

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

Walking the Way of the Cross

It is said that misery loves company, and perhaps that is what draws us to walk with Christ on his way to Calvary and death. Because even as we know that he died, really died, he lives again.

When we walk with Christ, we recall his misery, his pain, his anguish, and his peaceful acceptance of all in recognition of its salvific effect on behalf of his family, his friends, his followers, all who would come after him, us.

Whenever we are in trouble, in pain, grieving, just plain miserable, we are grateful for the care of loving family and friends, for the quiet presence of those who would help us if they could. We are drawn to do the same for those we know to be in need of a friend, a listening and compassionate "presence." As we walk with Christ we join him in his misery, a quiet but loving and compassionate presence. At the same time, Christ walks with us in our misery or in our

recollection of the misery of another, a loving and compassionate presence, someone who understands what it means to suffer.

Have you walked the Way of the Cross lately, walked the Way with Christ?

At St. Patrick's we have the opportunity every Friday evening during Lent to join others in walking the Way of the Cross in a service that begins at 5:15 p.m. Although the church is locked outside of hours that services are held, anyone who wishes to pray before the Blessed Sacrament or to walk the Way of the Cross there may request a key to the church from the parish secretary or any staff member in the parish center during working hours. Because weekday Mass is celebrated in the church during Lent, it is also possible to remain afterward to pray or to walk the Way of the Cross privately. A few booklets are left in the vestibule as an aid in recalling the individual

Stations, depicted in the original artwork on the walls of the church, as we walk with Christ. In pain, in sorrow, in misery, we need never walk alone.



Put on your dancing shoes, Momma!

St. Patrick's will celebrate our patron saint in family style on Saturday, Mar. 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. A dj has been hired to provide music as well as plans for a variety of dances that can be enjoyed by parishioners of all ages—you're invited to bring grandpa and grandma, all the kids, and your neighbors too.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. Tickets can be purchased before the dance at Coffee Shop, the parish office, or at the door: singles, \$3.00;



families, \$10.00.

Put on your green (or blue or yellow or whatever color makes you feel festive) and join in an evening of high-spirited fun. A good time is guaranteed, or your money will be refunded. Don't dance? Don't let that stop you! A "pub" area is set aside for playing darts, cards, and other games, with good conversation and maybe even a little of the Irish storytelling.

The Social Committee promises a good time. It's guaranteed. If you don't have fun, the local leprechaun is authorized to give you a refund.

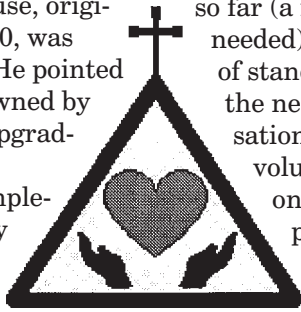
Parish Council news

At the February meeting Fr. Joe reported that the Yauk house, originally purchased for \$65,000, was recently sold for \$73,000. He pointed out that the apartments owned by the parish are in need of upgrading, at a projected cost of \$40,000-\$50,000; upon completion, rents will be raised by about \$150/month.

Changes to the parish budget development

process, recommended by the Financial Affairs Committee, have been adopted. Committees will submit their budget requests to Financial Affairs, which will develop the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year and submit it to the pastor for review. After his review, it will be returned to the Financial Affairs Committee, where it will be prepared for submission to the Council. After Council's review and approval, it will be returned to Financial Affairs and the parish bookkeeper for finalization. The Council will continue to review and approve program changes and proposed new programs. A member of Financial Affairs will be liaison to the bookkeeper.

Cheryl Mitchell, chair of the Council's ad hoc election committee,



reported that 76 letters of invitation and many phone calls have resulted in no candidates for the April election so far (a minimum of six are needed). This experience and that of standing committees suggest the need for an ongoing conversation about involvement and volunteering, rather than a once-a-year recruiting campaign.

Another special meeting of Council members to formulate goals for 2005

from the five-year parish goals is scheduled for Feb. 23.

Committee news: The *Social Committee* is planning the St. Patrick's dance. Although attendance at the family social last month was light, those who came enjoyed it and the hope is that such events can be held on a regular basis.

The *Social Action Committee* is continuing its collaboration with the Parish Nurses, presenting videos with discussion on mental health. The youth group will be invited to the next in the series, on teenage depression and suicide.

The *Building and Grounds Committee* is struggling to prepare its budget for the next fiscal year without actual expenditure figures for this fiscal year to date.

The *Communications Committee* is contacting individual parishioners in extending invitations to membership and has received some very positive and encouraging feedback—but no new members as yet. Work continues on building an electronic photo file from photos on hand; next year's proposed budget includes funds for the purchase of a digital camera.

