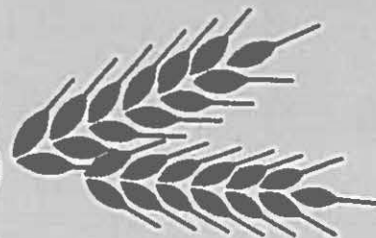


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus

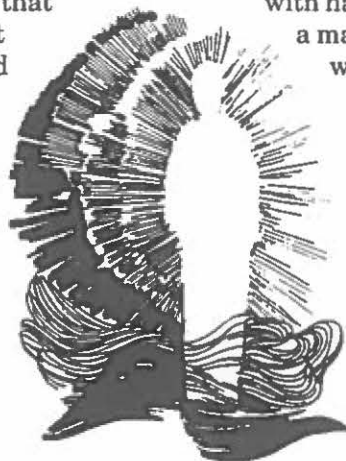


www.stpaturbana.org

## I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

The Church will not let us leave our bodies behind at Easter. The only resurrection we know is that of Jesus. The Gospels are clear that the resurrected Christ walked and talked and ate with those he met. St. Paul says that we too will have new bodies. What does that mean?

What we will be, what we are becoming, we sing and celebrate during the fifty days of Easter. The baptismal rite we heard at the Easter Vigil proclaims, "You have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ." At Easter, then, we begin—and begin again—to put on the flesh of the new



creation.

This is flesh that looks like Jesus, in word and in deed. It is a woman with hands to feed the hungry. It is a man with arms to hold the weeping and comfort the dying. It is a sister or brother who stoops for the child and stops for the elderly. It is one of us cooking breakfast, feeding friends. It is each of us, like Jesus in the garden, restoring wounded flesh, even the flesh of those who would hurt us. It is a humanity that, like Adam and Eve in the garden, walks and talks with God.

When St. Paul asks "What is there that death cannot steal," his answer, finally, is love. Those who have been loved and who have loved know that

love is a practice, hard learned. Love is an act. Babies know it when they awake wet and hungry and someone changes and feeds them. The homeless know it when someone offers them shelter. The thirsty know it when someone offers them water.

This love is what we carry with us into the Easter mystery and on into eternity; every part of us that looks like Jesus, that acts like love.

*I know that my Redeemer lives  
on the last day I shall rise again,  
and in my flesh I shall see God.  
I shall see him, myself, face to face;  
and my own eyes shall behold my  
Savior.*

*Within my heart this hope I  
cherish:  
that in my flesh I shall see God.*

In our flesh we shall see God. Alleluia!

## Renewing the spirit of ministry at St. Patrick's

What better season than spring and Eastertide for our parish to open a new window and take a fresh look at how we approach our call to "go forth to love and serve the Lord."

Just a few years ago, our parish marked its Centennial as a faith community—a lively and deeply spiritual celebration. Ever since, there has been a renewed sense of excitement within our parish and a sure knowledge of the Spirit's presence leading us forward into this new century.

It is that same Spirit who has led the parish staff and Parish Council to develop a plan to restructure the way

we do ministry here at St. Patrick's. In recent months, many hours of thought and prayer have been devoted to this process.

The word "restructure" hardly says it all, though. What it's truly about is "Renewing the Spirit of Ministry at St. Patrick's." This is the title of the new plan, which was crafted by Sr. Charlene Cesario based on the joint recommendations of the pastor, the parish staff, and the Parish Council.

At a special meeting on Apr. 19, Father Joe Hogan and Ellen Amberg, parish trustee, presented the new plan, emphasizing that it is a "work in progress." About 40 parishioners

attended the meeting to hear about the restructure and to share their input.

Under this plan, all of the current Parish Council standing committees, plus all other groups and activities in the parish, will operate under one umbrella structure, broken down into six key ministry areas, as follows.

1. Ministry of Formation (Faith Development):  
Education, Adult Spirituality, Catholic Schools, Sacramental Life
2. Ministry of Worship (Liturgical Development):  
Liturgy Planning, Liturgical Minis-

*Continued on next page*





**Q: What do you have to do to become a Catholic?**

**A:** Christians are made, not born. In the Church, with infant baptism commonplace, it is somewhat easy to forget this simple truth. Infant baptism marvelously reminds us of the "giftedness" of baptism—we don't earn it, it is a gift of a gracious, loving, merciful God.

It is also true that a child born to faithful Catholic Christian parents is understood by the Church as a sign that God has called the child to baptism. Parents, godparents, and the faith community pledge to support the child in growing in wisdom, age, and grace and in helping the child's faith bear fruit.

Still, infant baptism may suggest that one is somehow "born" a Catholic. Also, infant baptism can obscure

the relationship of baptism to the other sacraments of initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist, which are not given in infancy.

The fullness of initiation is shown most clearly when an adult comes into the Church. The adult is baptized into new life in Christ, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and welcomed to the table of the Lord for ongoing nourishment in the life of grace.

Every year a number of persons come into the Church through the process of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), a process of conversion to Christ and immersion in Catholic Christian practice. Their full initiation during the Easter Vigil shows that Christians are indeed made, not born.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## Ministries From Page 1

ters, Music, Art and Environment

3. Ministry of Spiritual Enrichment: Parish Library, Faith-sharing Groups, Re-Membering Church, Pastoral Care, Applied Spirituality

4. Ministry of Community Life: Communications, Guild, Hospitality, Knights of Columbus, Vocation Awareness

5. Ministry of Peace and Social Justice:  
Social Action, Pro-life, Parish-based Outreach (St. Vincent de Paul Society, Good Samaritans), Community-based Outreach (Catholic Work House, Council of Congregations, etc.)

6. Ministry of Operations: Archives, Building and Grounds, Financial Affairs, Development, Personnel, Second Century Advisory Committee (ad hoc)

Each of these six ministry areas will be headed by a leadership team made up of a parish staff member, a Parish Council member, and an at-large representative from within that ministry area.

The core leadership team will facilitate planning, interaction, and collaboration among the various groups and functions within that ministry area. More importantly, the core leadership team will draw together all who serve in that ministry area to dream and discern collectively how they can best meet the needs of the parish and the larger community.

