

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Transformed by love

Many of our Lenten liturgies have begun with a refrain from a song by Lori True: "Turn, turn to the living God, the God of healing and comfort / and with delight, God will turn to you / with delight, God will turn to you." The readings and prayers of Lent invite us to make this change of heart, this conversion. But the process of conversion does not stop at Easter.

The lectionary readings of the Easter season describe a young Church facing many challenges: unsympathetic local authorities, tensions between Jewish and Gentile believers and an ever-growing number of increasingly far-flung believers. These issues would easily have been too much to handle, were it not for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the willingness of the early Church leaders to be transformed as they turned anew to God.

Thomas was transformed from the man who claimed "unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands...I will not believe" to one who joyfully proclaimed "My Lord and my God!" Paul was transformed from a person

who persecuted Christians to a person who traveled the Middle East to preach on Christ's behalf. Peter was transformed from the man who fearfully denied Christ three times to one who boldly told off members of the Sanhedrin and rejoiced that he had been found worthy to suffer on Christ's behalf. What sorts of transformations await us if we turn to God and allow ourselves to be changed?

Those who gathered to reflect on scripture readings for the Easter season discerned the following theme: "Transformed by God's continuing revelation, we have the courage to live a renewed life of love." Throughout this Easter season listen again to the tales of our ancestors—the miraculous return of Jesus, the Revelation of John, the deeds of the early Church—as we continue to live in the love God has called us to live.



Focus on Parish Community Life Ministries

On Apr. 28-29 parishioners are invited to celebrate the many ways we can build up community—Christ's body—and combat forces that threaten to tear it down, alienating and isolating members of that body. Focus on the many Parish Community Life Ministries reveals the many ways St. Patrick's approaches community building.

Through the parish newsletter, *St. Patrick's Parish In Focus*, **Communications** informs parishioners about parish individuals, groups, and activities, and for the wider Catholic community sends information about parish events to *The Catholic Post*.

The **Web Site Committee** provides information online about St. Patrick's Parish, its organization and events, and opportunities for ministry.

Through the efforts of the

Welcome Team, recently registered members of the parish are given a warm welcome, are acquainted with the rich opportunities for participating in the mainstream of parish life, and invited to upcoming events.

The **Knights of Columbus**, a fraternal organization, supports many local community and parish projects and bring parishioners together through such offerings as their annual Lenten fish fries, pancake breakfasts, Super Bowl Breakfast, and Ladies Knight Out.



More than “just banners”

What is “good liturgy”? There are probably as many answers to the question as there are people answering. What makes liturgy good or meaningful or spiritually enriching differs for everyone. Yet there are some elements that are important to all. Liturgy must engage all of our senses and call us to be more than observers, to be drawn into the celebration as active participants.

St. Patrick’s Liturgical Arts Team plays an important role in the whole of liturgy. When our eyes are drawn to the space around us, our hearts are inspired to go deeper into the mystery we celebrate. The team is charged with the task of drawing us into the sacred by enhancing our worship space, beginning outside the main doors, leading through the body of the church, and culminating at the altar. With each new liturgical season the group works to prepare the church environment so that it will inspire us to enter more fully into the spirit of the season. These gifted people share their time and talent with the community in a way that makes our worship space more inspiring, more peaceful, more prayerful, one that calls us to worship.

Jan Callahan, facilitator of the group, says: “We are a team that brings together individual artistic abilities, ideas, and any other talents we possess.” Team member Mary Lou Menches says, “The atmosphere that has developed in the group really encourages the free flow of ideas and suggestions, the amicable distribution of tasks, mutual support, acceptance of whatever each can do that moves the work forward to completion.” Susan Reese describes the process this way: “Someone will lay out a color or object. Then we’ll turn it over, crunch it up, move it next to another color many times, or discard it completely. Once we have our idea, we all get busy cutting, gluing, wiring, etc. We work very well at helping each other.” It is difficult to argue with the beauty and inspiration of the final products.

Meet the team

Jan Callahan, facilitator: “I had

been a facilitator for a Liturgical Arts Team in Texas and volunteered to continue that position here. As facilitator, I attend the Worship Ministries Team meetings, set up the work space, and e-mail the team about various matters.”