The *Liturgy Committee* congratulated and profusely thanked Ellen Amberg for her work in completing the revision of the committee's handbook, almost two years in the making. Plans are underway for a "refresher" event for liturgical ministers, postponed from this spring (because of so many events and activities between now and late April) to a more likely date in the summer.

The *Education Committee* reports that 186 students are enrolled in the children's program, with 109 of them in the Sunday 9:00 a.m. classes.

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The next regular Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Mar. 17. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. For those interested in a more complete report, the minutes of the most recent Council meeting are posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.



Q: What are the Scrutinies?

A: The season of Lent is a time of conversion for all of us, but this is especially true for our catechumens, who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil. They not only learn about the Catholic faith, they learn to be faithful. As part of this, they learn to recognize sin in their lives and to seek God's help and forgiveness.

The Scrutinies are the Church's way of helping the catechumens grapple with sin in their lives. Celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies name areas of sinfulness, and the Church prays that the catechumens may be able to turn away from these with God's help.

Of course, conversion and repentance are not a one-shot-and-you're-done kind of thing. We recognize a continued need to turn away from sin. All of us must learn to recognize sin more clearly and to seek God's help in dealing with it. So at St. Patrick's we participate in the Scrutinies not only in solidarity with the catechumens, but for ourselves, who are equally in need of help on our Lenten journey.

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

Prayer for Vocations



We praise you for your goodness and thank you for your gifts, O Lord. Strengthen us to live in love and service to others after the example of your son, Jesus. Help us to see our vocation as a journey toward you. Make us faithful signs of your presence in our midst.

Call many to public service in your Church as priests and religious, and give them true generosity of heart in responding to that call. Amen.

St. Patrick's youth group goes skiing

By Andy Loftus

Coordinating any group outing can prove a challenging task, and an overnight ski trip is no different. However, efforts do not go unrewarded. This, the third ski trip that I've helped to coordinate, was by far the best one yet. Sure, there was the threat of snow (blessing, depending on your point of view), and I certainly did plenty of worrying that not enough students and chaperones would sign up. But as it turned out, everything worked out great in the end.

Getting there was half the fun. After a pizza send-off party, 24 students and friends and 6 chaperones

Roads were okay for another hour (now about three-fourths of the way there), and then the snow started getting heavier. Roads continued to remain surprisingly clean, but we had to slow down due to decreased visibility. Just 8 miles out, we turned off the main road onto a rural road covered with 4 inches of fresh snow, but the Spirit was with us. As we stopped to clean off the windshield, a snowplow came up and we waved him by so we could follow. A few more turns and we'd arrived at the resort!



View from Chestnut Mountain, Galena, Illinois

boarded the bus, and we actually got off slightly ahead of schedule. Roads were fine almost all the way to Rockford, two-thirds of the way there) before we ran into the first snow.

Then began the mass exodus from bus to ski rental office. For some, it seemed like a major trek to carry skis, boots, and poles for the first time ever. A few moments to show them how to secure all into a nice bundle, and then all were on their way. Tired as they might be, though, the kids always manage to

squeeze in every last moment for exploring their new surroundings before "lights out"—or maybe they're just happy to be off the bus!

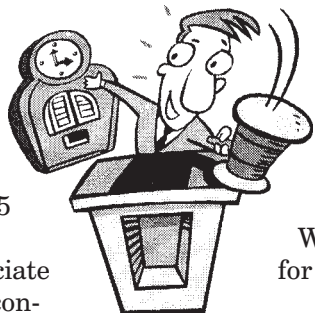
CREW auctions talent and service on March 6

Proceeds from the Talent and Service Auction sponsored by CREW, St. Patrick's youth group, will be used to help fund CREW's Mission trip this summer. The auction will be held in the parish center on Sunday, Mar. 6, beginning at 10:15 a.m.

CREW members appreciate the parish community's con-

tinuing support of their fund raisers for the Mission trips, and they invite your participation in this latest endeavor, when they will be auctioning off a variety of services and talents as well as some items donated by local businesses.


Watch the Sunday bulletin for additional details.



Ready for the slopes and rarin' to go: Molly Cinker, Abbi Vandeplanck, Rachel Graham and Allison Jones

Saturday morning arrived, revealing an 8-inch blanket of fresh snow covering the resort and the slopes. With highs in the mid-20s and partly cloudy skies, it was a day nearly unheard of in the Midwest as far as ski conditions go. Additionally, due to the threat of more snow and an actual snowfall combined with blowing and drifting, events scheduled at the resort for the day had been cancelled, resulting in low skier turnout.

