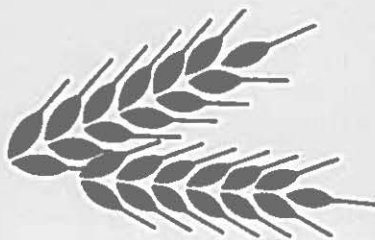


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



## 2nd Century Advisory Committee to survey parish needs

Two years ago this fall, St. Patrick's Parish completed its Centennial celebration, which marked the founding of the parish in 1901 and the dedication of the church in 1903. Our parish community celebrated this Centennial through a series of events from May 2001 to October 2003. It was a time to recall with gratitude our heritage of faith.

Since that time, St. Patrick's Parish has continued to stretch its wings. Last spring, the parish adopted new five-year goals to steer our course as a faith community. One of these goals focuses on the parish's future needs in terms of space and resources: "St. Patrick's has adopted a Master Plan for the efficient utilization of space and other resources for supporting and furthering the Kingdom of God."

To assure that our parish remains vibrant and plans effectively for the future, the Second Century Advisory Committee was formed to assess the parish's needs and propose how to meet them in years to come. The parishioners serving on this committee are Ellen Amberg, Mike Andrejasich, Steve Beckett, Carol Bosley, Claude Cole, Diane Cousert, Pat Dill, Pat Justice, Jerry Pijanowski, and Mort Weir.

The committee will make recommendations to the pastor and the parish for a master plan regarding facilities and resources for the parish during its second century. To begin this process, members will gather ideas and input from parishioners through a parish-wide survey later this year. In recent months the committee has concentrated on

developing an effective needs assessment tool that will ensure three outcomes: (1) excitement about the parish, (2) how well we meet the parish's needs today, and (3) how to make St. Patrick's a better faith community.

All parishioners 16 years of age and older will be invited to participate in the needs assessment survey. The survey will be available in print and also on the parish's Web site;

details will be announced in upcoming weeks.

The Second Century Advisory Committee looks forward to formulating recommendations for the future on behalf of the parish. These recommendations will come from parishioners' feelings, views, and beliefs expressed in the survey.

The closing words of *A Centennial Journal*, published to record the parish's hundredth anniversary commemoration, reflect the vision we build upon as we move forward into a new century of faith here at St. Patrick's: "Guided by the Spirit of God and the spirit of the people of St. Patrick's both past and present, the future offers hope, excitement, and faithfulness. For we:

*form a building which rises on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord; in him you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22)."*



## Providing a Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is already organizing to prepare 230 Thanksgiving dinners for the most needy in the local community. These are people who do not come to St. Patrick's for food during the year. The dinners will be delivered to clients of the Mental Health Center and Family Services by staff from these organizations and volunteers from St. Patrick's.

For the food baskets the Society

selects canned and boxed food items that are easy for the handicapped and others to prepare in their homes.

This year's menu includes cereal, eggs, margarine, dinner rolls, ham, vegetables, fruit, sweet potatoes, soup, pumpkin pie, Jello, candy, beverages, and more—

enough, some recipients have said, for an entire week of meals, and sometimes enough to share with



People Touching People

See **THANKSGIVING** on page 10

## Sinai Temple thanks child care volunteers

Sandy Anderson, Charline Waldron, and Bonnie Kimball are regulars at Sinai Temple, caring for children so parents can attend High Holy Day services. They were joined this year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by volunteers from other local congregations.

Charline especially likes to mind infants. She was able to convince a nervous mother to leave her baby boy in child care. An old hand with Sinai babies, Charline fed the infant, walked him, and fed

him some more, to the mother's complete satisfaction when she returned from her prayers. Sandy and Bonnie can tell equally happy stories.

Each year the Champaign-Urbana Council of Congregations, of which St. Patrick's is a member, sponsors child care during the High Holy Day services and recruits volunteers from churches. The Temple responds with aid to Christian organizations on Christmas and Easter.



## Eucharistic quilt nears completion

With 56 squares returned by parishioners, each with its unique illustration on the theme of Eucharist, the parish quilt is gaining in both substance and size. The finished quilt will be 7 squares wide and 8 squares long, with polyester batting and cotton sheeting backing.

For some time now the seamstresses—Beth McDonald, Shirley Splittstoesser, Cathy Howey, and Judy Hummel—have been sewing individual squares into strips, and Beth will sew the strips together and do the finishing work. The goal is to have the quilt ready

for hanging in the church for the parish's closing celebration of the Year of the Eucharist on Nov. 5-6.

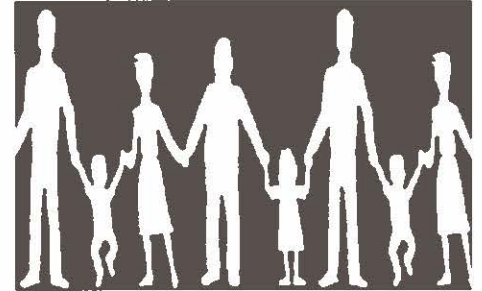
"What is so nice about the quilt is that it is a coming together of individual pieces to make a whole—which is what the Church is, in a sense," Beth told a reporter for *The Catholic Post*; as St. Paul says in so many different ways, we are all members of that one Body of Christ.



Pastor Fr. Joe Hogan and parish secretary Leslie Risatti display a few of the uniquely designed squares received from parishioners. (Catholic Post photo by Nellie Gould)



Three completed quilt strips are ready to be joined with others in the Eucharistic Quilt that will hang in St. Patrick's church in remembrance of the Year of the Eucharist.