Erin Baxley became a member of the parish family recently. “Liturgical Arts appealed to me because I teach junior high and high school art and have always enjoyed creating things. I think it is wonderful that St. Pat’s values creating a good environment for worship, and I enjoy being a part of this group.”

Becky Billman has a strong arts background that includes drawing, ceramics, art history, with an emphasis on 3-D design and sculpture. “Working on [the team] provides me with a very constructive creative outlet. The other members are great to work with. It is challenging to find creative and artistic ways to enhance the Liturgy.”

Kay Evans is unable to attend meetings but helps with any stitching and sewing needs of the group, which enables her to participate from home.

Mary Ann Luedtke, also unable to participate in meetings, assists the group by picking up the memorial bouquets for the altar, purchasing flowers for special liturgical seasons, and in any number of other ways.

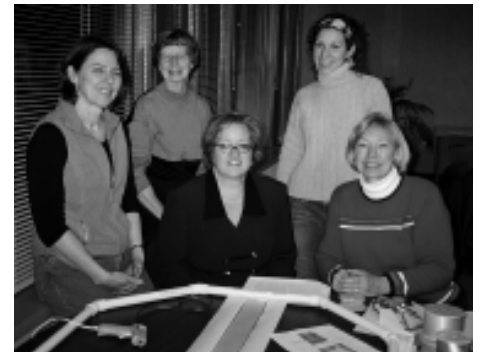
Ann McDowell is a watercolor artist and graphic designer. “Since we joined St. Pat’s I have admired the liturgical banners and decorations in the church and decided that I would enjoy working on this committee. Working on such a large scale is challenging but fun and interesting.”

Mary Lou Menches says her role “generally comes down to sharing ideas and information, offering suggestions, making photocopies, running errands, and (sometimes) being entrusted with a pair of scissors to cut out patterns and with handing materials to someone else who does creative things with them.”

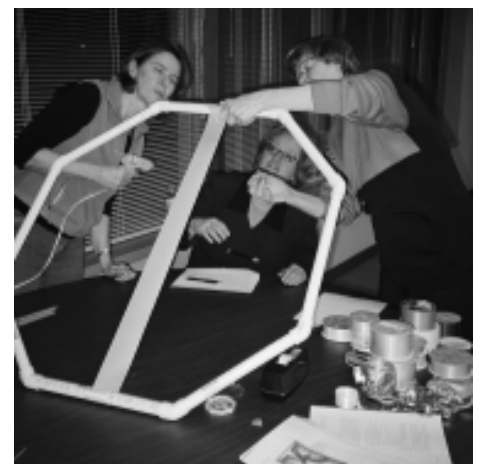
Susan Reese, a member of the 9:00 choir for many years, says that “the physical surroundings have also been important for me. I hope I can

help enhance that experience for me and others by serving on the Liturgical Arts Team. I have always been a seamstress. I also enjoy doing crafts and flower arrangements. [The team] is a way I can use some of my creative ideas within a group that helps to guide my decisions.”

Fr. George Wuellner, a retired priest of the Peoria Diocese and a member of our parish family, may be remembered from the days that he and Fr. Bob Reynolds collaborated on “Graffiti on Cathedral Walls,” a column in *The Catholic Post*, and for his lovable clerical creation, Rev. J. Eustace Wolfinger. Fr. George is an artist/liturgist who offered his assistance when he learned that “one needn’t have a Ph.D. to help.”



Liturgical Arts Team (clockwise, from the left) Ann McDowell, Jan Callahan, Erin Baxley, Susan Reese, and Becky Billman. Not shown: Kay Evans, Mary Ann Luedtke, Mary Lou Menches (photographer), and Fr. George Wuellner.



Getting started on the central Easter piece for the sanctuary is tricky, as Ann, Becky, and Jan discover.

Calling all catechists

Is this a calling you have heard yourself? Do you know what a catechist is? Did you know that St. Patrick's has a large staff of teachers who work every week with our kids teaching them about their faith?

"Sunday School," "Religious Education," "CCD," "church school"—all of these are names for the classes we hold for children aged 3-18. Our classes are open to all children, be they home-schooled, public-schooled, Catholic-schooled, private-schooled, or in special education. We teach the fundamentals of Catholicism, how to live as a Christian, how to be a brother or sister to everyone, and how to respect oneself and others.