Aside from the near-perfect conditions, the most satisfying and rewarding aspect of the trip were the comments I heard from the kids and chaperones about how much fun they were having: "This is so-o-o much fun!" "I'm gonna ask my parents if we can come back again next weekend!" "I haven't skied in over ten years. I didn't know how this would turn out—I'm having a *great* time, even better than I expected!"



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



Holy Cross happenings

100th Day of School: Friday, Feb. 4, was the 100th day of school at Holy Cross. In celebration of that day, several classes brought in 100 things. The kindergarten classes celebrated the day by going to Skateland on Thursday, Feb. 10. Several parents came along to skate and enjoy the celebration of 100 days of school!

Scholastic Bowl: Scholastic Bowl is an activity at Holy Cross School that involves seventh- and eighth-graders in a trivia competition. Students compete five against five in meets every Tuesday and Thursday throughout March and April. Questions during the meets focus on math, science, social studies, popular music, TV and movies, civics, art, dance, home economics, English and other categories. Thirty questions later, one team wins. At the end of April, Regionals, Sectionals, and State occur. Come to cheer on Holy Cross at any of their thirteen matches!

The King and I: On Apr. 7, 8, 9, and 10, the students of Holy Cross School, including several St. Patrick's children, will perform *The King and I*. Angela Marcum will direct; she has had many years of experience in community theatre and is looking forward to working with the students. Mark your calendars to see one of the performances.

Service Projects: During Catholic Schools Week students participated in several service projects. One of these was writing letters to the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Louis. Sister Joan, former Director of Religious Education at Holy Cross, spoke to each class about the Nazareth Living Center.

During the week, students wrote letters to the sisters who live at the Center. Another project was making valentine cards for the shut-ins of Holy Cross Parish. It was a fulfilling week of reaching out to others in the community and beyond.

Mass at St. Thomas More: The culmination of Catholic Schools Week was a Mass celebrated at St. Thomas More. Holy Cross students rode in MTD buses to St. Thomas More to join the high-school students and the fifth- through eighth-graders from St. Matthew's School. Fr. Dondanville presided, and the high-school choir sang. What a beautiful celebration of our Catholic school privilege!

Seventh-Grade Basketball: The Holy Cross seventh-grade boys' basketball team made it to state! They played Findlay on Feb. 5 in Clinton, in a hard-fought game. This was the first time the team had ever made it to state. Congratulations!



Mark your calendars

Mar. 4: 8:15 a.m., all-school Mass

Mar. 7: Scout Ad-

vancement Day

Mar. 12: Market Day

Mar. 16: Sixth-graders go to Medieval Times

Mar. 18: 8:15 a.m., all-school Mass; end of Third Quarter

Mar 21-28: Spring Break

Mar. 29: School resumes

Apr. 1: Reports cards distributed

Apr. 6: Box top collection

Apr. 7-10: *The King and I* performances

Dates and Times to Remember

Mar. 4: Stations of the Cross, 5:15 p.m.; Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.; Faith and Film Series presentation, *Antwone Fisher*, 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 9: Mental Health Ministry video and discussion: "Teenage Depression and Suicide"

Mar. 11: Stations of the Cross, 5:15 p.m.; Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.; Faith and Film, *Shadowlands*, 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 12: St. Patrick's Family Dance, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 14: Communal Penance, Holy Cross

Mar. 15: Communal Penance, St. Patrick's

Mar. 16: Communal Penance, St. Matthew's

Mar. 18: Stations of the Cross, 5:15 p.m.; Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.; Faith and Film, *Entertaining Angels*, 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 24: Morning Prayer, 7:00 a.m.; Holy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 25: Morning Prayer, 7:00 a.m.; Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.; Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 26: Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.; Holy Saturday Easter Vigil service, 7:30 p.m.

Shine the spotlight on St. Patrick's children!



St. Patrick's *In Focus* would like to showcase our children's many talents, activities, and accomplishments as a way of helping our community recognize the wonderfully creative, talented, and generous young people of St. Patrick's Parish.

Shine the spotlight on St. Patrick's children by sharing their academic accomplishments, special projects, honors, awards, programs, performances, sports, theatre and the arts, music or band or dance, art contests, community projects, and upcoming events. Please submit

your information to Cheryl Mitchell (355-4566 or Cheryl@egix.net). Photos of featured children are also very welcome and will be returned.

Knights are compiling history of local council

Historical photos, articles, information are being sought regarding the Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's. For instance, according to certain eyewitnesses, the garage in which the "goodies" for each Cellar-to-Garret Sale are collected beforehand was built by the Knights. If you have other memories or information about the Knights, please pass these along to one of today's members, to Grand Knight David Mendoza, or to Arden Howey (ahowey@stpaturbana.org).

