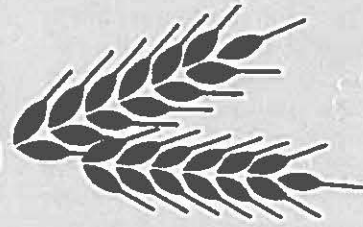


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

“Thy Kingdom Come”

These words, positioned close to the beginning of the Lord's Prayer as if as a clue to their importance, may sometimes be difficult for us to pray in earnest. We may want to add “but not too soon!”

Advent, however, is a time for us to focus on anticipating God's Kingdom. It is a special opportunity to contemplate our similarities to the Israelites of over 2000 years ago, hungry for a savior. We are, after all, in a similar position—we believe that we have been promised the coming of our savior, the return of Our Lord, a return we await with joyous anticipation. But herein lies a challenge.

Many things can keep us from being hungry for Christ's return. We may struggle with relinquishing control of our lives to God, with seeking God's guidance in all things; we may be too attached to the wonderful things of

this world to seek earnestly for the coming of the next; we may struggle with belief itself, finding it nearly impossible to await the coming of the Kingdom, which we are not convinced of in the first place. Advent is a time to pray for help.

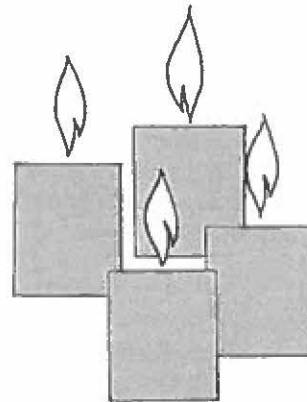
We may also find it all too easy to become lost in the dizzying month of December, with its seemingly endless cycle of preparation and celebrations, losing sight of the season of trustful and joyous waiting that is Advent. We may find ourselves lighting the last candles on our Advent wreath, sometimes a few days late, resolving to spend the next Advent season contem-

plating more deeply and consistently the coming of Christ and God's Kingdom.

The good news is that perfection is not required, progress is. Even if it takes quite a while for our hearts to change, if we ask for God's help in becoming more Christ-centered, we can be assured that we will receive that help.

This year, when we encounter reminders of Advent's spiritual significance, we can resolve to use these

opportunities to voice a simple but powerful prayer: “Lord, help me, help all those I love, and help all of humankind to long for your son and to welcome the coming of your Kingdom.”

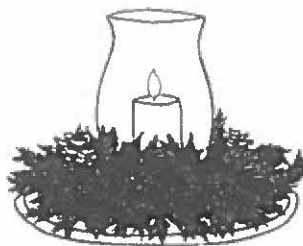


Don't miss the Guild's Holiday Boutique!

Your Christmas shopping is about to get a little easier! Just check out the Guild-sponsored Holiday Boutique on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty-five vendors will offer items ranging from woodworking articles and stained glass to quilted handbags and cookbooks. There will also be handmade ornaments, cards, soaps and jewelry. The vendors will include Mary Kay, Tupperware, and Pampered Chef representatives, among others.

There will also be a raffle for a basket containing something from each vendor. Guild members will sell

some of their scrumptious baked goods, and CREW will take orders for evergreens.



Vocation Prayer



Lord Jesus, King of the nations, we are grateful for your boundless compassion. Move us to extend your mercy to all peoples, especially to migrants and refugees. May the witness of all the saints inspire us to heed the call to holiness in our lives. Support and direct those you invite to the priesthood and consecrated life. May your Kingdom come. Amen.



Q: I'm planning a December wedding for next year, but I heard that church weddings during Advent and Lent are not permitted. Is this true?

A. It's good that you're getting an early start in your planning! Because the Church considers this life-long commitment so important, Catholics who want to marry are asked to meet with a priest (or someone he designates) at least 9 to 12 months before the wedding, for some practical advice on finances, interpersonal communication, in-laws, sexual expression of their love, the care and upbringing of children, and other ele-

ments significant in the early years of marriage and throughout married life.

