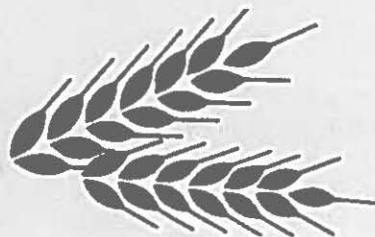


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

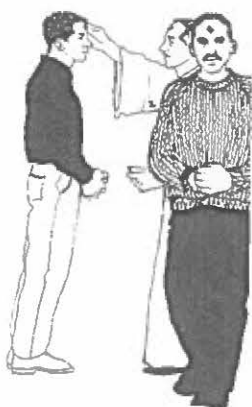
In Focus



Lent a time for change

To think of Lent only as a time of penance is to do it an injustice. While the traditional practice of "doing something" or "giving up something" for Lent is praiseworthy, there is much more to this wonderful season than just additional practices of piety or acts of penance and mortification.

In Lent the Church calls us to *metanoia*, that is, to a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and



acting. This involves taking a look at where we are and trying to see where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that Jesus offers his followers.

Fortunately, *metanoia* is not something we have to do all by ourselves. God's word gives us a lot of help in the process, as does the example of our brothers and sisters in the Lord who are engaged in the same exercise.

Lent is also the season

of final preparation for those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The Church invites us to pray for them, but also to renew our own commitment to the life that began in us when we were baptized and so became members of God's people.

Finally, Lent prepares us for Holy Week, for those most sacred days in the Church's year when we celebrate the suffering and death of Jesus, the Lord's gift of himself in obedience to the mission he received from his Father. Of course, the suffering and death of Jesus—and his resurrection—present questions

See *Change* on page 3

CREW hosts auction

On March 5th St. Patrick's youth group, CREW (Christ Renews Everyone's World), will host its fifth annual Service and Talent Auction. This year the auction will take place in two sessions to accommodate parishioners from both 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses, the first from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. and the second from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Teens will have encouraged parishioners' participation by speaking briefly at all Masses a couple of weeks beforehand, with a bulletin insert providing detailed information about the talents and services up for auction.

Let this brief announcement whet your appetite: items sure to be included are Web page design, power washing (siding, fences, etc.), gardening, child care, food items (e.g., cakes, entire meals)—oh, ever so much more. You won't want to miss it!

Transforming our hearts, renewing the face of the earth

On Saturday, March 18th, a day of reflection will be offered at St. Patrick's from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., co-sponsored by the Disciples in Mission and the Social Action Committee.

Using the social teaching of the Church, participants will reflect on how each of us is called to cooperate with God's Spirit in working on our own conversion and the transformation of our world. The day of reflection will include presentations by Sr. Antoinette Purcell, O.S.B., quiet time for personal reflection, and group prayer and sharing.

Sr. Antoinette Purcell is a Benedictine from Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana, where she serves as Director of Oblates and is a member of the monastic council. She also is a spiritual director and retreat leader. She holds a masters degree in

education from Ball State University and a masters degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago. Sr. Antoinette made her monastic profession in 1964 and since then has served in various ministries on the local, archdiocesan, and national levels.

Registration for the day of reflection will be necessary for planning purposes. Watch the bulletin for more information as it becomes available.



An Irish Blessing

May the light of Christ shine on you,
 Light without, light within.
 May it shine out of the two eyes of you
 Like candles set in two windows.
 May the blessed sunlight warm
 Your heart until it glows
 Like a great turf fire,
 Warming those that come near it.
 May the blessing of the rain
 Drop on you, sweet rain,
 That the little flowers
 May rise in the soil of you
 Shedding their sweetness in the air,
 And the blessing of the great rains on you
 Wash your spirit fair and clear,
 Leaving many a pool there
 To reflect the blue of heaven
 And sometimes a star.
 May the blessing of the earth be on you,
 The great round earth,
 May it be soft under you as you lie on it
 And may it rest easily over you
 At the last.

—Anonymous



VOCATION PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you prepared
 Jesus for the scandal of the
 cross by leading him into the
 desert. May our Lenten
 journey enable us to draw
 closer to God and others.
 Help us to be disciples to a
 world in need of redemption.
 May those called to
 priesthood and the
 consecrated life respond
 with courage, strength, and
 generosity. Amen.



in our parish library

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month by reading a children's book about our parish's patron saint. The children's library has two beautifully illustrated books that tell the story of St. Patrick.

Patrick, Saint of Ireland, by Joyce Denham, illustrated by Diana Mayo, uses Patrick's own writings and prayers as well as the legends surrounding him to tell the story of the boy who was kidnapped, then later returned to the land of his captivity to preach the message of God. Part of the story is the miracle of the Easter fire, a fitting tale for Lent.

Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, written and illustrated by Tomie DePaola, is filled with DePaola's trademark illustration style. With many more pictures than text, this

story is better suited to a young audience. The book also contains brief accounts of some of the legends surrounding St. Patrick, including the legend of the Lost Horses, and the Altar Stone.

These books are located on top of the bookshelves in the children's library during the month of March. Stop in and check them out!

+ + +

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.

What to do in the darkness

Go slowly.
 Consent to it
 but don't wallow in it.
 Know it as a place of germination
 and growth.
 Remember the light;
 take an outstretched hand
 if you can find one.
 Exercise unused senses.
 Follow the path by walking it.
 Practice trust.
 Watch for dawn.

~Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

Change from page 1

and challenges to each of us in the context of our own mission as followers of Christ.

If you are able to participate in the Eucharist on the weekdays of Lent, you will find much help in the process of metanoia, that change of mind and heart to which we are called. But if your circumstances make this impossible, try to set aside time to read and reflect on the scriptures for each day. The week's readings are listed for you in the church bulletin.

Following is an overview by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk that you may find helpful.

"During the weekdays of Lent the scripture readings for Mass are concerned with three main themes. The selections for the first three weeks have to do almost exclusively with change of heart: what it means and what it involves. They present the classic themes of Lent: prayer, care for our neighbor, repentance for our sinfulness.

"The fourth and fifth weeks offer selections from the Gospel according to John. These deal at first with the basics of Jesus' mission and thus further outline the change of heart that is required of us while, at the same time, teaching us about what the catechumens—and we—are to seek from him in Baptism. As the season progresses, the readings lead us into the Passion of Jesus, showing us the tensions and controversies that finally led the leaders of his people to do away with him.

"Sometimes the Church plays only one of these themes. Sometimes two or even three of them are presented together so that we become aware that a change of heart and beginning a new life and participating in the sufferings of Jesus are all part of what it means to be his disciples." If you give this a try, you may find the experience to be profoundly enriching. It may deepen your awareness of the wealth of the Church's liturgical year and provide the opportunity for you to be taught in a new way by the Lord and his Holy Spirit."

Liturgy with anointing of the sick planned

"Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

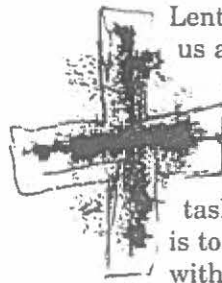
These are the words of the sacrament once called Extreme Unction but now known as the Anointing of the Sick. As he pronounces this prayer, the priest anoints with blessed oil the forehead and hands of the seriously ill or elderly person before him.

The emphasis of this sacrament is on healing and strengthening; it can bring spiritual strength to those who are ill, not only by reminding them that they are loved and forgiven by God but also by reassuring them of God's concern for their physical well-being. God is offering the anointed person the grace to overcome anxiety and despair, to find comfort in an uncomfortable situation, to be healed and whole even if the body is diseased, broken,

or weakened by age.

This is a sacrament that calls for faith, which finds meaning in suffering and hope even in death. It is a sacrament that calls for a response, and so it can be a means of personal growth and even physical recovery. It is a sacrament that reminds all of us that we too have a ministry to the sick and the aged, to give them support and encouragement and physical care.

The Anointing of the Sick will be offered at a special Mass celebrated at St. Patrick's church on Sunday, Mar. 19, at 2 p.m. Parishioners are encouraged to bring those who suffer from a serious illness or are elderly and infirm so that they can receive this sacrament. If transportation is needed, please notify the parish office (367-2665) so that arrangements can be made. Fr. Hogan will also visit local nursing homes to administer the Anointing of the Sick to Catholic residents.



Lent is not so much about us and our pious practices as it is about Christ and our relationship to God and to other persons. The most important task of the Lenten season is to link up with Jesus and with the saving significance of his death and resurrection.

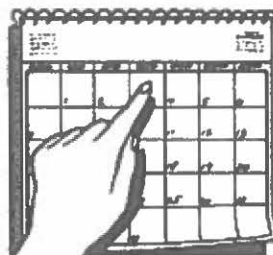
~Daniel J. Harrington

March "Specials"

March 1st:
Ash Wednesday;
Masses at 7 a.m.,
12:10 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

**March 3rd, 10th,
17th, 24th, 31st:**
Stations at 5:15 p.m.;
fish fry, 5:30 p.m.;
film, 6:30 p.m.

March 4th-5th:
Rice bowls distributed



March 5th:
CREW Service and
Talent Auction

March 18th:
Day of Recollection,
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

March 19th:
Mass with Anointing of
the Sick, 2 p.m.

St. Thomas More news & notes

STM offered Empty Bowls Supper

The High School of St. Thomas More invited the public to help to feed the hungry in our community and country by attending the school's Empty Bowls Supper. The STM Art Club sponsored the Empty Bowl Supper on Friday, Feb. 17, to



raise funds in support of America's Second Harvest Food Bank. STM students, faculty, and friends created unique, one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls, which were used to serve soup to those who attended the supper. Visitors paid \$5 for the supper of soup and bread, symbolically

representing the plight of those who are hungry. For a contribution of \$10, diners could take their bowls home as a reminder of their contribution to relieve hunger in the world.