Welcome to new parishioners Dan and Grazia DeRocco, Sarah Gertner, Michael and Sandra Giger, Jennifer and Randy Hauser, Nathan and Teresa Hove, Albert and Gina Oleynichak, James and Margaret Orr, Allison Sutton, and Melissa Weese.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Phillip Dennis, Guibre Wen and Yam Eslher, Hugh Phillips, James and Susan Sheperd, Monica Trapani, Marshall Vandewyngaerde, and Harley and Rose Wagehoft.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Roxanne Milazzo and Terrence Lowry, Alaina Michelle Brown and Fredric James Biddle, Katherine Flynn Gordon and Kyle Frederick Eller, Sarah Shafer and Joshua Steven Billman, Sarah Beth Paulsen and Benjamin Michael Upsall, Lori Marie Mueller and Christopher Michael Kasselmann, and Kren Lynn Kozlowski and Matthew Edwin Stewart.

Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Aidan Steven Beckett, Megan Ellen Graham, Dustin Joseph Nguyen, Selena Marie Olson, Antonio Alexander Olson, Aidan Michael Patrick McCorkle, Emily Rachel Leininger, Jacob Anthony Ziska, Tommy Toan Nguyen, Aliya Anne Jones, Ava Grace Leming, Christopher Jacob Newman, and Zachery Ryan Lewis.

Please pray for deceased parishioners James Bradbury, Mary Ahlstedt, Connie Knake, Norman Paul LaValle, and Jack Washburn.

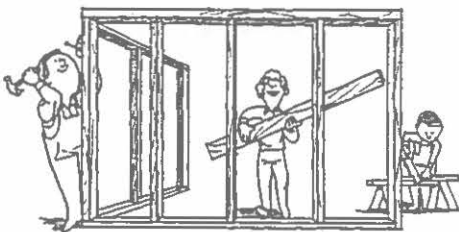
Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish.

## Looking good

The Building and Grounds Committee spent a busy summer keeping the parish grounds looking good and are planning for the future. In July, committee members Mike Hodits, Tim Brenner, Randy Pankau, Gary Wszalek, Pat Dill, and Mark Cousert built a privacy fence in Fr. Joe Hogan's back yard. Pat Dill related that they learned an important lesson with the first hole: "Call J.U.L.I.E. before you dig!" In one session they dug the post holes; a month later most of the group reconvened to install the fence panels.

Chris Langendorf and Kathy McKenzie, two members of the parish's Grounds Crew, have been largely responsible for the planting and maintenance of garden areas around the church and the parish center. They watered faithfully to keep things blooming throughout the dry summer. The committee took a special "mulching day" to spread that important material.

The committee oversaw the concrete repairs south of the parish center. Water no longer runs into the center when it rains. They also reviewed the plans for the courtyard south of the church, now an inviting open space offering a clear view of the church from Main Street. Future plans include widening the steps east of the church and realigning the sidewalk. The committee is holding a workday on Saturday, Nov. 5, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass (rain date: the following Saturday). Please join the work—and the fun!



## Reflections on Thanksgiving

by Mung Nguyen

When the Pilgrims first settled in America, after having taken in the fruit of their labor, they thanked God for having given them a bountiful harvest. Following their example, after all the corn and beans, the melons, and the squash have been safely stored in the barns and the elevators, we too gather to thank God for a good growing season.

However, we are thankful for much more than the crops we harvest every year. God has given us a land of unsurpassed beauty and potential, a land that sits astride two great oceans, a land of lofty mountains and majestic rivers, of soaring peaks, vast plains, and deep canyons, a land of forests and deserts, Arctic ice and tropical sun, a land that holds countless minerals and nourishes a vast array of animal and plant life. Today we give God thanks for all of this.

We also give thanks for past generations of all races, Native

Americans and Europeans, Africans and Eskimos, Latinos and Asians, who have not only persevered and developed this beautiful land for us to enjoy but have also built up a rich and varied culture of the highest achievement. We thank God for having given us great statesmen, like Washington and Lincoln, whose integrity and wisdom inspire our leaders in all fields.

As latecomers, we Vietnamese are also grateful to the nation and to this community for having received us with open arms and given us an opportunity to build up a life in freedom and abundance, to the priests and parishioners of St. Patrick's for being so supportive to us and making us feel at home in a new society.

Finally let us remember that God gives us this much blessed land not to abuse and corrupt, but always to love, cherish and make it more and more beautiful, both physically and spiritually, for years to come.

### The Butterfly Song

If I were a butterfly,  
I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings.  
And if I were a robin in a tree,  
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.  
And if I were a fish in the sea,  
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee.

If I were an elephant,  
I'd thank you, Lord, by raising my trunk.  
And if I were a kangaroo,  
You know I'd hop right up to you.  
And if I were an octopus,  
I'd thank you, Lord, for my fine looks.

If I were a wiggly worm,  
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could squirm.  
And if I were a crocodile,  
I'd thank you, Lord, for my big smile.  
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear,  
I'd thank you, Lord, for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair.

But I just thank you, Father, for making me "me."  
You gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.  
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.  
And I just thank you, Father, for making me "me."





**Q: I hear occasionally that one of our priests or the staff or a parishioner has made a retreat. What is**

**a retreat anyway?**

**A:** Business managers or departmental staff sometimes go on retreat, leaving behind workaday affairs that take their time and attention, so they can focus on special issues or plans for the coming year. The same can be said for the spiritual life. In the context of your question, the retreat is a time away from work, school, family, friends, radio, television, newspapers, computers—everything that occupies us in our day-to-day lives—so we can focus on other matters of special significance to us in the spiritual realm.

A retreat can last a month, a week, a weekend, a day, or even a half-day. It lets us remove ourselves from the stress and anxiety and

events that normally mark the progression of our lives and spend time praying, meditating, reflecting, and renewing. Retreats and days of recollection often provide the opportunity for conferences with a spiritual director and for the sacrament of reconciliation. Because of the benefits to be derived from making a retreat, canon law requires priests, deacons, and bishops to make a five-day retreat every year.