Can you be married in December—in Advent? Yes. In times past, Advent was seen as a kind of mini-Lent, a time of penance and self-denial, only lightly tinged with joy. As the Church's liturgy has evolved over the past century, particularly in recent decades, the predominant spirit of Advent has become one of joyful waiting and hope. This theme is clear in the Scripture readings for weekday and Sunday Masses in Advent. While the celebratory nature of a wedding may have once seemed inappropriate for Advent, it is now more in keeping with this season's anticipatory joy in

the coming of Christ and of the Kingdom.

The introduction to the reformed rite of marriage (1969) makes this explicit: "When a marriage is celebrated during Advent or Lent ... the parish priest should advise the couple to take into consideration the special nature of these times" (#11). So proceed in all good faith in your preparations—including those pre-marital sessions designed to help you both to live out your vocation together in married life!

* * *

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



in our parish library

Are you planning for Christmas songs and stories? Besides print resources on a variety of Christmas and Advent topics, the parish library also has audiovisual materials and children's materials waiting to be signed out! Here are some titles, with their call numbers:

Audio Cassettes

Beautiful Mother (Cass 232.93 Hei)
Bethlehem Joy: A Christmas Cantata (Cass Bet)
Gentle Night: Music for Christmas and Advent (Cass Gen)
Music for Christmas and Wintertime (Cass Win)
Psalms for Feasts and Seasons (Cass Psa)
Welcome the Child (Cass Wel)

Videos

Jesus, the Story Begins (Video 232 1991 vol. 1)
The Stones from Bethlehem: The Story of the Nativity Stones (Video 232 Sto)

Selected Children's Books (in classroom 4, next to the library)

Certain Poor Shepherds (C 232 THO)
Christmas Customs around the World (C 783 Wer)
Christmas Songs and Prayers for Children (C 783 Chr)
Do the Angels Watch Closely? (C 235 Jus)
A Gift for the Christ Child (C 232 Sch)
Mary's First Christmas (C 232 Wan)
A Newberry Christmas: Fourteen Stories of Christmas, by Newberry Award Winning Authors (C 813 Gre)
Saint Francis Celebrates Christmas (C 232 Wal)
Sister Wendy's Nativity (C 220 Bec)
Waiting for Christmas: A Story about the Advent Calendar (C 232 Bus)

* * *

If you have trouble locating materials in the library, you may call Lori Mestre (365-9994), library team coordinator, for help. The parish library is open during office hours on Monday through Friday, and on fourth and fifth Sundays from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.



Where Will You Go?

Where will you go
when your time on
this earth
is done?
Will you simply implode
like a star
whose course is over?
Will you turn to
planetary dust
and be blown into the
swirling masses
of the cosmos
to become a grain of sand
in the sea of the Milky Way?
Where will you go
if no God rules
the days and nights
of your earthly
existence?
In whose house shall you dwell
forever and ever?

—Nancy Olson



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is December 9.

St. Patrick's welcomes new parish trustee

Virginia Timpone, known to many parishioners as Ginger, has graciously accepted Fr. Hogan's invitation to serve a five-year term as St. Patrick's parish trustee.

Virginia has been member of St. Patrick's Parish for over 40 years, dating from her family's move from Chanute AFB to Urbana. She is the youngest daughter of Hazel Remesch and one of eight children, all of whom attended St. Mary's School. Kathy Sarnecki, one of her sisters, is a member of our parish and serves on the Parish Council. Another sister, Monica, attends St. Philomena Church in Monticello, Fr. Hogan's former parish. Monica's daughter, Megan Logsdon, is a St. Patrick's parishioner.

With her youngest child, Natalie,

18, graduating from The High School of St. Thomas More in May, Virginia feels she can give more time to her parish. Her initiation as trustee took place at the Nov. 6 meeting of the Parish Council Executive Committee, with a discussion of the parish ministry organization instituted a year ago by Fr. Hogan. Virginia is convinced that the present structure makes for a more efficient use of and better coordination among the parish staff, Council members, and the several parish ministries.

Raymond and Virginia Timpone also have two sons: Nicolas, 22, a senior at

the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Raymond, 24, who works in the Chicago area and attends Wright College. Most parishioners are probably aware of Timpone's Restaurant on Goodwin Street in Urbana, but did you know that Virginia is the pastry chef there?

Ready to be filled in on all aspects of her new position, Virginia feels she is in good hands, as she knows and trusts Fr. Joe. She shares, "I see a door opening for me. I am curious to see what lies behind it."



