripples cry to be taken to the pool and the blind wait for the spittle on their eyes to dry. This is what Easter is really all about, Sr. Joan Chittister asserts: "It is about the conversion of the clinging Mary in us into the proclaiming woman. It is about the metamorphosis of the blustering Peter in us into the outspoken prophet. It is about the awareness of the contemplative John in us that, now the tomb is empty, the rest is up to us. ... Yes, Easter is about dazzling light—but only if it shines through us."



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the May issue of *In Focus* is April 6.

## Pray for the Elect!

The Elect, the men and women who have been responding to the call of the Lord, steeped in his Word and in the traditions and teachings of the Church, will be received into the Church during the Easter Vigil. Immersed in the waters of Baptism, they will rise to new life in Christ. Although they will be introduced in the next issue of *In Focus*, we give you a glimpse of them now, along with this prayer:

*Father of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into his all-embracing love. Guide the Elect of your Church: strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*



## Help is always welcome at the Catholic Worker House

Opportunities for service abound at St. Jude Catholic Worker House. There is something to fit almost anyone's schedule, talents, interests,



or desire. Whether you are looking for a way to spend one hour a month in service of the poor among us, or want to make a regular commitment to the House's ministry, you are welcome and will be sure to find something to do that suits you.

For those with only a little time to spend, consider the once-a-month workday, the first Saturday of each month from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Spend an hour or an afternoon. Clean a bathroom, mop a floor, organize books and toys, sweep the porch, work in the yard, organize a storage area, or—if you are really brave—clean out a refrigerator. All the necessary supplies are on hand, and someone is there to

coordinate the efforts of volunteers, answer questions, and work alongside volunteers.

If you can handle a more regular duty, the daily soup kitchen might fit the bill. There are seven daily crews, one or two of which always need an extra hand. You can come for preparation time (9-11 a.m.), serving (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), or cleanup (12:30-2 p.m.)—or stay through the entire shift. Volunteer once a week or once a month. You will find that you are enriched by the experience of meeting other dedicated volunteers and soup kitchen guests. This is a very real experience of meeting Christ in the guise of others, particularly those among us most in need.

The House offers overnight hospitality to homeless women and families. A supper cooked and shared, an evening of board games, or time spent helping a guest get to an appointment or job interview are always welcome.

These are things that take a little time and a little love, and they can be done by anyone with a willing heart and willing hands. If you are interested in workday activities, please call Nancy Olson (359-6424); for soup kitchen details, call Ellen McDowell (356-7101). If you would like to know

more about evening/family activities, please call one of the live-in volunteers—Eric, Paul, or Trina—after 5:30 (355-9774).

### Prayer for Vocations



*Holy Spirit, inspire young people to give their lives in service to the People of God through public service in your Church.*

*Inspire all your faithful to a renewal of mind and heart in your service, wherever you lead them.*

*Enable each of us, wherever and however your call is experienced, to respond with alacrity and fidelity, with the assurance of your indwelling guidance and support through the days and nights of our lives.*



## Sr. Kathleen shared sense of pilgrimage with retreatants

The journeys of St. Paul provided the framework for our parish's pre-Lenten retreat on Mar. 1, which was attended by over 70 parishioners. The retreat leader, Sr. Kathleen Mulchay, a teacher at Mundelein Seminary north of Chicago, had just returned from a pilgrimage with 29 third-year seminarians visiting the cities where St. Paul taught. She used the experience of pilgrimage to enrich our understanding of our Lenten journey.

Any pilgrimage requires planning, so it was a blessing to have this time to consider how we might keep the season. Sr. Kathleen spoke about "sacred intention": what simple things will we

intend to do to give meaning to this season? We considered the values of gazing and attentiveness, simply seeing more deeply the people around us and recognizing God's action in our lives.

The Lenten practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are a bit different than we might expect on a pilgrimage. *Fasting* calls us to consider the effect of our actions on the group and to seek the common good. *Prayer* can be a way to sanctify all parts of the day by remaining attentive to God's action in ourselves and in those around us. *Almsgiving* can be the gift of our money or our time.