A retreat can follow any of several different formats. A *private retreat*, sometimes called a *directed retreat*, is a one-on-one arrangement between the retreat director and the person. A *group retreat* includes several people at the same time. On *silent retreats* those making the retreat are silent, even at meals, except for the prayers and responses at Mass and conferences with a retreat director. *Preached retreats* generally provide presentations given by the retreat director, with some interaction among the retreatants.

Days of recollection are “mini-

retreats.” They are only for a day or part of a day. Because of their shortness, they may take any number of different formats and might not include the opportunity for private conferences with the retreat director or the sacrament of reconciliation.

Many Christian organizations and religious communities operate retreat houses and offer a variety of retreat formats for people with different needs and desires. Catholic magazines and newspapers regularly list retreat opportunities and advertisements for retreat houses. Web sites abound for those seeking a retreat for quiet reflection and the spiritual renewal or refreshment of both spirit and body.

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



## in our parish library

If you cannot get away for a retreat, try one of these titles to give yourself a retreat at home.

*A Vacation with the Lord: A Personal Directed Retreat*, by Thomas H. Green (242 GRE), offers a time to listen for and encounter the Lord personally in love. Based on St. Ignatius’s *Spiritual Exercises*, the book directs the reader to the “interior knowledge of God, that encounter in love which grounds and animates all true Christian service.”

*Sitting Still: An Encounter with Christian Zen*, by Patricia Hart Clifford (269 CLI), recounts her visit to a Catholic retreat center to practice Zen meditation. For seven

days she and 25 other people sat in silence for hours together to learn to give mindful attention to each present moment. In addition to offering insight into Zen meditation, this book suggests how to carry the techniques of silent, wordless meditation into our own busy lives.

Do you find it difficult to get to the parish library? Wish the library could come to you? How about meeting halfway! The Social Action Committee and library volunteers are working together to do that. A book cart has been purchased to display books and other library materials at coffee-and-donuts the first two Sundays of each month. The cart will contain books on

current issues covered by the Social Action Committee, new arrivals at the library, and children’s materials.

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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](mailto:francesds@yahoo.com) or 398-1458), library coordinator. She will be pleased to help.*

## Listening to the sounds of silence

by Amy Jobin

Every year, at least once if not twice, I hear something calling to me. Sometimes it is a tiny whispering sound and other times it is a strong, clear and booming voice. Sometimes it is saying, "I'm waiting for you" and other times it says, "Come to me, my tired one, and I will give you rest." Whatever its volume, tone, or message, when I hear it I know it is time: time to take some time away in silence.

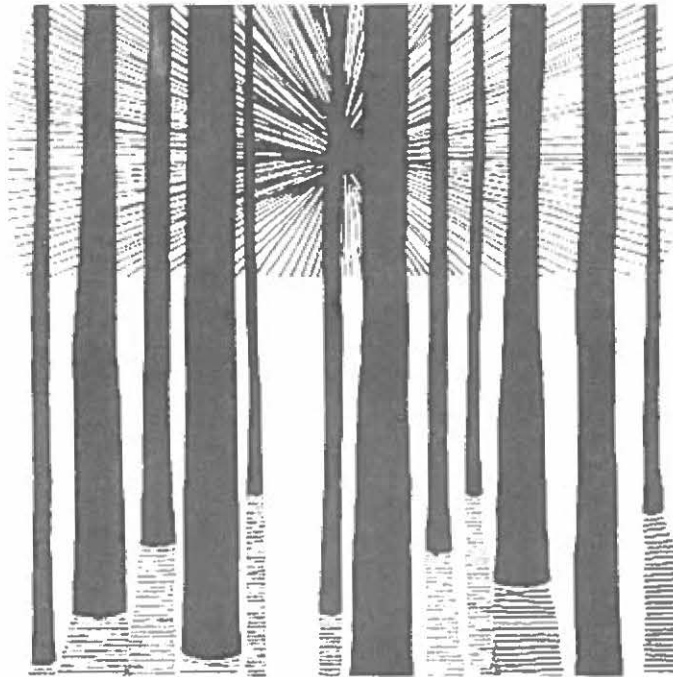
It was my younger brother who, four years ago, first introduced me to the idea of a silent retreat. I had been to many church retreats with other people, but never had I considered going off by myself to be silent for days at a time; I thought only monks and other religious did this. Being curious, I decided to give it a try, and a few weeks later my brother and I were driving up to spend a weekend at the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago. This community of Benedictine monks has quarters for people to come and stay for a day or a week of silence, attending morning and evening prayers and Mass with them as desired.

As we settled into our rooms, I wondered to myself what I was going to do with the 48 hours of silence that stretched ominously and seemingly empty before me. Should I read, pray, meditate, write, walk, fast, sleep? I had no idea where to begin, but I realized I had no choice but to enter in and let my retreat unfold. The silence was a bit uncomfortable at first; it was just me, myself, and God, with nowhere to run—no TV, no phones, no computers, no other people, no distractions. I knew then that I had never been in silence this deep before.

Questions began forming themselves in my mind before I realized what was happening. Who is my God? Why does this God love me?

If I am going to pray to this God, what do I say? Who am I—not on the outside, but on the inside? What am I doing with my life? As the questions rushed in, all I could do was listen and then wait.

Waiting came in many of the forms I mentioned above: sleeping, walking, praying, sitting quietly, even eating. As I became more comfortable with the silence, I began listening in a way I had not listened before, to myself or to God. It was a listening not just with my ears but with my heart and my spirit, as if my whole being had become an



instrument specially made for listening. A kind of space was created in me, a space that allowed me to listen and hear in a way that I have since found only in silence.

While I didn't hear all of the answers to the questions that had come rushing at me, I began to hear just a few whisperings of who I am and who my God is. And I discovered something else that surprised me: the silence, although daunting at first, was nourishing and replenishing me from the inside out, giving me the time and space I needed to rest, renew, and discover.