Through this restructuring of ministries/activities, the parish hopes to encourage shared wisdom, broader participation, and more unified, effective programs. We want to be less compartmentalized into committees and more unified as a faith community. We want to think of ourselves not as mere volunteers but as ministers of the Lord. Ultimately, we want to empower all of our parishioners, young and old, to grow in faith and to share their gifts to build God's Kingdom.

For a more detailed outline of the current plan, visit the parish Web site ([www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)).

Parishioner feedback on the restructuring plan is welcome. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to Tracey Johnson, Parish Council president (356-1807 or [tlj82@aol.com](mailto:tlj82@aol.com)).

## The other Irish saint

Have you heard of St. Brendan, whose feast day is May 16? The most popular Irish saint in America is St. Patrick, but some think that St. Brendan is more appropriate for Americans to revere.

St. Brendan was born near Tralee, Ireland in 486, several decades after the death of St. Patrick. He founded a monastery at Clonfert and established many other enclaves around the British Isles. But the reason Americans in particular should revere St. Brendan is that he found his way to America before Columbus did, even before Leif Ericson!

St. Brendan's seven-year journey in the sixth century took him past Iceland and Greenland to the Land of Promise of the Saints. The oldest written account of this voyage is a tenth-century Latin manuscript, *Navigatio Sancti Brendani*. St. Brendan's fabulous odyssey recounts incredible tales: "raised up on the back of sea monsters," "passed by crystals that rose up to the sky," and "pelted with flaming foul smelling rocks by the inhabitants of a large island on their route."

In 1976 Tim Severin, a British navigation scholar, embarked from Brandon Creek on the Dingle peninsula in a leather curragh, or boat, that he constructed according to the details described by St. Brendan. His route across the north Atlantic was governed by the prevailing winds. Severin found friendly whales that swam around and under his curragh, he passed crystal icebergs, and the winds carried him to Iceland, known for its volcanic eruptions and sulfurous fumes. Severin landed in Newfoundland on June 26, 1977.

Do you still need proof that St. Brendan was the first outsider to "discover" what we now call America? In West Virginia, stone carvings dating from 500-1000 have been discovered. They are written in Old Irish, using the Ogham alphabet, and include Christian religious messages and symbols. Artifacts have also been found at Groton, Connecticut, and the Shawnee of Florida have legends of strange men with iron tools.

So yes, it does seem that St. Brendan was our first, and Irish, immigrant!



## Go and make disciples of all nations, not just west Urbana: Here comes ADA 2006!

Our baptismal commitment to “go and make disciples” transcends the boundaries of our parish. St. Patrick’s is an integral member of the Diocese of Peoria, and the diocese is an integral member of the Church in America. Our call challenges each of us to extend ourselves to include the diocese in our mission and to help the diocese also to reach out and bring others to know Christ.

April 29-30 offers us a “golden” opportunity to act upon our mission and identity as followers of Christ. Many needs in the diocese cannot be met by individuals or by the local parish. The Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) is one way the diocese meets these needs.

In 1986 Bishop Edward O’Rourke replaced a form of tax or assessment on each parish with the ADA, continuing its valuable services while minimizing the effect on parish incomes and funds available to respond to local needs. This Appeal is the major source of revenue for the apostolates supported by the diocese and for the support of its agencies, reaching across parish boundaries to offer programs and services.

Through the generous response of individuals and families in the diocese’s 185 parishes and missions, Bishop Daniel Jenky and his staff can reach out to the needs and health care of retired clergy, the seminary



and deacon programs, continuing education of catechetical teachers, pastoral associates, active clergy, and lay leadership. The many ministries of Catholic Charities depend on the ADA for financial support. These include the Hispanic Ministry, Social Action, Respect Life, and Marriage and Family consultations and programs.

Education and faith development is the keystone for the future of a strong Church that reaches out to others. The diocesan Education Department supports all Catholic schools and catechetical programs, adult education, and Newman Centers.

The Diocese of Peoria is a member of the United States Catholic Conference and the Illinois Catholic Conference. We are asked to help support the work of these conferences.

These are just a few of the ways the ADA funds are put to use.

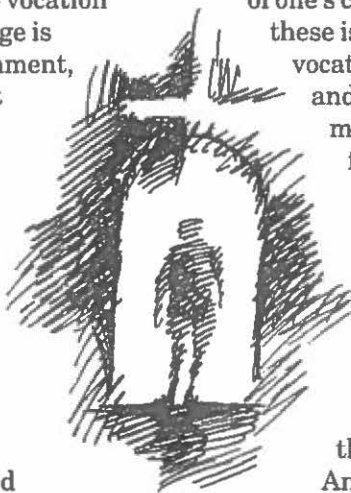
When the ADA rolls around each year, you may hear “What’s in it for us?” But the ADA is not about how the giver benefits, rather it’s about how the receiver does. The goal of \$4,950,000 was set to meet the projected needs of the diocese; St. Patrick’s allotted portion of that goal is \$112,164.

Each of us must prayerfully discern how much we can contribute toward meeting the goal set for St. Patrick’s, which is only a small part of the projected needs of the diocese. It can surely be viewed as significantly fulfilling our mission to “go and make disciples of all nations”!

## Do you have a vocation?

Yes, of course you have a vocation! Each of us does. Despite media reports, the Church has no vocation shortage; the real shortage is that of vocational discernment, which is quite a different matter.

According to Russell Shaw, co-author (with Germain Grisez) of *Personal Vocation: God Calls Everyone by Name*, the shortfall in the number of candidates for the priesthood, the consecrated life, and other forms of Christian witness and service would quickly disappear if all of us made it a practice to discern, accept, and live out our unique callings from God—our personal vocations.



The word “vocation” expresses three distinct but related understandings of one’s calling from God. One of these is the common Christian vocation received in baptism and strengthened by confirmation. It is what follows from the commitment of faith: loving and serving God above all else and loving and serving one’s neighbor as oneself, thus collaborating in the redemptive work of Christ that is the mission of the Church.


