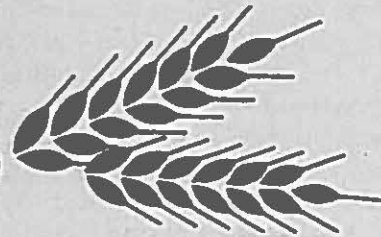


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Welcome, welcome all!

On behalf of the Parish Council I want to extend a warm welcome to all new parishioners and a welcome back to all who have been away over the summer. Our prayer is that St. Patrick's will feel like home to you and your families.



Tracey Johnson

I would like to draw your attention to several sources of information that are available to you. First, copies of the *Who and What Is St.*

Patrick's booklet, which is prepared by our Communications Committee, can be found in the vestibule of the church. This booklet gives you some information about the many groups, committees, programs, and services that make up St. Patrick's. You are invited to involve yourselves according to your talents, comfort level, and the gift of time God has given you.

Second, the St. Patrick's Parish Mission Statement, revised by the Parish Council in 1992, is printed on the front of our parish bulletin each week. The Mission Statement speaks of our individual and collective call to holiness, which "ultimately takes us beyond ourselves, beyond this time and place." We pray that you will find St. Patrick's a place where you are encouraged to grow personally and where you will encourage growth in our community by sharing your wisdom.

Third, also printed on the front of the bulletin each week, is a box containing the names and telephone

numbers of the parish staff, officers of the Parish Council, and parish trustees. We want to hear from you; we encourage you to call with any issues you feel will enrich our lives here at St. Patrick's.

I close with words from the parish's Finding God in Daily Work program, words with special meaning for me in this Year of the Eucharist:

Individually and together we bring our work, both our accomplishments and our failures—my own and all of ours collectively—and we lift up all of this to a God whose joy is to see us in trust and faith lovingly presenting ourselves and our work—its accomplishments and failures—to him. When we make this gesture, we are saying to God:

"I believe in your dream, the dream of this unique community called the Kingdom. Your dream is

more and more becoming my dream. What you love, I love! What you care about, I care about. What excites you, excites me—for your joy is the same joy that wells up from my heart. And so I present myself and all of us here to you. See, here we are for you! We praise you for all that you are accomplishing in your work, and we thank you for letting our work join with your work so that together we are one—one in our work and one in love, one in building a community of men and women who will be together forever and with you forever."

Welcome home!

Tracey Johnson
Parish Council President

The Cellar-to-Garret Sale is coming, and it needs you!

"The dates are Thursday, Sept. 15, through Saturday, Sept. 17, and there is something for everyone to do," sale co-chair Carla Simmering says. "All ages are welcome, even small children, as long as they are supervised by their parents. Volunteering is a great way to get acquainted with other parishioners, as well as to help out the parish for this important fundraiser—even for teens to earn service hours."

Here are some ways you can help. Volunteers are needed now on Wednesday evenings to unload and sort donations. On Sunday, Sept. 11,

volunteers are needed after the noon Mass to prepare the parish hall by setting up tables and bringing donated items in from the garage. On Monday through Wednesday before the sale, volunteers will sort, organize, and price items, anytime between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. During the sale, volunteers are needed to serve as cashiers and to walk the floor to answer questions and to straighten the sale tables.

After the sale closes, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, volunteers clean up so



The year begins ... with a picnic!

"What did you do last summer?"
 "How about those Cubs! Did you get to the Cards/Cubs game last month?"
 "Are you new to St. Pat's? I don't remember seeing you before. My name is ..." "What are you majoring in?" "How's the new job coming along? Do you like working there?" "I moved this summer, and what a mess! Wait till you hear what happened!"

Well, that's just a taste of what you might hear at the parish picnic. The annual parish picnic is a great mixer for parishioners of all ages, both "old-timers" and newcomers who are still figuring out how to get around town with streets still "under construction" and how a street can



change its name several times in just a mile.

When is this big event? Sunday, Sept. 25, starting at about 1 p.m. and going full tilt until about 6 p.m. This year again the picnic will be held on parish grounds, with all the ingredients needed for a good time: food, games, ice cream (*ice cream!*), and music and dancing.

You're asked to bring your own

plate and tableware, and a dish to share: A-D, dessert; E-L, vegetable or fruit salad; M-Z, potato, rice, or pasta dish. Fried chicken and drinks are provided.

The parish's Social Committee, organizers for this annual event, offer the following schedule: food service starts about 1 p.m., games (Bingo and other generally sedate games for adults, more active games for the children) at about 2 p.m., ice cream with all the trimmings dished up by the Social Committee at about 3 p.m., and dancing for all ages from 3 p.m. until the toe-tappers tire or 6 p.m., whichever comes first.

So you see, there's something for everyone. You won't want to miss it!

Christ is present in our works of mercy

The Year of the Eucharist 2004-5

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). When we gather as a sacred assembly, when we pray and sing together, Christ is among us, within us, present to us with a real presence. This is one reason why we gather to praise God on the Lord's day, why prayer together is more powerful than prayer by ourselves: Christ is present in the midst of even two or three gathered in his name—really, sacramentally present.

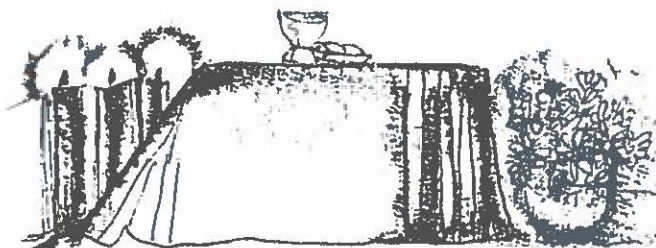
In Pope Paul VI's encyclical on the Eucharist, *Mysterium Fidei*, he tells us that Christ is present in the Church as she performs her works of mercy. Whenever we make sandwiches for the soup kitchen, spend time collecting clothing for the poor, work at the food bank, or are active in prison ministries, we make Christ present, truly present, in our world.