This past summer I was called to a new place of silence and retreat, called Christ in the Wilderness. It is

located on 80 acres of hilly land in northwest Illinois, just outside Stockton. After a four-hour journey made up of interstate highway and small country roads, I finally arrived at the center. I would be trying out a new experience on this retreat, staying in a small hermitage, or cabin, by myself for three days and nights, my only contacts being the deer, the birds, and the plants and trees around me. As I carried my things to the hermitage, I found myself asking, "What am I doing here?" This is how I still begin most retreats, scared by the prospect of silence and what I will find underneath it. But my doubts dissolved as I sank into my new environment, soaking up the beauty, the solitude, and the richness of God's creation.

Thomas Merton writes this about silence: "To deliver oneself up, to hand oneself over, to entrust oneself completely to the silence of a wide landscape of woods and hills, or sea, or desert; to sit still while the sun comes up over the land and fills its silences with light." He also wrote, "As soon as you are really alone, you are with God." After three days of communing with the birds, the trees, myself, and God, I knew why I had come on this

retreat and why I periodically need silence. It is when I "entrust myself completely to the silence" that I *discover* truth about myself, my God, and my life. Whether in a monastery in the middle of the city, a cabin in the wilderness, or even a quiet place in our own backyard, the silence awaits us with welcoming arms, waiting for us to discover all it holds.

If you are interested in going on a silent retreat, these and other Web sites can assist you in finding a location: [www.findthedivine.com/states/states\\_il.html](http://www.findthedivine.com/states/states_il.html), [www.catholiclinks.org/retirosusaillinois.htm](http://www.catholiclinks.org/retirosusaillinois.htm).

## Children's Liturgy has a new home

A standing-room-only crowd gathered in the church at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 2 to celebrate the first Children's Liturgy of the new school year, also the first to be held in the church at its new time. The schedule lets families attend Mass right after Sunday religious education classes. With its greater capacity, the church enables more parishioners to experience Children's Liturgy.

Before Mass begins, the presider invites children to come forward, and young people from kindergartners to seventh-graders fill the steps to the altar. The Children's Liturgy ensemble leads the assembly in singing from the baptistry area. The multipurpose room's electronic piano was moved to that area of the church, enabling the assembly to see and perform gestures that accompany many of the songs.

Because the baptistry area cannot accommodate the regular 10:30 choir as well, on Sundays when there is a Children's Liturgy the 10:30 choir sings at another Mass. On Oct. 1 and 8, members of the 10:30 choir brought their ministry to the Saturday 5:00 Mass; on Nov. 6 and

13 they will sing at the noon Mass. The future schedule of this "Pilgrim Choir" has yet to be decided.

Lectors proclaim the scriptures from the Children's Lectionary; its somewhat modified vocabulary is more appropriate for elementary school listeners, and it omits images that may disturb or confuse younger listeners while shortening some readings.

Homilies at Children's Liturgy, although focused on our younger parishioners, are planned to include adults too. The Prayers of the Faithful, like the scripture readings, are adapted for this liturgy.

Before beginning the Eucharistic Prayer, the presider invites children on the altar steps to gather around the altar for a better view. The Eucharistic Prayer and its acclamations,

with frequent sung responses and gestures, are familiar to many of our families from past celebrations of Children's Liturgy. At the Sign of Peace the children return to their families in the pews.

The Children's Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on the first two Sundays of most months during the school year. On other Sundays, the 10:30 Mass will resume its more familiar format.

All are welcome to participate in Children's Liturgy—you can expect a large and energetic assembly!



~Tracey Johnson:

I came to St. Patrick's from Holy Cross Parish 11 years ago as a relatively new Catholic, newly married and not really knowing anyone here. I learned a few names, but it wasn't until our daughter Sarah was born that I joined the Mom's Group. These faith-filled women readily welcomed me into the group.

When I realized my responsibility for Sarah's religious formation, I

desperately needed information and was encouraged to use my enthusiasm for learning about our faith to teach religious education. I later joined a Bible Study group. Although most of the members had known each other for several years, they still welcomed me without question. Since then I've attended WATCH weekends, I've been involved in the Finding God in Daily Work program, and I now serve you on the Parish Council.

This list of involvements demonstrates that the hospitality shown to me encouraged me to grow and try new things and take ownership in our parish. At every step, people encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone.

Hospitality cannot be optional. A welcoming attitude can't be reserved for September when the school year begins and we ask people to get

involved in parish life.

We minister to others. We do **this** to show our love for them, to encourage their growth, to support them during trying times. We use the talents God gives us to serve his people and to develop spiritually. The gifts on the altar are essentially linked to the quality of our daily faith life. Our actions make God's presence effective.

Jesus' example teaches us to welcome the stranger. He says: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." For us, hospitality is not optional. Through our hospitality, St. Patrick's will grow more fully into a warm, welcoming environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

## Good Liturgy: Music Ministry

Music is a vital portion of our worship here at St. Patrick's. We are blessed with a church that encourages sung participation. The combination of good acoustics and a heartily singing congregation makes you want to sing out yourself! Music is part of our hospitality, as we welcome many visitors on Christmas and Easter with some of the best that we can offer. This "best" includes many familiar songs, declaimed by a "choir" of hundreds. Music unites us. As we come together as a community to celebrate Mass, our voices join together in one song.

Music also demonstrates our congregation's diversity. As our International Festival last April revealed, we are a parish whose members represent countries around the world. When we sing a non-English song such as "Pan de Vida," not only do we welcome those whose first language is Spanish, but we

also recall that the Church is more than our little corner of Urbana. When we sing "Soon and Very Soon" in Advent, we are inspired by the work of an African-American composer whose song now reaches millions of people of all races.



However, this diversity cannot overwhelm that which we share, our common membership in God's family.