Another meaning of “vocation” refers to what is generally called one’s state in life: the priestly state, the consecrated life, Christian

*Continued on next page*

## Parish Nurses bring you . . .

**CPR class** on Sunday, Apr. 30, 2-6 p.m., in the parish center lounge: Open to parishioners 16 years of age and older who are in good health. \$15 fee; textbooks on loan but may be purchased for \$11. *Mel Billman, 390-1023.*

**“Creating Parents’ Awareness to Teenage Drug and Alcohol Use,”** Monday, May 1, 7 p.m. in the parish center multipurpose room. *Speaker:* Parishioner Kathy Jobin, certified youth prevention specialist and co-president of Illinois Drug Education Alliance.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is May 14.



## Vocations

### From Page 3

marriage, the life of the single lay person in the world. These are specific ways of living out our common Christian vocation, commitments that set us on long-term paths that shape our lives by countless choices and actions needed to see us through to the end.

A third sense is personal vocation: the unique combination of commitments, relationships, obligations, opportunities, strengths and weaknesses through which the common Christian vocation and a state in life are concretely expressed by someone trying to discern, accept, and live out God's will.

So you see, you do have a vocation—in all three senses of the word.

The word "vocation" is usually used in the second sense, a state of life, and specifically to a calling to the priesthood or to religious life. Yet the third sense, personal vocation, is paramount. Everybody has one—God calls every one of us by name. The challenge is not to find out whether you have a vocation but to identify the vocation you unquestionably have.

A sermon by Cardinal John Henry Newman emphasizes the ongoing character of this uniquely personal call: "For in truth we are not called

once only, but many times; all through our life Christ is calling us. He called us first in baptism, but afterwards also. He works through our natural faculties and circumstances of life. What happens to us in providence is in all essential respects what his voice was to those whom he addressed when on earth."

Pope John Paul II wrote about personal vocation long before becoming pope, and often during his pontificate. The idea of personal vocation is also an important complement to Vatican II's teaching about the universal call to holiness. All members of the faithful, not just a few, are called "to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love."

The task for each of us, then, is to discern our personal vocation, our unique, unrepeatable call from God to play a particular role in the mission of the Church—to discern God's will, accept it, and live it out. This is how we respond to God's call to be holy.

May 7 is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Although the intent may be to stir a response in the hearts of those called to priesthood or religious life, we may profitably pray as well for discernment of our own personal vocation:

*Through prayer and counsel show me, Lord,  
where and how you want me to serve.*

*Then give me the courage to be faithful.*

*Mary, mother and model,  
help me respond in generous love to the call of your Son.*

### Vocation Prayer



*Father, you have told us that to know and love you is eternal life and that this life has begun in us already through your son's victory over sin and death. This is the faith that declares to all your unimaginable goodness.*

*We pray that men and women may be drawn more and more to your service in consecrated life and respond with joyful generosity to your invitation to this life of service. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son. Amen.*



## in our parish library

During the month of Mary, you may want to do a little reading about our Blessed Mother. The following books offer a variety of perspectives.

*Miryam of Nazareth: Woman of Strength and Wisdom*, by Ann Johnson (813 JOH), is a vivid portrait of Mary, from reflections on her predecessors in faith: Esther, Judith, Ruth, and Deborah to a collection of magnificats that accompany key moments in Jesus' life. The book also portrays Mary's life in the Resurrection Community with the followers of Jesus. The prayers and reflections are well written and inspiring.

*Mary at the Foot of the Cross: Teacher and Example of Holiness*, by James Cardinal Hickey (232.93 HIC),

was the theme of a retreat Cardinal Hickey gave to the papal household. His reflections are on faith, prayer, service, mission, and hope, with Mary as our model in holiness.

*Mary, Mother of Jesus*, by Mary Joslin and Alison Wisenfeld (CHILDREN 921 MAR), is a picture book of Mary that tells the story of her life for children. The words are simple, the illustrations are lovely, and children will hear of events in Jesus' life through his mother's eyes.

\* \* \* \* \*

*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.*

### Blessed are the peacemakers!

A summer issue of *In Focus* will highlight efforts of parishioners who work for peace and justice. 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!



## Neophytes gain new life in Christ

Our twelve “neophytes” (that is, new Catholics) became Catholics at the Easter Vigil, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. As a group they had been inquiring into the Catholic faith since last October, and at the beginning of Lent they responded to God’s call to join the Church. You may have come to recognize them as they left Mass after the homily each Sunday to “break open the Word” with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults volunteers.

All were asked how Jesus touched their lives during RCIA, what had attracted them to Catholicism, and what their hopes and dreams are for themselves and their families. Their responses let us know them better.

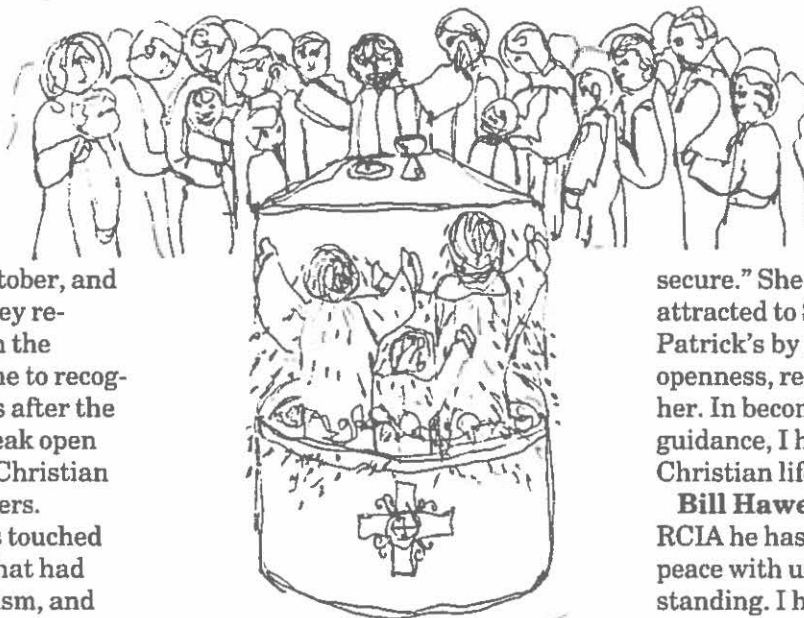
“The most significant way that I have been changed is by gaining balance in my life,” shares **Derek**