If you are a family member or friend of any of the past Grand Knights, we would like to hear from you. Pictures of past leaders would be appreciated, as well as any items related to other members or officers of the order. Past Grand Knights include:

From the 1960s and 1970s: Dick Wykoff, James Bradbury, James Bennett, George Eichmey, Herbert Eberhardt, Julius Reinhart, David and Eugene Lowry, Charles Shaw, Jack Fonner, Walter Cuppernell,

Robert Theobald, Raymond Alane, and Robert Dukeman.

From the 1980s and 1990s: John Heid, Joseph DiPietro, Ricky Bersand, Leonard Butler, David Riddle, David Palmisano, Al Mytty, Richard Keane, Mark Simon, Chris Stohr, and Tom Kacich.

From 2000 on: Joseph Youakim and current Grand Knight David Mendoza.

Past Financial Secretaries have included Oliver Blair, Albert Lamprecht, Everett O'Neill, Joseph DiPietro, and Raymond Alane. Leonard Doyle, Tom Shaw, and current FS

Arden Howey served the council as well.

Other members of special interest include the original charter members from 1965 and the clergy who have been supported by the Urbana Knights of Columbus.

The Knights would like to hear from you. The story of the Knights at St. Patrick's should be fun to discover!



Lent is off to a good start, the Knights say

There is that fishy smell hanging in the air around the parish center—on Friday, Feb. 11, 204 people enjoyed the first Lenten fish fry, and about 50 stayed for the movie.

All afternoon long, preparations were made starting with the time-honored tradition of filling the cole slaw cups. Promptly at 5:00 p.m. the first test batch of fish was dropped into the hot oil, and when the smoke cleared, the team of Knights manning the fish fryers soon saw to it that all was right.

A large group of devoted fish fry attendees formed a line just before 5:30 p.m., and serving continued until all the fish were gone—in less than an hour, at 6:10 p.m.! Desserts, including the ever-popular cream puffs made by Sophia Zeigler, were abundant, allowing at least one small sweet for the week.

On the Fridays of Lent, the fish fries will continue to offer a good meal for under \$6.00—but you probably don't want to be late!

Volunteer, and put your faith in action!



For someone with long-term health needs, something as simple as changing a light bulb can mean the difference between maintaining or losing independence. Thankfully, "Faith in Action" volunteers in our community and across the country are helping to bring light back into the lives of those with long-term health needs.

St. Patrick's program is part of the interfaith volunteer care-giving program called "Faith in Action" that connects volunteers to their neighbors in need. The program brings together volunteers of many faiths to help seniors in our community who have long-term health needs maintain their independence for as long as possible by providing non-medical assistance. St. Patrick's, with ten dedicated volunteers, is one of seven partner congregations participating in

this program.

Volunteer activities include shopping for groceries, providing rides to medical appointments, cooking meals, doing light housework, running errands, and providing companionship through visits or phoning. Volunteers also may provide respite care and relief for family caregivers. The impact of what these volunteers do is amazing. They have provided over 500 rides for medical appointments and grocery shopping, cleaned up numerous yards, swept and vacuumed homes, fixed or installed items for the home such as hand rails, showerheads, filters, fences, a lift chair, and more. The best part of the program is the connection being made between the volunteer and the senior. Volunteers help take away the isolation and worry of frail seniors who have no one other than compassionate volunteers to help them with their day-to-day living.

The "Faith in Action" program in our community needs your time and talents. It has already served over 150 care recipients since April 2004, but even more volunteers are needed if the entire Champaign-Urbana-Savoy communities are to be served adequately. Volunteering is very flexible; a couple of hours per week or per month can make a real difference to an area senior. To volunteer, you need to sign up for one of the orientations listed below.

Tuesday, Mar. 1, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 16, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Apr. 2, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Apr. 21, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Apr. 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All orientations are at Provena Covenant Medical Center in Auditorium B.

If you are interested in signing up, if you belong to a faith group that would be interested in joining, or for more information, please contact Martha Paap (337-4700, MarthaMPaap@ProvenaHealth.com).

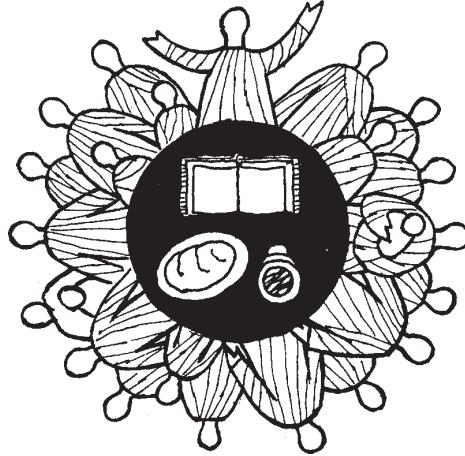
“Good Liturgy”: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

As the Liturgy Committee discussed the appropriate role of the presider in the Eucharistic celebration as presented in this third article of the series, they could not help but note our good fortune here at St. Patrick’s. We are well served by priests who appear to have a profound understanding of their role at our Eucharistic celebrations—these practices, as described in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, can be recognized in all of our Eucharistic celebrations.