St. Paul had a unique understanding of suffering. He acknowledged that there was great hardship in his life, but he was not ashamed of it or oppressed by it. He simply accepted it as part of his ministry and did not let it influence him, thus he was free to follow the Spirit's lead without worry about the cost.

Another characteristic of pilgrimage is gratitude. Our lives are full of the love of God and the kindness of people who touch us. Our Lenten pilgrimage can be richer if we recognize these

gifts and are thankful for them. Having recognized the value of thankfulness, we extend it to Sr. Kathleen and to all who worked to plan the retreat for us!



*Sr. Charlene was delighted to have a few moments with her good friend, Sr. Kathleen. Although members of the same religious community, they are separated geographically.*



*The retreat, videotaped by Mary Long, should soon be available for viewing by interested parishioners.*



*Sr. Julia Moriarty, SSCM, takes a closer look at the map of Paul's (and Sr. Kathleen's) journeys.*

## Holy Cross Newslines

During Lent students will regularly pray the Stations of the Cross together; also, Mass



will be celebrated in the Parish Center daily except Mondays, with different classes participating on different days. Weekday Mass has been moved to the Parish Center during installation of air conditioning in the church, with completion expected in June.

An all-school Mass was celebrated on Mar. 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. Confirmation for eighth-graders took place on Saturday, Mar. 22, at 2 p.m. The Mass of Enrollment for seventh-graders, the next Confirmation class, is scheduled for Sunday, Mar. 30, at 11 a.m.

The third-quarter grading period ended Mar. 21, with report cards issued Mar. 28.

The High School of St. Thomas More will host a Gala Dinner on Apr. 5. At the dinner Barbara Yount (seventh- and eighth-grade science), who has taught at Holy Cross School for 37 years, will receive the Paideia award for her contributions to Catholic education. Judy Crull (fifth- and sixth-grade science) has received the Mother Seton Award from St. Matthew School for her outstanding work with the Girl Scouts.

St. Patrick's parishioners have been asking about the Campbell Soup labels and General Mills box tops that have been donated to Holy Cross School, many from the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The labels are "banked" with Campbell's and every few years the teachers browse the catalog and choose items for the school. The last time items were acquired was about four years ago, when the school obtained a new TV, a VCR, clip art books for the office, eight sets of headphones, and a listening station for the younger grades. The box tops are also "banked" until enough are collected to send in. The Parent-Teacher Club gets cash for them, and the cash is deposited into the general PTC fund. The PTC wishes to thank all contributors to these programs—many items would not be acquired without this kind of help!

## CREW is big on community service!

St. Patrick's teen youth group CREW (Christ Renews Everyone's World) is a busy group of young adults. While many in the parish know of the wonderful works performed by CREW on their missions to Colorado and Tennessee the past two summers, we should be aware that St. Patrick's teens have also been actively providing community service in the C-U area throughout the year.

According to youth activity coordinator Carol Retz, CREW members have

"enthusiastically and generously helped at the St. Jude Catholic Worker House, Crisis Nursery, and Empty Tomb." She goes on to say that "although these teens have very busy schedules with school, sports, activities, and part-time work, they enjoy coming forward to help out in the community."

Some of CREW's work included

putting up Christmas decorations, baking cookies, and singing carols for residents and staff at the Catholic Worker House. Neilzen Damaso said,



CREW teens help out on a recent Catholic Worker House workday, joined by Carole Rebeiz and Steve Retz. From the left: Carrie Conner, Katie Schuh, Caitlin Vitosky, Carole, Megan Raab, Steve (he's the one in the back), and Marco Carter.

"Seeing the light on the people's faces when we brightened their holiday just made us feel wonderful."

CREW members were also busy at the Crisis Nursery during the holidays when they took children from the nursery shopping for surprise presents for their loved ones at a special event at Lincoln Square. After selecting presents for parents, grand-

parents, and siblings, the kids picked out wrapping paper and wrapped their presents with the help of CREW members. "The kids were so excited about keeping their presents a secret that it made me feel like a little kid again myself," Neilzen said.

The community projects are important to CREW members in many ways, for, as Carrie Conner said, "working together throughout the year really builds a team spirit, which makes our mission even more meaningful."