**Dallas.** “Christ has changed my heart and my mind in such a wonderful way that I can hardly contain my joy. I have, for the

very first time, experienced real freedom. I feel as though I have been released from prison and a new life awaits me. I got a second chance to live a life that has balance and, in so doing, I became the man of God I am supposed to be.” Over the past several years, Derek and his wife Charity have searched many kinds of churches: “This has left us very empty. The Catholic Church offers so much more than all the others. The traditions, sacraments, saints, and overall reverence are very appealing, and it seems to be a better fit for me and my family.”

In the future, Derek wants to “try to understand more deeply what Easter is all about: its true significance for me, my family, and mankind. I also want to use Easter as a celebration of my personal victory over death. God resurrected my mind and heart and gave me new life. I am getting a new beginning and I want to celebrate



that.”

**Charity Dallas**, Derek’s wife, has “come to understand Christ’s love and what he has to offer us through the sacraments, and the Eucharist, in a way

I never understood before.” Charity was attracted by the “unity and balance of the Catholic Church, as well as by the unity among believers that I find here at St. Patrick’s. I also appreciate the active participation and the ‘physicalness’ of Catholicism.” Charity hopes that she and her family will be united in their faith and united with this new community of believers, thus “being joined to Christ’s body.”



**Ed Delso** confides that “Jesus has touched me by giving me the willingness to go through with the major



change of getting my first marriage annulled. With this process, I will be able to let go of old hurts.” Ed was attracted to Catholi-

cism “by the taking of the Eucharist and Holy Communion” and to St. Patrick’s by “the closeness of this church community during and after Mass celebration.” He hopes “to get closer to Christ and for my family to continue to support me on my spiritual journey.”

Jesus has touched the life of **Megan Drake** “in everything I do, say, think, and feel. I’m more happy and



secure.” She was attracted to St. Patrick’s by the openness, respect, and love shown to her. In becoming Catholic, “with God’s guidance, I hope to live a good, happy, Christian life with my family.”

**Bill Hawes** shares that through RCIA he has been touched by “more

peace with understanding. I have been attracted to St. Patrick’s by Father Joe’s message.” His hope for the future is that his family will become members of the Church.



Through the RCIA process **Lakshmi Lancaster** has been changed by Jesus “in things I do and issues and concerns I have about my faith. My faith has grown from sharing my concerns and worries. I’m not



the only one who falls short. It helps me to know there are others who have the same concerns.”

Lakshmi was raised Catholic. “I want to belong to a church and I feel God is calling me to this church. I hope to continue to grow strong with God. I have complete faith in God and have no worries of the world. I want to attend church with my parents, Wilford and Cesaria Lancaster, and for us to grow stronger as a family and as believers.”

**Raji Lancaster**, Lakshmi’s sister, says “I have been changed by Jesus because I know God more and more every day.” She has been attracted to St. Patrick’s by going to Mass with her parents. She looks



*Continued on next page*



*Neophytes*  
From Page 5

forward to "becoming a Catholic and being able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist."

"Jesus has touched my heart. This group is like a family," says **Ken Horn**. "I learned a lot. I was attracted to St. Patrick's because it is a family church. I want to become a very good member of St.



Patrick's. I would like to do what I can to help St. Patrick's grow."

The RCIA process has given **Lee Cronic** "increased spirituality and awareness of the presence of the Holy



Spirit. I have been enlightened with the path I should take in my faith and have seen and realized the impor-

tance of Eucharist during Mass. I have also realized how Christ speaks through all varieties of people, especially through our RCIA group." She adds, "I'm really intrigued and drawn to the tradition of the Catholic Church. What attracts me most is the drive in me to the acceptance of Eucharist during Mass. Moreover, I'm getting married in September in the Catholic Church, and I fully love the sacramentality of marriage observed in the Catholic faith. ... My hopes and dreams lie in the continuing presence of Christ in my endeavors. I wish to better my relationship with Christ and others, and I look forward to raising a family in the Catholic Church."

**Son Vu** shares that Jesus "has helped me learn and understand his words. I felt better in times of sadness. I was attracted to Catholicism by the learning here and the community in this parish. I hope



in the future to be more with the community and to learn more about God's love." Son, who lives in Chicago,

is engaged to Amy Nguyen of St. Patrick's.

**Steve Wallis** says he has been touched "mostly in the shared experience with my fellow RCIA classmates. It has helped me to see the good in others and the joy of learning about the Church and the Word of God. What attracts me most is the dignity and sacramentality of the Church. I get a very positive feeling when I attend Mass at St. Patrick's. I want to become closer to God, the Church, and my family."



This heartfelt testimony from **Lorraine Gerhart** brings our neophytes' stories to a prayerful conclusion: "Prayers have helped me through the loss of my son and have



helped reunite my family in their faiths. Jesus has been in our lives and has touched us in illnesses, acci-

dents, happy events, and now in healing. ... I came to St. Patrick's to renew my faith and to be closer to God. I hope that we all continue with the healing for the weeks and months to come. I would like to understand what God's plan was for my son. I hope that we can celebrate the happiness together."

Now that you can connect names and stories with faces, greet our neophytes when you see them and welcome them into our parish!

## Ready for dessert?

St. Patrick's CREW teens are selling **Butter Braids** (\$9, bake and serve) and **Chippery Cookie Dough** (\$11.50 per box of 48, ready to bake) to support their summer Mission Trip to East St. Louis.

You may place your order at Coffee Shop Apr. 30 and May 7, or by calling **Bernie Laumann** (328-2708) or **Marty Sierra-Perry** (344-6321). Orders delivered to your home after May 12.