- Just as in the early Church, laypersons actively participate in diverse ministries of the Eucharistic liturgy.
- During the Liturgy of the Word, the altar remains uncluttered except for the Book of the Gospels.
- Likewise, during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the altar holds only those essential elements necessary for the celebration—bread, wine, chalice, and the Sacramentary.
- Members of the assembly bring forward the gifts (bread and wine) in procession as an offering of the congregation. The presider (or deacon) acknowledges the gifts without personalizing the exchange.
- The altar belongs to the whole assembly, and as such it is appropri-

ate that someone other than the presider prepare the altar—deacon, servers, or other members of the assembly.

- During the preparation of the gifts at the altar, many of the prayers are specifically private and are prayed



silently by the presider as belonging to his own personal piety and spirituality, without reference to the assembly.

- Eye contact with the assembly by the presider is particularly appropriate during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- A certain balance is struck by the presider, since he is first and foremost praying and not “performing.” Because body language communicates

wordlessly, the presider strives to be natural, avoiding gestures that appear artificial or stiff.

- The Eucharistic Prayer selected, appropriate for a given feast or season, is used without improvising on the text.
- The priest-celebrant demonstrates a spirituality of presiding at the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- First and foremost, the presider is prayerful. This prayerfulness begins in contemplation long before he reaches the sacristy to prepare for the liturgy and usually includes a personal daily rhythm of prayer or meditation.
- Presiders are intentional about what they are doing, including the use of reverent gestures that are neither rushed nor distracting.
- Presiders who are prayerful and intentional preside with transparency. Presiding at the Eucharistic celebration is not about the presider; it is about the service of God’s reign that we celebrate and remember with holy food and drink. The presider does not draw attention to himself, but instead draws the whole community into the vision of the mystery of God.



in our parish library

What’s old is new again in the parish library. We’ve recently received donations that have provided updated editions of some classic Christian works. Check out these classics—and our new items, too!

Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life, by C. S. Lewis (921 LEW). Lewis writes of his search for joy, a spiritual journey that led him from the Christianity of his youth to atheism and then back to Christianity.

Mere Christianity, by C. S. Lewis (230 LEW). A popular introduction to the Christian faith, this book compiles many of Lewis’s broadcast talks. Anthony Burgess says that

Lewis “is the ideal persuader for the half-convinced, for the good man who would like to be a Christian but finds his intellect getting in the way.”

Joshua: The Homecoming, by Joseph F. Girzone (813 GIR). Another title in the popular Joshua series, this book spreads God’s message of love as the millennium approaches.

*Guiltless Catholic Parenting from A to Y**, by Bert Ghezzi (and 38 others) (248 GHE). This book offers practical pointers for raising children in the Catholic faith. Written with humor by experienced parents, it covers issues such as teaching children to pray, making your children’s friends wel-

come in your home, and “when the going gets rough.” Why only from A to Y, you ask? Because “nobody knows everything there is to know. But here’s wisdom to help you do it well.”

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If you need help locating books or materials in the library or want to know whether the library has something on a subject of special interest, you may contact Frances Drone-Silvers (francesds@yahoo.com or 398-1458), library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.

The Year of the Eucharist 2004

What does it mean to participate in the Mass?

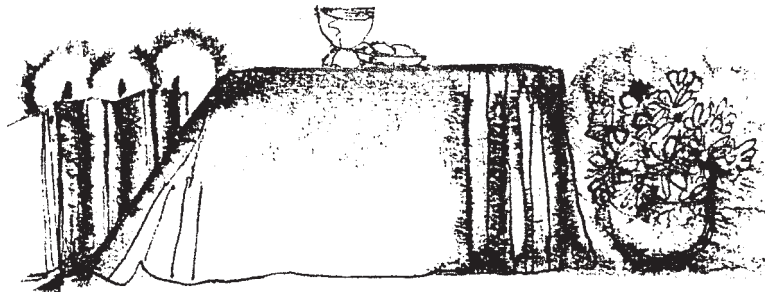
In the great act of worship that is the Mass, sometimes called Eucharist (“thanksgiving”) or Liturgy (“the work of the people”), our worshipful praise builds and builds. After listening attentively to God’s Word, we respond as people do everywhere when they celebrate (admire, acclaim, give thanks) the great deeds that have been done by people for one another: we praise and thank God for the great saving deeds he has done for his people, particularly those he has done through Jesus.