When we visit family, friends, parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes, when we care for aging

relatives, or when we go to pray with the homebound and shut-ins, we sacramentally encounter Christ. When we work with organizations such as Amnesty International or Habitat for Humanity or Bread for the World, we bring Christ into it all.

Working as a catechist, peer counselor, or spiritual director, or simply being a listening friend: all these are works of mercy that manifest the real presence of Christ. When we forgive others and let God forgive through us, suffer in us, and pray through us, we show forth the presence of Christ.

In his encyclical on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope John Paul II writes, "To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood."



Shine the spotlight

You can 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 youngsters are also very welcome and will be returned.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news for the next issue of *In Focus* is September 11.

Where is the restroom?

For families visiting or new to St. Patrick's church, "Where is the restroom?" may be the first and most pressing question asked. But there is more to know about the church's help facilities. Here are some features you should know about.

Emergency telephone: In the room to the right as you enter the church. (Press 9 before entering the telephone number.)

Restrooms: There are two. One is to the right, inside the room with the telephone. The other is in the room behind the baptismal font; take the side exit and turn left, without going downstairs or outside. The restroom is on the left at the top of the ramp. This restroom provides better access for those with mobility impairments. You can get a drink of water in either restroom from paper cups in the medicine cabinets.

Holy water: You can fill your container from the crock in the room behind the baptismal font (*see above*).

Handicapped seating: The front pew on each side of the church is reserved for the elderly and/or handicapped. If you remain in the pew, Eucharistic ministers will bring

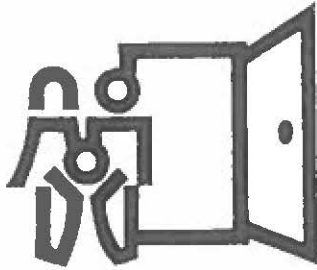
Communion to you there. There is also room for a wheelchair at the ends of the two front pews and the two back pews.

Crying area: Take small children who are fretful or need to stretch their legs to the main vestibule, where they won't disturb others.

Copies of both hymnals used at Mass are shelved in the lectern there, and the sound system feeds into the area to help parents participate in the Mass.

Reconciliation room: The reconciliation room is to the left as you enter the church. Either kneel at

the screen just inside the door or walk around it to sit face to face with the priest for the sacrament. Two lights outside the room will help you know when you may enter. The upper light is green when a priest is present. The lower light is green when you may enter, red when another person is with the priest. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday, 4:00-4:45 p.m. and 6:00-6:30 p.m. or until all have been served. You can also call the parish office (367-2665) to make an appointment with a priest for a different time.



Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt a flowerbed at St. Patrick's. Planting, watering, and weeding a small garden area gives you an appreciation of God's gift of beauty and the satisfaction of cooperating in nurturing this beauty on parish grounds. *Garden Club: Chris Langendorf, 328-2809.*

Three or four volunteers are needed to insert *In Focus* into the parish bulletin on the last weekend of the month, for about an hour following the Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass (about 8:45 a.m.). *Communications Committee: Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.*



Parish groups are invited to submit entries for this column.

Send your notices to the Communications Committee or call Peggy Whelan, chair, at 367-2668. Include your own name and telephone number or e-mail address and the name of your group.

The Liturgical Art and Environment Team ready to get to work

After a meeting with Fr. Joe Hogan and a get-acquainted gathering of its members, the newly formed Liturgical Art and Environment Team is ready to roll up its collective sleeves and get to work.

The team will function as part of the Liturgy Committee in lieu of the traditional Liturgical Art Coordinator. Six members will share responsibility for generating creative ideas, researching appropriate materials, and preparing hangings, etc.: Janet Althaus, Becky Billman, Jan Callahan, Kay Evans, Doey Gordon, and Susan Reese. Jan agreed to serve as team leader, or facilitator,

and Janet will serve as liaison for the team with the Liturgy Committee.

The group's charge is to help create a visual environment in the church that enhances the assembly's worship experience, fostering our full participation in the liturgy. Members plan to begin by visiting other local area churches, becoming familiar with the parish's current resources with the help of sacristan Mary Ann Luedtke, and researching illustrated works of liturgical art. Then, looking ahead to Advent, they will draw themes from the Scripture readings, share their concepts for

representing the chosen theme visually, and set about creating the desired environment for our liturgies.

The team will happily welcome additional members ready to share their enthusiasm, creativity, and skills in this cooperative venture to enhance our sacred space for worship, our church. If interested, call Jan Callahan (469-9346) or Janet Althaus (367-5397).

Cellar to Garret from page 1

that everything is in good order for Coffee Shop on Sunday.

Another way to help is to bring food for workers' meals during the sale week. Contributions can include breakfast items, sandwich fixings, salads, soups, desserts, and bottled water. Beginning at 10 a.m. each day of the sale, volunteers are also needed to help set out donated food for the workers.

Just how important is the sale? Last year it earned more than \$11,000, which was used to redecorate the central area of the parish offices. In the past, proceeds have been used to help remodel the kitchen, the bathrooms, and the lounge.

You may donate items for the sale now, on Mondays through Fridays; just take them into the brown garage through the side door, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may also bring items to the garage on Wednesday evenings, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Items that cannot be accepted are large appliances, tires, and stuffed animals or mattresses (which by law cannot be accepted for resale). Please

do not bring broken or soiled items. Hold furniture until the week of the sale because storage space is limited. Sale hours are as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 15, 5:30 to 9 p.m., with an admission fee of \$1 per person

Friday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., no admission fee

Saturday, Sept. 17, Bag Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A grocery bag stuffed with as much as can be fit into it sells for \$2 each.

So set aside the week of Sept. 11. Tell your friends and talk it up to college students, who can get some really good stuff cheap! Not-for-profit organizations may choose items for their clients after the sale ends. To pass on the name of an appropriate group, to volunteer, or to have your questions answered, call either of the co-chairs, Carla Simmering (328-4841) or Susan Hublein (384-8356), or the parish office (367-2665).