Raising funds to go on the missions is another activity requiring strong commitment from the members of CREW. Whether it's working to put on Bingo or providing one of the many services offered at their Service and Talent Auction, CREW teens give a great deal of their time and talent in helping others. But, as Carrie remarked, "It's so worthwhile knowing that we aren't just being *given* the chance to go on a mission, we are *earning* it ourselves." CREW returns a great deal to the teens as well, according to Neilzen: "It gives us a chance to make a difference in our community and in the world. You feel good when you are doing something important for others."

*Hard-working, committed, responsible, and selfless* are good words for us to use in proudly describing the members of St. Patrick's CREW. As Carol Retz said, "We would like to thank all the CREW members for their enthusiasm and generous service as ambassadors of the Good News!"



## in our parish library

Here is a selection of books on the "New Books" shelf—to your right as you enter the parish library:

*Responses to 101 Questions about Jesus*, by Michael L. Cook (232 COO). In an easy-to-read question-and-answer format, this book discusses the historical Jesus, his divinity and humanity, his teaching with parables, salvation, heaven, hell, Christ with us today, and Christ's second coming. It's

quick reading, and you may come away with some new understanding or new way of thinking about Christ.

*Living with Wisdom: A Life of Thomas Merton*, by Jim Forest (921 MER). An excellent introduction to the life and works of this extraordinary monk, who authored more than 50 books.

*Hildegard of Bingen: A Visionary Life*, by Sabina Flanagan (921 HIL).

Hildegard (1098-1179) was one of the most interesting women of the Middle Ages. This book provides an introduction to her life and writings.

*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.*

## Teens crowd first-ever JAM weekend

"In the Light" was the theme for the JAM weekend Feb. 23-24, hosted by St. Patrick's. JAM (Jesus and Me), the teen equivalent of WATCH, is a weekend renewal program put on by teens and adults, in which the participating teens experience talks and activities focused on the sacraments, spiritual growth, and relationship with God and others in the Christian family.

The 23 participants represented St. Patrick's, Holy Cross, Our Lady of the Lake, the High School of St. Thomas More, and even Springfield. Deacon Don Efinger, from St. Thomas Parish, Peoria, and his JAM team came to help get the program started.

The weekend included Mass and Reconciliation, meditations with slides and music, jam sessions, and talks on choices, grace, communication, chastity, loneliness, reconciliation, belonging, Eucharist, and community.

Saturday evening's entertainment was provided by Sons & Daughters, a well-known Christian rock band. They not only performed songs for the teens but used the opportunity to witness about the importance to them of their Catholic faith.

The teens brought their sleeping bags for their overnigher at St. Patrick's parish center. On Sunday morning, after a talk on Eucharist, they participated in a Teen Mass with parishioners. Wearing their JAM t-shirts and holding high the candles they had decorated, they entered the church in procession and served as lectors, cantors, and gift bearers. All joined Fr. Remm, assisted by Deacons Don Efinger and Cliff Maduzia, at the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Priests from other parishes also lent their time and enthusiasm to the weekend. Fr. Tony Dittmer, chaplain of the High School of St. Thomas More, spoke on Eucharist, and Fr. John Cyr of Holy Cross Parish spoke on chastity. Fr. Tony Trosley of St. Matthew Parish assisted with Reconciliation on Saturday evening.

Parents of the teens wrote "agape" (love) letters, presented during the weekend, to their teens to encourage their spiritual journey. They also

baked and brought in special treats, volunteered as chaperones, and joined their teens at Mass. Many other parishioners also supported the teens with their prayers and agape letters. At the conclusion of the weekend, the team presented JAM crosses to the participants.

The JAM weekend was sponsored by the parish's WATCH (We Are The Church) and Evangelization ministries and the High School Religious Education ministries of St. Patrick's and St. Matthew's parishes, with volunteers from Holy Cross Parish and the High School of St. Thomas More.

### It happened here!



### 15 Years Ago: April 1988

The Bereavement Team was introduced by Sr. Charlene and Mary Lydon. The Social Committee planned an Easter Egg Hunt for Holy Saturday—and Building and Grounds reported that high winds blew some roof shingles off the church roof and drove in some snow!

