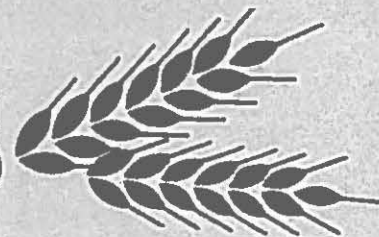


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Lourdes a moving experience for St. Patrick's pilgrims

"World Day of the Sick is a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ, who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind."

—Pope John Paul II, 13 May 1992

In August 1983, Pope John Paul II made his first pilgrimage to Lourdes. It is not surprising that years later, in May 1992, he designated Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the World Day of the Sick. Lourdes is a singularly special place for the sick of the world to come and pray, to offer one's suffering and truly see the face of Christ in one another.

Nestled in the southern part of France in the Pyrenees, Lourdes is a small town on the Gave River. On February 11, 1858, a young girl, Bernadette Soubirous, went along the river to a grotto used for sheltering cattle to gather some firewood for her family. A "beautiful lady" appeared to her and smiled. This was the first of 18 appearances to Bernadette.

In the course of the apparitions, the Lady asked of Bernadette three things. At the third appearance, the Lady told Bernadette to "drink from the fountain (which Bernadette had to dig into the ground to find) and cleanse thyself; and go to the priest and tell him to build a chapel here." Five apparitions later, the Lady gave a new message: "Penance, penance, penance, and pray for sinners." When Bernadette was at the grotto for the thirteenth time, the Lady requested that she "tell the priests to come here in procession (pilgrimage)." Finally, on the sixteenth visit, the Lady identified herself to Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Thus began the continuous pilgrimages of people, especially the physically sick, to approach the ever-flowing spring waters of Lourdes in hope of a cure or healing. Last October, ten parishioners joined Fr. Joe in a journey to Lourdes as part of the France Pilgrimage.

"Being at Lourdes was a wonderful experience, especially celebrating Mass



with Fr. Joe in the small chapels, surrounded by thanksgiving testimonials to our Blessed Mother that were carved into the building blocks, while other pilgrims outside sang hymns to Mary in different languages." —Nancy Costa

Lourdes is an exceptional place of prayer and suffering and care and sharing. The "chapel" was built; today it provides four large worship spaces. Each day there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a procession, and blessing of the sick. Each evening there is a candlelight procession, when the sick and the pilgrims gather near the grotto and pray the rosary in procession to the Basilica, each praying in his/her native tongue and singing the Gloria Patria and Salve Regina in Latin.

The sense of unity and community, of past and present, of here and now and what is to come is simply awesome. The physically sick are helped by the physically well, the elderly and the youth walk side by side, and the air is full of joy, sadness, hope for healing and trust in God's love. In the midst of quiet peacefulness, people wheeled the sick to the baths or to the fountains for some water, in the hope of gaining strength, and courage and trust in God's healing. Others sit wordlessly next to each other at the grotto or near it, praying silently.

Parishioners' achievements recognized

Stewart Berlocher, a UI professor of entomology, was awarded the distinction of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science chosen for his contributions to the understanding of evolution and speciation, particularly sympatric speciation in phytophagous insects.

Margaret Grossman, UI professor and Bock Chair in agricultural law, received the 2006 Professional Scholarship Award from the American Agricultural Law Association. Each year one national award is given to recognize an outstanding publication in the field of

agricultural law. Peggy won the award for her article "Traceability and Labeling of Genetically Modified Crops, Food, and Feed in the European Union," published in the *Journal of Food Law and Policy*.



Tom Kacich, *News-Gazette* columnist, was named winner of the News-Gazette Publisher's Award, which is given to employees who make lasting contributions over many years of service.

Eric Vimr, UI professor of pathobiology, received the \$1,000 Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence.

So even in the rest of the Church year, the weeks and weeks that do *not* fall in Lent, we are expected to do penance of some kind on Friday in memory of the death of the Lord. During Lent, however, the Church *requires* that we abstain from meat on Fridays as an expression of our desire for conversion and reform. Because you love seafood, you may want to find a different substitute for meat—by eating seafood instead of

meat, you fulfill the letter of the law although not its spirit. Or you could find some way to enter into the spirit of the law by adopting a different form of penance (*in addition to* the required abstinence from meat, that is), such as

voluntary self-denial of some kind, almsgiving, kind acts or charitable works, attempted reconciliation with another person, acceptance of the sufferings of the day, and the like.

+ + +

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

Putting away the "Alleluia"

During the season of Lent, the Church puts away one of its treasures, the "Alleluia." During the rest of the year, we sing "Alleluia" before the Gospel to celebrate the Word of God present with us. We often sing it in our hymns and in the other places in the liturgy. Many people "put it away" from their private prayer as well.

"Alleluia" is a Hebrew word that means "Praise the Lord!" What is the Church trying to tell us? Are we spending Lent without singing God's praises? Not at all! It's just that we praise God in different ways in this season.

"Alleluia" is a word of Baptism. In this season, when our catechumens make their final preparations for Baptism, we prepare along with them. We don't spend Lent pretending that we have not received the gift of salvation in Baptism, but we do remember how badly we need that gift, how deeply we rely on it. When you do whatever you're doing during Lent to grow closer to God, you are saying "Praise the Lord!"

"Alleluia" is also a word of ecstasy. Are you feeling ecstatic today? It's okay if your answer is no—life has its ups and downs. The Church year mirrors that reality by having seasons of ups and downs. When the time for Baptism draws near at the Easter Vigil, our "Alleluia" will ring out with fresh vigor!



Q: I love seafood. Does the Friday abstinence during Lent make sense for me?

A: Well, yes—in a way. The Friday abstinence, that is, not eating meat (or soup or gravy made from meat) on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays during Lent, is really meant to be a penance. For many of us, abstaining from meat isn't much of a penance these days—as your question suggests.