Archiving St. Patrick's

Committees, committees! Did you know that church committees go back as far as the early Church? The Hellenists, a group of early Christian converts, complained to the apostles about the way their widows were being cared for as compared to those in Jerusalem. The apostles called some disciples together and told them, "We can't afford to neglect our ministry of the word of God by serving at table. Go pick seven from among you to handle this" (Acts 6:1-6). Note that the apostles didn't just ask nicely: they ordered that this committee be formed!

The Archives Committee, too, needs more helpers. Granted, it isn't meeting the needs of the poor, the lonely, or the hurting, and it doesn't directly nurture spirituality. Nonetheless, it is important to the parish church. Like the evangelists and historians of the early Church, the archivists document *our* church. With words, pictures, and artifacts they memorialize our daily work. As a committee, archivists will go down in history!

Now that the Archives Committee is well established at St. Patrick's, the rest is easy—but it needs members to keep up with recording our history in the making. Members save and sort at their leisure and write about only that which is changing or new. For those who don't like regular meetings, it's a great job—and with no deadlines! If you keep a family album, consider the possibility of helping to keep the parish's family album up-to-date.

The committee invites you to join them by calling the parish office (367-2665) or committee member Nancy Sterman (328-1217).



Q: Why does the priest kiss the altar at Mass?

A: The first and last gesture of the priest at Mass is

reverence of the altar. As he and the other ministers approach the altar at the beginning of Mass, all reverence the altar with a deep bow; then he (with the deacon, if one is serving) approaches the altar and kisses it. Likewise, at the end of the celebration he venerates the altar one last time by kissing it and then joins the other ministers in a deep bow to the altar before departing.

Not only is the altar the table where the Lord's Supper is celebrated, it is also the sign of Jesus Christ in the midst of the community. Tradition affirms this in

the words "Altare Christus est" ("The altar is Christ") during the dedication of church and altar, and in an Easter Preface: "[Christ] showed himself to be the priest, the altar, and the lamb of sacrifice."

Kissing the altar is a gesture of veneration and respect and expresses an attitude of adoration toward Christ. The priest directs the celebration as presider, but first and last, before the entire community, he manifests his love and his adoration by bending low to kiss the altar, which stands before all as a sign of Christ himself.

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

Parish Council News

At their August meeting Council members heard a report from Nancy Steerman for the Archives Committee, in which she called attention to the need for more adequate and more accessible space for the parish's archives.

A report from Disciples in Mission drew discussion on the feasibility of offering an adult series on theology (cf. "Theology on Tap"), the history of the Church, the Catholic faith, and "teaching Mass," perhaps an intergenerational program of some kind offered quarterly.

The parish's telephone system has been changed to one that connects all buildings. Calls can now go directly to the individual staff member or to that person's voice mail instead of going through a central number for forwarding, and calls can be received outside regular office hours.

End-of-year funds from FY 2004-5 amount to about \$24,700; when the books have been closed and the actual amount determined, funds will be disbursed as decided earlier: 10% in support of Dr. Susan Nagele's work in Africa, a like amount to our Sister Church in the Holy Land, and the remainder to the maintenance and property acquisition funds.

The Building and Grounds Committee has approved a landscaping project for the front of the church that will be completed this fall, greatly enlarging the space where people gather before and after Mass.

Fr. Joe announced that Pat Dill's 3-year term as parish trustee has been completed, and he thanked Pat for his faithful and helpful service, both to him and to the parish. He expects to appoint Pat's successor in the very near future.

There will not be an Objectives Workshop this fall, because the objectives related to last fall's formulating of 5-year goals for the parish were so recently finalized and disseminated to committees.

Fr. Joe said that he plans to travel to Kenya on a safari and to learn more about the plight of the people there. He will be gone Sept. 5-21.



Committee news: The *Building and Grounds Committee* has had a busy summer installing a fence at the rectory, approving plans for the grounds in front of the church, researching flooring options for entryways, halls, kitchen, and restrooms, trimming hedges and spreading mulch, and reviewing options for maintaining the parish's HVAC system and freezers.

Communications Committee members put most of their efforts into updating the ministry booklet, *Who and What Is St. Patrick's* and preparing the upcoming issue of *In Focus*.

Sharyn DuPuy is the new chair of the *Education Committee*. Carolyn McElrath distributed the education calendar for the year and presented staff schedules and fees.

The *Liturgy Committee* welcomed Lyle Fettig as chair; his successor as Eucharistic ministry coordinator will be Mary Collins. The newly formed Liturgical Art and Environment Team is ready to get to work. The six members include Jan Callahan, who agreed to serve as team leader, or facilitator, and Janet Althaus, the team's liaison with the Liturgy Committee; others are Becky Billman, Kay Evans, Doey Gordon, and Susan Reese. The committee also discussed implications for liturgical ministers resulting from the amalgamation of Children's Liturgy and the 10:30 Mass, and the refresher event for liturgical ministers to be held this fall, Oct. 1-3.

The *Social Action Committee* plans open discussions of the book *Nickled and Dimed*, the experiences of the author in trying to eke out a living

while holding minimum-wage jobs. They are also drafting a letter to our Congressional representatives, at the request of Military Moms, on the economic concerns of veterans. Chair Sharon Dorsey will participate in a panel on the topic of faith and peacemakers at Newman Hall Sept. 17.

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The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15. 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.



VOCATION PRAYER

Mary, virgin who listened and virgin of the Word made flesh in your womb, help us to be open to the Word of the Lord so that, having been welcomed and meditated upon, it may grow in our hearts.

Help us to live, like you, the beatitudes of believers and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity to evangelizing all those who seek your Son.

Grant that we may serve every person, becoming servants of the Word we have heard, so that, remaining faithful to it, we may find our happiness in living it.