Does this sound like a big job? It is! Our teachers have a wide range of experience in teaching, but the one thing they all have in common is their commitment to our children and our faith. Teaching the Catholic faith to our children is the most important thing we can do to develop responsible, Christian adults. As Jeanine

Berlocher (fifth-grade teacher) writes, "Hopefully, my students will be able to remember some of what I present in class, but what I am sure of is what I have learned about our faith in preparing for class and that it's a great privilege (even if also a challenge) to be together with these young people on part of their faith journey."

We need help though; this is not something we can do on our own—we need lots of dedicated volunteers! We won't kid you, it takes planning and preparation during the week, as well as teaching time on Sundays. But as Jeanine says, as you teach the kids about their faith, you get a better understanding of your own faith. If this is something that speaks to



you, please call to ask questions. We offer training and help to all our volunteers—it isn't a sink-or-swim experience! We would like to have a full staff of teachers before summer this year so that we can offer more training and better organization for our volunteers.

And we ask for a two-year commitment to ensure consistency. If you have questions about the religious education of our school-aged children, please call Suzanne D'Andria (531-7015) or Peggy Loftus (531-7016). We would be delighted to talk with you about this calling that you hear!

St. Patrick's presents...

Harmony, Hope & Healing

Harmony, Hope, and Healing is a creative music program offering dignity and spiritual healing to the homeless and underserved in the Chicago area. Returning for a repeat performance on the weekend of Apr. 21-22, our friends from the *Choir of Hope* will share their gift of music and witnessing with St. Patrick's parishioners at several Masses (5:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday) and at a special Concert

& Dessert on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Under the direction of founder Marge Nykaza, this weekend event is the perfect opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy wonderful music and fellowship in support of a program that ministers to families from Chicago shelters and community outreach programs. Mark your calendars now, because you will not want to miss this outstanding event. Watch the bulletin for more information as the time draws near.

There is no cost for the Saturday evening Concert & Dessert, but you will have an opportunity to support this worthwhile program with a free-will offering. As Marge says, "In a world filled with hostility—we sing a song of hope."



Mark your calendar now for the **Disciples in Mission finale** at the close of Year 3! A celebratory event will be held on Thursday, May 24—anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick's church. Everyone is invited to a Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner and an opportunity to share your three-year Disciples in Mission experience. Whether you participated through sharing in a small group or by praying and/or using the weekly bulletin inserts, you are invited to take part in this final celebration!

Good Samaritans: People helping people

Peace and Justice

“St. Pat’s parishioners helping parishioners” is how Carla Simmering describes the Good Samaritans. St. Patrick’s Good Samaritans volunteers can be any age, and families can easily volunteer together. They provide occasional assistance to others in a variety of ways.

What kinds of help? You name it! They may take someone to the doctor, get groceries, pick up medications, run an errand, sit with someone at the hospital to give a sick person’s family a break...the possibilities are endless. What they have in common, though, is that the needs are short-term and once in a while. And, of course, the volunteers make life easier for a fellow parishioner.



Carla coordinates a group of about 15 volunteers now, and she would be delighted to have more.

Volunteers are asked what kinds of things they’d be willing to do. Some kinds of help are needed during the day, such as taking someone to an appointment, but others can be done at any time.

Margaret Oakes called on the Good Samaritans to help her and her husband, Wayne, get to medical appointments. “We have no family here in town, but Carla and her volunteers make us feel like we have a family at St. Patrick’s. We’ve met many wonderful people through Good Samaritans.”

If you’d like to volunteer for the Good Samaritans, or would like to call on them for help, call Carla Simmering (328-4841) or leave word at the parish office (367-2665).

the prominence of the Easter Triduum (from the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday through evening prayer on Easter Sunday) was restored.

When the imminent publication of the third edition of the Roman Missal was announced in 2000, various suggestions were proposed for adaptation in the United States. One of these concerned the veiling of statues at the end of Lent. In 2001, the U.S. bishops’ conference approved the practice as optional, and this decision was confirmed by Rome the following year.

