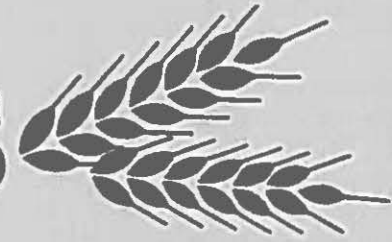


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

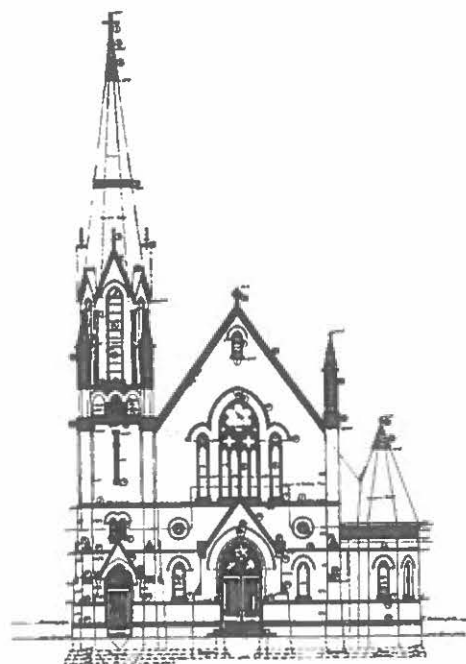
The people of St. Patrick's speak out as the Second Century Advisory Committee listens:

We're living with limitations, but making a joyful sound to the Lord!

When the church experienced its 100th year, the parishioners of St. Patrick's celebrated the mission and courage of a handful of parishioners whose dream in 1901 was to build their house of worship. Their dream for the 40-50 Catholic families who were parishioners at that time has lived on into a second century.

But now it's 1,113 families at St Patrick's—gathering for weekend liturgies to receive the Eucharist, participating in the Church's sacramental life through baptism, confirmation, reconciliation, when married, when anointed for healing, and when they are finally laid to rest. The graces given to this parish community have called them to minister to others—as liturgical ministers at Mass, as servants of the poor through the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as educators passing on their precious faith to their children and inquiring adults, as people who continue learning and sharing their faith journey with others.

St Patrick's is a full-participation parish! It represents those seeking to understand the mysteries of their faith, those seeking to serve others, and those coming together to celebrate major events. YES, St Patrick's does celebrate—with multiple get-togethers in the parish center



to eat, drink, and share stories of life and faith.

Fr. Joe formed the 2nd Century Advisory Committee as a response to one of the Parish Council's five-year goals:

"St. Patrick's has adopted a Master Plan for the efficient utilization of space and other resources for supporting and furthering the Kingdom of God." (Parish Council, March 2005).

The job of this committee during the year 2006 was to ask parishioners

about their parish life and whether they believe the current church and parish center structures are able to serve their needs. They received responses from completed written surveys and from six small focus groups of randomly selected parishioners in October.

Parish-wide open meetings were held on Nov. 27 and 29. Committee member Ellen Amberg presented a PowerPoint illustration indicating where parishioners think we stand now, more than 100 years after the church was built for those 40-50 families. Parishioners who were present voiced concerns similar to those mentioned in the committee's findings.

* * * * *

About attending Mass here:

Parishioners said they love the music, full participation, and sense of community that marks St Patrick's. They appreciate the diversity of people, the welcoming nature of all, and the leadership of our pastor. Repeatedly mentioned as concerns:

- Two of the weekend Masses are consistently overcrowded.
- The sanctuary, sacristy, and choir areas are very limited spaces for the

Continued on page 3

CREW relates to a youthful Mary

At their December religious education night, CREW studied the theme of "Mary, Mother of God." Along with learning about Mary and her role in salvation history, they also looked at various art works depicting the Holy Mother. In their small-group breakout sessions, the teens also examined the hard choices they make in their own lives in much the same way Mary was asked to make a courageous decision at a very tender age. Each group created their own prayer to Mary, and CREW wants to share them with you!

* * * * *

Lord, give us the strength you gave to your handmaiden, Mary. Allow us to accept your will when we should do something to stand up for what we believe. Let us see Mary as our example of how to take the right path through life on the way to heaven. Let the Holy Spirit shine through us and bring others to you through our example. Amen.