Soccer comes to STM

After a long wait, The High School of St. Thomas More is initiating a soccer program. Under the generous leadership of David Cox and with assistance from fellow parishioner John Towns, a Soccer Club has been formed at STM. An informational meeting was called by Mr. Cox to determine interest in a soccer program at STM; 45 students—nearly 20 percent of the student body—showed up for the meeting! Many of the students had played soccer in grade school and were excited at the prospect of having soccer at STM.

The soccer club will provide opportunities for the many soccer enthusiasts to play year-round. The club has already entered an indoor soccer league at the Decatur Indoor Sports Center and has played two of seven scheduled games. The fledgling program recorded its first victory in its second game and only 19 days into the life of the program. The players were extremely excited to be playing soccer, and ecstatic to earn a 5-1 win against Decatur Lutheran on Feb. 11.

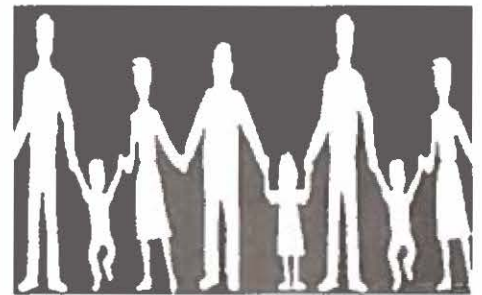
STM students will have the opportunity to play in spring and summer leagues as the club hones its skills and builds both boys and girls teams in preparation for potential boys Junior Varsity play in the fall. Some of the future STM students have already found out about this and are equally excited about being able to play soccer in high school. While STM has not yet established soccer as an IHSA sport at the school, the first important steps are being taken.

Go, Sabers!



Whoever offers their life out of love for Christ, and in service to others, will live like the seed that dies.

~Archbishop Oscar Romero's last words before his assassination during Mass on Mar. 24, 1980



Welcome to new parishioners
Doug Bean, Louie Beuschlein and Bridget Maloney, Doreen Marie and Marvin Brigoli, Cole and Kelly Hutchings, Jose and Lori Mestre, Don and Melissa Owens, Mark and Maura Ramaly, and Ed and Joyce Wagner.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: William Hettinger, Jennifer Lynn Hogan, Lisa Hooser, and Ted and Diann Lock.

Welcome to Lauren Elizabeth Lannert and Robert Theodore Thomas, recently baptized at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Curtis Hinkley Parker.

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

Faith and Films Series 2006: Become Disciples!

Building on the readings for the Sundays of Lent 2006, the Faith and Films Series is a way for adults, young adults, and families to participate in the parish renewal program Disciples in Mission through the medium of film.

After viewing a film that parallels the themes of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday, participants will talk together about how we are asked to meet the challenges of everyday living as a disciple of Christ. We will consider Christ's call to be his disciples and how we can bring him to one another. As we see the struggles of everyday people called to surmount common and uncommon challenges, we will consider God's power to transform all for good, even life's most unexpected experiences.

The film series will take place during Lent in St. Patrick's multipurpose room on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Come for dinner (Knights of Columbus fish fry, 5:30 p.m.) and a movie. Each showing will include an introduction, a viewing of the film, and a short discussion afterward. Dessert and refreshments will be available during the film and the following discussion.

March 3rd: *Mad Hot Ballroom* (2005; PG-13) follows fourth- and fifth-graders in New York City as they learn that ballroom dancing is not just about learning a few steps, but about how to negotiate their often difficult lives and relationships. This film, like Jesus in Mark's Gospel, asks us to make a real conversion of heart. (Winner of 5 awards and 2 nominations)

March 10th: *Men with Guns* (1997; R) explores all types of human losses as the main character, a physician, travels outside his comfort zone to visit the students he trained to work in rural health clinics. Like the scripture readings for this Sunday, *Men with Guns* challenges us not to

lose heart by seeming failures and persevere. (Golden Globe nominee, and winner of 3 awards and 3 nominations)

March 17th: *Leap of Faith* (1992; PG-13). Jonas is a fraudulent faith healer who uses all the tricks in the book to con the people attending his shows. Jonas and his team of helpers travel the country, stopping at big towns and cities to put on their show. One of the trucks breaks down in a small town, and Jonas is surprised when true miracles happen. In the scripture readings for this Sunday we are reminded that there are many signs and wonders of the resurrection if we take a "leap of faith" and open ourselves to seeing them. (No awards - "...an overlooked gem.")