At St. Patrick’s the statues and art are not covered during Lent. On Good Friday a purple cloth with the image of a crown of thorns veils *The Rising Christ* that hangs above the altar. Thus one cross, and only one cross, is the focus of our veneration during the events of the Lord’s Passion that we commemorate on that day.

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

What’s up with CREW?

A first for religious education teens this year is Vocations Night, Apr. 15, when teens and their parents will hear presentations on the meaning of “vocation” in its broader sense as well as that of a calling to a specific way of life, such as consecrated life as priest or religious, married life, or the single state. They will hear from religious men and women on why they elected to follow their chosen way of life and from college students from the Newman Center who are trying to discern whether a consecrated life as priest or religious is right for them.

With the realization that everyone chooses a way of life eventually, the evening should give teens plenty to think about!



Q: Didn’t we used to cover statues in the church during the last two weeks of Lent? Why don’t we do that now?

A: Yes, until the liturgical reforms of the late 1960s, one of the great visual impacts associated with Lent (and prescribed by the rubrics of the time) was the practice of covering crosses and statues during the last two weeks of Lent—from the Fifth Sunday of Lent (formerly known as “Passion Sunday I”) until the singing of the Gloria at the Easter Vigil. This was one of the ways of marking the two weeks before Easter Sunday as a special period called “Passiontide.”

In the Middle Ages, when the cross became a richly jeweled emblem of triumph, the custom arose of hiding it from view during Passiontide. The Lenten veiling of statues and sacred art was done to present a strong image of exile and of sorrow for sin.

With the liturgical reforms, however, this Lenten veiling was done away with. Any reference to “Passiontide” was simply omitted and



VOCATION PRAYER

Dear God, please help people to hear their calling to a life of loving service to you. Our world is in desperate need of the guidance and support given to us by priests and religious. Through them we understand how we can truly live as your people. Please help us to keep our hearts pure and open to all possibilities as we seek how we can best respond to your call to service. We love you and appreciate everything you do for us. Amen.

From an eighth-grader

Parish Council News

The hundreds of St. Patrick's parishioners who give their time in one or more of the parish ministries will be honored with a special event in April, decided by the Parish Council planned at its March meeting.



The Ministry Appreciation event, scheduled for Saturday, Apr. 28, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., will include dinner and entertainment. Invitations will be sent to parishioners who are active participants in any of the parish's six ministries.

The Parish Council also discussed the annual ministry signup, slated to take place in September. Mary Karten suggested the Council look into having individual ministries recruit separately, at different times of the year, rather than all on one weekend. Other suggestions included a Ministry

Fair. To give young people a voice in parish affairs, it was suggested that the Council create a one-year "youth appointment" to the Parish Council, with the observation that a three-

year commitment—the usual Council term of membership—is a long time for a high-school or college-aged person to dedicate to the Council. The suggestion will be discussed further at a future meeting. Nominations are currently being sought for three Parish Council positions that are to be filled in a parish-wide election Apr. 28-29.

During ministry reports, Kathy Sarnecki announced that the parish library team plans to set up a box for a "forgiveness drive," during which people can easily return parish library

books that are long overdue. A date for this will be set later. It was also noted that Mary Long and Carolyn McElrath are planning to bring the Great Adventure Bible Study to the parish next fall. This Bible study, which has a Catholic focus, will be offered when the Community Bible Study is not in session.

During his report, Fr. Joe Hogan mentioned that some Carle employees who park in the parish parking lot during the workday are not leaving the parking spots vacant when signs are posted announcing a funeral. He said he is working to address this problem. He also announced that a farewell celebration in honor of Sr. Charlene is planned for Jun. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 19. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Parish Council will hold parish-wide elections Apr. 28-29

Candidates are sought to fill the three places vacated by outgoing Council members Joseph Youakim, Randy Pankau, and current president Jerry Pijanowski. A candidate for election to Parish Council should be a registered parishioner of St. Patrick's—a person of prayer who is willing to serve this parish community for a three-year term.

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of each month from August through June. Each member of the Council serves either as an officer or as a leadership team member for one of the six areas of ministry: worship, faith development, spiritual enrichment, peace and justice, community life, and stewardship.