Virginia Timpone

Reflections of an outgoing parish trustee

By Ellen Amberg

"God's providence leads us one at a time, together in faith." *So begins Ellen Amberg's reflections on her term as parish trustee, begun during Fr. Remm's pastorate and continued during Fr. Joe Hogan's. As she looks back now, many events stand out in her memory as having enriched her years of service.*

St. Patrick's Parish has been a focal point of my life since I first arrived in



Ellen Amberg

Urbana in 1992. Over the years, I've had the privilege of singing in the choir, serving as a Eucharistic minister and on the Liturgy Committee and being part of the parish staff as children's program coordinator. I was also fortunate to serve on the church refurbishment ad hoc committee as we prepared for our two-year parish centennial celebration that culminated in the spring of 2003. Shortly after that, I began my service

as parish trustee in August 2003.

When Fr. George Remm, our former pastor, invited me to serve as a parish trustee, the idea of a multi-year commitment that meant two or three new meetings a month on my calendar made me hesitant at first. Still, I knew in my heart that this was a special invitation and it felt right, like something the Lord had led me toward in a curious, providential way. Now it's 4½ years later and I must say that it's truly amazing to look back at some of the highlights, changes, and blessings I encountered along the way.

- The culmination of our unforgettable parish centennial celebration that energized us in so many new ways;
- The "year of transition" led by Fr. Remm during his final year as pastor that carefully paved the way for a smooth transition in parish leadership;
- The high-flying parish farewell to Fr. Remm, our pastor of 18 years, and the surprise farewell breakfast with former parish trustees—both filled with heart-warming thoughts and memories, laughter and tears;
- The warm St. Patrick's welcome to Fr. Joe Hogan, eager to lead and serve our community with new wit

and wisdom (and to convert us into Chicago Cubs fans!);

- Fr. Joe's first year as pastor—a time of inspiration and introspection as our new shepherd encouraged us to look at how we could become an even better, stronger parish;
- The opportunity to serve as an ex-officio member of the Parish Council and gain a first-hand appreciation for the depth, quality, and dedication of our Council leadership;
- Praying together in church before Parish Council meetings—a precious new practice that I hope will last into the next century;
- Creation of new five-year goals for the parish—focusing on Eucharist, spiritual growth and community, compassion and justice, and the space and resources needed to further the Kingdom of God;
- The "once in a lifetime opportunity" (so described by my former fellow trustee, Pat Dill) to purchase apartment buildings north of the parish center—made possible through the generous bequest of parishioner Thomas Moran;
- The formation of the Second Century Advisory Committee to

Continued on next page

RCIA: Journey of conversion

This year's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) at St. Patrick's has begun. RCIA is the ministry through which adults who seek to become members of the Catholic Church learn, pray, and discern God's call to become Catholic. This is a



journey to conversion – to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Christ – for the whole parish. The seekers

meet weekly with the RCIA team and parish staff to pray and learn about Church teachings. Each week covers a different topic, such as Sacred Scripture, the Holy Trinity, and Mary and the saints; the sessions will continue through Lent.

Several liturgical rituals mark the Church's initiation process. The first is the Rite of Acceptance, which will take place during the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Dec. 3. This rite publicly welcomes the seekers into the Church community. They become catechumens (if they are not baptized) or candidates (if they

have been baptized previously). The process of initiation continues as they continue to pray, study, and discern God's call.

The second ritual is the Rite of Election, held in Lent, to celebrate the candidates' and catechumens' being elected (chosen) by God to receive the sacraments of initiation: baptism, reconciliation, Eucharist and confirmation. Those who respond to God's call receive these sacraments during the beautiful liturgy of the Easter Vigil.

Initiation continues with mystagogia, as the new members, called neophytes, continue to learn and discern their mission and call to live out the love and work of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Joe Hogan has said that the most important aspect of RCIA is prayer – prayer by the candidates, catechumens, the ministry team, and the parish. All of us in the parish community are called to pray for our candidates and catechumens as they discern God's call. We can welcome them, share our faith with them, and continue our own conversion, inspired by those who have chosen to turn their lives over to God ever more deeply.