## Is there a cure for materialism?

The Social Action Committee will present the last film in a three-part video series focusing on materialism in our society. The series opened with *Affluenza, Parts One and Two*, and concludes on May 3 with *Escape from Affluenza*, to be shown at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center.

The videos focus on the problems of over-consumption, "keeping up with the Joneses," and materialism by using factual information, a good dose of humor, and examples of what people are doing to "cure" this "disease."

The presentation will be followed by a discussion of ways to simplify our lives, facilitated by Nancy Dietrich-Rybicki. Nancy has taught "Personal Power" money management classes for the Consumer Credit Union, Urbana Adult Education, and Parkland Live and Learn.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Designers and creative thinkers, please apply!** The Liturgical Art Team is looking for parishioners with a creative bent to provide designs or suggestions for visual effects in the church that will enhance our worship experience. Designs can be implemented by others if need be. *Liturgical Art and Environment Team: Jan Callahan, 469-9346.*



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.



## Children's Choir: Energetic dedication

If you have been near the multipurpose room on Wednesdays at about 5:15 p.m., you'll have noticed a lot of energy emanating from it. Since mid-September the young singers of St. Patrick's Children's Choir have faithfully attended rehearsals and enhanced parishioners' worship at Mass once or twice a month. This year their schedule included Mass on Christmas Eve and Ash Wednesday, and they also hosted the visiting choir "Harmony, Hope, and Healing."

Their choir rehearsals begin with high-energy warm-ups for voice and body, anything from jumping around the room to forming a conga line. The choir practices many songs familiar to the congregation and always works on a few special songs to be offered for meditation. They also work hard on much-coveted solos, especially the verses of the Responsorial Psalm. Rehearsals often include games and always conclude with prayer.

The Children's Choir is usually comprised of parishioners in grades 3 to 7. This year the choir members are Claire Drone-Silvers, Neli Crawford, Sarah Johnson, Theresa Welle, Will Justice, Mariya Sturdyvin, Jamie Simmering, Gabby Wszalek, Molly Smith, and Julia Welle—thanks to

Favorite songs this year include everything from the Lenten "Ashes" to the spiritual "Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door," the lively "Send Down the Fire," and the haunting "The Cry of the Poor." What have they particularly enjoyed about being choir members? Learning more and growing

closer to God (Theresa); warm-ups (Mariya); singing, the piano, and the people (Neli); and Fr. Joe playing tag with them (Jamie). Claire summed it up in a single word: "Everything!"

You will hear the Children's Choir one more time this spring—at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 20. Like other St. Patrick's choirs this one will not meet during the summer, but many of its members are active in



St. Patrick's Children's Choir. Top (from left): Sarah Johnson, Claire Drone-Silvers, and Mariya Sturdyvin. Middle: Molly Smith, Theresa Welle, Jamie Simmering, and Gabby Wszalek. Bottom: Julie Welle. Not pictured: Will Justice and Neli Crawford.

the singular support and schedule juggling of their parents (thank you!). With the aid of Music Director Chris Ángel and his assistant, Jean McDonald, they "raise a joyful noise unto the Lord."

other liturgical ministries. Several are altar servers, and some may sing in this year's Summer Choir. Their service and dedication are a model for all parishioners!

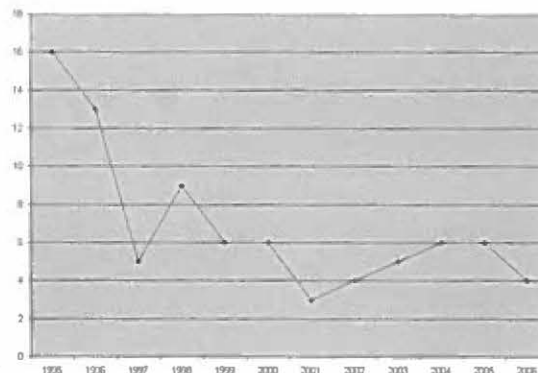
## Counting Easter bonnets from on high

At the time of Easter, the choir up in the loft  
Sees the heads of women, all adorned or coiffed.  
As Passion passed us by and we did sing our hymns,  
We talked of hatting styles and millinery sins.  
Our errant minds did wander as we did sing at Mass:  
How many girls wore bonnets or others kinds of hats?

Questions demand answers, and we figured out a way:  
We counted Easter bonnets on the Vigil and the Day.  
(For these ten years past, a choir joke went astray.)  
A graph depicts the pattern beside this very rhyme—  
The bonnets' end is coming but they just might last our time.

Our Lord carried his cross. Did he get nailed upon it  
Just so this idle tenor might count each Easter bonnet?

— Joe Hinchliffe, a St. Patrick's choir member







## Holy Cross Happenings

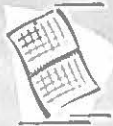
**Spring Musical:** *The Sound of Music* was performed Apr. 6-9, and what a success it was! Over 100 children and many parents took part in the performance. The children did a beautiful job, and it was great fun for all involved. The St. Patrick's children numbered many: Gracie Mayer, Claire Drone-Silvers, Kaleigh Niccum, Luke Cottingham, Shelby Simmering, Sarah Johnson, Theresa Welle, Jamie Simmering, Andy Wszalek, Breanna Wickert, Will Justice, Julia Welle, Caitlin Schutz, Mariya Sturdyvin, Maris Wszalek, Gabrielle Wszalek, George Pennacchi, Meghan Kelly, Sally Pennacchi, Annie Rasumssen, and Maddy Kangas.

**Third-Quarter Honor Roll:** The following students made the honor roll for the third quarter. Highest Honors: Claire Drone-Silvers, Gracie Mayer, Andy Wszalek, Theresa Welle, Will Justice; High Honors: Sarah Johnson, Luke Cottingham, Cora Freidhof, Kaleigh Niccum, Dana Williams,

Caitlin Schutz; Honors: Peter Kim, Shelby Simmering, Matt Melander, Maddy Kangas. *Congratulations on your hard work!*

**Regional Science Fair:** Fifteen Holy Cross students participated in the IJAS Regional Science Fair this month and received awards. Several of those were St. Patrick's children. Third Place: Alicia Drook; Second Place, Shelby Simmering; Outstanding: Andy Wszalek. And Andy Wszalek was selected to participate in the State Science Fair on May 5. *Way to go, scientists!*

**Fundraising Update:** Three checks totaling over \$1600 were received for the U of I Program Sales during the months of January and February. Rebate checks have also been received from the County Market Max Card program for over \$380. Checks from the Meijer Community Rewards program totaled almost \$100. Thank you for supporting these programs.