The Council works closely with our pastor to address the concerns of both parish staff and parishioners in providing an environment in which understanding and love can flourish, effectively fulfilling the work of the Church here on earth in

the time in which we live.

This year the Parish Council has focused on

- spending time together in prayer immediately preceding each Council meeting
- implementing the ministry restructuring, which will allow for improved communication within ministry areas, under a common vision
- updating the current Constitution and By-Laws of the Council
- supporting the work and recommendations of the Second Century Advisory Committee, which is assessing the usage/needs of our church and parish center

The nominating committee is currently preparing a slate of candidates. If you wish to be considered a candidate for this election, please contact Kathy Sarnecki at 469-7639 ASAP, so that your name and information can be

included on the printed ballot. Printed information on each candidate will be distributed to parishioners following Masses on Apr. 21-22, the weekend before the election is to take place.



What?
Parish Council election; 3 vacancies to be filled, each a 3-year term

When?
April 28-29

Where?
In the church, before the dismissal at all weekend Masses

How?
Photo ballots will be distributed

Every registered parishioner at least 16 years of age may vote, one vote per candidate for no more than three candidates

Ballots will be collected before the close of each Mass and tabulated by members of the election committee

Ringling in the Year of the Pig

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Vietnamese members of St. Patrick's parish celebrated Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. An invitation was issued to all the members of St. Patrick's to join in the festivities, and many non-Vietnamese parishioners responded. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the culture and traditions of this important part of our community.

The celebration began with a Mass in Vietnamese and English complete with a Vietnamese choir. Vietnamese members of the assembly presented Fr. Joe with a bouquet of roses for his care and concern for them through the years.

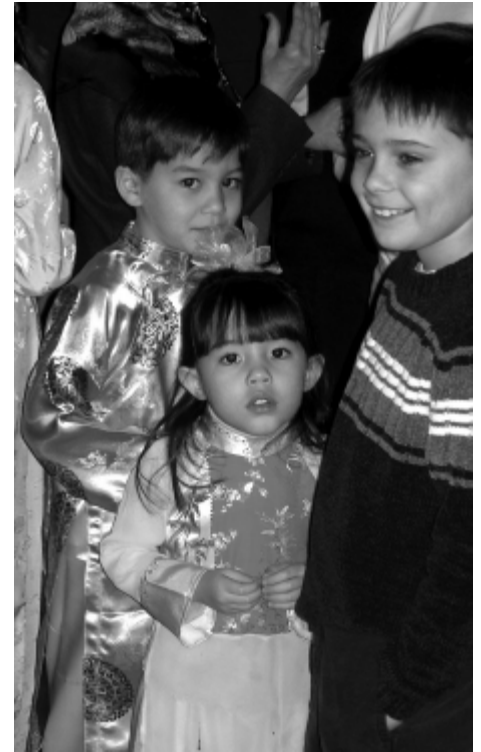
Color and sound were the watchwords of the evening! Dancers covered in bright red silk—the first one in line sporting a large papier-mâché dragon's head—opened the festivities with the fanciful Dragon Dance to the beat of drums. The eyes of children and adults alike were wide with wonder. Following the dance, children under 12 were given a small red envelope containing a dollar—their “lucky money” for the coming year. Later, a group of young women who had been training hard for this night performed a dance with small feathered fans that created ever-changing patterns on the stage.

Many women wore the traditional ao dai (pronounced ow yî, which is

translated “long dress”) in richly colored silks or brocade, covered with embroidery. All were dressed for a true New Year's Eve celebration. A light fixture suspended in the middle of the room threw swirling colored lights over the scene. The social hall was filled to capacity with celebrants, but there was a mountain of delicious food available and everyone ate their fill of traditional fare.

Following dinner the entertainment began with Fr. Hoa, who sang a lovely song for the crowd in Vietnamese. Little did we know that we had such a talented crooner among us! Other members of the community sang and danced for the enjoyment of all.

At the end of the evening the consensus was that the St. Patrick's community and the local Vietnamese community had welcomed the Year of the Pig in grand style!