The Eucharistic Prayer is first and foremost the prayer of the Church. It is not the priest-celebrant’s private prayer; it is reserved to him as the designated leader of the Eucharistic action, and he proclaims it with and

for the people. He seeks to engage us into sharing this great prayer with him through the most complete attention we can give.

During the Eucharistic Prayer, as the celebrating community, we are to be involved as actively as possible in the work Jesus is doing: making a gift of himself and of all his people, particularly those present, to his Father in a complete act of self-giving, in his act of dying and rising.

To “participate in the Mass” then means, above all, to give of ourselves, to give ourselves over as completely as possible to what is going on. We do with one another, as a community of faith, what Jesus is doing: helping one another to make a gift of self in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.



Welcome to new parishioners Gabriel and Mirna Espino, Peggy Lynch, Christopher and JaNelle Pleasure, Monica A. Trapani, and Angie and Peter Wanserski.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Diane and Thomas Radecki, and Janet and John Schuster.

Congratulations to Sarah Lynette Beyers and Rotimi Tosin Toba, married at St. Patrick’s.

Welcome to those recently baptized into our faith community: Logan William Parker, Raul M. Ybarra, Carter James Logsdon, Jack Landry McMillan, Rebecca Marie Michna, Jacob Aidan Cooley, Jessica Taylor Hood, Brandon William Hood, and Jackson Thomas Daly.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Candice Brokoski.

Please also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish, whom the “Privacy Act” prevents us from naming here.

Election is a rite?

While many would probably agree that our national, state, and local elections are rituals of a special kind, 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 a rag-tag clan in a tiny corner of the earth to be special, holy, a chosen people. Once they were chosen, they were God’s forever, even when they strayed.



Robert “Buzz” Johnson, accompanied by sponsor Tom Kacich, signs *The Book of the Elect* signifying his acceptance of God’s election.

It is the same with us. God chooses us, “elects” us, 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, believe that God has chosen them to be one of us, the baptized. At the rite of election, their godparents, sponsors, catechists, pastor, and friends can testify that God has “elected” or 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.

On the First Sunday of Lent 13 men and women, St. Patrick’s catechumens, signed their acceptance of God’s “election.” Now to be known as The Elect, their acceptance was witnessed not only by their sponsors but also by all the parishioners assembled for 9:00 Mass. The book in which their acceptance is recorded, “The Book of the Elect,” is displayed in the baptistry during Lent as a reminder to us of their desire for our prayers and our own need to pray for these companions on our journey of faith.

Cocodrilo

*Geneticists say that all humans
on earth today are descendents
of one mother, one woman in ancient Africa,
maybe a mother of 12 children, 7 surviving,
among bright birds and night sounds
of life feeding on life.*

*One brother and sister played, worked beside their mother,
laughing together in sunshine long days of childhood.
This daughter grew and left with her husband,
waving goodbye to her brother many times
moving eastward toward the birth of the sun
until she became too small to see.*

*Brother always dreamed that sister Cocodrilo,
with her firmness of mind and movements,
would, on a cool dripping day in the rainy season,
or at sunup with howler monkeys,
would return.*

*And his very last dying thought,
sleeping midst his grandchildren,
Cocodrilo would awaken him
tickling his ear with a feather as
she had done in childhood.*

*Her children spread north in tiny steps
of births and deaths, changing skin, eye color
in diminishing sun, changing the meanings of words,
changing continents at the Bering Strait,
wandering south, bands splitting and combining,
following food, water, wanderlust,*

*distant beckonings, and their search for deity.
They visited even unto southernmost lands
farthest lakes, and islands.*

*Her brother's children wandered west,
north and west in a branching dotted line
of babies and funerals until the land mass
became gray with languages, notions, fears,
with hatreds, murders, wars.
These children blown west over a great ocean,
following magnetized needles,
met her children on islands with mango trees.*

*During mass in a small Mexican mountain town
a pale man leaned over a row of seats
at the moment of greeting
to clasp the hand of a very slender Indian woman
who had walked four hours
in the mountain's silence to be there.*

*"The peace of Christ," she said
in Spanish, not her first language,
to this man whose corn rows must be all in the shade.
But he knew her, her finely lined face,
work-hardened body.*

*"The peace of Christ" he answered in Spanish,
not his first language, and
held her sun-darkened
slightly trembling hand
until Cocodrilo, her dark eyes,
looked at him.*