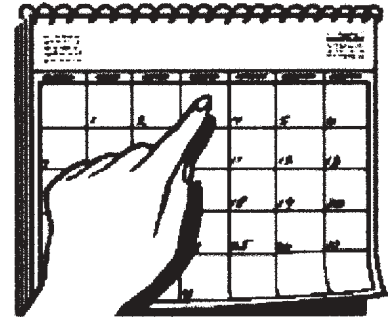
### 10 Years Ago: April 1993

The Re-Membering Church team got underway again after Deacon Rodger Adams' departure with reformulated membership: Barb Wysocki, Judy Conover, Rita Lampe, Mary Lou Menches, Frank Modica, Fr. Tim Nolan, Nancy Rowley, and Leo Wood.

### 5 Years Ago: April 1998

The Parish Council discussed formation of the Centennial Committee and moved to establish the Parish Nurse program and the Vocations Committee. Ministry to Hispanics was moved from St. Patrick's to St. John's, where Bishop Myers had sent two Spanish-speaking priests.

## Make a date



**Apr. 5-6**, all Masses: Parish Council elections; come prepared to vote four candidates to 3-year terms on the Council.

**Apr. 6**, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.: Come see the Academy Award winning movie *Babette's Feast*, which explores many aspects of grace in faith community, and stay for the discussion that follows.

**Apr. 8**, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.: Communal Reconciliation is offered at St. Patrick's. It is also available at Holy Cross on Apr. 7 and at St. Matthew's on Apr. 9, both at 7:00 p.m. Our priests will participate at all three services.

**Apr. 12**, Saturday: Help our teens give the church its annual spring cleaning in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Come anytime between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

**Apr. 13**, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.: The Academy Award winning movie *Places in the Heart* recounts the struggles of a young widow during the Depression in a small Texas town. Discussion will follow.

**Apr. 17**, Thursday, 7 a.m. Morning Prayer will be prayed in the church. At 7:30 p.m. celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. A time of adoration will follow, ending with Compline at midnight in the multipurpose room.

**Apr. 18**, Friday, 7 a.m. Morning Prayer; at 3 p.m., the Stations of the Cross; at 7:30 p.m. the Veneration of the Cross—all in the church.

**Apr. 19**, Saturday, 8 a.m. Morning Prayer will be prayed in the church. At 7:30 p.m. celebrate the Easter Vigil in the church; come to recall the stories of God's gift of salvation and to welcome the newly baptized Catholics.

**Apr. 27**, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-noon: Blood pressure screening, sponsored by the Parish Nurses.



## Mardi Gras the theme of Education's appreciation dinner

"My family really enjoys this Mardi Gras dinner. It's a great night out for the whole family and a great way to be appreciated," said one of the catechists attending the annual Religious Education Appreciation Dinner.

Over 170 religious education and family life catechists were honored at the appreciation dinner. Special guests this year were members of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Urbana Knights of Columbus, who had helped move furniture, books, and supplies from the parish center to the new offices for the religious education coordinators.

Each volunteer received a plaque inscribed "In appreciation for your service in God's work." They also received a mask, beads, and—yes, a kazoo! After the delicious chicken dinner from Grandy's and presentation of the plaques, all the children and teens were invited to participate in a Kazoo Contest, marked by fun, music, and prizes.

"We just want to show how much we really appreciate all the hard work, hours, and sharing of faith that these catechists do all year round for our children, teens, and adults," said Carol Retz, coordinator of the children's program and youth activities.



The "Girls Night Out" musical group included (as if you couldn't tell!) Bonnie Kimball, Janet Pauketat, Regena Pauketat, Stephanie Daniels, and Mary Kimball. Holding the microphone: Carol Retz.



Competition was provided by this group, performing "Our God Is an Awesome God": Carrie Conner, Liz Amberg, Emanuel Bronson, Nielzen Damaso, Kathleen Kelleher, and Katie Thompson.

## The Whirlwind Project focuses on Job

The Whirlwind Project is a community initiative that seeks to bring people together, this year to explore themes related to the Book of Job through music, dialogue, and the arts. The schedule of April and May events follows:

*Exhibits of Religious Treasures:* During April and May at the UI Library Rare Book Collection (1408 W. Gregory, U.), featuring William Blake's illustrations for the Book of Job.