Vietnamese will celebrate Easter together

The Vietnamese Catholics of St. Patrick's and the larger community will gather on Easter Sunday, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, beginning with the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, followed by Mass at 5:00 p.m., and afterward adjourning to the parish hall for food, fellowship, and an overall good time.

According to Fr. Hoa Pham, who will preside at the Mass and speak on "A Time to Rejoice," a potluck will be served in the main hall, and "Vietnamese songs will certainly be heard!"

Ministries from page 1

Known for their locally popular Cellar-to-Garret Sale, **St. Patrick's Guild** members also care for the church and its sacred vessels and vestments, provide meals for family and friends of the deceased after a funeral, help to assemble nursing-home residents for Mass on Fridays, and coordinate the parish's twice-a-year participation in the Meals-on-Wheels program.

The **Seniors Group** brings our "golden-agers" together several times a year for good food, good conversation, and good fun.

Many of the special parish events we remember with a smile are organized by members of the **Social Committee**—such as the recent two-day celebration of our patron, St. Patrick. Although the events offered

may vary from year to year, they bring us together for a good time as a faith community to meet, enjoy, and appreciate one another.

Coffee Shop, open after 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses, provides the opportunity for parishioners to socialize—to catch up on the week's events in the lives of friends and to make new friends.

All of these groups exist to build up the faith community of St. Patrick's. Although a number of parishioners work together in their efforts to achieve this goal, each group eagerly welcomes participation by other volunteers interested in sharing new ideas or in lending a hand. You can find many opportunities for sharing your gifts of time and talent in Parish Community Life ministries!

Dirt Roads in Mexico

From our village to nearby mountains we walk a dirt road - curves and wanderings, dips, and rises, like a human body, bordered always by flowering weeds.

Footprint and tire track stories begin after each rain a new chapter in an old tale.

Children dream-walk with us listening, watching, posing unconsciously a thousand times for imaginary photos in a coffee table book of ancient tranquility.

Each fence post, a weathered tree branch, tells a story of its life as a limb - each post a poem.

Children ask for the far-off-word, the English word, for this or that. Birds float in high meditation circles. Two dogs tag along and at each group decision seem to say: "whatever."

Oh the awful deep down torrent, deities of dirt roads, outeries of time, tears of mortality.

~New and unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk



Welcome to new parishioners Jackie Le, Solange Masweka, Esperance Mbulu, Aaron Phelps, B. J. and Misty Thomey, and Eileen Unander.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Joan and Rich Castell, Celeste Faris, David and Sandy Lucas, Maggie Rimel, and Mary and Richard Walczak.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Collin Thomey, Aidan Walker Ashbrook, Antoni Edward Poters, Michael Quinn McCoy, William Besson, and Grace Moriarty Chambers.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Tina Cinker and Dennis DeMoss, and Jacob Raymond Slaminko and Tara Nicole Lynch.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Barbara Redlinski.

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

CREW auction a lively affair

The annual auction of items and services provided by CREW members, their families, and friends, was held during Coffee Shop after the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses on Mar. 11. Parishioners supported the teens' efforts by their enthusiastic bidding in response to auctioneer Steve Beckett's encouragement, raising approximately \$6100 for the summer Mission trip.



The Holy Cross Holler!

By Gracie Mayer

“76 trombones lead the big parade” with 135 Holy Cross students right behind!

This month’s article features our upcoming musical at Holy Cross. Our spring musical is called “The Music Man.” This is a show about a cunning and quick-witted salesman named Harold Hill. He is a con man who comes to the town of River City, Iowa, to sell the town band instruments, music, and uniforms to start a boys band. He takes a liking to the town’s librarian, Marian Paroo. She is about the only one in the town not wrapped around his finger, and has suspicions about what he’s up to. This show is jam packed with great group numbers that showcase all of the talent at Holy Cross and are lots of fun!

All the plays through the years have been phenomenal experiences! It’s so great to meet new people not in your grade, and work together to make something to be proud of! It’s so neat to see new kids trying out for the play, see how much fun it is and really get into it. Everyone gets a chance to participate and no one’s left out. Thirty St. Pat’s kids that attend Holy Cross are in this year’s play!