Music connects us to our history. Many songs in our hymnals date back hundreds of years. When we sing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name," we sing the same hymn that our parish's founders sang on the day that they dedicated our church. Since Latin remains the official language of the Church, singing in Latin can address a parish of many cultures (as with the Taize hymns popular the world over). Many Latin chants remain in our repertoire, some sung today in English to reveal their meaning more clearly.

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* reminds us that music in the liturgy has two purposes: glorifying God and sanctifying the faithful. The music at Mass on Sunday should help us become better Christians all week long.

## Are you getting the most out of Mass?

In an article for *U.S. Catholic* (June 2004), David Philippart points out that the secret to getting the most out of Mass may be easier than we think. The first thing to remember, he observes, is that the participation of each person is necessary for an event to be successful. We can't complain if we didn't try—an outfielder who won't run or catch has little right to complain about the score. And the better we become at the task, the greater will be our satisfaction.

In one sense, we take from the liturgy what we put into it. (In another sense, all the good that comes from the liturgy is a pure gift from God.) We benefit most from the liturgy when we participate in it fully, consciously, and actively. Yes, sometimes we're bored, just going through the motions. That's human nature, not a problem when it's occasional. But if we strive to participate, most of the time our mind, heart, and body will be caught

up in our great act of thanks and praise.

This is true even when the liturgy is not enacted with care. Even if the music is out of tune, even if the prayers and readings are delivered as though being read for the first time, even if the homily is inane, we can still leave the celebration nourished and on fire. Even if we cannot affect how the liturgy is done, we *can* control whether or not we listen with our hearts and sing our parts with gusto.

The good news is that, although we need to cooperate with Christ in celebrating the liturgy, the power of the Mass does not depend on us.



Christ always and perfectly does his part. We need only to open ourselves up to him, and the Mass will "work."

"Lift up your hearts!" the priest bids us at the very heart of the Mass itself. That's the challenge: we need to put our hearts into it. Liturgy is a divine-human affair. God always fulfills the "divine" part of the bargain; the rest is up to us.

Philippart, in "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Mass-Goers," lists seven steps that let the Mass do its work on us:

1. Enter into mystery
2. Sing for your supper
3. Listen: it's hard work
4. Be a beggar
5. Give it up!
6. Sing, walk, eat, drink
7. Go to do likewise

The very first step is to "enter into mystery." Watch for it in the next issue of *In Focus!*

*Adaptation used with permission of Claretian Publications*

## St. Catherine of Alexandria a saint of legend

Early Christianity spread from the Middle East to Turkey, Greece, and Rome. Roman trade routes also brought the Gospel to Africa, where the first Christian monasteries were founded in the third century.

At this time Catherine was 18 years old and living in Alexandria, Egypt. This beautiful young woman was gifted in science and oratory. She converted to Christianity after a vision. Her distress over Emperor Maximus's persecution of Christians led her to beg him to stop. When she tried to convert Maximus, he summoned his philosophers to debate her, but she converted many of them; he immediately executed them. Maximus scourged Catherine and imprisoned her, and angels ministered to her. Maximus's wife and the leader of his armies visited Catherine in prison. Her wisdom amazed them, and they converted to Christianity. They too were martyred at Maximus's command.

Maximus then ordered Catherine to be broken on a spiked wheel, but the wheel flew apart when she touched it. When she was then beheaded, milk instead of blood flowed from her veins. Legend says



that angels whisked away her body over the Red Sea to Mount Sinai. One of the peaks at Mount Sinai bears her name.

In 565 a.d. the Emperor Justinian built St. Catherine's Monastery on the spot where her body was found. This monastery is under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox

Church and houses many priceless works of art, including the largest collection of illuminated manuscripts after that of the Vatican itself.

Crusaders brought St. Catherine's story back to Europe during the Middle Ages. She was venerated between the tenth and the eighteenth centuries as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Many churches were named after her and featured her statue with a broken wheel. In France her feast day, Nov. 25, was a Holy Day of Obligation until the seventeenth century.

St. Catherine is the patroness of librarians, archivists, lawyers, wheel workers, and maidens. She was divinely appointed to be an advisor to Joan of Arc. The pinwheel firework represents St. Catherine's wheel. Many great artists have painted her likeness; the Krannert Art Museum has a lovely, mournful tempera of St. Catherine painted by Ugolino di Nerio in 1335.

St. Catherine's legends have long since obscured the real Catherine, a noble, educated, virginal lady who swayed pagans with her rhetoric.

## CREW begins fund raising for 2006 Mission trip

Raking leaves on Nov. 12 is just the beginning for St. Patrick's teens who hope to participate in next summer's Mission trip. Planning for the trip has already begun, with meetings at which the requirements for participation have been laid out—requirements including hours of service as well as a basic fee.

The cost of each Mission trip is not inconsiderable, and the fee charged each person who goes makes up only part of that cost. To make up the rest, CREW teens sponsor several fundraisers during the year, each of which calls for teen participation.

The first of these is the on-going sale of evergreens for Christmas holidays, followed by leaf raking on Nov. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, for up to 20 parishioners. On Jan. 8

CREW will prepare a spaghetti dinner for parishioners. On Mar. 12, services offered by CREW members and their families will be auctioned off to lucky bidders. And sometime when the weather is a bit warmer, they may sponsor a car wash—not yet on the calendar, but just maybe....

In between, of course, they will be participating in their regular religious education classes and Disciples in Mission Bible study, as well as in special service activities, such as decorating the Catholic Worker House for Christmas and helping to clean the church for Holy Week and Easter.

This year the teen calendar also includes preparation for Confirmation with study and a

retreat.

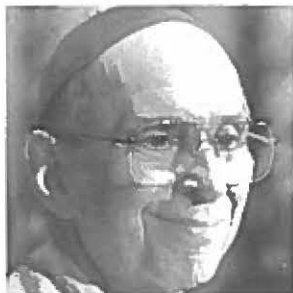
CREW relies heavily on parishioners' support of these fundraisers to make the Mission trip a reality, but they obviously invest their own time and "sweat equity" as well. If you can't help financially, however, realize that your prayerful support is just as valuable to them!