New and unpublished poem
by parishioner Quentin Kirk

Faith and Film Series explores Lenten themes

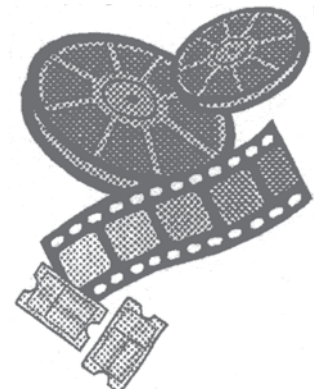
Building on scripture readings for the Sundays of Lent, the Faith and Films Series offers a way for adults, young adults, and families to participate in the parish program Disciples in Mission. After viewing a film that parallels the theme of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, viewers will talk about how ordinary people are asked at times to do extraordinary things. They will consider Christ's call to be his disciples and how they can bring him to one another.

The films are shown at St. Patrick's on Friday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each showing will include an introduction and a viewing of the film, followed by discussion. Refreshments are available during the film and the discussion that follows. Upcoming movies are:

Mar. 4: *Antwone Fisher* (2002, PG-13)

Mar. 11: *Shadowlands* (1993, PG)

Mar. 18: *Entertaining Angels* (1996, PG-13)



Religious Education staff and volunteers enjoy Appreciation Dinner on Mardi Gras



Fr. Joe Hogan assists the kazoo ensemble of Molly Smith, Shelby Simmering, Claire Drone-Silvers, and Sarah Johnson.



Fr. Joe Hogan introduces Director of Religious Education Carolyn McElrath and Education Committee Chair Michael Krassa, who are prepared to recognize all coordinators and catechists for their service to the parish program.



Pennacchi triplets George, Laura, and Sally, suitably masked (a prize kazoo to anyone who can say which is which), had a great time!

John of God: Shepherd, soldier, salesman, saint

St. John of God was born in Portugal in 1495 and grew to manhood as a shepherd. He was faithful to his duties and pious until he joined the army to avoid an unwelcome marriage. In the ranks of Charles V he fell away from his practice of faith.

He was 40 when he realized his need to atone and left for Africa, where he hoped to ransom captive Christians and perhaps gain martyrdom. Advised that this spirituality was not sound, he tried selling religious books and pictures in the villages around Gibraltar. He made hardly any profit, his only desire to spread the Christian faith.

In Granada, still not settled, he was moved by a sermon given by John of Avila and went about the streets

beating his breast and begging God for mercy. Committed to a mental hospital, he was visited by John of Avila, who suggested that he turn his energies to caring for others' needs.

With peace of heart at last, John began his service to the sick and poor of Granada, often carrying them to his rented house where he cared for them by day and at night went begging for the supplies he needed.

The work attracted many helpers. He labored for 13 years, considering himself the least among the criminals and disreputable persons in his care. Hearing this, the archbishop proclaimed that the man who served with such humility was to keep the name Juan Dios, John of God, a name it is said he had been given in a vision

of the infant Jesus.

After John's death at 55, his helpers continued his work. Twenty years later they founded the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious community.

John's birthday, Mar. 8, was also the date of his death. Now it is his feast day, when the entire Church commemorates and gives thanks for the gifts of this humble man who served God in the least of his people.

Mental Health Ministry next explores teen suicide

Sponsors of the Mental Health Ministry series would like parishioners to realize that where mental health is concerned, the parish community can make an effective response when needs are made known. Because long-term mental illness tends to isolate people, we can befriend those who may have no other friends or support systems, letting them know they are not alone. We can offer opportunities for integration into the parish community through holiday programs, parish activities, outings, and special-interest groups, and encourage them to volunteer in parish programs.

We can also educate ourselves and others about mental illness in a variety of ways, raising awareness about mental illness and its many manifestations, adding materials about mental illness to the parish library, and encouraging parish or diocesan response to the needs of persons with a mental illness and the needs of their families.

With each of the presentations in the Mental Health Ministry Series, co-sponsored by the Parish Nurses and the Social Action Committee, discussion follows the showing of videos. Refreshments and dissemination of resource information conclude each evening's presentation. Next in the series, on Mar. 9, the topic is "Teenage Depression and Suicide."

Facing the challenge of ... food

In his address to the Vatican diplomatic corps on Jan. 10, Pope John Paul II laid out four great challenges facing the human family as 2005 opens: life, food, peace, and freedom. Of the four, the most unexpected was food. "The statistics on world hunger are dramatic," the pope said. "Hundreds of millions of human beings are suffering from grave malnutrition, and each year millions of children die from hunger or its effects."

According to the United Nations' World Food Program,

- 852 million people across the world were hungry in 2004, up from 842 million a year earlier. This is more than the combined populations of the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan.
- Hunger and malnutrition claim 10 million lives every year. This works out to 25,000 lives every day, or one life every 5 seconds.
- Six million children under 5 die every year from hunger.