Now this is going to sound like an Emmy speech, but none of this could come off without all the stellar parent volunteers! There are many areas where parent volunteers help. They help with child wrangling (I think they should get paid for this), building the set, playing in the pit orchestra, helping with props, stage managing, sound effects and equipment, lights, make-up, costuming and so much more!

The theatre program at Holy Cross is one of my favorite things, and something I look forward to each year.



It’s a great way to get to meet new people and get involved! The dates for “The Music Man” are Apr. 12-15 in the Holy Cross Gymnasium.

A terrific time travel

These past months the sixth-graders have been preparing to transform our school into a medieval village and take us back in time! They used the fifth- and sixth-grade hallways and classrooms to create their medieval village. Each room had a different class and group in the social pyramid of medieval times: lords, ladies, kings, queens, bakers, knights, blacksmiths, monks, and jesters. In each room one of the historic figures led an interactive activity, such as a scavenger hunt to find the Queen’s Crown, arranging the social pyramid, learning a medieval dance, or catapulting a little pom-pom at a valiant knight. (I didn’t think the pom-pom was quite historically correct, but safety first!) I had an awesome time watching the sixth-graders use what they learned and put it into a fun and exciting day full of humor and engaging activities!

Mad Scientist mania

For four months our sixth-graders have not only been running around in tights and tunics and studying

historical figures, but they have been working individually on science experiments. There were four parts to complete: researching and gathering facts on the topic of their choice, completing an experiment, typing a thorough packet on their topic (Table of Contents, Purpose, Hypothesis, Fact, Materials, Procedures, Results, Logs/Graphs, Conclusion, and Bibliography), and presenting an oral report to the class with a board displaying their findings and discoveries. Finally, they went over to the parish center and held a science fair, where they set up their boards and answered questions about their topics. The science fair was a great success—they all did a rockin’ good job!

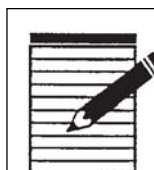
Holy Cross Dates to Remember

April

- 6 No School
- 9 No School
- 11 Boxtop Collection
- 12-15 “The Music Man”
- 20 All School Mass
- 23-28 Eighth-Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.
- 26 Fourth-Grade Trip to Springfield
- 27 Fifth-Grade Visit to Carle Arbours/Circle of Friends
- 28 Market Day
- 28 HC Event at YMCA
- 30 No School; Teacher Institute

May

- 1-4 Teacher Appreciation
- 4 May Crowning
- 5 First Communion at Holy Cross



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is April 15.

New "everything" for dining at St. Patrick's!

You may have noticed by now the new table settings used for parish events. St. Patrick's Guild recently purchased new dinner plates, bread plates, cups and saucers, salt and pepper shakers, and sugar bowls and creamers, as well as new glasses and tableware, to replace those that have been used for more years than



some can remember. Packing up the old to make room for the new was quite a job, but the Catholic Worker House and Habitat for Humanity were happy recipients of the former dinnerware. Putting the new in place was no easy task either, calling for a major reorganization of kitchen storage!

St. Thomas More's Saber Stories

"Secret Garden" tickets: **Purchase online now!** Over 60 cast and crew members are hard at work rehearsing for their production of "The Secret Garden," with performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Mar. 29-31. This musical adaptation of the beloved classic combines a cast of unforgettable characters and a beautiful score for a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Tickets may be purchased with a credit card online (hs-stm.org/play/index.php) or reserved by calling 353-5197.

Once in a Blue Moon. The High School of Saint Thomas More 2007 Annual Spring Gala presents *Once in a Blue Moon* on Saturday, Apr. 21. The STM Annual Spring Gala is the largest, most extravagant special event produced by the school each year, providing an extraordinary atmosphere of decor, music, and thematic surprises. A gourmet meal from Classic Events Catering and complimentary bar service are included. Net proceeds from live and silent auctions and unique raffles are

used to fund student programs. For more information, see www.hs-stm.org/gala/index.php

STM Soccer Club 14-0 for the season. The STM Soccer Club closed out the indoor season on Sunday, Mar. 11, with an 8-4 victory over Macon-Meridian. The Sabers finished the season, going 14-0 and outscoring their opponents 96-38. Congratulations!