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



## Cardinal Bernardin, practical peacemaker



Joseph Cardinal Bernardin was the calm and steady focus of bitter controversy, yet he was much

beloved. He was the cause of much excitement, yet he wrote pages and pages of dry prose (now published as *The Selected Works of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin*). Still, he has been called a great conciliator and the most important figure in the American Catholic hierarchy since Vatican II.

How did these contradictions come to be? In 1983 he chaired the committee that drafted the Bishops' Pastoral Letter "The Challenge of Peace." He steered a difficult course between the positions of the Vatican and the Reagan administration. The final product, written during the height of the Cold War and the arms build-up, supported "curbing" rather than "halting" nuclear tests, but rejected first use of nuclear weapons.

Cardinal Bernardin famously stated that opposition to abortion should be part of a "seamless garment" of support for other life issues, such as opposition to capital

punishment, euthanasia, and disregard for the poor. Some criticized this as equating abortion with failure to provide services to the poor. The outcry was so great that he never used the term again, instead calling for "a consistent ethic of life." Eventually he successfully made the official position of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

His concern over the divisiveness of liberal and conservative outlooks led him to form the Common Ground project. Its core idea was that Catholics have more in common than they sometimes acknowledge and that finding commonalities will help address differences and decrease polarity.

Joseph Bernardin was the son of immigrant Italians and grew up in South Carolina. His father, a stonecutter, died when Joseph was six; his mother supported the family as a seamstress through the Depression. He started college intending to become a medical doctor, but two priest friends influenced him to enter the seminary, and he was ordained in 1952. In 1966, at the age of 38, he became the youngest bishop in the country. In 1982 he was appointed archbishop of Chicago.

In the last three years of his life he encountered what he called three

major events. First, he was falsely accused of sexual misconduct. He reconciled with his accuser the following year. Second, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had surgery and chemotherapy. He became an unofficial chaplain to other cancer patients and wrote that he had never understood more clearly what it means to be a priest. Third, he learned that he was terminally ill.

About his spiritual journey during these three years, he wrote of putting himself completely in the hands of the Lord and learning to look on death as a friend. He said, "I am grounded in the Lord." After his death in 1996 thousands lined up for weeks to pay honor at his burial site. Untold numbers have found the book he composed during his final illness, *The Gift of Peace*, a source of spiritual healing and comfort.

## Remembering those you love

Your loved ones are now treasured memories. The remembering prayer service is an excellent opportunity to remember them, sharing stories with others who have lost a loved one. Listening to these stories may bring a smile, or perhaps tears. The days and months after a loss may seem to last forever. Speaking the name of a beloved is



healing, as are emotional outbursts and giving oneself permission to cry. It is normal and good to re-examine one's faith, values, and beliefs after a loss. It is important to be patient with yourself as you experience your own unique reactions. Let the November prayer service on Wednesday, Nov. 9, help you toward comfort and healing.



### VOCATION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,  
your Word finds a home  
in our hearts,  
calls us into community,  
invites us to generous service  
of the human family.  
Bless with courage and spirit  
your priestly people,  
called to full participation  
in the one Body of Christ.  
May many choose to respond  
in public service  
to your call  
offered in Jesus' name.

~Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

## Thanksgiving from page 1

other needy friends.

Volunteers say the people who receive them are very grateful for the food baskets: "God bless you, and God bless the people at St. Patrick's," they say, some with tears in their eyes. Without the food baskets, many would have very meager meals (if any) at Thanksgiving.

The food baskets are valued at about \$50 each. You can make this a special Thanksgiving for 230 very appreciative people by donating \$10 or more toward the cost of a basket. Donations should be put in an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving Dinners" or "SVDP" and can be put into the Sunday collection or



taken to the parish center during the week.

Religious education classes will set out food items and fill food baskets during their Sunday class session on Nov. 20, but volunteer help is needed at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, to complete the food baskets and, beginning at 9:30, to deliver them to designated recipients. Deliveries are made

during daylight hours only. If you can help, please call the parish office (367-2665).

"God bless you, and God bless the people at St. Patrick's!" Will you hear that echoed in your hearts this Thanksgiving?

## Fall picnic brought out parishioners

It was cold and rainy—the bright, sunny, hot weather seemed to have deserted just when it might have been especially appreciated—but parishioners young and old, new and not-so-new, turned out all the same for the parish's annual fall picnic, sponsored by the Social Committee. Good food was plentiful, Bingo was a great success, and even the youngsters had fun dancing. Now *next year*...



## Parish Council News

At their October meeting Council members heard from CREW member Anna Mayer that 21 teens so far have already signed up for the next Mission trip, with fundraising already begun and the first parent-teen meeting scheduled for Nov. 6.



Bob Andersen, chair of the Web site committee, called attention to work done on the Web site, including a parish calendar, a religious education calendar, links to the bulletin, In Focus, K of C, diocesan information, etc. They are now working on a new look for the home page and efforts to draw more parishioners to the site. Ideas for future development include a chat room, a Q & A page, information and links geared to young families, teens, more photos, the coming parish survey, a cookbook, information about the sacraments, and more.

The Second Century Advisory Committee submitted a draft of the needs assessment survey that all parishioners will be invited to respond to this fall.

Fr. Hogan recommended that St. Patrick's continue to support the Cursillo program by providing space for its retreats.

The income/expense report for fy 2004-5 indicates income of \$898,414 and expenditures totaling \$872,726, with a net balance of \$25,687 to be allocated as previously decided: 10 percent each to Dr. Susan Nagele and to our Sister Church in the Holy Land, with the remaining reserved for property acquisition.