Pope John Paul II

Poverty in our midst and a living wage

We celebrate Labor Day to honor the dignity of work, to recognize workers, and to acknowledge their contribution to our



businesses receive taxpayer-funded benefits, some of those benefits should be passed on to their full-time employees.

way of life. It is also a time to give thanks that our own labors are duly rewarded, allowing most of us a comfortable standard of living. But some in our community live below the poverty line and struggle to meet day-to-day needs.

As Christians, do we owe these folks our attention? From the Old Testament prophet Amos to Jesus' teachings, to papal teachings and U.S. bishops' pastoral letters on labor, that question can only be answered *Yes!* The Social Action Committee at St. Patrick's has gone on record endorsing the establishment of a living wage in Champaign County and has asked the Parish Council to do the same in support of this effort.

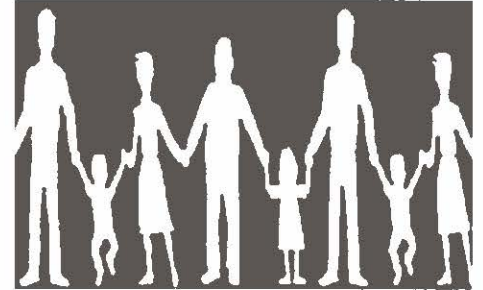
The resolution for establishing a living wage is a modest attempt to improve the life of low-income families. It states that local governments granting tax breaks to businesses require those businesses to pay full-time employees a living wage, currently \$10 an hour (for those without health insurance). This amount, about \$1600 a month, purchases minimal rent, food, utilities, transportation, and health care for a family of four in Champaign-Urbana.

The principle underlying this resolution is that since these

The Champaign-Urbana Living Wage Association is an organization of clergy, students, workers, and other people of faith concerned about poverty and lack of opportunity. The association set out to have major governmental units adopt ordinances incorporating the living wage into development plans involving tax reduction incentives. To date, the association has successfully secured living wage ordinances from the Champaign County Board and the Urbana City Council. They are currently working with the Champaign City Council to pass an ordinance there as well.

Critics of these efforts claim that the movement is anti-business, that it discourages businesses to locate here, thus destroying low-wage jobs. Studies have shown, however, that in communities where the living wage has been in effect for some time, sales increase in the commercial sector, actually creating more jobs and extending economic opportunity to more people.

The Living Wage Movement is a modest attempt to address the overall issue of poverty. It is within our reach to demonstrate in a very practical way to the less fortunate of our area that St. Patrick's Parish cares about their situation.



Welcome to new parishioners Emily Betz, Francis and Janet Callahan, Megan Kees, Anthony and Kathleen Kirtland, Christ and Katie Leininger, Joan Primeaux, Joyce Rothgeb, and Guibre Wen-Yam Eslher Some.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Carlos Boueres, Angi and Pat Castle, Jess Cole Jr., Catherine Fortune, Kathryn Goolsby, Darrell and Mildred Griffith, Shellie Gump, Beatriz and Michael Hughes, Patrick Karcher, April and Dustin Kramer, Domingo Juana Porrón, Shannon Slingsby, Matthew Stone, Frank Sullivan, Michele Thoele and Puamuch Ghogomu, and Blanche and Patrick Vasnaik.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Audrey Fisher and Camille Goudeseune, Beth Ann Robson and Donald Beckett, John Gallivan and Mary Agnes Ducey, Ashley Einck and Jason Retz, Melissa Higgin and Matthew Modica, Angelica Agnoletti and Wade Franklin, Megan Blair and Jason Wheatley, and Lori Seiler and Benjamin Fox.

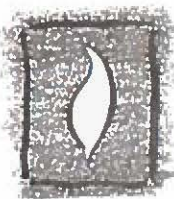
Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Jasmine Kay Waite, Gabrielle Nicole Lancaster, Virginia Leigh Bryant, Kirsten Renee Schaefer, Alyssa Marie Acton, Robert Eden Lloyd, and Stephen Danial Moore.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Troy Waller, Erlene Cedusky Koster, and Bernard Papreck.

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

New or expecting mom?

The Parish Nurses of St. Patrick's have a new service: home visits to new mothers. They bring a gift for babies and moms as well as information on local resources for them. This informal visit, scheduled at your convenience, lets them offer their support during



those wonderful, overwhelming early days with your little one.

To schedule a visit within the first month after delivery or adoption, please call Parish Nurse Nancy Roth (469-0009). She will also be happy to answer questions you may have.

St. Jude Catholic Worker House celebrates 25 years in C-U

The St. Jude Catholic Worker House is celebrating 25 years of service in the community. On Saturday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m. a Mass will be celebrated at the main house (317 S. Randolph, Champaign), followed by a potluck and a roundtable discussion on how the Catholic Worker House in Champaign has impacted our lives and our dreams for the future. The next morning a brunch will be served at the House at 10 a.m. All current and former volunteers are invited to the celebration.

Since its beginning in 1980, at 1308 W. University, Urbana, the St. Jude Catholic Worker House has been a House of Hospitality, giving shelter to women and families of all creeds and races. The House also provides a daily noon meal for anyone who is hungry. Members of the community actively work to create a peaceful and just society.



The House relocated to its current location in Champaign in 1990, when the donor of the Urbana house sold the property to Provena Covenant Hospital.

St. Jude was chosen as the patron saint of the C-U Catholic Worker House by one of its first guests. She felt that her situation was hopeless until she and her family came to the House. The staff has kept in contact with her since she moved back to California, where today she owns

her own home and her son has graduated from college.

St. Jude's is one of more than a hundred Catholic Worker houses in the United States and other countries. New houses open every year. They take their inspiration from the Catholic Worker Movement, founded in 1933 in New York City by Dorothy Day, a young journalist, and Peter Maurin, a French Christian agrarian and personalist. It is a lay movement, totally dependent on the personal commitment of time and resources of hundreds of volunteers. St. Patrick's Parish was one of the first to help the local House with volunteers and financial support, a practice that has continued over the 25 years.