The obligation to abstain from meat on *all* Fridays, which we may remember from pre-Vatican II days, was lifted in 1966. Yet in removing it as an obligation, Pope Paul VI reminded us that we are all "in continuous need of conversion and reform" and pointed out that our exercise of penance can take many forms, from fasting and abstinence to prayer, fulfilling the daily duties of our vocation, and patiently bearing the hardships and uncertainties of each day. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* lists other forms of interior and exterior penance.



Lourdes from page 1

"In late afternoon Joe and I sat on a bench near the grotto quietly talking and praying in the warmth of the sun. This was such a powerful peacefulness."
—Nancy Costa

"In the still darkness of midnight lit only by a full moon and thousands of stars, we sit quietly in the Grotto. The silence of the night is broken only by the sound of the trickling water, flowing over the rock at the spot where Our Lady directed Bernadette to dig. (We) lift our hearts and minds in prayer; later cross the Gave River, where Fr. Joe invites each of us to touch the water and offer our petitions. We approach slowly and drink or wash or pour water on our heads. Our prayers rise like the smoke of candles into the night above. We are healed." —Nancy Olson

"My favorite part of the day was at 11 to 12 p.m. when we went to the Grotto to pray and contemplate. There is a very reverential feeling when you enter that does not leave you for a long time after you have gone." —Sharyn DuPuy

On the mountain behind the Basilica, there is a path to pray the Stations of the Cross—large figures depicting the suffering of Christ. Someone has written that to follow the way of the Cross here is to "fully grasp the message of Lourdes, the call to conversion, owing to the Passion that Jesus lived for us." These stations are a striking visual of the suffering of all pilgrims with the suffering of Christ.

"The Stations are larger than life-

sized statues. In the full moon of that night, their facial expressions seemed real, and it felt more as if I were there and part of the Way than any of the other times I have participated in the Stations." —Sharyn DuPuy

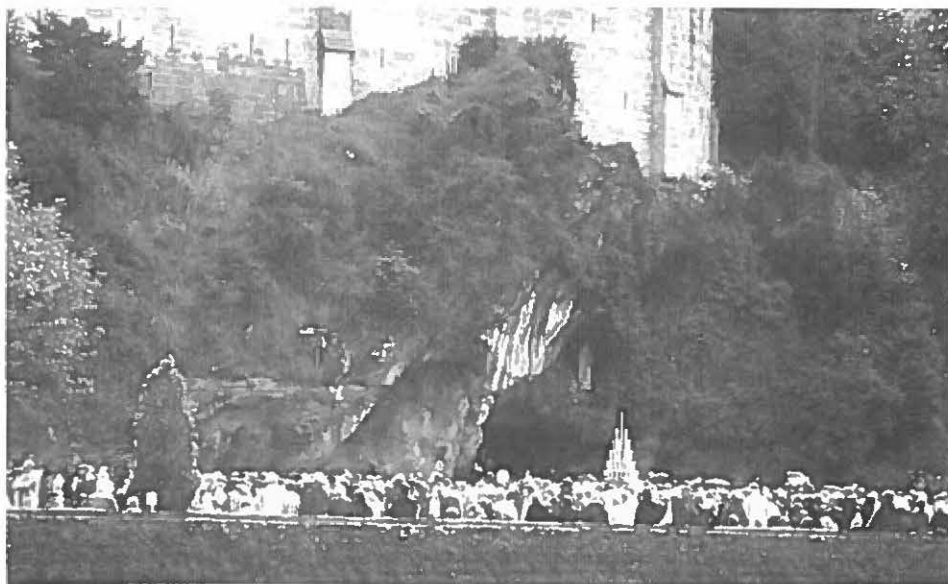
To journey to Lourdes is to undertake a pilgrimage, a pilgrimage of conversion.

"The Lourdes experience developed as we visited the three levels of the Basilica viewing the domain of this Shrine. We believe that each of our fellow pilgrims reacted to the Candlelight Procession in a different but equally profound manner. Whether processing with the masses or observing the moving masses, we moved through the course followed by our predecessors." —Mary Ann and Paul Luedtke

Today Lourdes is a unique meeting place of community, reconciliation, hope, and trust, to give people a taste for the Gospel.

"Hallowed ground with holy people each adoring God in their own tongue – Pentecost – At the Grotto, the stillness of the sacred, a quieted soul full of joy and celebration – closeness to God and Mary – I became a believer as I have never before believed – or hoped, or loved." —A pilgrim

On this World Day of the Sick, we pray: Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us who seek healing and wholeness, reconciliation and hope.



Vietnamese invite all parishioners to their New Year celebration

In 2006, St. Patrick's became even more noticeably multicultural with the addition of our assistant pastor, Fr. Hoa Pham. The Vietnamese community is providing an exciting way for all the people of St. Patrick's to learn about the Vietnamese culture without spending all that time and money actually traveling to Viet Nam. Although they have sponsored a Vietnamese New Year celebration in past years, this year's is special because of Father Hoa.

The Vietnamese members from St. Patrick's, along with other members of the local Vietnamese community, will celebrate the Vietnamese Lunar New Year on Saturday,

February 17. The event will kick off with a bilingual Mass (Vietnamese and English) in St. Patrick's church. Following the Mass, there will be a traditional Vietnamese New Year's Eve celebration in the main hall of the parish center. The Vietnamese community will prepare and serve a traditional Vietnamese menu. Also included will be a program with special entertainment.

Everyone is invited, so mark your calendars today for February 17 and plan to join in the community celebration, beginning with the 5:00 p.m. Mass. It promises to be an evening like no other!

Parish Council News

JustFaith, a 30-week course on peace and justice issues recommended by the Social Action Committee, won the unanimous approval of the Parish Council during its regular meeting January 18.

Jim Mayer called the program "the equivalent of a college course in the theology of social justice." Fr. Hogan, who noted that *JustFaith* is highly recommended by the Peoria Diocese, said it is "a phenomenal program—amazing." Joseph Youakim, representing the Peace and Justice Ministry, said \$1,500 will be required to purchase videos and other start-up supplies for the program, and an extra \$500 will be used to purchase books that can be borrowed if needed.