How will we respond to this challenge?

The Annunciation: Mary said yes!

What happened nine months before Christmas? The Annunciation, of course! You may be familiar with the Annunciation as one of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, but it is also a feast day in the Church.

The Archangel Gabriel's revelation of God's plan for the salvation of his chosen people, the Annunciation of the Lord (*Annuntiatio Domini*) to Mary and her

acquiescence to her role in God's plan, is celebrated on Mar. 25.

The date was chosen in relation to Christmas, but also because of traditional beliefs that the creation of the world and Christ's passion and death occurred on that date. This year the date of the Annunciation happens to fall on Good Friday, although because of this its observance has been moved to Apr. 4.

It could add a whole new layer to your meditation on the Crucifixion if you think about the creation and the Annunciation occurring on that same date in history. What a marvel is God's plan for us!



Editors needed for *In Focus*

The Communications Committee needs two or three people to take turns editing *In Focus*, the parish newsletter. As a volunteer editor you would need a computer and access to e-mail. The editing work usually falls in the week following the second Sunday of the month. Your job would be to combine all typed, handwritten, or e-mailed articles into a single file, check for spelling and grammar, apply some style conventions, print out the file, and distribute copies for parish staff review on Thursday morning. On Friday afternoon you'd pick up their copies, add to your file any changes requested, and on Saturday or Sunday deliver the file, with a final printout, to the volunteer who will be paging the newsletter.

Editing an issue takes about 6-8 hours, and deadlines are very important. If you enjoy *In Focus*, will you help to keep it going? If you can take a turn at editing the newsletter, please contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@uiuc.edu).



Contributions sought for the parish's Web site

Do you have digital pictures of parish events or information from your parish group that would be of interest to parishioners who access the parish's Web site? Are you an amateur Web designer? Your parish Web site committee would like to hear from you!

It's quite simple to pass along your ideas and pictures for possible inclusion on the Web site. Either put your information in an envelope and take it to the Web site mailbox at the parish center, or send it via e-mail to Arden Howey (ahowey@stpaturbana.org).

The committee is especially interested in hearing from parish youth groups, parish groups with historical information that could be posted to represent the diversity of parish activities, or ideas that haven't yet occurred to committee members.

All submissions will be reviewed and all photos cataloged. With your submissions, provide complete contact information—the committee will have to contact you before any item can be included on the Web site.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Rose Cottingham

Mashed Potato Casserole

- 3-4 large potatoes
- 1 c cooked spinach, well drained and chopped
- 1 t salt
- 1/2 t sugar
- 1/4 c margarine
- 1/3 c sour cream
- 1/2 c grated cheese
- 1/8 t dill weed
- 2 t chives, chopped
- dash of pepper
- milk as needed

Cook and mash potatoes. Add sour cream, salt, pepper, sugar, and margarine. Add just enough milk to bring the mixture to a proper consistency. Beat until fluffy. Add dill, chives, and spinach. Place in a greased casserole dish and top with cheese. Bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees. *May be made a day ahead and refrigerated, or freeze half for future use.*



Brush up on your "re-membering" skills

If you have a family member or friend who is an inactive Catholic, you may find these tips helpful:

- Be nonjudgmental, affirming, accepting, patient.
- Let them see your own faith working in your life.
- Share some of your own doubts and struggles with them.
- Love them unconditionally.
- Don't push or force them into coming back.
- Don't argue about their reasons for not going to church.
- Don't place limits on Jesus' gift of salvation for all of us.
- Let your discussions be inviting instead of confrontational.

What is God like?

- God is like Coca-Cola—the real thing.
- God is like General Electric—lights your path.
- God is like Bayer Aspirin—works wonders.
- God is like Hallmark Cards—cares enough to send the very best.
- God is like Tide—gets out the stains that others leave behind.
- God is like VO-5 Hair Spray—holds through all kinds of weather.
- God is like Dial Soap—glad you know him, and don't you wish everyone did?
- God is like Sears—has everything.
- God is like Alka Seltzer—Oh, what a relief he is!
- God is like Scotch Tape—You can't see God, but you know he's there.
- God is like an American Express Card—Don't leave home without him!

—*Courtesy of Fr. Joe Lawler's parish bulletin, McLeansboro*

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

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 mailbox 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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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Mary Rose Cottingham, Frances Drone-Silvers, Arden Howey, Cathy Howey, Quentin Kirk, Andy Loftus, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Mitchell, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Ellen Noonan, Martha Paap, Carol Retz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, and Peggy Whelan. This issue was paged by John Colombo.