* * * * *

Dear God, please provide me with confidence, hope, and strength to allow the Holy Spirit to become more active in the world through me. Please help me get a good high school education and help me get into a good college. Dear God, please help me to become a better petitioner of Mary. God, please send the Holy Spirit down and guide me to help others, for I need your strength and grace.

* * * * *

Dear God, help us to have a better understanding of our faith. Send the Holy Spirit to fill us with peace, love, courage, and harmony. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, your Mother and ours. Amen.

* * * * *

Heavenly Father, thank you for Mary, the Mother of God, who openly accepted His call. Thank you for the Holy Spirit, who has the greatest power of all. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, who helped show us the way. Help us to open our minds and hearts



Heavenly Father,
Open my heart to the
Silent Presence of the
Spirit of your Son.
Lead me into that
Mysterious silence
Where your Love is
Revealed to all who call
Come Lord Jesus.

—John Main

every day. And make us to be true followers of God. Amen.

* * * * *

Almighty spirit of Heaven and earth, give us your wisdom and understanding that we may know your will for us and to discern right from wrong, and the courage and strength to accept your will and spread your Word. Help us to bear our challenges with grace and dignity as the Holy Mother did and look to her as an example. Let me spread your word for the good of the whole world. Amen.

Beginning the year with Mother's Day

What better way to start a new year than by honoring our mother? On Jan. 1, having just celebrated the birth of her child, Jesus, the Church gives us a feast to honor Mary, the Mother of God and our mother.

Through the ages Catholics have recognized Mary by numerous titles, among them the splendid "Mystical Rose" and "Theotokos" (Greek for God-bearer). Others in her Litany of Loretto call to mind her centrality in our lives and her intercessory role in all our needs.

"Dearest of mothers," we pray, "wife of Joseph, you bore the Christ Child without comfort, except for a star and angel song and visits from shepherds and kings."

"Mother and Virgin," you pondered events and prophecies in your heart.

"Mother of the Church," care for our priests and religious, and all the people of God.

"House of Gold," shelter and protect missionaries far from home.

"Mirror of Justice," inspire the leaders of nations to cooperate unselfishly in providing for the needs of all peoples.

"Morning Star," give hope to service men and women everywhere.

"Cause of Our Joy," watch over our children.

"Health of the Sick," intercede for the ill and disabled.

"Virgin Gentle in Mercy," come to the aid of the hungry, the homeless, the poor.

"Refuge of Sinners," love and care for us still when we are caught in hatred, violence, and warfare.

"Queen of Peace," teach us to walk gently upon this earth.

Mary, Mother of God and our mother, we raise our hearts to you; pray for us!



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

The people of St. Patrick's speak out (continued from page 1)

number of people who need to serve in those areas.

- The entrance to the church was determined to be too small to provide for liturgical processions into the church and to accommodate families with restless children during Mass.

- The enthusiastic welcoming of people in the entrance space does disturb people already inside the church, prayerfully preparing for Mass.

- The handicapped and elderly have great difficulty maneuvering the entries to the church building, and there is little restroom space.

- 75% of the parishioners responding to the survey felt that the church does not meet present needs and that there is no room for growth.

* * * * *

About the parish center facilities:

Parishioners were happy to have the facility to enhance parish life and offer so many opportunities for education and growth in their faith. The building houses the St. Vincent de Paul Society's food storeroom, most parish staff offices, and multiple-sized rooms

for gathering, along with an equipped kitchen. Mentioned as concerns:

- Over 110 events were scheduled for the parish center in October and again in November, and not all requests for space can be accommodated.

- The parish offices share an awkward entrance with the kitchen.

- The multiple entrances are confusing; there is no "main" entrance to the facility.

- Some parish staff members have their offices in another building due to lack of space in the parish center.

- The parish library is frequently used as a meeting/classroom space, limiting access for parishioners.

- The handicapped and elderly are discouraged from moving between buildings due to uneven steps and the disadvantage posed by inclement weather.