The first session of *JustFaith*, which will have a maximum of 15 participants, will begin in Fall 2007.

In other business, the Parish Council:

- Heard plans by Jerry Pijanowski and Randy Pankou to create a ministry database. The database will include the names and service dates of people who volunteer in any of the parish's ministries. The Council decided to wait until the new *Time* and *Talent* recruitment survey is distributed in early fall to gather information for the database.

- Reviewed proposed language updates to the parish constitution. Mary

Karten and Jack Collins had been charged with modernizing the language and bringing the constitution more in line with current practice. The proposed revisions will be posted on the parish website, and the Parish Council will vote on the changes at the next meeting. The Council also plans to update the bylaws at a later date.

- Chose Joseph Youakim and Kathy Sarnecki as the Parish Council members to the nominating committee; they will find three non-Parish Council parishioners to fill out the five-member committee. Three seats on the Parish Council will be up for election in April.

- Viewed the financial report for July through December 2006. Father called attention to some unexpected expenses related to the apartments owned by the parish: two of the apartments show some termite damage, and carbon monoxide detectors had to be installed in all apartments to be in compliance with the new state law. On a positive note, all but two of the apartments have been leased.

In news from the ministries, Kathy Sarnecki said the parish library is not open to parishioners at convenient times, because the library space is also



used for other parish activities such as Bible study and religious education. Sr. Charlene said it is an issue of space; the concern will be passed on to the Second Century Committee. Joseph Youakim noted

that members of the Social Action Committee plan to attend a service at Salem Baptist Church on Feb. 11 at 11 a.m.; all are welcome to join them.

Jerry Pijanowski shared an article from *The Catholic Post* that showed parallels between the changes that have been implemented in St. Patrick's committee structure, including the introduction of "ministries," and the major restructuring of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The article stated, "Archbishop Sheehan described the restructuring as a shift from a 'modular' model in which each committee and its staff worked in their own specific area to an 'organic' model in which there will be far more collaboration among committees and among staff in different departments."

The next meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, in the parish center following a half hour of prayer in the church. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Parishioners deliver meals

For one week twice a year, St. Patrick's parishioners assist in bringing hot midday meals to people living in the C-U area.



Usually prepared by University nutritionists at the Illini Union, the meals are picked up by volunteers who deliver them to designated recipients. Special note is made of an individual's dietary needs. Deliveries are made between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Some recipients are physically handicapped, some are frail or elderly, some are shut-ins—all are grateful for the meal

deliveries and thank the volunteers several times over.

Last summer (June 26-30) meals were delivered by Ellen Amberg, Beth Anderson, Jeanine Berlocher, Linda Busey, Mary Rose Cottingham, Joyce Dill, Meg Drake, Frances and Claire Drone-Silvers, Susan Hublein, Richard Keane, Larry Kimball, Ruth Ann Kingery, Celia McCartney, Debbie McCartney, Mary Lou Menches, Bill and Phyllis Mischo, Linda Mueller, Bill and Ruth Plymire, Marcia and Jim Reed, Carla Simmering, Jackie Sturdyvin, and Donna Thompson.

Parishioners who deliver meals monthly in St. Joseph include Sandy Anderson, Claudette Basham, Teresa

Campbell, and Monica Ritten.

For any number of reasons parishioners who have volunteered to deliver meals sometimes find that they are not available during a week that St. Patrick's takes on this service. Marcia Reed, who schedules parishioners (in pairs), is happy to have more volunteers than needed so there are some who can serve as backup should a scheduled volunteer be unable to meet his or her commitment.

Pairs of volunteers for the parish's week in February have already been scheduled, but you can volunteer for future assignment or to serve as backup by calling Marcia (359-6112). She will be happy to hear from you.

Good Samaritans come in all ages

The St. Vincent de Paul Society wants you to realize that there is no age limit on being a “good Samaritan,” and offers a few examples for your edification—and emulation.

Last summer, on one of the hottest days, Doug Mitchell (age 10) walked into the SVDP food pantry, introduced himself as a student at Holy Cross School, and said that this year he was donating the proceeds from his lemonade stand to SVDP. He then handed over \$28.20 for the poor. He mentioned that he had drawn up the blueprints for his lemonade stand himself and then built it. His brother Ben (age 7) added \$11 that he had made from his own lemonade sales.

A St. Matthew’s parishioner, Mary Ann Zeilenga, has for many years been saving meat broth from her cooking for use by the SVDP. Members of her family bring it in to the food pantry in containers, and it goes into the soup that is made for the Catholic Worker House.



A mother of six children “all under the age of 10,” Zita Branant collects food and she and her children bring it to the food pantry to feed the hungry. The Branant family are members of St. Thomas Parish in Philo.

Seven college students from the “Professional Business Fraternity” donated their services, filling food bags and handing them out to walk-ins. It

took only an hour of their time, but it meant a lot to the hungry—and to the regular parish volunteers.

A couple in their seventies, who are not Catholics, purchase and donate about \$100 worth of food for the SVDP food pantry a few times a year.

“Many of our own parishioners support our Society with their cash donations, food items, and services,” said Sophia Zeigler, president of the local SVDP chapter. She added, “I can truly say we are blessed by all of these good Samaritans. As you know, you are doing what the Catholic Church teaches. We all thank you—especially the people who receive the food!”

CREW starts a new year with new Teen Masses

The CREW youth group has started something new this year. The four teen Masses, held every other month, are now being celebrated on Sunday evenings at regular CREW meeting times (6:30 p.m.). The Mass is for all high-school-aged teens and is “staffed” by the teenagers of the parish. Teens volunteer to be lectors, ushers, and gift bearers for each of the Masses.

Father Joe celebrates the Mass with a special homily directed toward today’s teens and how the gospel directly affects their lives. Teens are encouraged to bring money from their paychecks or allowances for the collection.