WEFT Radio, FM 90.1—"Borscht Blender," hosted by Robin Arbiter on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. On Apr. 6, *Local Writers on Job*; on Apr. 20, *Job's Universality* (Elihu Smith, David

Goodman); on May 4, *Concert Preview* (Kevin Kelly).

*Personal Stories: The Jobs among Us*—Apr. 8, 7:00 p.m., Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (106 S. Lincoln, U.).

*Faith Traditions Respond to Job*—Apr. 13, 5:00 p.m., WILL Radio, AM 580. "Keepin' the Faith," hosted by Steve Shoemaker; guests are Lee Melhado, Elihu Smith, Mujahid Al-Fayadh.

*Concert: Job and the Blues*—Apr. 22, 8:00 p.m., Lincoln Castle (at Lincoln Square, U.). Rev. Robert, Kilborn Alley Blues Band. Admission, \$5.

*Poetry Reading*—Apr. 16, 3:00 p.m., Pages for All Ages, (1201 Savoy Plaza,

Savoy).

*Concert: Whirlwind Finale*—May 9, 7:30 p.m., Faith United Methodist Church (1719 S. Prospect, C.), The Prairie Ensemble, Kevin Kelly, Director. Admission, \$10.

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*  
*U.S. General*

*34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States*

## Their plowshares are beat into swords

And now their plowshares are beat into swords—as are ours.

Now their pruning hooks are beat into spears—as are ours.

Not only swords and spears,  
But bullets, and bombs, and mis-  
siles,

Of steel on flesh, of power against  
bodies ...

And you, in your indignation, sound  
your mantra,

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

We dare to believe they are the  
aggressor,

And we are the peacemaker.

Yet in sober night dream, we glance  
otherwise

And think we may be the aggressor,  
As we vision rubbled homes,  
Murdered civilians, and charred  
babies.

And you, in your sadness, sound  
your mantra,

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

We do not love war,

We yearn for peace,

But we have lost much will for peace  
Even while we dream of order.

And you, in your hope, sound your  
mantra,

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

Deliver us from excessive certitude  
about ourselves,

Hold us in the deep ambiguity where  
we find ourselves.

Show us yet again the gaping space  
Between your will and our feeble  
imagination.

Sound your mantra with more au-  
thority,

With more indignation,

Through sadness, in hope ...

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

Only peacemakers are blessed.  
We find ourselves well short of  
blessed.

Give us freedom for your deep other-  
wise,

Finally to be blessed,

In the name of the Peacemaker

Who gave and did not take. Amen.

—Walter Brueggemann

## Religious education offices have moved

If, at a meeting in a parish center classroom, you have tried to fit your adult self into a child-sized chair, you will welcome the new meeting space in the parish center basement. There, groups such as JAM, WATCH, and Bible Study can get together more comfortably, now that the offices of the religious education coordinators have been moved across the parking lot to the parish's Clark Street house.

Classes will continue to meet in the parish center.

Coordinators who have moved are Mark and Diane Cousert (junior high), Peggy Loftus (high school), Lenore Nagele (RCIA), Carol Retz (children; youth activities), and Mary Tierney (family life). They join Carolyn McElrath, Director of Religious Education, who moved to the house a few years ago. All are pleased to be able to enjoy the sunshine from their new ground-floor offices.

The back door of the house, on the alley just north of the parking lot, is the main entrance. Renovation has provided a meeting space as well as offices. Parking is, as usual, in St. Patrick's lot or, on Sunday, in the Carle lot across Coler Ave.

Thanks to the Building and Ground Committee and the Knights of Columbus, who moved desks and chairs, computers, and enough books and

videos to make a small library of teaching resources.

The coordinators can be reached in their new offices by dialing 278-2126; this number services all of the religious education staff.



*Welcome to new parishioners* Douglas and Maureen Elsbernd, Duane and Julie Frichtl, Andy Baylor and Laura Herriot, April and Dustin Kramer, David and Diana Lesny, Chi Hong Nguyen.

*Farewell to parishioners* Theresa and Todd Schumacher, Maria Thomas, Clarence Walton, Maria Whitten.

*Congratulations* to Kristi Marie Butler and John Brian Sanders, wed at St. Patrick's.