* * * * *

At the open meetings Fr. Joe and the committee members addressed questions about:

- the possibility of reducing the number of weekend Masses due to

the shortage of priests;

- diocesan plans to evaluate each local rural parish when a priest is moved from that parish, as well as the mission of St. Mary's in Champaign;

- the inability of utilizing visiting priests at St. John's on campus because the number of priests studying at the U of I varies every few months;

- current parish demographics and minimal parish indebtedness;

- the opportunity for expansion made possible by the purchase of apartment buildings in our city block.

* * * * *

Now it is the task of the committee, which will be reconvening in January, to continue to listen to parishioners' concerns and to draw up a master plan to better meet the needs of parishioners now and for the next century.

You can continue to be a part of this process by directing your comments, concerns, and questions to the 2nd Century Advisory Committee: Ellen Amberg, Mike Andrejasich, Steve Beckett, Carol Bosley, Claude Cole, Pat Dill, Pat Justice, Jerry Pijanowski, Joe Rasmussen, Mort Weir, and Fr. Joe Hogan.

"The Big Story," retold by Dr. Ken Cuffey

Can you tell the whole story of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, in two hours? Dr. Ken Cuffey can—and did on Sunday, Nov. 12. The afternoon began at 1:00 p.m. with a potluck, followed by Dr. Cuffey's presentation.

Dr. Ken Cuffey is president of the Urbana Theological Seminary, which offers graduate courses in theology and is accredited by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He spent some time talking about his seminary, which he called "the best-kept secret in Champaign-Urbana," a secret to be shared.

Presenting "Our Bible; Big Picture," Dr. Cuffey began with Genesis and



Dr. Ken Cuffey

ended with Revelation. The central theme of the Bible is God's covenant with humanity. This covenant began with Adam and Eve, to whom God gave a perfect life until they broke the covenant.

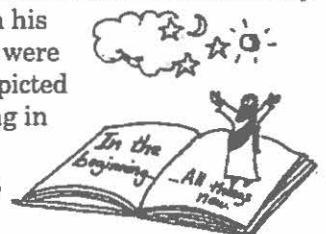
God continued to renew his covenant with humanity. To Noah, God promised never again to destroy the world by flooding. God made a special covenant with Abraham and all his descendants. As often as humans broke the covenant, God reestablished it with a new person: Moses, Joshua, the Judges, David, Solomon, and the Prophets.

The new covenant is Jesus, the

covenant between God and humankind, where the innocent Christ takes all our sins on himself to be forgiven as he dies on the cross.

Finally, Revelation describes how Jesus leaves heaven and comes down to earth to rule visibly in the new city of Jerusalem. God's covenant with and blessing to Abraham is that all families on earth will be blessed—not by their ethnicity, but by their hearts.

The events of the Bible touched on by Dr. Cuffey in his presentation were creatively depicted by Mary Long in 88 colorful illustrations, shown on a movie screen and in a paper handout.





in our parish library

Spiritual exercise, anyone?

St. Patrick's parish library is one of a cluster of parish activities and groups in the newly constituted Spiritual Enrichment Ministry. The ministry leadership team of Sr. Charlene Cesario, Kathy Sarnecki, and Tracey Johnson met recently with several parishioners whose ministry signup sheets indicated an interest in volunteering for the parish library.

As a result of that meeting a team of library volunteers was formed, led by a University of Illinois librarian, Allison Sutton, and including Sandy Broda, Nancy Costa, Sarah Gertner, Judy Huelsbusch, Kathy Munday, Lori Mestre, Dee Mulligan, and Sue Schreiber.

Allison, who has a master's in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University, sees her new role as a way to put her professional skills to work in serving God and the parish community. She describes the team as "a very energetic group of new and long-time volunteers." Each month they plan to suggest books for readers of *In Focus* on a selected theme; recommended books this month are on the theme "Spiritual Exercise for the New Year."

* * * * *

January conjures up thoughts of diet, exercise, and maybe the reorganization of our lives. What if this year you were to look beyond these choices and resolve to draw nearer to God, to enjoy the benefits of developing or reinvigorating a pattern of *spiritual* exercise?

If you are fixated on the word "fitness" at the start of the New Year, try picking up *Spiritual Fitness: Everyday Exercises for the Body and Soul*, by Doris Donnelly (248 DON).

If you are unable to slow down and pause for a conversation with God, you may want to read *Too Busy NOT to*



Here are a few members of the newly formed library team. From the left: Nancy Costa, facilitator Allison Sutton, Lori Mestre, and Sarah Gertner. Not shown: Sandy Broda, Judy Huelsbusch, Kathy Munday, Dee Mulligan, and Sue Schreiber.