Communal Reconciliation services scheduled

Advent's communal reconciliation service is a good way to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming. We approach God with the support and encouragement of others, who are also approaching God to ask forgiveness for transgressions big and small.

Scripture readings, hymns, and examination of conscience help reconcile us to God, to each other, and to ourselves. The communal aspect adds to the sharing—knowing that everyone at the service is seeking forgiveness heightens our realization of God's love and mercy.

Three local churches offer communal reconciliation in an attempt to fit your schedule. Priests from the three parishes gather at each church in turn for the 7 p.m. service:

- Monday, Dec. 17, at Holy Cross
- Tuesday, Dec. 18, at St. Patrick's
- Wednesday, Dec. 19, at St. Matthew's



*Reflections of an outgoing parish trustee
From page 3*

help lead the parish's efforts to develop a master plan for facilities and space;

- The purchase of two other apartment buildings, fulfilling the parish's goal to acquire all the property on St. Patrick's square block—a monumental step;

- Serving with fellow trustee Joe Rasmussen and discovering his other talents beyond playing the bongos at Children's Liturgy!

- A revitalized approach to parish ministry and creation of six core ministry leadership teams—an effort led in great part by Sr. Charlene Cesario, just one small part of her legacy of service here at St. Patrick's;

- A stronger-than-ever appreciation for the vitality and dedication of our parish staff and how important they are to our faith and community life;

- New, vibrant parish-wide programs like Disciples in Mission, JustFaith, and the wonderful series of intergenerational events;

- A sustained commitment to "signature programs" like Children's Liturgy, the SVDP Food Pantry, summer youth mission trips, quality education programs, peace and justice in action—the list goes on and on;

- Having the privilege of serving a parish that is truly alive with faith, where we lift up our voices with joy each Sunday to embrace the Gospel message and the gift of Eucharist.

As I end my term of service as a parish trustee, I realize that it was about so much more than meetings, reports, and e-mails. It was another chapter in my life that taught me how the Lord leads us, one at a time, together in faith. I have learned in new ways the meaning of "we are many parts, we are all one body" and how all of us believers impact this moment in time at St. Patrick's and beyond.

Planning as far ahead as you'll ever have to

Fifty-eight of St. Patrick's Seniors attended their annual Fall cookout on Oct. 30. Ray Wait and Bill Plymire grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Committee members Ruth Plymire and Irma Wait brought Halloween decorations and centerpieces. Shirley and Walter Splittstoesser organized the cookout and helped the committee. Ice cream and sundae toppings were provided by Manor Care. Manor Care is primarily a rehabilitation center and has been used by a number of St. Patrick's parishioners, according to Lila Hewkins.

Father Hogan opened the program on "Planning Ahead" by discussing the funeral liturgy. He distributed sheets on which parishioners can choose Scripture readings and music; instructions for the pall, religious objects, and carrying of the gifts; and lunch arrangements. Anyone may pick up a St.



Before the talks, food—and food indeed plentiful!

Patrick's Funeral Liturgy sheet at the office, fill it in, and have it kept in the church's files. Even Fr. Hogan has his funeral planned, and he's no senior citizen—why don't you consider doing it?

Kristi Turner described The Legacy Society. This honors parishioners who have named St. Patrick's as a beneficiary of their will, life insurance, or other estate plans. Those who make a gift to the parish before June 30, 2008, will be inducted as founding members of the Legacy Society; the parish office has a leaflet with details. If you have already included St. Patrick's in your will or estate plans, please contact the office to register as a founding member of the Legacy Society.

Jeff Fehrenbacher from the U of I Foundation explained the various ways one could leave money to St. Patrick's.

Jay Yost from Owens Funeral Home and Jeff Baine from Renner-Wikoff talked about the role the funeral homes serve. A Catholic may be cremated, but only after the church funeral.



Ray Wait (left) and Bill Plymire cook hamburgers and hot dogs for the St. Patrick's Seniors annual cookout.



Nancy Haessly, Jeff Baine, Jeff Fehrenbacher, Mary Grace Bowen, and Kristi Turner face the photographer for our readers.

Lilia Peters showed the seniors some Vials of Life from the Parish Nurses. The vial contains a record of your medications and other medical information and is kept on the top right hand shelf in your refrigerator, where ambulance personnel know to look for it.