March 24th: *Hotel Rwanda* (2004; PG-13) is a riveting story of courage in the face of physical danger. At the risk of his own life, Paul Rusesabagina struggles to protect his family and others caught in a civil war. As one reviewer stated, "If we really had the mind and heart of Christ, this is the movie we would be urging people in

our churches to see." Like the readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, *Hotel Rwanda* asks if we have the courage to chose between God and sin. (Nominated for 3 Oscars. Winner of 12 awards and 24 nominations)

March 31st: *Ponette* (1996; Not rated in USA). Sent to live with her relatives, Ponette experiences the hopes, dreams, and fears of a child after the loss of a parent. Ultimately her faith, love, and strength of character allow her to be at peace with her mother's death. Like Ponette, we often struggle to understand the boundlessness of God's love for us. (Winner of 9 awards and 3 nominations)

April 7th: *Le Fils (The Son)* (2002; Not rated in USA) is a story that challenges our understanding of the limits of forgiveness. Olivier, a carpentry instructor at a vocational training center for troubled boys, has his world turned upside down with the arrival of a new student, Francis. Unknown to Francis, a past tragedy involving Olivier's son provides a connection between the teacher and his new student. In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus challenges to us to face our betrayal of him in the light of his unconditional love. (Winner of 8 awards and 7 nominations)

Urbana Knights serve Church and community

"Brothers united by faith to serve Church and community"—an apt description of St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus. The Urbana council counts 122 men as members, 99 of whom are regularly active in the group's pursuits. Their fraternal activity report for 2005 included 248 visits to the sick, 64 calls on the bereaved, over 4300 hours of church, community, and youth service, 101 blood donations, and 41 hours spent with sick or disabled members or their families.

St. Patrick's parishioners recently enjoyed the Knights' observance of Super Bowl Sunday by participating in the annual Omelets vs. Biscuits and Gravy competition, and women of the parish were feted with dinner and



entertainment by The Catholic Boys during Ladies Knight Out, both in February. And the Knights once again will offer their popular fish fries on the Fridays of Lent, March 3rd-April 7th.

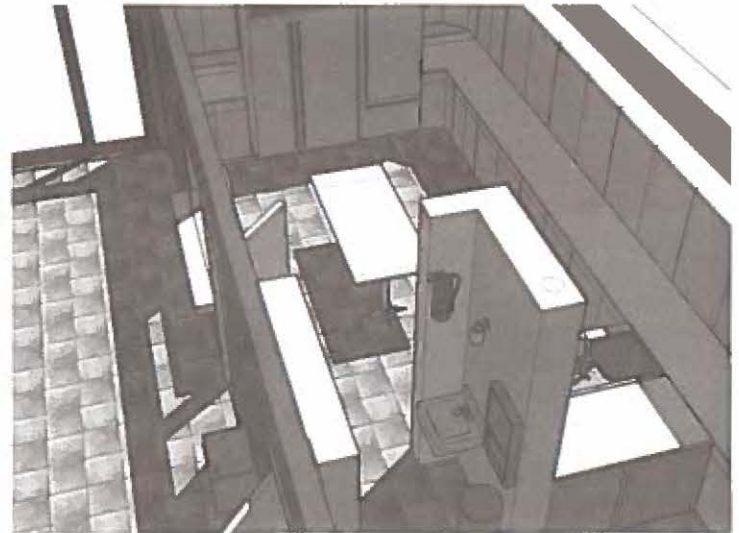
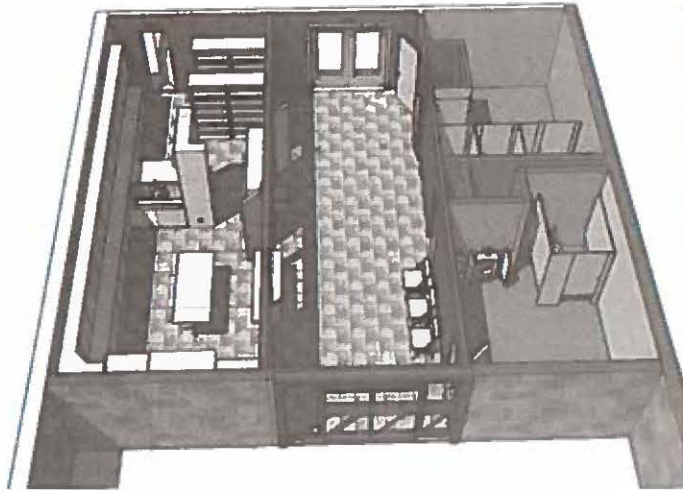
In these and other ways the group hopes to foster that sense of community for which this parish is known—and to help finance their good works on behalf of the disadvantaged and marginalized in this area. The Knights recently adopted a project for Empty Tomb, with others in need of completion before spring.

Your participation in events sponsored by the Knights benefits you yourself in many incalculable ways, and benefits many others in ways you may never hear about!

SVDP's new home: Under construction!

Construction work continues on the new food pantry that will be used by the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the storage and distribution of food items. Electrical work has been completed, and the plumber can do no more until the new walls are up.