Pray, by Bill Hybels (242 HYB).

If you seem to focus so much on being loving and unselfish that you tend to forget your own limitations, learn to set some limits with *Boundaries: When to say Yes and When to Say No to Take Control of Your life*, by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend (248 CLO)—and don't miss the accompanying workbook.

Some books change the way you think. *How to Be Like Jesus: Lessons on Following in His Footsteps*, by Pat Williams (233 WIL), will change the way you live.

Summer is many months away, but you could get away from the hectic pattern of your days by selecting *A Vacation with the Lord: A Personal, Directed Retreat with Thomas H. Green, S.J.* (242 GRE), which is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius.

Finally, if you're looking for something brief and insightful, a reflection to hold close to the heart each day, you might try *Days of Devotion: Daily Meditations from the Good Shepherd* (212 JOH), writings by Pope John XXIII for each season of the Liturgical Year.

* * * * *

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. The team is working diligently to map out a consistent schedule so that assistance will be more regularly available in the coming year. Stay tuned for more library updates!



Q: The Eucharistic ministers seem to be doing something different. What's happening, and why?

A: St. Patrick's has recently acquired new gold Communion cups and bowls for the distribution of Communion, as requested by our bishop. The liturgical norms say that these can be made of any worthy material, and Bishop Jenky has asked that parishes in the Diocese of Peoria use unbreakable vessels in keeping with the norms.

The other change you've probably noticed is that Eucharistic ministers now assemble in front of the altar steps instead of in the sanctuary during the Sign of Peace. This gives them a chance to sort themselves out without distracting from the main liturgical action, the breaking of the bread, at the same time observing the liturgical norm that calls for Eucharistic ministers to wait until the presider has received Communion before they approach.

* * * * *

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

“I hereby resolve...”

For Catholics and Christians, Lent is the time when we decide what to give up. However, the New Year is the time when we resolve to try to make a

positive change in our lives. And some of St. Patrick's parishioners are already thinking about their New Year's resolutions.

Parish Council member **Jack**

Collins says that while he does not make New Year's resolutions, he does set goals each year. At the start of every year he reviews his goals, updates them, and sets some new goals. “My goals include such items as books to read, exercise, balance at work, and taking a painting class. Each year there are a number of repeat items.” Last spring he did take a painting class, and a book he plans to read in the coming year is *Death by Meeting*.

Helene Kacich resolves to focus on more organization in her life, with less procrastination. Her motto for the coming year: “Let's git 'er done!” (This is from someone who seems already to be doing that quite well, having just earned her graduate degree at the University of Illinois while teaching full-time!)

Angelina Davito, an undergraduate student studying International Studies at Illinois, says her New Year's resolution is to manage her time more efficiently. “I've decided get my priorities in order, and put my family at the top. (This may or may not be affected by the amount of time I wish I could spend with my 2-year-old nephew!)”

Shelly Benson admits she is not so good about making and keeping resolutions. However, her resolution for the coming year is to cherish those ordinary moments—driving the kids (Sara and Nicholas) to school, dance class, basketball practice, etc.—and “to see joy and wonder in something every day.”

Joan Gerhart usually doesn't make resolutions because, she says, “I don't like to make promises I can't keep! I

just try always to be a good person and not eat too much.”

“I resolve to learn to say no to others, besides my wife, who ask me to do things for them!” is not good news for the friends, most family, and co-workers (not to mention local government colleagues) of **Steve Beckett**.

The beginning of a new year is a good time to work something into your routine that will positively affect your spiritual growth and development. Here are some possibilities:

- Begin or renew a daily habit of reading scripture.
- Make a resolution to read the Bible cover-to-cover, starting on January 1 (consider books on tape in your car to help you along, or your MP3 player).
- Join a faith-sharing group.
- Stop by the religious aisle at one of the local bookstores to find a daily devotional book, and resolve to read one devotion each day with your morning coffee.
- Make a commitment that before year's end you will have joined one parish group *or* assisted with one parish program *or* volunteered for one parish service project *or* attended one parish lecture or speaker.

And have a Happy New Year!