The live-in staff and guests are very grateful to all who have contributed time, talent, financial support, meals, and other forms of assistance.



Mealtime in the soup kitchen of the original House of Hospitality in Urbana, circa 1990.



Former live-in volunteer, Nadia Oehlon, with one of the children at the new House.



Dining area of the new House of Hospitality, circa 1991, prepared for a celebration.



The Catholic Worker House in Urbana, opened by Graham Thompson and Fr. George Dorsey of St. Patrick's Parish in early 1980 in response to the regular requests they received for food and shelter, as seen by Jenny, one of the first children who stayed at the House.

Knights of Columbus announce fund drive

Each September the Knights of Columbus raise funds to help people with mental retardation and other learning disabilities. They and their families collect donations outside stores and on street corners. Contributors usually receive a small gift, traditionally a Tootsie Roll (although the Knights don't promote brand names).

The funds enable individual councils of Knights to support local charities helping with psychiatric disability, retardation, learning disabilities, cognitive impairment, etc. The expert advice and review of many national disability



organizations help each council choose which organizations to fund. For example, last year the Urbana Knights supported the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative; bought special equipment for

Urbana Grade School; provided equipment to help autistic children at the Family Development Center; paid for autistic children's swimming-pool time during their parents' support meetings; and helped a parish family whose child has severe learning disabilities.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, look for the Knights' bright yellow cans around town. Anyone is welcome to help by

volunteering or by contributing. If you can volunteer your time, contact Grand Knight David Mendoza (377-8986)—he will be happy to take contributions too!

And enjoy your Tootsie Roll!

Knights of Columbus celebrate 40th anniversary

The Urbana Council, founded in 1965, will celebrate its fortieth year with a dinner and dance on Saturday, Oct. 1, after the 5 p.m. Mass. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., and dancing begins at 8 p.m. GTO and the Glasspaks, a popular local band, will play hits from the 1940s and 1950s.

No tickets will be sold at the door! To reserve your seats, mail a check payable to "Urbana Knights of Columbus" to Leonard Doyle (410 S. Westlawn Ave., Champaign, IL 61821-3733). Cost is \$18.50 per person. Adults only; appropriate semiformal dress.

All friends of St. Patrick's Knights are invited!

St. Sergius of Radonezh, a rare saint

St. Sergius of Radonezh is a rare saint indeed. Although he was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, he has been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church as well as his own. (His holy life is commemorated on Sept. 25.)

Sergius was born in 1314 to a well-to-do family, but because of a civil war they moved to a town outside Moscow and lived as peasants. He lived with his parents until their deaths, when he was 20 years old. Then he and his brother Cyril withdrew to the forest, where they lived a life of prayer. After a time other men joined them, and they established a monastery, named for the Holy Trinity, with Sergius as abbot.

The life of the brothers is reminiscent of the early days of the Franciscans. By all accounts they were joyful people living in harmony with their natural surroundings and embracing holy poverty. As the community's reputation grew, people sought them out for advice in both spiritual and political matters. Sergius was asked to serve as metropolitan (archbishop) of Moscow, a position he declined. With



Sergius's support, the Grand Prince of Moscow united the neighboring cities and defeated the invading Tartars, making Moscow a leading city even to our day. His life story is full of visions and miracles of understanding hearts and providing food for the poor.

Holy Trinity Monastery is still a famous destination for pilgrims. It is also the mother of many other monastic communities.

Bible study groups resume in September

"The Gospel of Mark: Journey of a Lifetime" is the focus of the parish's Bible study for Fall '05 and Spring '06. Groups begin meeting the week of Sept. 11. The central question in Mark is "Who is he?" It is the most important question that any human being can ask.

Consider participating in this study of Mark. The small-group format is conducive to a comfortable atmosphere, timely application, faith sharing, and enjoyment.

Call Mary Long (367-2665) to join a group that meets at a time that is convenient for you, and enhance your personal journey with God.

Dag Hammarskjold a great servant of peace

Dag Hammarskjold was born in 1905 and died in a plane crash on Sept. 18, 1961. You will best remember him as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. More importantly, he was a man blessed with many gifts, which he used in the service of humanity. He wrote, "I inherited a belief that, in the very radical sense of the Gospels, all men were equals as children of God, and should be met and treated by us as our masters in God."

He was an outstanding student and took degrees in humanities, economics, law, and a doctoral in economics. He studied linguistics, literature, and history. He had a command of English, French, and German as well as his native Swedish. He discoursed learnedly on poetry, art, music, and Christian theology.

Hammarskjold also wrote, "I inherited a belief that no life was more satisfactory than one of selfless service to your country—or humanity. This service required a sacrifice of all personal interests, but likewise the courage to stand up unflinchingly for your convictions." This brings to mind James 3:14, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone has faith but does not have works?"

Hammarskjold devoted his life to Swedish financial affairs, Swedish foreign relations, and especially global international affairs. As Secretary-General of the United Nations he was credited as

negotiator with Great Britain on the postwar economic reconstruction of Europe, participation in organizing the Marshall Plan, and personally negotiating the release of American soldiers captured by the Chinese in the Korean War.

He was instrumental for peace during the Suez Canal crisis, the crisis between Lebanon and Jordan, and the newly liberated Congo. Out of crisis came procedures and tactics new to the U.N.: employment of a U.N. presence in world trouble spots and a steadily growing tendency to

make the Secretary-General the executive for operations for peace.

His posthumously published journal, *Markings*, revealed the inner man. Hammarskjold described the entries as "a sort of White Book concerning my negotiations with myself—and God."

With his tragic death at the age of 56, the world lost a great servant of peace. He was an example of that rare person for whom public service is not simply a career or a means to power, but a religious vocation, a way of being faithful to God.

Tromba

A tromba is a very sudden intense storm in the mountains. We don't have them here.