During Mass, volunteer parents are busy in the parish kitchen preparing dinner for the teens and adults. At the first teen Mass in November, they prepared a spaghetti and meatball dinner, complete with homemade garlic bread, salad, and desserts. Teens and adults who attend the supper are encouraged to bring a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the dinner.

Especially spectacular about the teen Masses has been the CREW Praise Band. Jim Mayer helped to create the Praise Band to play during the summer mission trip to St. Louis. The live music truly helped to deepen and uplift the nightly Bible studies. The CREW Praise Band has continued into this new religious education year and looks to become a permanent part of the youth group.

The band has played for CREW religious education nights, for teen Masses, at the Catholic Teen Connection in December, and at the

Jason Kotecki Dinner Theater on Jan. 20. Band members include Daniel Schweizer, piano; Jered Kimball and Rob Diehl, guitar; Robie Kimmey, bass guitar; Andrew Howie, saxophone; and Nathaniel Perry, percussion. Singers are Stacy Black, Anna Mayer, Hannah Noonan, and Emily and Marla Westervelt. Assisting adults are Jim and Pat Mayer, Nick Stefanic, Joe Rasmussen, and Chris Ángel.

If you missed the Praise Band in January, watch for them at the Graduation Mass in May!



Christmas came early for Seniors Group

St. Patrick's Seniors met for a Christmas potluck Dec. 5. Thirty-five seniors brought some of their special Christmas recipes for everyone to enjoy, as well as toys and clothing to be delivered to the Catholic Worker House.

Members were entertained by a skit, "The Night before Christmas," performed by the committee: Carole Rebeiz served as narrator, Lu Pillar and Shirley Splittstoesser as reindeer, Jim Pillar heard "the clatter on the roof," and Sharon Fitzgerald gave a hearty "ho, ho, ho" as Santa.

Table decorations were provided by Barbara Pyhel, Lu Pillar, and Sharon Fitzgerald. Each member present received, as a special treat, a candle from the "Mrs. Claus's Cookie Jar" display prepared by St. Patrick's Guild.

The next gathering of Seniors will be Wednesday, Apr. 18. Each of the 105 member families received a letter and questionnaire in January. Questions? Call Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330).



St. Patrick's Seniors enjoyed Clement C. Moore's "The Night before Christmas," narrated by Carole Rebeiz.



"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house..."



"not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."



"Mama in her kerchief and I [Jim Pillar] in my cap..."



"Down the chimney Saint Nicholas [Sharon Fitzgerald] came with a bound."



"He sprang to his sleigh, to his team [Lu Pillar, left, and Shirley Splittstoesser] gave a whistle..."

Charitable giving: A special 2007 tax advantage


Taxpayers, aged 70½ and older, are required to make annual distributions from their IRA retirement accounts. The Charitable IRA Rollover allows taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations (e.g., St. Patrick's) from their IRAs without counting them as part of adjusted gross income and, consequently, without paying federal or state tax on them. If this is done, you cannot claim this contribution as a deduction, so this tax advantage is greatest for those who do not itemize, or those itemizing who have reached the charitable giving limits.

This change in the tax code only lasts through 2007. Distribution rollover amounts certainly do not have to be the total in your IRA. You need to check with the IRA trustee (such as Vanguard or TIAA-Cref) to determine the specific requirements for making a charitable withdrawal. It may be that your IRA trustee requires some minimum that is more than you can afford to donate. In this event, you may wish to roll some of your IRA to a different trustee that does allow smaller withdrawals. (The

two mentioned here have very different requirements.)

The withdrawal has to be directly to the charity. You can have the check sent to you, but it must be made payable to the charity. It must **not** pass through your bank account, or you will be liable for paying tax on it. The advantage of your receiving the check is that you know the intended withdrawal has been made. You can then send it to the recipient organization together with a letter requesting that you receive written acknowledgment of the gift amount, and noting that no goods or services were received by you in exchange for the contribution. (Before you request a withdrawal as a Charitable Rollover from your IRA, make sure that the recipient organization is a public charity qualified to receive donations from IRAs.)

More details are available at <http://test.independentsector.org/programs/gr/IRARollover.html>. You may also wish to check with your tax consultant, if you use one. Remember, this potential tax saving applies only to this year at this time.



VOCATION PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you led Jesus into the desert to prepare him for his mission on Earth. During the forty days of this Lent, lead us into a deeper relationship with God and others. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation in our world, so desperately in need of healing. Give to those you have called to serve your people as priests, deacons, or religious the courage and strength to respond to your call with generosity. Amen.

Helping inactive Catholics come home

The Re-Membering Church Team of St. Patrick's is preparing to offer a six-week series of sessions with inactive Catholics on Wednesdays from Feb. 14 through Mar. 21. Because it can be hard to identify and reach out to those Catholics, the team asks for your help. Tell those you know that there is a way for them to be heard and to return if they choose.

If you prefer that invitation to come from someone else, share with the team the names of those you know to be inactive but seem open to sharing the reasons for their separation from their Church and to finding a way to be reconciled. The team will contact them in confidence with an invitation to share their story of hurt, anger, or apathy and to extend the support they may need to take the important first steps back.

Here are some things you should know about this process:

- The Re-Membering Church Team at St. Patrick's is a very small group of parishioners who have undergone training in ministering to inactive Catholics.

- Most people who have left the Church still consider themselves Catholic. Most, after some time away from their faith community, find themselves at a loss for the companionship and the richness of the sacramental life they experienced in the Church and are simply waiting for someone to help them return.

- The team offers an opportunity for them to share their stories, a compassionate hearing, and, where helpful, information to fill out their understandings of

Church teaching or practice.

- Those who accept this invitation are asked to make a commitment to the six sessions with the team, or with an individual team member if they prefer. (Additional sessions can be arranged, if desired.)

The easiest way to get in touch with the team is by calling the parish office (367-2665); the parish secretary will refer you to a team member. If you prefer, you may call any team member directly:

Barbara Wysocki (367-5014), Mary Lou Menches (344-1125),

Judy Corbett (398-2322), Sr. Charlene Cesario (367-2665), or Leo Wood (239-2587).