Vocation Prayer



Lord Jesus, your mother continues to shine as one who fully responded to God's call. May the young people in our parish and elsewhere be graced to follow her example of doing God's will in their lives. Help them to understand the joy that comes from serving God and others, especially in the priesthood and religious life. Amen.

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. *St.*

Patrick's Guild: Irma Wait, 367-6547

Thanks to Sue Schreiber, who has volunteered to serve as **Council reporter for *In Focus***; you'll be able to read her reports on Parish Council meetings beginning next month.



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



Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Eric Bucio, Holly Ann Hawes, Raphaelle Mboyo Engele, Kevin Mboyo Bongengwa, Emeraude Flore Tshimanga, Abigail Ngamboma Aminata, Luke Richard Allen, Alexander Ubaldo, Xavier Andrew Field, Rose Cassandra Walsh, Oliver Keir Walsh, Neil Orion Walsh, Olivia Nicole Getty, Henry Thomas Rajlich, and Nora Louise O'Brien.

Congratulations to Tara Lynch and Jake Slaminko, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Frances Shay Johnson, Vivian Mueller, and Mary Casagrande.

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

Enjoy the rich imagery of a familiar hymn

The hymn "Let all mortal flesh keep silent," a song of praise sung often during Advent and Christmastime, will have become quite familiar to us by the end of the Christmas season. Because the text is full of lush imagery and may be new to some, it merits a closer look.

The hymn was originally written in Greek and is taken from the Liturgy of St. James, one of the ancient liturgies used by the Eastern Church. In that liturgy it is found in the prayers before the consecration, corresponding roughly to the Preface in our Latin liturgy.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded for, with blessings in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish and the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"

The text brings out Jesus' presence in three different ways. Given its source, it mentions Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. And what does it say? That we should stand in awe before him who gives "his own self for heavenly food." Second, it mentions Jesus' presence in the flesh, making it a fitting hymn for Christmastime (as well as for Communion at any time of year). The hymn says that Jesus' body is present in the Eucharist just as it was when he walked among us. Finally, it mentions Jesus' presence in glory in heaven. The hymns of the Eastern Church often use lavish imagery of God and the saints in glory, and this version spends two stanzas in this pursuit.

In the mid-nineteenth century, scholars in Western Europe "rediscovered" the riches of the liturgies of the East, which had been in continual use for centuries among the various Greek, Orthodox, and Byzantine churches. In England particularly, several authors translated hymns and other liturgical texts from the Greek for use as hymns. Gerard Moultrie, who translated "Let all mortal flesh," was a priest of the Anglican Church. Other hymns in *Worship III* translated from Greek into English in the nineteenth century are "Come, you faithful, raise the strain" (#456), "Come and let us drink of that new river" (#723), and "O gladsome light" (#679).

The tune of "Let all mortal flesh" is a French folk melody, dating perhaps from the seventeenth century. Ralph Vaughan Williams first used it as a hymn tune, pairing it with "Let all mortal flesh" in the English Hymnal. (The English Hymnal is celebrating its centennial this year.) Williams introduced a number of folk melodies as hymn tunes in that hymnal, including the tunes for "I heard the voice of Jesus say" (Worship #607), "Help us accept each other" (#656), and "Blest be the God of Israel" (#6).



St. Patrick's presents... Jason Kotecki

Feeling stressed? Busy? Burned out? God didn't design life to be this way—make your escape! On Saturday, Jan. 20, enjoy national speaker, author, and cartoonist Jason Kotecki for a hilarious and uplifting look at how to uncover a more childlike faith.

Jason Kotecki is the creator of *Kim & Jason*, the internationally known comic strip about childhood (www.KimandJason.com). He is also the author of "Escape Adulthood: 8 Secrets from Childhood for the Stressed-Out Grown-up." By combining anecdotes, uplifting stories, scriptural references, and a bit of cartooning, Jason shares biblical principles and real-world techniques that will help you to uncover God's great purpose for your life, create a family dynamic that is more fun, loving, and supportive, and learn new ways to make a profound difference in the lives of the people you love.



On Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Jason will give a special presentation to the CREW teens. Parishioners of all ages are invited to the CREW-sponsored dinner at 6 p.m. that evening to raise funds for the summer Mission Trip to Detroit. As a special treat the CREW Praise Band will give its debut performance. Following dinner, Jason Kotecki will entertain our parish with fun for all ages. There will be babysitting for children under 5. Watch the bulletin for more information and ticket sales.

Parish Council News

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Jan. 18 in the parish lounge, following a half hour of prayer in the church. Council meetings are open to the parish; all are welcome to attend. Watch for Sue Schreiber's first report on the Council's January meeting in the next issue of *In Focus*.

Fallen leaves not a challenge for teens

This year CREW members once again offered to rake leaves for parishioners to help defray the cost of next summer's Mission trip. On two days, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18, 35 teens assisted by 15 adults raked lawns for 18 parishioners.



Six of the 35 CREW stalwarts who braved a cold November morning to rake leaves (from the left): Nick Thompson, Stacy Black, Zita Hubler, Hana Mendoza, Mary Tate, and Mike Fitzgerald.



Stacy Black (right) helped Peggy Loftus bag leaves for pickup.

Parishioner Émile Talbot honored

Émile Talbot, professor emeritus of French and husband of Elizabeth, recently received a Prix du Québec award jointly from the American Council for Québec Studies and Québec's Ministère des Relations Internationales.

The award is given once every two years to recognize a U.S. citizen who has made outstanding contributions to Québec studies. The citation was read by Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, the current international affairs minister, at a plenary session of the biennial conference of the ACQS, held Oct. 12-14 in Cambridge, Mass.

Émile Talbot is editor of *Québec Studies*, a refereed academic journal published by ACQS and featuring articles on all aspects of Québec and Francophone Canadian society and culture.



Émile and Elizabeth Talbot

"Lord, we are sorry. Forgive us."

After several weeks' preparation, 34 young parishioners received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Nov. 28 at a special service. Their parents, who also participated in the preparatory sessions, and their brothers and sisters received the sacrament of Reconciliation as well, making this a "family affair" for many.

Keep these youngsters in your prayers:

- Hanna Atwood
- Bryant John Boyer-Killion
- Sophie Diers
- Emma Diers
- Brianna Haag
- Hans Jozef Herzog
- Nicholas Jackson
- Alexis Jones
- Jenna Lynn Keefer
- Tyler Lee Langendorf
- Drayke Anthony Hodge Lannert
- Alison Lee
- Kevin Mboyo
- Raphaëlle Mboyo
- Ben Mitchell
- Abigail Ngamboma
- Yasmine Nyembo
- Nancy Nyembo
- Cynthia Nyembo
- Joel Nyembo

- Jonathon Nyembo
- Elie Nyembo
- Selena Olsen
- Jacob Rajlich
- Kyle Joseph Rasmussen
- Kayleigh Dannel Ritten
- Joseph Seliskar
- Keely Smith
- Hannah Sweeney
- Ayika Tshimanga
- Fidele Tshimanga
- Sam Whitesell
- Grace Karena Whittington
- Tori Witruk

Among those who helped the children and their parents prepare for this celebration were catechists and assistants Janet Althaus, Alice McLaughlin, Tracey Wszalek, Carla Simmering, Shelby Simmering, and Angie Monk.



An old monk lived in a small hut in a country infested with robbers. He called it the Home of Peace. One night a robber broke into the hut in search of money. With his dagger drawn, the thief crept toward the monk. The monk was sitting very still, wrapped in deep meditation. Just as the robber got ready to plunge the knife, the old monk opened his eyes. There was absolutely no fear in them. Instead, he looked at the robber with great compassion and tenderness. The robber hesitated, then dropped his dagger and fell to his knees. The old monk rose and put his arms around the would-be murderer saying, "The ways to realize God are not many, but only one—love."