I was not in danger in this tromba
but I ran from stoop to stoop
hoping to find a store open.

I ducked under a corrugated plastic carport
that lifted, banged, bounced,
frantic to run away and frolic with the storm.

Some children from the house next door invited me in.
They knew I was a foreigner
but silently, with the dignity of Mexican children,
they directed me to a comfortable chair.

Later a woman that I took to be their mother,
slender, about my age, passed through the room,
nodded to me, left.

I began to feel dryer, more secure,
to look around.

I was lost in a town that would never make the news
whose name I could not pronounce, and
tended by silent people whose ancestors
slept in small stone monuments on a nearby hill.

The mother reappeared,
brought a cup and saucer with lemon tea,
and, I remember, a tiny napkin,
the kind they have in restaurants,
folded under the cup.

She smiled, disappeared.

The tromba stopped suddenly as they do.

After some time, dry now, I began to leave in slow motion.

I stood outside awhile, studied the washed world.

I felt a surge of inner joy! Mexico, I said over and over again!
Mexico! Mexico!

New and unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk

Celebrating the life and gifts of Nick Britsky, “a truly righteous man”

On June 11 the people of St. Patrick's Parish gathered with his family for the Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate the life and gifts of Professor Nicholas Britsky. He was our Nick—husband, father, friend, artist, sculptor, teacher, intellectual, humorist, raconteur, sportsman, and so much more. He was “a truly righteous man,” a compassionate Christian whose artistic talents reflected his spirituality and deep faith.

Nick left St. Patrick's a rich legacy in terms of his artwork alone. First and chief among them, “The Rising Christ” hangs above the altar in the church. Several years later, lamenting the empty spaces above tabernacle and the baptismal font, he filled them with a representation of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire and a representation of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by John. Later still, he created the beautiful setting for the statue of Mary in the rear of the church, first repainting the statue itself to give it a more natural appearance. Not yet satisfied with all he had done, he repainted the statue of our patron, St. Patrick, which greets all who enter the church.

In the parish center are displayed two more of his works: a painting of Venice, mounted in the lounge, and a drawing of St. Patrick's church that he completed many years before the parish center itself came to be—it hangs in the office wing. Other pieces exhibit his sense of humor: his self-portrait, labeled “Me by me”; his cartoon of his wife, Anne, and himself, a gift to her on her birthday; and the painting of “neighborhood characters” playing in the park across the street from his home.

A rich legacy indeed! Yet his works of art alone do not distinguish the man known to so many in the university, parish, and worldwide art communities. With generous permission from his wife, Anne, here are excerpts from just a few of the letters she received from friends whose lives he touched that reveal more of the man we knew:

He was a wonderful man, a gifted artist, a dear friend, and a terrific colleague. We enjoyed being with him. He had a rich sense of humor, a deep

sense of loyalty, and a serious commitment to making life better for others.

I loved Nick's sense of humor and love of life. ...

I had never been in St. Pat's sanctuary to see Nick's wonderful artwork. I was blown away. What a blessing to worship there and see Nick's gifts to God.

Nick was a good friend. We had many wonderful times together.

Strange the images that stick with you—passing by to wave and speak for a few moments as we moved on up to our stadium seats to watch the Illini lose another football game; those years long ago when he would beat me playing tennis; having a bowl of soup together at Carmon's; pulling those paintings out of the racks in his studio and looking at that work of a lifetime...

What a great guy! We have his trademark beautiful crucifix photo at the entryway to our home—its permanent spot. I just love that crucifix.

What a wonderful legacy he left for us to share with the world, for the ages. He was truly blessed with a special talent. ... He had a wonderful spirit and was a truly righteous man—a rarity in these times.

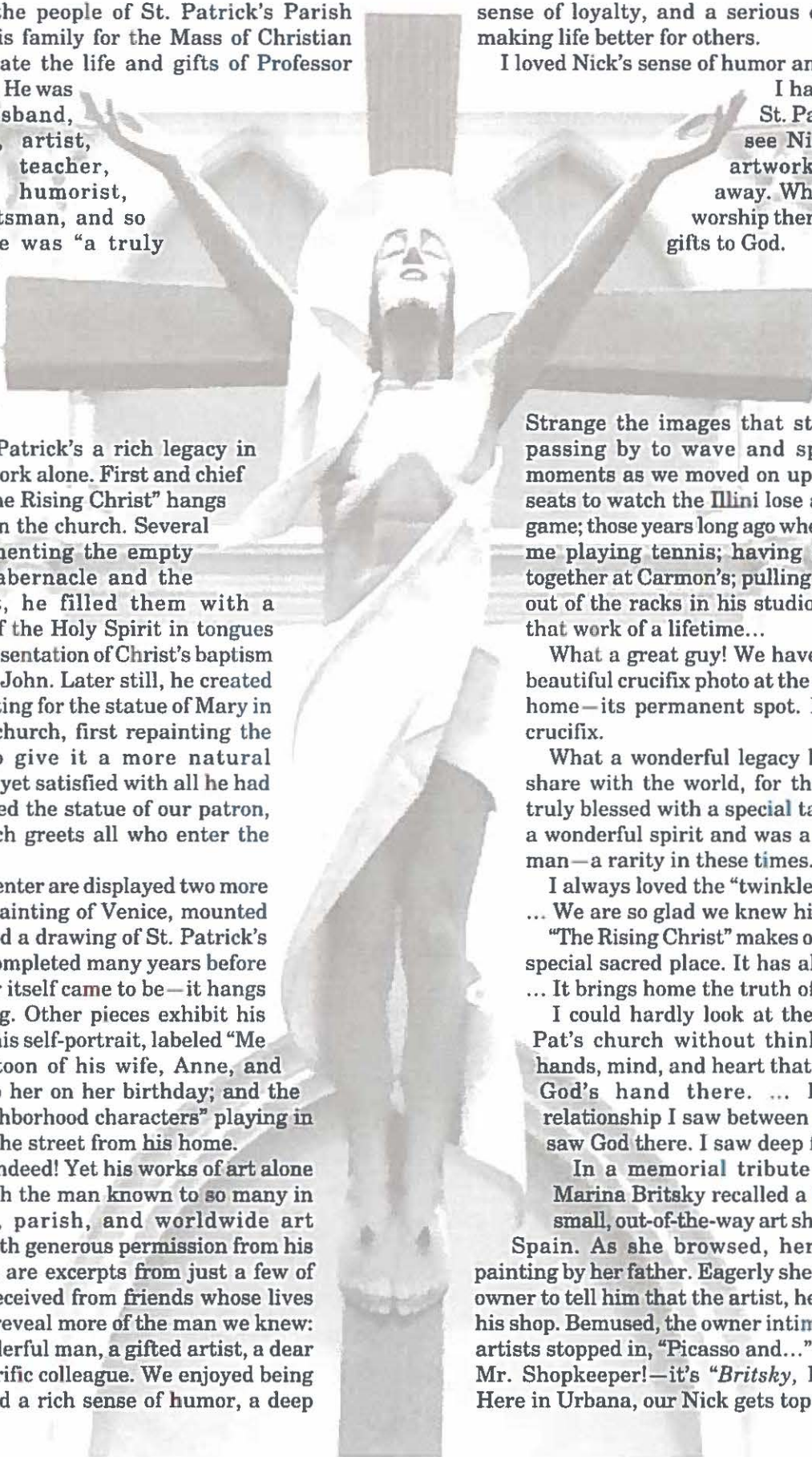
I always loved the “twinkle” in Nick's eyes. ... We are so glad we knew him.