*Welcome to those recently baptized into our faith community:* Justin Adam Smith, Ian Patrick Miller, Flannery Jo Anne McCorkle, Dominic Laszlo Kelly, Brenna Allsopp, Julie Rae Rudicil.

*Please pray for deceased parishioners* Mary Jo Pelafas, Mary Emily Burgin, James R. Harney, Mary Helen Stolte.

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

**Cheryl Mitchell**

### Pig Lickin' Cake

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 c oil
- 1 small can mandarin oranges, with juice
- 1 3-oz. package instant vanilla pudding
- 1 8-oz. container Cool Whip
- 1 15.5-oz. can crushed pineapple

Mix eggs, oil, and oranges in blender or mixer. Add dry cake mix; mix thoroughly and pour into lightly greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Drain pineapple; reserve juice. Mix together dry pudding and juice saved from pineapple; fold in Cool Whip and pineapple and spread over the cooled cake as a topping.





## Communal Penance services offer reconciliation

“The Father has shown forth his mercy by reconciling the world to himself in Christ and by making peace



for all things on earth and in heaven by the blood of Christ on the cross.” So begins the introduction to

the revised Rite of Penance decreed by the Second Vatican Council. Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, St. Paul writes (Ephesians 5:25-26), and he united the Church to himself as his bride. He filled her with his divine gifts because she is his body and fullness, and through her he spreads truth and grace to all.

What are we to think, then, about the need for mercy and forgiveness? So very human, we members of the Church are exposed to temptation and unfortunately often fall into sin. Thus the Church, at one and the same time holy and yet very human, is always in need of repentance, reconciliation, and renewal.

The Church becomes in the world a sign of conversion to God, expressing and celebrating this conversion when we confess that we are sinners and ask pardon of God and of our brothers and sisters.

We may tend to forget the effects of our sinfulness on our relationship with others, more conscious perhaps of its effect on our relationship with God. A communal celebration of reconciliation reveals this aspect of sin more clearly. We listen together to the Word of God, which proclaims God’s mercy and invites us to conversion, together we examine the conformity of our lives with that Word, and we help one another through common prayer. Finally, all have the opportunity individually to confess and to receive absolution for our sins, and to make reparation for them.

Communal Penance services are traditionally offered locally during the week before Holy Week, with the

parishes of Holy Cross, St. Patrick, and St. Matthew participating. Several priests from the three parishes assist with hearing individual confessions and giving absolution. They are placed at various points in the church so that all who desire to confess their sins and receive absolution may approach the priest of their choice.

A Communal Penance service will be celebrated at St. Patrick’s, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 8. If you are unable to come then, you may be able to make it to Holy Cross on Monday or to St. Matthew’s on Wednesday, both at 7:00 p.m. Priests from all three parishes will participate in all three services. Of course, all parishes will also schedule times for individual confessions.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to make all things right in your relationship with God and with your brothers and sisters in the great community of the Church, the body of Christ.

Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives  
the transgression of the remnant  
of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us;

you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities  
into the depths of the sea.

—Micah 7:18-19



**Q:** How is the date for Easter determined each year? It doesn’t seem to be connected to some regularly occurring event elsewhere on the Church calendar.

**A:** Hardly anyone today would wish to debate about fixing the date for Easter—with the possible exception of clothing merchants! In the early centuries of Christianity, however, this was a point of spirited argument.

The early Christians desired to celebrate the day of Jesus’ Resurrection on the third day following the Jewish Passover (remember, early Christians were Jews), which began on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, calculated by the springtime full moon. The early churches of Asia Minor chose to cel-

brate it on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, which usually fell on a weekday. Other churches thought it should be celebrated on a Sunday, since the Resurrection was said to have occurred on a Sunday.

After a great deal of discussion and variant practices, the first Ecumenical Council of the Church, convoked at Nicea after the Roman persecution of the Church ceased, caused the date to be fixed as *the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox* (usually Mar. 21 or thereabouts).

In 2003 the first full moon after the vernal equinox occurs Apr. 16, so this year Easter is celebrated on Sunday, Apr. 20.

Now, aren’t you glad you asked?

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



*St. Patrick’s Parish 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.

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