Here are some computer views of the new food pantry, courtesy of Mike Andrejasich.



Sr. Thea Bowman inspired intercultural awareness

Sr. Thea Bowman was an inspiration to the Church to embrace and include other cultures in liturgy, music, and evangelization. Born Bertha Bowman, in 1937 in Mississippi, she attended Holy Child Jesus Catholic School, led by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. There she felt called to religious life and entered the novitiate of this order in 1956, making her final vows in 1963.

After receiving a B.A., Sr. Thea returned to teach at her childhood school. When she had completed her Master's degree, she taught African American literature at Viterbo College in Wisconsin. It was at this time that she began the musical group called the "Hallelujah Singers," which performed spirituals throughout the country.

When Sr. Thea returned to Mississippi in 1978 to help take care of her aging parents, she was named head of the Office for Inter-Cultural

Awareness for the Diocese of Jackson. Through this position, she urged African American children to learn about their history and to use their traditions as a part of their Catholic faith. She was also on the faculty of the Black Catholic Studies Institute at Xavier University in New Orleans. Her message was that when African Americans understand their history and culture, then they can create musical and ritual expression to satisfy spiritual needs.

She encouraged the Church to incorporate black spirituality into Catholic faith traditions and convinced many Church leaders of the importance of reflecting varying

styles of culture and music in the celebration of Mass. (She would have greatly enjoyed the Congolese Choir that shared their music with St. Patrick's parishioners at a 5 p.m. Mass on Feb. 11. Their use of native musical styles and instruments in the liturgy seemed to be exactly what Sr. Thea wanted to hear!)

Sr. Thea wore African-style dress in a celebration of her own ethnicity, and she encouraged others to celebrate the fact that "we are all beautiful children of God." She continued her call as she battled cancer for years, writing and editing books, recording an album of spirituals, and continuing to inspire others to improve their ministry.

Shortly before her death, she said in an interview, "I've always prayed for the grace to live until I die."

Sr. Thea died on Mar. 30, 1990, having inspired intercultural awareness and respect in the Catholic Church.



The tsunami in numbers

- Total damages: \$10.73 billion; rebuilding costs: \$10.375 billion
- Number of countries affected: 13 (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Madagascar, Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya, Bangladesh)
- Number of people displaced: 2,089,883
- Number of people who lost their livelihoods: 1.5 million
- Number of houses reduced to rubble: 392,544; number needed: 308,000; number built or under construction: 46,000
- Number of boats destroyed: 103,829
- Ratio of women and children killed to men: 3:1
- Total time of earthquake that triggered the 2004 Asian tsunami: 8 minutes

Sources:

UN office of the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recover, Oxfam International, Reuters Alertnet

Heavenly Father, we pray that in your mercy you will bless all who suffer from natural disasters.

Accept into heaven the souls of those who died. For the survivors, we pray that they will recognize your love and grace in the faces of the relief workers and all those throughout the world that support and pray for them.

May all who suffer come through this trying time stronger, and with a deeper acceptance of your love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Calling St. Patrick's outside office hours

If you've telephoned the parish in the past few months, you may have already "met" the new phone system. It makes it easier for you to get in touch with parish staff when the office is closed. This is a big help because staff members are often on the premises in the evening and on weekends.

The main phone number is the same as it's been for years: 367-2665. When you call the main number after hours, the system will ask you which staff person you want to speak with and will forward your call to that person's office phone. If you leave a message, it will be received only by the person for whom you leave it.

In an emergency, if you need to



contact Fr. Joe Hogan, call the main number and leave a message for him at his number. The system will page him and he will listen to your message as soon as he is free to do so.

If you are at the parish outside office hours and someone needs to contact you, their best bet is to call the main number and leave a message for the staff person that you are working with. It is no longer possible to ring through on the phone in the lobby.

If there's a staff member you work closely with, you might ask for his or her direct number. Calling the direct number will take you to the same place as if you'd called the parish number and gone through the menus.

Operation Rice Bowl feeds the hungry—and more

At all Masses on March 4th-5th the Social Action Committee will once again invite you to pick up a small cardboard "rice bowl" to participate in Operation Rice Bowl by fasting, putting into the cardboard bowl what might otherwise have been spent on a full meal, and by praying for those who lack adequate food.

Through this simple practice you are exercising the threefold injunction of the Church for Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Rice bowls can be picked up in the church vestibule after each Mass and in the parish center during the week.

This Lenten sacrificial practice enables Catholic Relief Services to provide for basic needs of people and to teach self-sufficiency to many around the world who seek to provide for their family needs and the needs of their community. A



woman in West Africa received help from CRS that enabled her to organize a women's farming group and implement a gardening project. CRS supplied vegetable seeds, watering cans, and other tools, and trained the

women in productive gardening practices. "There are 53 women in the farming organization," Mrs. Ouedraogo writes, "and with these new techniques in irrigation, organic fertilizer production, and biological pest management we have increased our incomes and have been able to provide food for our families year round."