“The Rising Christ” makes our church a very special sacred place. It has always awed me. ... It brings home the truth of our faith.

I could hardly look at the artwork in St. Pat's church without thinking about the hands, mind, and heart that created it. I see God's hand there. ... In the loving relationship I saw between you and Nick, I saw God there. I saw deep faith...

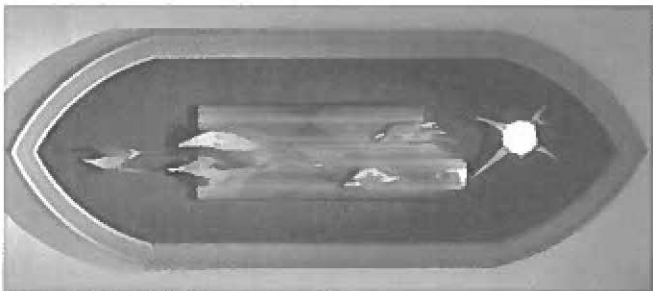
In a memorial tribute to her father, Marina Britsky recalled a family visit to a small, out-of-the-way art shop in Barcelona,

Spain. As she browsed, her eye caught a painting by her father. Eagerly she approached the owner to tell him that the artist, her father, was in his shop. Bemused, the owner intimated that many artists stopped in, “Picasso and...” But not so fast, Mr. Shopkeeper!—it's “Britsky, Picasso, and...” Here in Urbana, our Nick gets top billing!





St. Patrick, patron



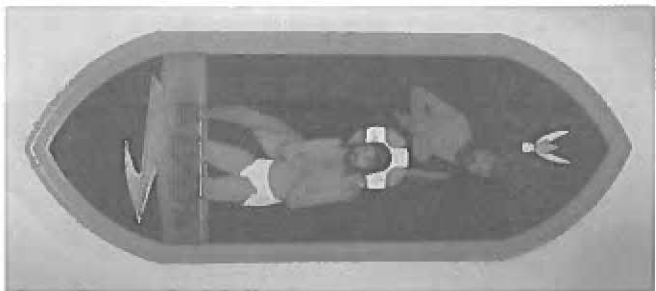
"Tongues of Fire"



Marian shrine



Nick Britsky's self-portrait, titled "Me by me"



"Jesus' Baptism by John"



"Neighborhood Characters"



Nick & Anne

Remembering Steve Peet

Many of us at St. Patrick's remember Steve Peet with a smile. Steve was the parish's music director from 1994 to 1997.



He built up membership of the two adult choirs by his warmth, affirmation, and good musical judgment. He started our children's choir and formed a handbell choir for our teens. Working with the Liturgy Committee and the Homily Preparation group, he proved to be unassuming and a good listener, but quite able to get his point across.

Steve was born in Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1958. He was trained at SUNY/Potsdam and the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. After he left St.

Patrick's, he served at St. Andrew by the Bay Catholic Church in Annapolis, Md. He was raised in the Methodist Church, but he served Roman Catholic parishes for over 20 years and became a Catholic while at St. Andrew. He also served the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the professional organization for Catholic Church musicians, helping to develop proficiency standards and training for liturgical pianists.

Steve was an avid bridge player, participating in tournaments and helping others to learn the game. He achieved the rank of Bronze Life Master from the American Contract Bridge League.

Steve died recently after a long illness that included a period of dialysis and, finally, heart failure. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the evening so that all

the parish musicians could be present, together with his mother (his father having died a few months before) and his siblings, Tim and Linda.

May the choirs of angels welcome you, Steve. You will surely feel at home among these celestial musicians!

"Finding God in Daily Work" returns this fall

Think of how much time and effort you give to daily work. There is perhaps no single block of time that takes more of your day or week than your livelihood. For some people, work is an exhilarating and positive experience. Fortunate are those who see their work as a vocation to share in the creative activity of God. For others, though, it is a time of stress and frustration that leaves them anxious and dissatisfied.

This program will help you to raise your awareness of God's presence in your daily work; discover ways of responding to God in your daily work; create work projects that examine values and relationships; interact with others at weekly sessions; and discern the value of personal prayer based on Scripture.