Renewing the Vision/Teens Encounter Christ Adult Retreat. In the hope of beginning a new TEC program in the Champaign-Urbana area, The High School of St. Thomas More will host a "Renewing the Vision" retreat weekend Apr. 28-30 for adults and college students. Previous TEC experience is not required, although former members of TEC are encouraged to attend as there have been numerous changes to the program. For more information call Fr Joe Dondanville (352-7210). Registration information will soon be available on the school's Web site (www.hs-stm.org).

Volunteer Opportunities

Help nursing-home residents assemble for Mass on Fridays. *St. Patrick's Guild:* Sandy Anderson, 469-2416

Co-chair the popular Cellar-to-Garret Sale, or coordinate one aspect of the sale. *St. Patrick's Guild:* Carla and Bill Simmering, 328-4841; Susan Hublein, 384-8356

Give the Lord's Body and Blood to others as a Eucharistic minister at Mass. *Worship Ministries Team:* Patricia Fowler, 351-7578; Chris Ángel, 531-7003

Assist the priest during Mass as an altar server. *Worship Ministries Team:* Steve Johnson, 356-1807; Chris Ángel, 531-7003

Share your faith with children and teens as a catechist in the parish religious education program. *Children's program:* Suzanne D'Andria, 531-7015; *Youth program:* Peggy Loftus, 531-7016



Parish groups can 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.



in our parish library

Spring, Easter, and New Life

There are many rituals associated with the spring season. The practice of marking the first day of spring is but one symbol of our shared cravings for the beauty we are looking for in the tiniest of examples in our environment as the season approaches. The snow melts away, flowers will soon bloom, trees will bud, and soon there will be new life all around us.

Every year we wait patiently for the promised beauty to come, and soon after the season of spring begins, Easter arrives—the principal feast of the Church year. Spring and the Easter season remind us of the resumption of life, gives us reason to reflect on the gift of sacrifice and the promise of new life. The following resources carry out these themes:

Three Days: Parish Prayer in the Paschal Triduum, by Gabe Huck (263.2 Huc)

Days of Glory, by R. Murphy (232.96 Mur)

Easter Vigil, by Gail Ramshaw and Linda Ekstrom, illustrator (232 Ram)
Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life, by Henri J. Nouwen (236 Nou)

Joy, by Louis Evely (242.3 Eve)
Just for the Kids: Painted Easter Eggs, by R. Albrecht (262.2 Alb)

On-line articles

“Easter Calls Us to Resurrection – Our Own,” by Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB (www.natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2001b/040601/040601h.htm)

On making Resurrection Eggs (www.easyfunschool.com/article2110.html)

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If you have trouble locating books or other materials in the library or want to know whether the library has a book about something of interest to you, please call Allison Sutton (351-8663), parish librarian. She will be happy to help.

The nonviolent way.

Jesus' way (Jn 18:33-66, Matt 26:53) is the way without curses, weapons, violence, or power. For him there are no countries to be conquered, no ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only children, women, and men to be loved. And love does not use weapons. Love is not made manifest in power but in powerlessness.

~From Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community, by Henri Nouwen



St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Written materials must include the name and telephone number of the writer.

Please leave news items in the Communications Committee mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Chris Ángel, Suzanne D'Andria, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Mary Karten, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Gracie Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Fr. Hoa Pham, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Tony Schutz, Allison Sutton, and John Towns. Photos by Dean Olson, Carol Mosca, Mary Lou Menches, and Kristi Turner. This issue was edited by John Towns and pagged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mrs. Herman Powell

Here's a dessert with a little history to top off your Easter dinner. The following recipe is taken from Urbana's Own Cook Book, published by "St. Patrick's Altar & Rosary Society" in 1950-51. Our thanks to Mrs. Herman Powell-and to Bea Ellsworth, who recently rediscovered this historic publication!

Lemon Cake Pudding

1/4 c sifted cake flour
 1 c sugar



1/4 t salt
 1-1/2 t grated lemon rind
 1/4 c lemon juice
 2 eggs
 1 c milk

Sift dry ingredients together. Stir in lemon rind, juice, well-beaten egg yolks, and milk. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into 8-inch casserole, set in pan of hot water. Bake 40-45 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve warm or cold, plain or with whipped cream.