On Apr. 22-23, the weekend after Easter, the call will go out for individuals and families to turn in their rice bowls. The bowls' contents will be tallied and a check sent to Catholic Relief Services to feed the hungry—and to help the hungry feed themselves.

Catechumens “elected” by God

How strange it sounds—the Rite of Election—the ritual through which catechumens are “elected” by God to become one with the baptized, God’s holy people, his Church, signs of his reign on earth. The First Sunday of Lent traditionally marks this passage for those who have persevered in their response to God’s call in the RCIA program.

Long before any of our ancestors thought of electing leaders, God was electing a people, selecting Israel (a rag-tag clan in a tiny corner of the earth) to be special, holy, his chosen people. God didn’t choose them because they were powerful, strong, or particularly clever. But once they were chosen, they were God’s forever. Even when they strayed, God clung to them fiercely, calling them back again and again—when anyone else would gladly have let them go!

It is the same with us. God chooses us, elects us, in Christ, to be a holy people, to be church, to be signs of his kingdom on earth. The catechumens, who have been preparing for baptism, and those who have been working with them for months and sometimes even years believe that God has chosen them to be one of us.

At the Rite of Election (their godparents, sponsors, catechists, pastors, and friends having already offered the evidence of the catechumens’ lives among us, hearing and following God’s word, praying with God’s people, and taking part in the work and the communal life of God’s church) the catechumens are declared elected by God for baptism, chosen by God to be his own in Christ Jesus—not because they earned it, but because God wants it. Now, that’s an *election!*

Catholic Teen Connection: “All you need is love”

On Sunday, February 12th, 87 teens from the Champaign Vicariate, 41 from St. Patrick’s, participated in the third Catholic Teen Connection, which was held here at St. Patrick’s. With Valentine’s Day a few days away, the theme for this CTC was “All You Need Is Love.”

The afternoon started with a rousing teen Mass, with Father Joe inviting the teens to celebrate the Eucharist around the altar with him. The afternoon continued with ice breakers and dinner in the parish hall. In good fashion, the teens dined on BBQ, chips, and salad, along with homemade Valentine’s desserts provided by CREW parents. The parents also

supplied the kitchen help, feeding over a hundred hungry people in excellent style.

The highlight of the evening were guest speakers from St. John’s Newman Center on the U of I campus. Kelly French addressed the teen ladies, while Brock Williams and Rob Kempf addressed the teen guys. The college students talked about dating, relationships, and chastity from a Catholic perspective, while also addressing the issue from a personal and up-to-date outlook.

The next Catholic Teen Connection, the last for this academic year, will be held at Holy Cross Church, Champaign, on April 23rd.

Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt a granny—or grandpa. Your visit of an hour, at a time of your choice, can ease a week’s loneliness for a nursing home resident. *Council of Congregations: Peggy Whelan, 367-3668*

Are you good at construction work? Your help with making structural modifications to the parish center at the south entrance of the main hall will create a new food pantry for food storage and distribution by the SVDP. *Building and Grounds: Gary Wszalek, 337-7961*

New Holy Cross reporter needed: Beginning next fall, *In Focus* will need a new volunteer to prepare “Holy Cross Happenings.” It’s very easy to get the information, and the time commitment is minimal. *Communications: Cheryl Mitchell, 355-4566 or cheryl@egix.net*

Help! We’ve lost our Council correspondent! With the recent resignation of the Parish Council’s recording secretary, *In Focus* has been unable to gather timely information about the concerns, discussions, and plans of the Council at their monthly meetings to share with our readers. Can you help? *Communications: Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125*



Parish groups are invited to submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Peggy Whelan (367-3668). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address and the name of your group.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 12.

Parish Council News

At their January meeting Council members heard from Liz Bizarre, who presented a report on CREW that named East St. Louis as the destination of this summer's Mission Trip. She updated members on the group's fund-raising activities and mentioned that 35 students are preparing for Confirmation this spring.

Marguerite Maguire's offer to serve as the Council's recording secretary, succeeding Carol Bosley, was gratefully accepted.

The parish bookkeeper, Angela Henry, has left, and the search for someone to fill this position has begun. The position has been redefined as full-time, and the person hired will be expected to carry additional responsibilities, among them maintenance of the parish Web site and inter-office calendar.

A draft presenting a restructuring of the many parish groups, designed to enable better communication and interaction, was introduced by Sr. Charlene and Fr. Joe. All parish groups would be gathered into one of six ministries, with a chair for each ministry. A meeting of each ministry, with one person from each group, a Council member, a parish staff member, and the ministry chair, would be held on a regular basis. How the meetings would be handled is still a matter for discussion. Council



members were asked to examine the draft carefully and be prepared to offer ideas and suggestions at the February meeting. The goal is to implement the restructuring this summer.