Welcome to new parishioners Steve and Li Barbee, Brandon and Kathleen Field, Janet Hahn, Suanne Kaufmann, Andrew and Stephanie Koester, Julius Manalang, Kevuke Niamadjomi, John Obenland, Don and Peggy Porter, Jennifer and Jim Richard, Barbara Sipes, and Esther Some-Griebe.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved from C-U: Marvin Brigoli and Marie Doreen, Ann Burke, Ellery Knake, Peggy Lynch, and Deborah and William Miller.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Andrew Hoye, Alanna Hoye, Francis Brigoli, Zoe Rose Hall, and Lola Michelle Juarez.

Congratulations to Dan Callaghan and Betsy Rowe, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Joseph Sleeter and Phillip Spittler.

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

Anyone can love peace,
but
Jesus didn't say,

"Blessed are the peacelovers."

He says
"peacemakers."

He is referring to a life
vocation,
not a hobby

on the sidelines of life.

~ Jim Wallis, *Sojourners*

"I love you truly,..."

"Roses are red, violets are blue..."—finish it with a couplet of your own choosing, ending of course with the mandatory "I love you"! Since childhood we've exchanged valentine greetings, or heart-shaped hard bits of candy inscribed with brief assurances of undying love, on the feast of St. Valentine, Feb. 14. Most of us, though, may draw the line at crooning a love song or singing a little love ditty to the object of our affection.

But you needn't be shy about singing—a group of talented singers from the Champaign-Urbana Theater Company will do this for you. All you have to do is identify the person you'd like them to serenade, choose a song from a list of seven, and indicate the best time of day for them to make their appearance. For a small donation of \$30, they will deliver a long-stem rose, the song of your choice (in the Champaign, Urbana, Savoy area), and a special dedication to the person you have indicated.

This isn't something new; Jim Mayer proposed the idea of "Singing Valentines" to the CUTC Board of Directors as a fund-raiser in 1995, and it's been extremely popular ever since.

The intention behind the serenade isn't always a romantic one. Singing valentines have been delivered to aging parents, shut-ins, friends, pastors, and bosses (yes!). The serenades have been delivered in a variety of settings: hospitals, nursing homes, bank lobbies, restaurants, classrooms, board meetings, department stores, hospital waiting rooms, school assemblies, homes, offices, faculty meetings, construction sites—even, once, to a butcher in his meat cooler!

But romance is never totally absent. Singing valentines have been delivered to celebrate anniversaries, and singers have delivered marriage proposals from a male to his intended

and from a female to hers. Just imagine!

The singers come from a variety of backgrounds; they include scientists, teachers, professional musicians, a state's attorney, students and more. Some singers volunteer every year, and many take time off work to participate. Most sign up for a four-hour shift (8:00 a.m.-noon, noon-4:00 p.m., 4:00-8:00 p.m.), but some individuals volunteer for two or even three shifts. Between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. the quartets make about 100 stops, approximately half of these on the morning shift.

St. Patrick's has provided space for rehearsals and warm-ups, and several parishioners and former parishioners have participated, among them Jim and Pat Mayer, Marilyn Marshall, Maureen Reagan, Chris McDonald, Anna Kasten, Binky Jandrich, John Minor, Rich Liesen, and Steve Peet. (Steve also arranged many of the songs for four-part harmony.)

If you want to do something special for a special someone on Valentine's Day, consider arranging for a "Singing Valentine." Forms are available in the parish office or can be accessed online at www.cutc.org (you can also hear a sampling of songs on the Web site). But get your request in soon—the deadline is Feb. 10!
<Photo(s) sent via e-mail—pick the best one>



Community holds ecumenical memorial vigil

Peace and Justice

It was 25 years ago that St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee initiated a plan for a Community Ecumenical Memorial Vigil in 1988. Parishioner Lu Pillar first conceived the need for such a vigil, and she pursued it until it became a reality. The idea was to share a prayerful unity of witness for the sanctity and dignity of human life and to remember the unborn children killed by abortion since the 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision by the Supreme Court.

The initial effort involved contacting other churches and asking them to join with St. Patrick's in this prayer service. There were many rebuffs, and it took Lu much time and patience to achieve her goal. With the help of the Pro-Life Committee members, including her husband Jim, Meg Grady, the Gill family, Mary Lee Brady, Leo Wood, and several others, the vigil evolved in time into a permanent planning committee made up of various church representatives, establishing a tradition and a shared unity of purpose led by the St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee. The service has gained acceptance over the years, due in large part to the support of former pastor Fr. George Remm, who was dedicated to life issues and contributed to the vigil planning in most years.

The vigil has been held at many different churches, with active participation in the service by Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Wesleyan, and independent Christian churches. Pastors provide leadership and guidance through

representative and personal contact. Members from the various churches serve as readers, candle lighters, musicians, or technical assistants.



There have been many speakers, some from organizations such as Victims of Choice and some local pastors, but many others have been local residents who want to share the consequences of "choice" with the community at large in the hope of averting more abortions.

Each year the planning committee develops a theme for the service and finds readings, music, and audiovisual presentations that will be meaningful to all who attend. The planning committee also tries to incorporate cultural insights into the service.

The candlelight procession and memorial tribute are special features of the vigil. Because abortion has physical, emotional, and spiritual effects, and knowledge of God's forgiveness and all-accepting love is a significant part of the healing process, post-abortion and crisis pregnancy counseling services are advertised in the program. Some organizations that provide such services are represented at the reception following the vigil service.

Anyone who would like to participate in the planning committee (involving five monthly meetings) or in the Pro-Life Committee at St. Patrick's may call Lu Pillar (344-4909) or Mary Lee Brady (355-2784).