### Mark your calendars

- May 1-5:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 2:** 7 p.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Concert
- May 3:** Box top Collection
- May 4:** Kindergarten Screening; 7 p.m., PTC Meeting
- May 5:** 8:15 a.m., May Crowning Mass
- May 6:** 10 a.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at Holy Cross
- May 8:** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade to Miller Zoo in Bloomington
- May 10:** Band Concert, Grades 5-8
- May 11:** Summer Packet; 8:15 a.m., Emmaus Day Presentation; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade to Nature Center
- May 12:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat; 8:15 a.m., All School Mass; 12:30 p.m., Mother's Day Tea
- May 15:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic at Hessel Park
- May 16:** 12 noon, Graduation Pictures; 1 p.m., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Day
- May 17:** 7 p.m., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- May 18:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grades to Lincoln Log Cabin State Park
- May 19:** 8:15 a.m., All School Mass
- May 20:** Market Day
- May 21:** 4 p.m., End of Year Girl Scout Ceremony
- May 22:** Library closed for the school year
- May 23:** Kindergarten to Monticello Train Station
- May 24:** Field Day, Hessel Park
- May 26:** 8:30 a.m., All School Mass; *last day of school!*
- June 2:** 12 noon, *school office closes for the summer*

## New flooring for the parish center

With the renewal of the Easter Season comes a new, vibrant look to St. Patrick's parish center. After six months of planning, a committee (Sr. Charlene Cesario, Joan Gerhart, and Sandy Pijanowski) selected new tile for the parish center, working closely with Fr. Hogan, Bob Miller, and contractor Brian Hannon. The group also made presentations to the Building and Grounds Committee, the officers of St. Patrick's Guild, and the Parish Council.

A brick-red (Mayflower Red) quarry tile with Sable grouting will be installed in the kitchen, making the room much more attractive while requiring low maintenance. The flooring in the main hall will be vinyl-composition tile (similar to the present floor tile) in Antique White with a band of Cinnamon Brown, which coordinates with the Mayflower Red quarry tile in the kitchen. The flooring in the reception area and the hallway to the staff offices will feature Metal Beige ceramic tile with Sable grouting, laid out in a pinwheel pattern using 12- and 6-inch tiles, and a Mocha baseboard.

The new flooring will give the parish center a much-needed uplift, replacing tile that has stood up well to the many thousands of feet walking on it during more than forty years. When the work is completed, stop in to enjoy the building's new look!

The project will begin in May.

## Attitude is everything!

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed that she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did, and she had a fun, fun day.

The next day she work up, looked in the mirror, and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Yeah!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

— Author unknown



## I dreamed that I could fly

Carefully, low at first  
I experiment with lighter than air thoughts  
then bravely rising above safe falling distance,  
lifting, lifting,  
brush tree top leaves.  
I watch an easy  
miniaturization.

Outstretched arms,  
bright cloud eyes and smiles,  
patchwork quilts below  
cracked like an antique  
with rivers and streams

Sun dance on the flooded  
Mompos Depression.  
Pink smudgings of flamingo flocks  
on mosaics below.

Crystals of villages cling tight  
in the delta mangroves  
strip farms on the contours  
city stalagmites point.

I land on a tall building  
where a wheelchair woman  
has been watching me.

Holding each other  
we fly carefully,  
just on the rooftop at first,  
over chairs and tables.

Then  
over the edge  
with a catch in our throats  
over the edge but rising,  
cherry trees in distant bloom

Blue mountains  
where clouds' long fingers  
sleep in valleys  
and sometimes white-out our vision,  
a fainting spell.

Distant sand dunes, contours of a woman's body  
old logging streaks in a swamp-cypress forest  
calligraphy of human leveling machines  
serpentine vegetation bands in wastelands

Papyrus islands in shallow lakes  
moon over the Earth's curve,  
ourselves, dreaming soaring spirits,  
riding glory's winds and updrafts.

—New and unpublished, by Quentin Kirk



## Celebrating mothers

May, the month of sunshine and flowers, is designated by the Church to give special honor to our Blessed Mother. As a nation, we also set aside the second Sunday of May as a day to honor our earthly mothers. Every year gifts of cards, flowers, phone calls, dinner invitations, and other expressions of love and gratitude are showered on our biological mothers, adoptive mothers, and spiritual mothers.

The desire and need for a special day recognizing motherhood have been expressed, in various attempts in a number of countries over many years, to establish a tradition. That tradition took firm hold in the United States in 1915, when Congress authorized President Woodrow Wilson to

proclaim Mother's Day an annual national observance.

What do they feel on this day of celebration, those who never knew their mothers, or whose mothers fell far short of what children may hope for? If you are saddened because you feel "motherless," know that you have a perfect mother to call your own. Mary, the mother of your brother Jesus, claims you as her own.

In the moment of his dying—a moment when the really important things get taken care of—Jesus gave his mother to John, and to all of us. She, the sinless one, the perfect one, is the role model for all mothers.

She, the mother of God, is the refuge of all God's children. Mary, the New Eve, assists Christ, the New Adam, in the redemption of humankind. After

her Son's ascension, Mary remained on earth for a number of years to guide and nourish the infant Church. Mary, Seat of Wisdom, still mothers the Church and tenderly cares for each child her Son has committed to her care.

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,*

*that never was it known that any one*

*who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.*

*Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you,*

*O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.*

*To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.*

*O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,*

*but in your mercy hear and answer me.*

*Amen.*





## 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 sixth step, he says, is to "sing, walk, eat, drink." Here's what he has to say:

"Going up to Communion" is not meant to be a fast-food drive-through event. It's a communal procession in which we walk and sing together in order to eat and drink together. The communion we share is on two levels: our communion with Christ and our communion with one another.