Council members approved a motion on the parish's response to the concept of a living wage, which reads in part as follows: "The Parish Council of St. Patrick Church, Urbana, Illinois, based on its understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the social teaching of the Catholic Church, values all people. As an expression of that value, the Parish Council of St. Patrick Church resolves that the parish will express its support of a living wage for all people by educating the members of its community about the relationship between an employer and an employee in the context of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the social teaching of the Catholic Church." Education in this matter will be one of the charges of the Social Action Committee.

The Parish Council election will take place the weekend of April 29th-30th. The nominating committee (Richard Bronson, Alice McLaughlin, and Dorothy Maduzia, with Council members Kathy Sarnecki and Randy Pankau) will seek eight candidates to stand for election to fill four vacancies. As of last week's Council meeting, two parishioners have accepted candidacy.

The Parish Nurses have acquired two AED machines; one is located at the back of the church near the vesting sacristy and the other on the north wall of the parish center's main hall.

The Council's annual "Appreciation Event," to thank parishioners for all they do to help make St. Patrick's a great parish, will take place at all Masses on May 20-21.

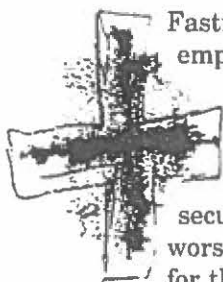
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The next Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 16th, following a Lenten Prayer Service in the lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open parish meetings. Those interested in a more complete report will find the minutes of the most recent Council meeting posted in the church vestibule and on the bulletin board in the office wing of the parish center.

Blessed are...

...the peacemakers!

A summer issue of *In Focus* will highlight the efforts of parishioners who work for peace and justice. We need your help! Please tell us about parishioners you know who are active in this field. Contact Frances Drone-Silvers (398-1458, francesds@yahoo.com) or Cathy Salika (367-7861, csalika@uillinois.edu), or drop a note in the Communications Committee mailbox at the parish center. Thank you!



Fasting during Lent is about abstaining, doing without, emptying out our storehouses, and giving to others as we have received from God. It's about fasting from food, from excess, from greed and avarice, from collection and hoarding material passions. ... It's about fasting from selfishness and obsession with self-knowledge, security, and peace, peace of the kind the world worships and encourages—devoid of grief and mourning for those who lack the basic necessities of life or suffer

because of the violence and insensitivity of others. It's about fasting from comfort, from ease, from the route of least resistance, from the herd mentality, from pleasure for the sake of pleasure. Most important, it's about fasting from power and self-gratification and glory.

~Megan McKenna

Holy Cross Happenings



Catholic Schools Week: What a great week it was, and the children enjoyed each day! The open house

was well attended nicely, and the week culminated in a wonderful talent show with many of the children displaying their talents: piano solos, singing, song and dance routines, martial arts, tumbling, and many more. Even the teachers did a dance and were joined by a very rhythmic Fr. Steve, dressed in quite snazzy attire!

Ongoing Registration: There are still openings for the upcoming school year, 2006-7. Holy Cross and St. Patrick's again encourage you to consider sending your child to Holy Cross School. If you have questions, please feel free to call the school (356-9521) or contact another family whose children attend there; they'll be happy to give you any information they can.

New Baby: On Wednesday, Feb. 8, at approximately 4 p.m., Mrs. Jennifer Walters delivered her third baby, Jack Phillip Walters. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Mr. Walters is deployed to Iraq and will be home in the coming months, so please keep

mom and baby in your prayers. Jack is welcomed home by Sam, a fifth-grader, and Max, a kindergartner, at Holy Cross. All are doing well.

Artwork: Artwork by Peter Kim, a fifth-grader and son of Thomas and Loraine Kim, was chosen to represent Holy Cross School in Provena Covenant's Children's Art Project. Work submitted by participating area schools was to be the original artwork of one child, kindergarten to fifth grade. All artwork was matted and framed by the Ed and Sheri Wachala family and is on display at the hospital for one year. Congratulations, Peter!

100 Days: The kindergarten classes have been counting the days of school since school started in August, and on Feb. 7 they finally reached 100 days! They celebrated by skating for the afternoon at Skateland.

New Writer Needed: Beginning next fall, a new writer is needed to prepare "Holy Cross Happenings." This is a great way to learn more about Holy Cross School; it is very easy to get the information, and the time commitment is minimal. If interested, please contact Cheryl Mitchell (355-4566, or cheryl@egix.net)

Mark Your Calendars

March 1st: Mass, 8:30 a.m., Ash Wednesday; box top collection

March 2nd: PTC meeting, 7 p.m.

March 3rd: Mass, 8:15 a.m.

March 10th: Mass, 8:15 a.m.

March 12th: Pinewood Derby, 12-4 p.m.

March 15th: Sixth-graders to Medieval Times

March 16th: Showcase Band Concert at St. Thomas More, 7 p.m.