Retreat planned for Feb. 24

This Lent St. Patrick's Social Action Ministry offers parishioners a retreat facilitated by Fr. Joseph A. Brown, S.J., on the theme "Black Sacred Song — Our Song Too." The



retreat, on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., will explore the question *How does our faith help us endure during difficult times?*

Father Brown will help us discover ways to adapt to a complex world using the tools of our ancestors, teaching us how to pray with the spirituals to help us understand the gratitude of believers, to understand issues of forgiveness, and how to move beyond Crucifixion to Resurrection.

Father Brown is a Catholic priest with an extensive academic and pastoral career. He taught theater and poetry at Creighton University, received a Master's degree and Ph.D. from Yale University, and has taught at the University of Virginia and Xavier University in New Orleans. He has authored several books on grace and the Black Catholic Church, and is currently Professor and Director of the Black American Studies Program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

All are invited. Please register by Feb. 19 so that lunches can be planned; call Carolyn McElrath (531-7014) to register. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

This event is co-sponsored by the Channing-Murray Foundation, Salem Baptist Church, and Church Women United.

St. Thomas More's application deadline is Feb. 9

The High School of St. Thomas More is now accepting applications for the 2007-8 school year. Deadline for applications is Feb. 9. If you currently have a student at The High School of Saint Thomas More, please be reminded you must complete an application for incoming siblings. Applications for the incoming freshmen class are arriving daily, so it is recommended that applications

for all siblings be submitted ASAP. An application/enrollment fee of \$255 must accompany each submitted application.

Application requirements and application forms are available online from the STM Web site (<http://hs-stm.org>) or from the main school office.

Forgiveness

The following is a practice in the Eastern Orthodox Church, described by member Frederica Mathewes-Green.

One evening the members of my parish formed a big circle inside the church. The ends of the circle overlapped, and my husband (the priest) faced a subdeacon. He bowed deeply, and then said, "Please forgive me, my brother, for any way I have sinned against you." Greg (the subdeacon) responded, "I forgive you," then bowed and asked forgiveness in turn. When my husband gave his forgiveness, the two embraced and each moved on to the next person in line.



As the circle advanced, each person had a turn to stand face-to-face with every other person, asking and giving forgiveness. Joy mingled with tears. A woman I'd quarreled with opened her arms wide and said with a smile, "C'mere. This is going to take awhile."

We do this every year at the beginning of Lent, just as Orthodox Christians do all over the world. But when I described it to a non-Orthodox friend, she wondered how we could give forgiveness without discussion and negotiation. The other person might hurt you again. You might even suspect their repentance is phony.

How can you give forgiveness? By remembering how much God has to forgive you. It's that simple. Forgiveness is never what a person deserves—if we got what we deserved, it wouldn't be forgiveness.

When we forgive, we give a costly gift, just as God gives us, and we can't control whether the other person will use that gift well or badly. But we can refuse to go on being chained to their past behavior through bonds of anger and judgment. Anger is an acid that destroys its container.

We give forgiveness every year because we need to do so in order to stay healthy. We ask for forgiveness because we need that even more.

Third year of Disciples in Mission set to begin

The goal of the third year of the Disciples in Mission program is this: To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.



The week of Feb. 18 our parish community will begin small group meetings for the third and final year of the Disciples in Mission program. Signup for small groups will be held on the weekends of Jan. 28, Feb. 4, and Feb. 11. You will have the opportunity to stay with the group you were with last year, change to a

new group, or join a group for the first time. Groups meet weekly during the six weeks of Lent, on various days, at different times of the day, and in many locations. You are sure to find a group that meets your scheduling needs.

Now more than ever, Christ's healing message of peace and reconciliation is needed in our homes, our community, and the world. Now is the time to strive to conform our lives to the Gospel so that we can transform the world around us. Disciples in Mission offers us a tool for this transformation. Prayerfully considering the Gospel message of this Lenten season will ground us for the work. Together may we "continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ."

Go out as disciples!

Faith and Films Series 2007

Building on the readings for the Sundays of Lent, the *Faith and Films Series* is a way for adults, young adults, and families to participate in the parish renewal program *Disciples in Mission*, using films to explore its themes.

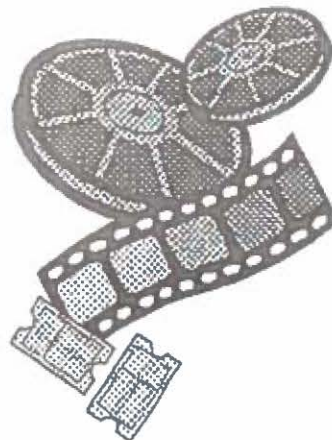
Through viewing a different film each week that parallels the themes of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday, we will explore together how we are asked to be open to grace in our lives as we meet the challenges of everyday life as disciples of Christ. We will consider Christ's call to go out into the world as his disciples. As we see everyday people struggling to meet common and uncommon challenges, we will have an opportunity to consider God's power to transform all for good, even life's most unexpected experiences.

The films will be shown on six consecutive Friday

evenings, from Feb. 23 through Mar. 30, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's multipurpose room. Come for dinner (Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at 5:30 p.m.) and stay for a movie. Each showing will include an introduction and the viewing of a film, followed by a short discussion. Dessert and refreshments will be available.

The film that opens the series on Feb. 23 is *Twelve Angry Men* (1957, not rated). In it the defense and the prosecution in a murder trial have rested, and the jury is filing into the jury room to decide whether a young Spanish American is guilty or

innocent of murdering his father. What begins as an open and shut case of murder soon becomes a mini-drama of jurors' individual prejudices and preconceptions about the trial, the accused, and one another. This film challenges viewers to think how we can change and be changed. (Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee in 1958)



Knights of Columbus announces two main events

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor two events in early February. A **Super Bowl Breakfast** will be offered from

8:15 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, the only charge a free-will offering to help defray the costs. The event will feature "Biscuits and Gravy" v. "Omelets." Last year, "Biscuits and Gravy" conceded prior to the start of the fourth quarter. Let's eat healthy this year and help move "Omelets" to a Super Bowl victory—but beware of trick plays from "Biscuits and Gravy"! The menu for the event includes biscuits and gravy, pancakes and sausage links, omelets, fresh fruit, juice, coffee and milk.