Holy Cross School News

Holy Cross started off another school year with 71 kids from 45 St. Patrick's families. Students have already enjoyed a variety of activities, from the annual Hot Dog Day family celebration to a Halloween carnival for kindergarten through fifth grades, and a Halloween party at Kaufman Lake for sixth through eighth grades. Fourth-graders dressed up as saints and learned their important contributions to our faith as part of the All Saints Day Mass and celebration.

Nearly 20 St. Patrick's parishioners are to be congratulated for making the first quarter honor roll at Holy Cross: Liz Fahey, Maddy Kangas, Peter Kim, Megan Porter, Mariya Sturdyvin, Breanna Wickert, and Gabby Wszalek received HONORS; Alexandro Griffin, George Pennacchi, Sally Pennacchi, Matthew Ramaly, Abby Simpson, Molly Smith, Zack Smith, and Matthew Tate received HIGH HONORS; and Sarah Johnson, Ian Niccum, Chris-

topher Tate, and Theresa Welle received HIGHEST HONORS. Congratulations, one and all!



Taizé service offers an evening of contemplation in song

In the French village of Taizé, an ecumenical Christian community was founded in the ashes of World War II. People from various traditions and cultures joined this community and searched for a way of prayer to draw them together. This community fostered reconciliation among Christian denominations and among people.

After experimentation, the community developed its own style of prayer and its own music. Taizé services include short passages of Scripture, repeated in the languages of those present, in the hope that people would more easily retain what they heard.

Much of what has come to be known as Taizé songs has the form of an ostinato, a short piece of music repeated many times, to which an instrument or a harmony part can be

added. This music is often sung in several languages from the cultures of



the participants, or in Latin as a common language owned by no single culture. It has entered the hymnals of many churches; titles such

as "Ubi Caritas" and "Jesus, Remember Me" are a part of our worship at St. Patrick's.

On Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. St. Patrick's will host an Advent prayer service in the style of Taizé. The candlelit service will be led by musicians from St. Thomas Church, Philo, and St. Patrick's. The service will include music, intercessory prayer, Scripture, and silence. In the spirit of Taizé, invite a friend from another church to this prayer service. Come to spend some time in contemplation, prepared to sing, pray, and meditate on the coming of the Lord.

Bereavement ministry expands

Over the years, the lives of many parishioners at St. Patrick's have been touched through the work of the Bereavement Ministry team. Families



and friends of those who have died have attended the semi-annual Evenings of Remembrance, many have felt support and

comfort during the holiday seasons from joining others for A Ray of Hope: Facing the Holidays Following a Loss, and the Widows' Holiday Luncheon has had a faithful following for many years.

Following Sr. Charlene's retirement, ministry to the bereaved of St. Patrick's continues under the guidance of Nancy Olson. In June Nancy participated in the annual training conference of the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. With the help of others interested in this ministry, those programs will continue, and new areas of outreach will be added.

As this ministry expands, the name Bereavement Ministry will be changed to Ministry of Consolation to reflect the group's ever-broadening concerns in response to parishioners' needs.

The Ministry of Consolation will continue to guide Evenings of Remembrance, A Ray of Hope, and the Widows' Holiday Luncheon. It will also guide Cancer Companions, a prayer support group for women of the parish who have had, or are now facing, cancer diagnosis and treatment. You will be hearing more about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which will be in place soon. As concerns arise, the Ministry of Consolation will work to address the needs of parishioners and their families for consolation and comfort as well as support for the grieving.

Ministry of Consolation members are Nancy Olson, Mary Long, Vera Duncanson, Chris Whippo, Eileen Unander, and Peggy Huson. Please pray for these women as they work to build God's kingdom through this important ministry.

CWU: Interfaith gatherings of Moslem, Christian and Jewish women

Would you like to meet Moslem, Jewish, and other Christian women to discover what we have in common? (Television certainly teaches us plenty about our differences!)

For the past several years, Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana has organized interfaith gatherings with the women of the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center and the Jewish Federation. The last such gathering was a vegetarian luncheon at St.



Patrick's parish hall on Nov. 3, 2006. The theme was "Signs of Healing." Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, was welcomed as one of the speakers from four faith communities. He spoke on the mutual assistance between Moslem and Hindu families during the violence experienced during Pakistan's separation from India in 1948.