Parishioners pledged \$104,009 toward the ADA goal of \$114,816; to date \$72,714 has been paid. After all parishioners' payments have been made, the remainder will have to be paid to the diocese from the parish's general funds.

About half of the \$651,254 pledged by parishioners in the diocesan Rooted in Faith campaign has been paid.

**Committee news:** The *Building and Grounds Committee* has tended to many projects (see elsewhere in this issue) in recent months and still has a few in planning stages: (1) a shed for

storing gardening and lawn tools, (2) some kind of archway over the access ramp on the east side of the church to provide protection from ice and snow sliding from the church roof, and (3) new floor tile for the parish center kitchen and main hall.

The *Financial Affairs Committee* has elected new officers: Mary Lee Brady will serve as chair, Alice McLaughlin as recording secretary. The committee is working with Angela Henry to reconcile figures for the end-of-year report for fy 2004-5 and to see to it that monthly budget status reports are given to committees and Council in a timely manner.

The *Liturgy Committee* welcomed Lyle Fettig as chair and Mary Collins as coordinator of Eucharistic ministers. Janet Althausser will be succeeded by Steve Tracey as coordinator of altar servers. The committee held several training sessions in October for the more than 200 liturgical ministers of the parish and reviewed the scripture readings for Advent in discerning themes for parish Advent liturgies.

The *Social Action Committee* held a series of lively discussions with parishioners for the book *Nickel and Dimed* and a panel discussion for the parish on a living wage proposal for implementation by St. Patrick's. The group is also looking into encouraging Coffee Shop leaders to purchase Fair Trade coffee instead of national brands; the higher cost (to help small coffee farmers receive adequate compensation for their labor) may need to be offset from the committee's budget or by raising the price charged for a cup of coffee.

+ + +

*The next Council meeting will begin at  
7 p.m. on Nov. 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.*

## We remember them

It has long been a November custom at St. Patrick's to display the names of parishioners deceased in the previous twelve months at our family worship services.



The scroll containing the names of departed loved ones helps us to remember them, to reflect on their lives among us, to pray for them and to them, to rejoice in their having "completed the course and won the prize of eternal joy in the presence of their Creator" as St. Paul puts it.

When you see the scroll displaying the names of those who have passed from life to Life, recollect and pray for them, enter into conversations with them, rejoice with them—for they are our loved ones, the "saints" of our parish family. Assuredly they have not forgotten us.

This year we remember especially Mary Peters, Katharine Schrader, Bertha Claire, Casimir Plewa, Robert Price, Mary Anne Smith, Candace Brokoski, Donald Reinhart, Robert Schroeder, Jane Lawrence, Joseph J. D'Urso, Marie Smith, Carol Ann Juvinal, Hedwig Thomas, May Hand, Nicholas Britsky, Troy Waller, Erlene Cedusky Koster, Bernard Papreck, James Bradbury, Mary Ahlstedt, Connie Knake, Norman LaValle, and Jack Washburn.

## St. Patrick's Seniors anticipate Halloween

On Oct. 11 the Seniors Club met for a Halloween lunch: chefs Ray Wait, Bill Plymire, and Walter Splittstoesser served up hamburgers and hot dogs from the parish grill, and members brought potluck items to share. Manor Care provided ice cream and toppings for sundaes—as everyone knows, ice cream is never out of season!

There is currently only one Manor Care facility in C-U. Karen and Christine reported on the facility, which is located on Springfield Ave. near Fourth St. in Champaign.

Walter Splittstoesser showed slides from his and Shirley's travel "In the Footsteps of Jesus Christ in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan." Among them were slides of the Jordanian side of the Jordan River, confirmed by a joint group of archaeologists, historians, meteorologists, and Biblical scholars as the actual site of the baptism of Jesus. Queen Noor of Jordan worked with the United Nations to clear the area of land mines to make the area safe for tourists.

Rick Mahannah won Manor Care's door prize, the makings for oatmeal cookies, and Shirley Splittstoesser the makings for minestrone soup.

Committees were formed to plan the spring, summer, fall, and winter meetings for 2006. If you'd like to work with one of them, please call Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330). A mailing to all members in January will provide the dates for the social gatherings.



*Some not-so-weighty business after lunch draws the attention of (from the left) Anne Britsky, Mary Grace Bowen, Artha Chamberlain, and Betty Connerty.*



*"The Bride" made her second annual visit to the Seniors luncheon, courtesy of Irma Wait.*



*Walter Splittstoesser points out the actual site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.*



*Prospective Senior Jeremiah Pettigrew inspects a Halloween book brought to the luncheon by Irma Wait.*

## Holy Cross Happenings



**Hot Dog Day** was a great success once again. The bees kindly stayed away, and God couldn't have delivered a more beautiful day. The playground was full of children and parents and grandparents and friends. Great fun!

**Mrs. Kelley's Third Grade** discovered that many of the students loved insects. Mrs. Kelley capitalized on that interest and has ordered an ant farm. Her class will be watching the farm's progress and learning how the most autonomous creatures work. She will be using that information to focus on Christian values.

**"The Kelley Gazette":** Several of Mrs. Kelley's third-graders wanted to write a newspaper, so they have organized themselves and are giving up their recess time to interview people, take pictures, and publish the first copy of "The Kelley Gazette."

**Teachers' In-Service:** On Tuesday, Oct. 11, while the students enjoyed an extra day off from school, the Holy Cross teachers traveled to Peoria for an in-service day with other teachers from the Peoria Diocese. After Mass at the cathedral with Bishop Jenky, they heard

presentations at the Peoria Civic Center. Todd Whitaker's keynote address, "What Great Teachers Do Differently," was outstanding and humorous. It challenged teachers to "raise the praise and minimize the criticize."

**Fifth Grade** students will visit nursing homes and the elderly throughout the year. Mrs. Walters' class visits Circle of Friends, while Mrs. Fellers' class visits Carle Arbours. Both students and residents look forward to these regular visits.