So sing as you walk! Most music ministers now use Communion songs with short refrains so you don't have to carry a hymnal or song sheet with you (if not, you might suggest it). Walk with the music. If you receive Communion in your mouth, walk with hands folded. If you receive Communion in your hand, walk forward with one hand cupped in the other, palm upward, ready—eager—to receive.

Don't pass by the cup—unless, of course, you have a specific medical reason for doing so. The chance of catching a cold is minuscule, but the chance of catching Christ's life and spirit as well as communion with

Christ and your sisters and brothers is high.

If it's your parish's custom to bow before receiving the consecrated bread



and the consecrated wine, then do so slowly, deliberately, gracefully.

Sing on your way back to your place, and continue to sing when you have arrived there. This song is not a distraction, but one way that helps us to be one with one another.

If you were taught to kneel and bury your face in your hands after Communion, you may want to rethink this practice. It's not wrong in itself (although it's hard to sing this way), but there are practices that better enable you to participate fully in the Mass at this point. The Mass is not time for private prayer—it is thoroughly communal. This may sound harsh, especially since many of

us yearn today for moments of solitude. But the Mass, especially at this point, is not about solitude but about communion, being one with others in Christ.

Try this: While singing the Communion song, watch the faces of others going to and coming back from the altar. See in each face the face of Christ. After his Resurrection, Jesus often appeared to his followers in the guise of a stranger, but it was in the breaking of the bread that they recognized him.

The period of communal silence after all have received Com-

munion and the singing is completed is our opportunity to "rest in the Lord" for a moment, before finishing up and returning to the fray of daily living. Here you could bow your head and close your eyes if that helps you to pray. It's not a time to fidget with your belongings or read the bulletin. Simply say "thanks" to God in the silence of your heart.

*The seventh step in getting the most out of the Mass, Philippart says, is to "go and do likewise." Watch for it in the next issue of In Focus.*

*Adaptation used with permission of Claretian Publications*

## Celebrating May Friendship Day

Every year in May, Church Women United sponsors May Friendship Day, celebrating the sisterhood of women around the globe. As part of this celebration, they invite churches in Champaign-Urbana to nominate a Young Church Woman of the Year from their congregation.

St. Patrick's Guild has participated in this event for the past four years. In 2002, the Guild nominated Tracey Johnson for her many volunteer

activities in our parish. In 2003, our nominee was Carla Simmering for her efforts in soliciting donations to the funeral dinners and for co-chairing the Cellar-to-Garrett Sale. In 2004, we nominated Alicia Millsap for her Religious Education teaching and her co-chairing the Cellar-to-Garret Sale. Last year our nominee was Tara Beckett, for teaching a Religious Education class and for extensive help

on the Finance Committee. Families are always invited to come to see their family member honored on May Friendship Day.

This year the celebration is on Friday, May 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 2004 Philo Road, Urbana. It is hoped that holding this event in the evening will enable many parishioners to attend.



## New food pantry open for business

"No steps!" is what Sophia Ziegler emphatically likes most about the reconfigured food pantry that opened last month for clients of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Sophia referred to the fact that food items will no longer be stored in the basement. All will now be stored in the new pantry, in the Parish Center's south hallway on the west side. Food is delivered to the pantry through that entrance. Although soup is still prepared in the parish kitchen, it then is moved to the new location.

The pantry has shelving, cabinets, and even a refrigerator-freezer.

Clients enter through the south doors and are served from a Dutch door with counter.

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers like how much easier food is to store, prepare, and distribute. Since these procedures are centralized, volunteers can bag the food at the distribution point itself.

Another plus of the new arrangement is that other parish groups no longer have to share the kitchen's

refrigerator and freezer with the SVDP pantry.

Fr. Joe Hogan initiated the project with a request to the Building and Grounds Committee, and all the members readily went to work. Skilled labor was donated by carpenters Kai Nielsen and Dave Palmisano, electrician Chuck Shaw, and plumber Mark Cousert, together with the many others who volunteered their manual and skilled labor, turning offices into a light and bright, well-organized food pantry. SVDP members and volunteers thank you all!



*Nearing completion, the food pantry would be in operation just a few days later!*

## Who wrote the Prayer of St. Francis?

The Prayer of St. Francis is especially familiar to St. Patrick's parishioners just now as the prayer used in Lent during the Disciples in Mission program. The prayer ("Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...") does have a connection to St. Francis of Assisi, but probably not the one you expect.

The earliest appearance of this prayer was in 1912 in *La Clochette* (The Little Bell), a magazine founded by a French priest, Fr. Bouquerel. The prayer was entitled "A Beautiful Prayer to Say during the Mass." No author was given; it may have been written by Fr. Bouquerel.

The prayer became popular during World War I and in the years that followed. It was published in the Vatican's daily newspaper in 1916. Around 1920, a French Franciscan priest printed a holy card with a picture of St. Francis of Assisi on one side and the prayer, now entitled "A Prayer for Peace," on the other side. What may have been the first English translation of the prayer appeared in 1936 in "Living Courageously," by Kirby Page, a minister of the Disciples of Christ. The call to peace and selflessness resonates with people of many faiths.



*Welcome to new parishioners Jon and Shelly Benson, Betty Blanco, Blaise Kafulu, Sean Kilian, and Fiona Weingarten.*

*Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Ashley Einck, Josephine Fleming, and Arden and Cathy Howey.*

*Welcome to the following, recently baptized into our faith community: Mary Louise Tavis, Marissa Kate Altaner, Jeramiah A. Pettigrew, Dane Julian Taylor, Kaitlyn Nicole Valentine, and Elizabeth Jane Stubbers.*

*Please pray for deceased parishioners Henry Tang and Ruth Lowry.*

*Also remember in your prayers the very many seriously and chronically ill members of our parish, whom the "Privacy Act" prevents us from naming here.*



## Passing on the Faith

There are many reasons for the choices of patron saints made by the young people on retreat preparing for their Confirmation on May 2 at St. Patrick's this year. For many, their family's influence counted heavily. This was certainly true for Clair Taggart; the saint that she chose as her patron is Ann, the mother of Mary: "She represents the passing of faith through generations. My grandmother's name is Anna." Maddie Blair, who chose St. Michael the Archangel, wrote, "Michael signifies 'who is like God,' and that sounds like my dad." Grant Cinker also selected a saint with a family connection: "I picked St. Denis because it's my stepdad's name, and I look up to him." Another confirmand wrote, "I chose St. Sebastian because he is the patron of athletes. My grandpa, who was a great athlete, is my hero so (I chose him) in memory of my grandpa."