You are invited to the next interfaith gathering on Thursday, Nov. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. The ladies of the mosque (106 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana) will host the event and serve light refreshments. Most St. Patrick's parishioners have probably not visited the Mosque, making this a unique opportunity. Please be aware that, although visitors are not required to cover their heads, they should wear long sleeves and be prepared to remove their shoes upon entering the mosque.

Please carpool, since the parking lot for the mosque, off Coler Street between Springfield and Elm Streets, is quite small.

Speakers will talk about upcoming celebrations in their respective faith communities: Bushra Al-Heeti on the Haaj annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Lee Melhado on Hanukah, and Carole Rebeiz on Advent.

Please come Nov. 29 for an introduction to the mosque, interesting talks, interfaith small-group discussions, and refreshments.

Two young parish artists honored

Tori Witruk, granddaughter of parishioner Irma Wait, won first prize in a multi-county art competition. She attends St. Joseph Grade School. The competition was run by Prairie Center Health Systems, and the Oct. 24 awards ceremony was attended by both local mayors and both of the U of I basketball coaches.

Hans Herzog, now a third-grade student at Holy Cross, didn't get a chance to meet the nobility, but his artwork and that of other



Tori Witruk

Tori Witruk's button won first prize in Button Design for second- and third-grade students from Champaign and Ford counties. The texts read "Drug-Free, The Healthy Way To Be," "photogrifer," "say chese," "chese." The drawing of the camera includes a tripod, lens cap, and preview screen.



local students will be displayed for a full year at Provena-Covenant Medical Center. Their annual Children's Art Project features work by only one student per school, so this is quite an honor for Hans.

Congratulations to both of these young artists!



Hans Herzog with his art teacher, Ms. De Cornyn, in front of his painting after the unveiling. Hans was in the second grade at Holy Cross School when he painted it.

Parish Council News

Fr. Joe Hogan introduced Ginger Timpone as the new parish trustee during the St. Patrick's Parish Council meeting Nov. 15. Ginger will serve a five-year term. Ellen Amberg, whose term as trustee has expired, will continue as chair of the Second Century Advisory Committee.



During his report, Fr. Joe also announced that the parish is looking for an altar server coordinator. The parish currently has 48 altar servers.

In other business:

- Fr. Joe said the engineering firm of Berns, Clancy and Associates is currently surveying the parish property. Stauder Architecture will have some ideas for the facilities master plan to show parishioners early next year, and parishioners will have several opportunities to give their input.
- Mary Karten reminded the Parish Council members that the 10:30 a.m. Mass will be the only Mass offered on Christmas day.
- Council members discussed potential uses of e-mail and the parish Web site to communicate with parishioners. Suggestions included using e-mail to make parish announcements, having a parish listserv, distributing servers' schedules through e-mail or the Web site, and providing a monthly e-mail newsletter. The Council will invite someone from the Web Site Committee to come to a future meeting to talk about possibilities.

* * *

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17, in the parish center following a 6:30 p.m. gathering in the church for prayer. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Volunteer Opportunities

A friendly visit by a parishioner who also brings Holy Communion makes a world of difference to someone who is unable to come to church. The pastoral care of parishioners who are homebound or residents of local nursing homes urgently needs volunteers to continue this compassionate ministry. Can you help even once a month? *Pastoral care:* Roxie Robinson, 356-2728; Donna Thompson, 688-2701

More Eucharistic ministers for parish Masses are still needed. The number of Eucharistic ministers who have resigned because of failing health or changing life circumstances has been barely offset by newcomers, so St. Patrick's is still experiencing a shortage in this vital area of ministry. If you've felt called to Eucharistic ministry but have been on the fence about it, please call now to get answers to questions or to volunteer. *Worship Ministries Team:* Patricia Fowler, 351-7578

Assistance is needed to continue the research and monitoring of parish personnel guidelines that ensure fair employment practices and competitive compensation levels for all salaried employees of the parish. *Personnel Committee:* Cindy Kelly, 355-0541

Some wheelchair residents at Champaign County Nursing Home need help getting to and from their chapel for Mass on Fridays. Can you give an hour to help, either weekly or monthly? *St. Patrick's Guild:* Sandy Anderson, 469-2416



Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by calling Mary Lou Menches (344-1125). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.