### Mark Your Calendars:



**Nov. 1:** All Saints Day; all-school Mass, 8:30 a.m.

**Nov. 1:** Kindergarten trip to Anita Purvis

**Nov. 2:** Box Top collection

**Nov. 4:** Confirmation gowns distributed

**Nov. 4:** Sixth-graders to Spurlock Museum

**Nov. 4:** Report cards distributed

**Nov. 7-9:** Book Fair in the library  
**Nov. 9:** Noon dismissal  
**Nov. 9:** Parent-teacher conferences, 1-8 p.m.

**Nov. 10:** No school

**Nov. 11:** No school

**Nov. 17:** Monthly packet sent home

**Nov. 18:** Fifth-graders to nursing homes

**Nov. 19:** Confirmation, 2:30 p.m.

**Nov. 22:** Sixth-graders' Greek Luncheon

**Nov. 23:** Grandparents Day

**Nov. 23:** Noon dismissal

**Nov. 24-25:** No school

**Nov. 28-30:** Kris Kringle Shop



*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 Chris Angel, Ellen Amberg, Pat Dill, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Tracey Johnson, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Mitchell, Ellen Noonan, Mung Nguyen, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Carol Schrepfer, Shirley Splittstoesser, Margaret Stewart, and Peggy Whelan. Photos courtesy of Jean McDonald (picnic), Shirley Splittstoesser (Seniors luncheon), and Chris Angel (Children's Liturgy). This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by Jim Urban.

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

**Carol Schrepfer**



#### Marvelous Clam Chowder

- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can potato soup
- 1 can New England clam chowder
- 1/2 pt half and half
- 1/4 lb butter

Combine ingredients, heat gradually, and serve.

# St. Patricks Parish

# Urbana, IL

# November 2005



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is November 6.</p> |  | <p>All Saints Day<br/>Masses: 7am, 12:10, 5:15pm<br/>9:30am Mass<br/>Canterbury Ridge<br/>12pm Bible Study<br/>5:30 Financial Affairs<br/>6:45pm Reconciliation Prep</p> | <p>9am Moms UIP<br/>11:30, 4:30, 7pm Bible Study<br/>12pm Men's Book Club<br/>5:15 SVDP<br/>5:15 Children's Choir<br/>6pm CPR Class<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed St. J<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm RCIA</p>                | <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study<br/>12, 7pm Ray of Hope<br/>7pm Building &amp; Grounds<br/>7pm Baptism Prep<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm Bible Study<br/>7pm Young Adults</p>               | <p>10:45am Mass<br/>CCNH</p>                                    | <p>10am CPR Class<br/>6pm Pasta and Presence</p>                       |
|   |  | + 1  | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5  |
| <p>9:15am Rel Ed<br/>10:30am Children's Lit<br/>6:30pm Leaders Bible Study<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed<br/>12-5pm Parish Nurses Retreat</p>   | <p>7pm FGDW<br/>7pm Centering Prayer<br/>1:30, 7pm Bible Study<br/>7pm Pro-Life<br/>7pm Education Com.</p> | <p>12pm Bible Study<br/>7:30pm Parish Council Exec Committee<br/>6:45pm Reconciliation Prep</p>  | <p>9am Moms UIP<br/>9:30am Schola<br/>4:30, 7pm Bible Study<br/>5:15 SVDP<br/>5:15 Children's Choir<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed St. J<br/>7pm RCIA<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm Social Action<br/>7pm Memorial Service</p> | <p>6:45am Men's Bible Study<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm Bible Study<br/>6:30pm Class on Catechism of the Church<br/>7pm Young Adults</p>   | <p>10:30pm Mass<br/>Care Center<br/>10:45am Mass<br/>CCNH</p>   | <p>8:30am CREW<br/>Leaf Raking<br/>6pm K of C<br/>Spaghetti Dinner</p> |
| 6   | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10   | 11  | 12   |
| <p>9:15am Rel Ed<br/>10:30am Children's Lit<br/>6:30pm Leaders Bible Study<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed</p>  | <p>7pm FGDW<br/>7pm Centering Prayer<br/>1:30, 7pm Bible Study<br/>6pm K of C First Degree Dinner</p>      | <p>7pm Liturgy<br/>12pm Bible Study<br/>6:45pm Reconciliation Prep</p>   | <p>9am Moms UIP<br/>11:30, 4:30, 7pm Bible Study<br/>5:15 SVDP<br/>5:15 Children's Choir<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed St. Joe<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm RCIA</p>   | <p>7pm Parish Council<br/>6:45am Men's Bible Study<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm Bible Study<br/>6:30pm Class on Catechism of the Church<br/>7pm Young Adults<br/>7pm Communications</p> | <p>10:30am Mass<br/>Clark-Lindsey<br/>10:45am Mass<br/>CCNH</p> |  |
| 13  | 14   | 15   | 16  | 17   | 18  | 19   |
| <p>9:15am Rel Ed<br/>10:15am K of C<br/>6:30pm Rel Ed</p>   | <p>7pm FGDW<br/>7pm Centering Prayer</p>   | <p>6:45pm Reconciliation Prep</p>  | <p>9am Moms UIP<br/>5:15 SVDP</p>   | <p>THANKSGIVING<br/>8am Mass, Breakfast</p>  | <p>10:45am Mass<br/>CCNH</p>                                    |  |
| 20  | 21   | 22   | 23  | 24   | 25  | 26   |
| <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>   | <p>7pm FGDW<br/>7pm Centering Prayer</p>   | <p>7pm First Reconciliation</p>  | <p>9am Moms UIP<br/>5:15 SVDP<br/>5:15pm Children's Choir<br/>7pm Choir<br/>7pm RCIA</p>  |  |   |  |
| 27  | 28   | 29   | 30  |  |   |  |