Some of the confirmands selected a saint on the basis of a shared hobby or interest. Peter Floess chose St. Francis of Assisi because "he was canonized quickly, he was generous, and he liked animals."

Many have been inspired by the way saints lived their lives. Mitchell Blair picked St. Alexander because "he was a martyr, he died for his beliefs. Even though he knew that he was going to die, he still hung on. As he witnessed his friend dying, he stayed strong and stood up for his beliefs, knowing that he would be a strong example for others to follow." One confirmand wrote, "I picked St. Joan of Arc because she represents the courage I have had to have at times in my life." Brianna Oliver's patron saint is Isabel: "I really respect the fact that she devoted her life to God by becoming a nun. She is a great inspiration." Laura Kammel says, "I picked St. Maria Goretti because she was so brave and always forgiving."

As Confirmation draws near, Emily's words about continuing on in her faith journey are filled with hope: "I am being confirmed because I've grown up Catholic.... I don't completely agree with everything the Catholic Church does, but I like the community of the Church and the Faith. And maybe I can stay with the Church and help influence it and make it even better." We hope you do, Emily, we hope you do!



Confirmation candidates gathered after 5 p.m. Mass on Apr. 1 for last-minute instructions from Peggy Loftus, assisted by Mark Cousert, before heading out for their overnight retreat.

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.

**Editorial board:** Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradymarylbrady@aol.com); Frances Drone-Silvers, 398-1458 (francesds@yahoo.com); Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@insightbb.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uillinois.edu); Margaret Stewart, 356-9475 (mkestewart@aol.com); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

**Associates:** Juanita Blanco, Carol Bosley, Artha Chamberlain, Betty Christian, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Dave and Cole Grabow, Cheryl Mitchell, Ellen Noonan, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, John Towns, Jim Urban, Nancera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle.

**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Jan Callahan, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Mary Fonner, Joe Hinchliffe, Carri Hunter, Pat Justice, Quentin Kirk, Mary Lou Menches, Jean McDonald, Carolyn McElrath, Alice McLaughlin, Cheryl Mitchell, Sharon Monday Dorsey, Ellen Noonan, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Sandy Pijanowski, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Margaret Stewart, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John Colombo.

## Letter from our Sister Parish

6<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Dear Joseph [Youakim],

I would like to send you and through you to the parish priest and the Parish Council, my deep feelings of thanks and appreciation, for three days ago on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April I received the cheque which I deposited in the parish bank account. It will take 40 days to receive the money in the account, as they told me.

A member of our parish council is Mr. Suhail Daibes, the person responsible for all my contact letters, including this letter. He will be responsible on behalf of me and the parish council for all communications with you and your parish council through my e-mail and address.

Let me share with you and your parish our news, activities, and future projects:

- Last week we accomplished a 40-hour adoration. Each family was responsible for one hour.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March we prayed for the rest of Fr. Abdennour's soul on the six month anniversary of his death.
- We have held several meetings in order to institute a parish council.
- Our scout group has a full board of activities!
- For Easter we gathered about \$500 through our activities, such as the poor box in the church, to offer to poor families on Easter.
- We are helping about 60 students in paying their school fees in our parish school, which has about 900 students.

Summer Activities:

- Summer camp through our youth association.
- 35 Scout members will visit Italy in the summer.

Future Projects:

- Nowadays Mr. Suhail Daibes ( Fr. Abdennour's nephew) is working in our school beginning from this scholastic year. He is translating and writing on behalf of me all the parish and my relations and contacts, so we intend to compose and institute a parish secretariat or office in order to assist me as parish priest. This project needs about \$5000 for furniture, equipment, and one year's salaries.
- Changing all the light system of the church.
- Creating and constructing a modern sound system for the church.

These are some of our news, activities, and projects which I am happy to share with you since we consider ourselves with you as one family.

I will take this chance to tell you all HAPPY EASTER and may the almighty God bless you all.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Nidal Qatma,  
Beit-Jala Parish Priest



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

#### *Pat Justice*

#### **Crockpot Pizza**

- 1 lb ground round
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 pkg pepperoni
- 1 can mushrooms
- 1 can spaghetti sauce
- 1 can pizza sauce
- 1 bag "Kluski" noodles
- Grated mozzarella cheese
- Grated cheddar cheese



Cook noodles following directions on the bag. Brown meat, onion, and green pepper. Add sauces and mushrooms, and simmer for a few minutes. Layer in crockpot: meat, noodles, cheese, and pepperoni. Cook on low until cheese melts.





# St. Patrick's Parish

# Urbana, IL

# May 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7pm Pro-Life 7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Ed. Com	9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Confirmation	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 6:30pm Rel Ed St. Joseph 7pm Social Action	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Building & Grounds	10:45am Mass CCNH	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Rel Ed Picnic CREW Picnic 10:30am Children's Liturgy	7pm Centering Prayer	4:30pm Parish Council Exec Com.	9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7pm Choir 7pm Social Action Memorial Prayer Service	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Comm. Service CCNH	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am HS Graduation Mass	7pm Centering Prayer	7pm Liturgy	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council 7pm Choir	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 10:15pm K of C	7pm Centering Prayer		9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Choir 7pm Communications	10:45am Mass CCNH	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<b>Memorial Day</b> 7pm Centering Prayer 9am Mass and Breakfast		9am Moms UIP 7pm Choir	<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 May 14.</p>		
28	29	30	31			