Celebrate the sacred this Advent

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is a familiar and beautiful Christmas hymn, but its origins may surprise you. Its verses were written over a thousand years ago as seven separate antiphons for Mary's Magnificat, which is prayed during Vespers. For obvious reasons they are referred to as the "O Antiphons." At Mass each day during the last days of Advent one of these prayers is offered before and after the Gospel canticle is sung or prayed.

The "O Antiphons" are presented below. You may find that these short, simple prayers help you to focus your intentions in the days leading up to Christmas.



Dec. 17: O Sapientia

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.



Dec. 18: O Adonai

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.



Dec. 19: O Radix Jesse

O Flower of Jesse's Stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you.



Dec. 20: O Clavis David

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.



Dec. 21: O Oriens

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.



Dec. 22: O Rex Gentium

O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of man: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.



Dec. 23: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.



Jonathan McCoy with two-year-old Madelyn

One day a friend of mine was walking through a shopping mall with his two-year-old son. The child was in a particularly cantankerous mood, fussing and fuming. The frustrated father tried everything to quiet his son, but nothing seemed to help. The child simply would not obey. Then, under some special inspiration, the father scooped up his son and, holding him close to his chest, began singing an impromptu love song. None of the words rhymed. He sang off key. And yet, as best he could, this father began sharing his heart. "I love you," he sang. "I'm so glad you're my boy. You make me happy. I like the way you laugh." Off they went from one store to the next. Quietly the father continued singing off key and making up words that did not rhyme. The child relaxed and became still, listening to this strange and wonderful song. Finally, they finished shopping and went to the car. As the father opened the door and prepared to buckle his son into the car seat, the child lifted his head and said simply, "Sing it to me again, Daddy! Sing it to me again!"

Prayer is a little like that. With simplicity of heart we allow ourselves to be gathered up into the arms of the Father and let him sing his love song over us.

— From *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, by Richard J. Foster

Greetings from Beit Jala!

I would like to tell you some of our news here in the parish. First of all, the parishioners are doing fine.

In Italy I participated, with 16 students from the parish school (the Latin Patriarchate School) and two of their teachers, in a program in which they shared their experiences with Italian students, during the period from September 5 to 13. It was a fruitful program. Our students gained important experience.

On September 14 we celebrated the feast of the Holy Cross, and many of the parishioners participated in the Mass. It was a very nice one.



Last Sunday, a group of pilgrims from France attended the Mass. They invited the Choir Group to France in order to give concerts there. We appreciated their invitation and definitely would like to accept it.

On September 23, we gathered 200 women from the parish in the new parish hall, Annunciation Hall. We had breakfast together and played bingo, after a lecture on the role of women in the Church.



I would like also to tell you about the parish school. The new school semester began on the first of September; we have 925 students from kindergarten through grade 12. We built a new building last year (250 square meters) as an expansion for the school, which absorbed 400 of the 925 students.

This is all for now. I will keep you updated with any news.

Best regards,
Fr. Nidal Qanzou'a

Mass Times to Note

Dec. 7, Friday

Vigil, Feast of the Immaculate Conception: 5:15 p.m.

Dec. 8, Saturday

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: 8:00 a.m. and noon

Dec. 24, Monday

Vigil of Christmas: 4:00, 6:30, and 10:30 p.m.

Dec. 25, Tuesday

Christmas: 10:30 a.m.; in Vietnamese at 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 31, Monday

Vigil, Feast of Mary, Mother of God: 5:15 p.m.

Jan. 1, Tuesday

Feast of Mary, Mother of God: 9 a.m. and noon

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 send news items to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's 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 (bradysipes@sbcglobal.net); Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j.fierke@insightbb.com); Suzanne Kayala, 344-4894 (louissettelukusa@yahoo.fr); Rachael McMillan, 359-1878 (srmcmillan@insightbb.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@uiuc.edu); Carol Mosca, 390-0201 (amosca2@uiuc.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uillinois.edu); Margaret Stewart, 356-9475 (mkestewart@aol.com); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

Associates: Carol Bosley, Betty Christian, John and Tim Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Dave and Cole Grabow, Lisa Hall, Ellen Noonan, Marty and Nathaniel Perry, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Stephanie Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Chris Ángel, Frances Drone-Silvers, Pat Fettig, Camille Goudeseune, Chely Jones, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Stephanie Smith, Shirley Splittstoesser, Margaret Stewart, Irma Wait, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John and Tim Colombo. Photos received from Carol Mosca, Shirley Splittstoesser, Jonathan McCoy, and Mary Lou Menches; artwork by Fr. George Wuellner.