Also, a **Ladies Knight Out** will be held on Saturday, Feb. 10. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include a dinner of appetizers, tossed salad, steak or chicken, vegetables, wine, coffee, and dessert, with entertainment provided by "The Catholic Boys." Door prizes will be awarded, and raffle tickets for a week's vacation in Florida will be available (\$5 each or 5 for \$20). Tickets for the event can be obtained from the parish office or on Sundays at the coffee shop, for \$15 each. Please note that attendance at this event is limited to 150 ladies. Ladies, bring a friend and enjoy the evening, compliments of the Urbana Knights of Columbus!



Capital improvements benefit us all!

In examining the parish's annual financial report distributed last November, you may have noticed the expenditure of \$102,543 for "capital improvements." Capital improvements are those items that do not qualify as routine maintenance but rather increase property value, efficiency, and longevity, and enhance its appearance.

The capital improvements in the report include the following:

1. **New concrete stairs for the west side exit of the church** will reduce the risk of accidents and improve the appearance of the church's exterior for many years to come.

2. **The new telephone system for the parish offices** increases the staff's ability to handle incoming calls more efficiently. It includes such welcome features as voice mail and conference calls and eliminates the need for an answering service.

3. Improvements in **landscaping of the parish grounds** enhance the welcoming environment of St. Patrick's for parishioners and guests. Expansion of the space in front of the church also provides a generous gathering space for parishioners before or after Mass and other events in the church.

4. **New flooring in the kitchen, main hall, lobby, and**

hallways of the parish center gives the building a professional yet welcoming appearance and is a welcome update after 25-30 years or more of steady wear, with tiles broken in some places, worn through in others, and permanently stained in the kitchen.

Other purchases and acquisitions to improve overall appearance or provide necessary upgrades have been funded by St. Patrick's Guild from the net proceeds of Guild fundraisers like the Cellar-to-Garret Sale and the recent Mrs. Claus's Cookies and candle sale. These include the new furniture for the parish center lobby, the new chest of drawers for the vesting sacristy of the church, the furnishings for Fr. Hoa's apartment, the defibrillators for church and parish hall, and the recently purchased gold communion cups and bowls for a total contribution of \$14,917. (The Guild also contributed \$20,000 toward the cost of the new flooring.) You can easily see that your donation or purchase of items during the recent cookie extravaganza or the Cellar-to-Garret Sale has been put to good use on behalf of all of us!

There may be more capital improvements in store for St. Patrick's facilities this year. Keeping our parish plant in good condition and looking good is important to us all.



Guild announces changes

In an effort to attract new members and encourage returning members, the St. Patrick's Guild will hold its meetings on selected fourth Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in the parish center lounge. The first meeting at the new time is on the same weekend as publication of this issue of *In Focus*: Sunday, Jan. 28. The Guild will continue to have 3 or 4 general meetings each year, in addition to some special events that will be held in the evening or on a Saturday.

Please come to help plan the Guild's next event, an evening Fashion Show tentatively scheduled in February before Ash Wednesday. Members will also discuss the results of the Dec. 3 Mrs. Claus's Cookie Jar/Candle Sale. The Guild also hopes for your suggestions of events that will attract parishioners of all ages (even men are eligible to join). For more information, contact Carole Rebeiz (377-9148 or ccrebeiz@aol.com), Guild President.



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

Sniffing, sneezing, or coughing?

Even if you don't have a cold now, there are probably many people around you who do, and you are most likely planning on having your throat blessed on Feb. 3, the feast of St. Blaise. There may be a more historical explanation for setting aside this day for the blessing of the throats, but in the middle of the cold and flu season, most of us wouldn't think of missing this ceremony.

Jesus was concerned for the sick, and the blessing is a prayer for God's healing and protection. The blessed candles are joined in the form of a cross and are often tied with a red ribbon, a sign of St. Blaise's martyrdom. The candles are placed at the throat of each person, and the minister prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from

ailments of the throat and from every other evil: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

How did this popular custom come to be? St. Blaise was a bishop in Armenia in the fourth century. He was also a physician. The traditional belief is that he miraculously saved a small boy from choking on a fish bone, and he is said to have healed many others as well.

The candles that will be used during the year are blessed on Feb. 2, the Feast



of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Old Mosaic law required that a male child be presented at the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth. This 40 days was also the period of purification of a woman who had given birth, hence, the day is also the feast of the Purification of Mary. When the observance of Christmas was established on Dec. 25 in the year 375, the feast of the Presentation began to be observed on Feb. 2. Also known as Candlemas, the practice of blessing the candles was introduced around the 11th century—the light from the candles representing Christ, the Light of the World.

Besides asking St. Blaise to protect us against physical throat ailments, we may also ask him to protect us from using our voices to curse, make unkind remarks, or gossip. We may pray that he will help us use our voices lovingly and to speak assertively when appropriate.

Weeds and Tiny Perfect Fingers

The mountains of Mexico sleep
with eyes wide open.
Tiny weeds fiesta bloom year around
and each flower cries out,
begs for individual attention.

Around distant scattered adobe huts
earth's Indian women move about
in daily tasks.
Overhead clouds barely clear the Sierra Madre peaks
cruise low, become almost touchable,
churn mysteriously,
hurried like the Indian women.

The mountains store memories
of so many quiet deaths
and so many beautiful births -
re-creating eyes, smiles, laughter, tiny perfect fingers
over and over again
out of dark ground, out of quiet breeze and insect sounds.

The mountains fall in love, make music,
build fires at night, burst forth in celebration.
They draw downpours from a distant ocean
for corn, those worshippers with wide spread arms.
They give birth to capillaries of springs and rivers,
cast up legends, deities, and broken pottery.