Perhaps you feel a desire to refresh your daily routine by reclaiming God's gift of time. Bring a friend or colleague with you! The registration deadline is Sept. 5; to register, please call Sr. Charlene (367-2665) or Mary Karten (898-0938).

The program requires a commitment to attend 10 sessions on Monday evenings, starting Sept. 12, including a one-day on-site retreat on Oct. 1. This is not a kind of sociological or psychological study of work; it is a time of spiritual renewal to help you relate faith, prayer, and spirituality to work. It will result in practical application to your specific daily work experience. If you are "too busy" at work to participate in this program, you probably need it!

Program dates and times:

~ Weekly sessions at St. Patrick's parish center, 7-9 p.m. on Mondays: Sept 12, 19, 26; Oct. 10, 17, 24; Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28

~ Retreat at St. Patrick's parish center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1



in our parish library

Have you ever wondered how today's Middle East relates to the Biblical world of thousands of years ago? Do you want to understand better the first five books of the Old Testament? Would you like to walk the same ground that Abraham, Joseph, and Moses trod? Those desires inspired *Walking the Bible*, by Bruce Feiler (222 FEI).

The author began his journey at Mt. Ararat, where Noah's ark landed, in Turkey. It ended with Moses looking toward the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo, in Jordan. His journey of 10,000 miles was taken by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel. He traveled with renowned archaeologist Avner Horen on his odyssey through Turkey, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt, the Sinai, and Jordan. They carried their Bibles with them, reading the stories in the very locations where the events took place.

This eloquently written adventure through the archaeological sites of

the Bible is overshadowed by Feiler's spiritual growth as he traveled. Just as the Israelites had to spend 40 years in the Sinai Desert to shed the skins of other cultures and start growing one of their own, so too the author changed. He began by treating the Bible as a Baedeker to archaeological sites but ended by appreciating the Bible for its meaning, as a story where humans come in contact with their God. The destination was not the land alone, but the place where humans live in consort with the divine.

+ + +

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.

Seniors' "Ladybug Luncheon" a winner!

Thirty-five St. Patrick's Seniors attended a potluck luncheon on Jun. 15 at the parish center. Fr. Joe Hogan welcomed everyone and led them in saying grace. Seniors Jo and Rick Mahannah and Nancy Steerman had games and surprises planned for the event.

With ladybugs the theme, little bug stickers were placed beforehand under some of the plates. Those who found a sticker under their plates won a prize. Kathy Leach won a prize for making the most words out of the letters in "ladybug" without repeating a letter.

Mark your calendar: the next Seniors gathering will be a hamburger and hot dog cookout at noon, Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the parish center. Bring a dish to share and two dollars to cover coffee, etc. As an economizing measure, reminder cards will not be sent. The planning committee for this event consists of Ray and Irma Wait, Al and Kathy Witte, Leo Wood, and Walter and Shirley Splittstoesser.

And while you have your calendar open, note that the next *next* gathering of the Seniors Group will be at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

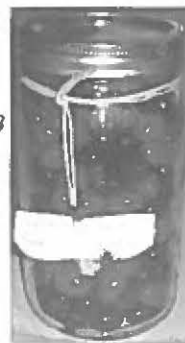


Winners who found ladybug stickers under their plates: Lori McDonough, Ruth Jacobs, Betty Esser, and Leo Wood.



St. Patrick's Seniors welcome newcomers Kathy and Bob Leach (seated), Shirley Penny (standing), and June Giuffre (far right).

This quart jar held 263 red and black jellybeans. Shirley Penny won a prize for the closest guess, 265!



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 Janet Althaus, Carol Bosley, Linda Bowers, Judy Corbett, Sharon Dorsey, Judy Fierke, Arden Howey, Cathy Howey, Tracey Johnson, Mary Karten, Quentin Kirk, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Lilia Peters, Ron Peters, Leslie Risatti, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Nancy Steerman, Margaret Stewart, and Leo Wood. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and pagged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Linda Bowers



Peanut Buster Ice Cream Bars

- 1 bag Oreos
- 12 oz Cool Whip
- 12-oz jar caramel topping
- 12-oz can cocktail peanuts
- 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 cup melted butter


Crush cookies. Reserve 1 cup of crumbs for topping; add melted butter to remaining crumbs and press into a greased 9 x 13 pan to

form a crust. Soften ice cream and spread on crumbs. Spread caramel sauce on ice cream, and sprinkle nuts on top. Spread Cool Whip over the nuts and cover with remaining crumbs. Store in freezer. Make a day ahead.



St. Patrick's Parish Urbana, IL

September 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 listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is September 11.</p>						
				1	2	3
	<p>Labor Day Offices Closed 9am Mass and Breakfast</p> 	9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs 7pm CREW Mission Reunion 6pm Faith Sharing Group 7:30pm Council Exec. Com.	5:15pm SVDP 7pm Social Action 7pm Choir	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Building & Grounds	10:45am Mass CCNH 10:45am Mass CCNH	8:30am Faith Sharing Group
	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am-Noon Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Screening	7pm FGDW 7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life		12pm Brown Bag, Re-Memb Church 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm Social Action 7pm Choir 7:30pm Personnel	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm Parish Council 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH 10:30am Mass Clark Lindsey	KC Tootsie Roll Drive
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Cellar to Garret Sale Schedule</p> <p>9/15 - 5pm-9pm</p> <p>9/16 - 9am-7pm</p> <p>9/17 - 9am-2pm</p> </div>		
10:15am K of C	7pm FGDW 7pm Centering Prayer	7pm Liturgy 6pm Faith Sharing Group	9am Moms Group 12pm Brown Bag, Re-Memb Church 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm Social Action 7pm Choir	6:45am Mens Bible Study 6pm Faith Sharing Group 7pm Communications 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	7pm FGDW 7pm Centering Prayer		9am Moms Group 9:30am Schola 12pm Brown Bag, Re-Memb Church 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm Social Action 7pm Choir	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH	
25	26	27	28	29	30	