On Christmas Day, the Vietnamese community will celebrate at St. Patrick's with Mass at 5 p.m., preceded by confession from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and followed by dinner in the parish hall.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Chely Jones

Salsa

1 pkg (16 oz) frozen corn, thawed
2 cans (2 - 1/4 oz each) chopped olives, drained
1 sweet red pepper, chopped
1/2 onion, chopped
6 garlic cloves, minced
1/3 c olive oil
1/4 c lemon juice
3 T cider vinegar
1 t dried oregano
3/4 t salt
3/4 t pepper
5 ripe avocados
Tortilla chips



In a large bowl combine corn, olives, red pepper, and onion. In a small bowl, mix garlic, olive oil, lemon juice, vinegar, oregano, salt, and pepper. Pour over corn mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, chop avocados and stir into salsa. Serve with tortilla chips.

* * *

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Ellen Noonan (778-0671, ipnoon@earthlink.net).



Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Brennan Phillip Oleynichak, Isaiah Unander, Sydney Claire Reitmeier, and Milo Patrick Flaningam.

Congratulations to the following couples, married at St. Patrick's: Jennifer Palmisano and Keithon Flintroy, Tomi Hampton and Sean Blanchard.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Yvonne Brady, Robert Chamberlin, Anna Rita Ferris, Berniece Goldsby, and Mitch Langendorf.

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





No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else. And no one makes a greater mistake than those who do nothing because they can do so little.

—Rev. William Sloane Coffin



St. Patrick's Parish December 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is December 9.</p>						10-2pm Guild Holiday Boutique 6:15-8:30pm Great Dates
9:15am Child RE with Reconciliation Opportunity for Grades 2-6 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr-Sr High RE 2	5:30pm St. Pat's Presents Team 7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life 3	6:30pm Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Great Adv. Bible Study 4	12pm Men's Book Club 5:15pm Child Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm St. Joe RE with Reconciliation for Grades 2-6 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church 5	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6pm Building & Grounds 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA 7pm Social Action 6	9-2pm Catechesis of the Good Shephard 10:45am Mass, CCNH 5:15pm Mass, Vigil of Immac. Conception Holy Day 7	Immaculate Conception Masses: 8am, Noon 8
8:30-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 9:15am Child RE 10:30am Child Liturgy 4:30-7pm Cath. Teen Conn., St. Matthew's 9	7pm Centering Prayer 10	5:30pm Financial Affairs 6pm Council Exec. Comm. 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Great Adv. Bible Study 7pm Taize Prayer Service 11	9:30am Schola 12pm Seniors Luncheon 5pm SVDP 5:15pm Child Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm St. Joe RE 7pm Choir 7pm Re-Membering Church 12	6:45am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Parish Bible Study Team 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA 13	9-2pm Catechesis of the Good Shephard 10:30am Mass, Care Center 10:45am Mass, CCNH 14	15
9:15am Child RE Christmas Program 10:15am K of C 5-8pm CREW Service for Catholic Worker House 16	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Communal Penance, Holy Cross 17	6:30pm Faith Sharing 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Communal Penance, St. Patrick's 18	5pm SVDP 5:15pm Child Choir 6:30pm JustFaith 6:30pm St. Joe RE 7pm Choir 7pm Communal Penance, St. Matthew's 19	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm Choir 7pm Parish Council 7pm RCIA 20	10:30am Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass, CCNH 21	22
23	Christmas Eve Masses: 4, 6:30, 10:30pm Offices Closed at noon 24	Christmas Mass: 10:30am 5pm Vietnamese Mass, Dinner Offices Closed  25	Offices Closed 26	6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Mystagogia 7pm RCIA 27	10:45am Mass CCNH 28	29
Parish Library Open 30	New Year's Eve Masses: 9am, 5:15pm 31					