March 17th: Mass, 8:15 a.m.; Chocolate Drive ends

March 20th: Spring Break begins

March 27th: School resumes

March 29th: Monthly packet

March 31st: Mass, 8:15 a.m.; fifth-graders to Carle Arbours and Circle of Friends, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

April 5th: Box top collection

April 6th: PTC meeting, 7 p.m.

April 6th-9th: School musical, "Sound of Music"

April 7th: Mass, 8:15 a.m.



Q: What is the Angelus?

A: The Angelus is a devotional exercise by which the Incarnation is commemorated

three times a day. Originally the Angelus was observed only in the evening with the tolling of the "Ave Maria" bell (so named because it called the people to pray three Hail Marys). Bells at 6 a.m. and at noon, each with its three Hail Marys, were added during the thirteenth century.

In its present form, each of the three Hail Marys is preceded by a verse and response, which tell of the angel's message, Mary's reply, and

the resultant incarnation of the Word. The Angelus concludes with a prayer for saving grace, accompanied by a pealing of the bell. Here is the prayer itself:

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary,...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary,...

V. And the Word was made flesh,

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary,...

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beg you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the incar-

nation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * *

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

Are you getting the most out of Mass?

David Philippart, in "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Mass-Goers," lists seven steps that let the Mass do its work on us. The first step is to "enter into mystery"; the second, to "sing for your supper"; the third, to "listen." The fourth step, according to Philippart, is to be a beggar. Here's his explanation.

After the homily, the general intercessions, or prayers of the faithful, may slip by us. We've been listening, really listening, to hear God speaking to us in the holy words of scripture and in the inspired words of the homilist, and we've responded in a communal declaration of faith. What we do next can be really powerful—we beg God's help.

As baptized Christians we share in Christ's priesthood. Part of what a priest does is to ask God to care for those in need, especially those who can't ask for themselves. The general intercessions are our opportunity to beg God for help—and not because God needs to be persuaded to lend a hand.

When we hear a cry for help in the world and bring it to the liturgy, we begin to generate in ourselves

and in our community the energy and momentum of compassion. We know that if we are going to dare to ask God for help in this matter, we had better stand ready to be part of God's answer to our prayer. By praying these general intercessions, we begin the long and hard work of bearing one another's burdens.

The early Church took this so seriously that only the baptized were allowed in the room when the prayers of the faithful were prayed. What does that tell you? Think about it.

The fifth step in getting the most out of the Mass, Philippart says, is to "give it up." Watch for it in the next issue of *In Focus*.

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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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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Carla Simmering

Poor Man's Crab Casserole

- 16 oz frozen cod fillets, thawed and drained
- 2/3 c melted butter
- 1 cup crushed herb-seasoned stuffing mix
- 6-oz can crab meat, drained
- 4-oz can mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 1 egg
- 2 T lemon juice



Topping:

- 1/2 cup crushed herb stuffing
- 2 T melted butter

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In ungreased 8-inch square baking dish, place the cod. Mix the remaining ingredients and sprinkle over cod. For topping, mix herb stuffing and melted butter and sprinkle over crab mixture. Bake 30-35 minutes.

St. Patrick's Parish Urbana, IL

March 2006



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 March 12.</p>			<p>Ash Wednesday Masses: 7am, 12:10pm, 5:15pm 9am Moms UIP 11:30am, 4:30, 7pm Bible Study 6:30pm Rel Ed St Joseph 7pm Choir 7:30pm Ashes (no Mass)</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series</p>	
			1	2	3	4
<p>8:30-9:15am, 10-10:45 CREW Service Auction 9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr.-Sr. High Rel Ed 6:30am Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>1:30, 7pm Bible Study 7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life 7pm Rel Ed Com</p>	<p>12pm Bible Study 5:30pm Financial Affairs 6:45pm First Communion Prep 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Parish Council Exec Com. 9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 11:30am, 4:30, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St Joseph 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:45am Comm. Service CCNH 10:30am Mass Care Center 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>9am RCIA 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr.-Sr. High Reconciliation Service 6:30am Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>1:30, 7pm Bible Study 7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>12pm Bible Study 6:45pm First Communion Prep</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 11:30am, 4:30, 7pm Bible Study 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St Joseph 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 7pm Social Action</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Parish Council 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>St Patrick's Day 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series 10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey</p>	<p>8:30am-1:30pm Day of Reflection</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>8:30am Blood Pressure Screening 9am RCIA 10:15am K of C 2pm Mass, Anointing of the Sick 6:30am Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>1:30, 7pm Bible Study 7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>12pm Bible Study 7pm Holy Week Planning</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Children's Choir 9:30am Schola 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 11:30, 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Communications 7pm Choir 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10:45am Mass Service CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series</p>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>9am RCIA 6:30pm HS Guest Speaker</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>6:45pm First Communion Prep</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5:15pm Living Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Film Series</p>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	