Bodies buried here
rejoin mountains, perfect blossoms, cicada's calls,
trees leaning by water's edge,
bird songs, and then disappear -
disappear to wherever old songs go and
fiestas that end -
all hoping for,
dreaming
of a resurrection.



A new and unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk

Volunteer Opportunities

Can you help serve at funeral lunches? Because funerals often occur on weekdays, working men and women who might like to assist with the lunch following the funeral cannot do so. Help is needed to monitor the buffet table to ensure adequate food and service items, to refill coffee cups, and to clean up afterward. *Parish office: 367-2665*

The Champaign County Nursing Home needs volunteers to help wheelchair-bound residents get to activities and for a program of individual visiting—attend group get-togethers to get to know the residents. Call Traci Heiden (384-3784) for an appointment. *Council of Congregations, Peggy Whelan*

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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.



in our parish library

The theme for this month, in honor of St. Valentine's Day, is "Love, Marriage, and Family." The following books are representative of those you can check out of the library. Following each of the categories are listed some related articles available from the *Catholic Education Resource Center* Web site, www.catholiceducation.org.

Love: The following books and articles focus on the theme of love, whether self-love or love for others.

Books:

- *Are We Compatible?* by Catherine Rollins (301.4 ROL)
- *The Blessing*, by Gary Smalley (301 SMA)
- *The Capacity to Love*, by Jack Dominian (231 DOM)
- *Celebrating the Single Life: Sourcebook* (301 COL)
- *Love, a Guide for Prayer*, by Jacqueline Syrup Bergan (242 BER)
- *Making Friends of Enemies – Reflections* (241 LOW)
- *The Single Experience*, by Keith Miller (301 MIL)
- *Unconditional Love*, by John Powell, S.J. (231 POW)

Web Site Articles:

- *Love Sees with New Eyes*, by Peter Kreeft
- *The Meaning of Love*, by Donald DeMarco

• *Why I Chose Love as the Theme of My First Encyclical*, by Pope Benedict XVI

Marriage: These books and articles suggest ways to keep marriage alive and full of love.

Books:

- *The Good Marriage: How and Why Love Lasts*, by Judith Wallerstein (301.4 Wal)
- *Love Life for Every Married Couple*, by Ed Wheat, M.D. (301 WHE)

• *Marriage: A Covenant of Seasons* (301 HOL)

Web Site Articles:

- *The Magnificence of Marriage*, by Mitchell Kalpakgian
- *Together and in Love*, by Michaelann Martin
- *Introduction – Marriage: The Mystery of Faithful Love*, by Alice Von Hildebrand

Family: These books and articles discuss why a strong, intact home life is the biggest single factor in raising good, successful kids. They also present prayers and ideas on how to create a loving home life.

Books:

- *Building Family Faith*, by Gillian Brown (248 BRO)
- *Love Must Be Tough: New Hope for Family*, by Dr. James C. Dobson (646.7 DOB)

Web Site Articles:

- *Advice for Fathers*, by James

Stenson

- *All in the Family*, by John Leo
- *Discipline: What Works and Why?* by James Stenson
- *Families' Priceless Gift to Free Society: Self-Giving Love*, by Louise Perrotta
- *Finding Time for Fathering*, by Steve Wood
- *What Parents Can Do*, by William Kilpatrick

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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 stop by the library on Sundays, 8:30-11:30 a.m., to speak with one of the library team members.



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 Mary Lee Brady, Ed Clancy, Lyle Fettig, Pat Fettig, Helene Kacich, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Jim Mayer, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Lu Pillar, Carole Rebeiz, Marcia Reed, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, John Schreiber, Sue Schreiber, Margaret Stewart, Allison Sutton, John Towns, Peggy Whelan, Leo Wood, and Sophia Zeigler. This issue was edited by John Towns and pagged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Jim Mayer

Toad in a Hole

This is a dish my brothers and I loved to eat as kids. Mom always called it "Eggs in a Basket," but in scouting it was called "Toads in a Hole."

1 egg per slice of bread

Cut a hole in the slice of bread; for



example, use a glass in cookie-cutter fashion. Heat oil or margarine in a skillet. Place the bread slice in the skillet and crack the egg into the hole. Cook "sunny side up" or "over easy." Salt and pepper to taste. Suggestion: Fry the "bread hole" as an extra treat-kids love that little round piece of toast!

St Patrick's Parish

February 2007

Urbana, IL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is Feb. 11.</p>				<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 6pm Building & Grounds 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	<p>10am Social Ministry Team</p>
				1	2	3
<p>8:30am-noon Super Bowl Breakfast 9:15 am Rel Ed 10:30 am Chil's Liturgy 6:30 pm Jr High Rel Ed 6:30 pm Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>7pm Pro-Life 7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs 7:30pm Council Executive Com. 6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm Grief Support Group 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir</p>	<p>CREW Ski Trip</p> <p>10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH</p>	<p>6pm Ladies Knight Out</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Child Liturgy 4pm CREW CTC (Mahomet) 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>7:30am, 4:30pm Singing Valentines 9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm Social Action 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Choir</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council 7pm Choir 7pm RCIA</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH 10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey</p>	<p>Vietnamese Lunar New Year 5pm Bilingual Mass & Party CREW Pay-It Forward (Boys and Girls Club)</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>6:30pm Teen Reconciliation 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>Disciples in Mission Small Groups Begin 7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia 7pm Worship Ministries Team</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday Masses: 7am 12:10, 5:15, 7:30pm 9am Moms UIP 4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Grief Support Group</p>	<p>6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Communications 7pm Choir</p>	<p>10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry, CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films</p>	<p>8:30am-4pm Retreat with Fr. Brown</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Lynn Grandon on "I'm Dying to Have Sex"; 4pm Parents, 6:30pm Teens 8:30am-noon Blood Pressure Screening 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study</p>	<p>7pm Centering Prayer</p>	<p>6pm Mystagogia</p>	<p>9am Moms UIP 9:30am Schola 4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm Childrens Choir 7pm SVDP 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Choir</p>			
25	26	27	28			