A monastic tale

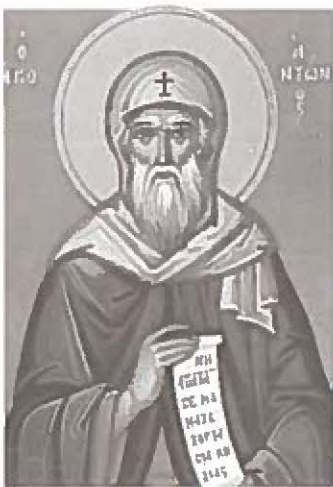
Two friends in the desert

In what country was the first Christian monastery founded? Did you correctly answer Egypt? It began in the year 305 under the inspiration of St. Anthony, who is generally regarded as the founder of Christian monasticism. Anthony was born to wealthy parents in Upper Egypt in 251; he inherited the wealth of his parents at 18 when they both died. Anthony was inspired one day by these words of Christ from Matthew 19:21, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

That is exactly what Anthony did after providing for his sister, whom he settled with a group of Christian virgins in a kind of nunnery. To learn about the holy life, Anthony visited ascetics who lived in huts or caves on the outskirts of

towns. He then took up residence in empty tombs in a cemetery, where demons in the shape of wild beasts tormented him.

After 15 years, at the age of 35, Anthony decided to retire completely from the habitations of men. He crossed the Nile, found an abandoned Roman fort, and shut himself up there for 20 years. He lived without seeing the face of man, living off food thrown over the wall to him. Gradually a large number of disciples gathered in caves and huts around the fort, and they eventually persuaded Anthony to come out of the fort to



be their spiritual guide. For 5 or 6 years Anthony devoted himself to their instruction and organization.

Anthony then spent most of the last 45 years of his life in seclusion, dying at the age of 105. The Monastery of

St. Anthony was founded soon after his death in 356, near where he was buried. It is the oldest active Christian monastery in the world. It is 155 km south of Cairo at an oasis in the Red Sea Mountains. St. Anthony's feast day is observed on Jan. 17.

Before Anthony died, he visited Paul the Hermit, whose feast day is Jan. 15. Paul's youth was similar to Anthony's. His wealthy parents died when he was 15, and Paul fled into the desert when Christian persecutions began. He lived there for 90 years, surviving on fruit and water, wearing palm leaves or even nothing at all. Anthony felt enriched by the hermit Paul's example of a holy life. When Paul died at 113, legend has it that Anthony buried him in a grave that was dug by two lions.

These two saints can be an inspiration to us during a hectic holiday season, reminding us that the real joy of Christmas is more readily experienced in the quiet reflection made possible in a simple, less harried life.

Presentation on marriage annulment process planned

On Friday, Jan. 26, at 7:00 p.m., St. Patrick's Re-Membering Church Team will host an open meeting to help individuals and couples sort through information about invalid marriages, the annulment process, and related issues. Speaker for the evening will be Sr. Marianne Burkhard, OSB, director of the Peoria Diocesan Tribunal. Sr. Marianne, a Rock Island Benedictine and



Sr. Marianne Burkhard, OSB

former St. Patrick's parishioner, has developed a presentation to assist lay people in understanding the annulment process and the procedures followed by the Diocese of Peoria regarding marriage cases, and in identifying the necessary documents and witnesses relevant to a specific situation. She will also talk about ways to deal spiritually with the difficulties of annulment proceedings.

One reason many Catholics don't understand the process, Sr. Marianne remarked, is that they don't know what an annulment really is. Contrary to popular belief, a Church annulment does not declare that a marriage never existed. "It means that something was standing in the way of making it fully valid according to Catholic doctrine," Sr.

Marianne said. "We are not denying that the people were married according to the law." She also pointed out that an annulment has no effect on the legitimacy of children or on any civil legal matters arising from the marriage or subsequent divorce. Divorced Catholics who have remarried outside the Church are always welcome to seek advice from the Tribunal regarding the possibility of

an annulment. However, Catholics also need to understand the rules governing annulments. "We are bound by certain rules and laws, and we cannot always do what people want us to do," Sr. Marianne said. Following her presentation, Sr. Marianne will respond to questions from the group and will remain afterward to meet privately with individuals or couples with questions about their own situations. She will return the following morning for private consultations on request.

Please reserve these important dates:

- Jan. 26 (Friday), 7 p.m., multipurpose room, informational presentation
- Jan. 27 (Saturday), from 9 a.m., lounge, private consultations

Pastoral Associate Sr. Charlene Cesario, SSCM, and Barbara Wysocki, both of whom have been trained as Notary Auditors for the Diocese of Peoria, will also be on hand Friday evening and Saturday morning for consultation if desired.

Blessed are those who mourn...

Those who are mourning the loss of a deceased relative or friend will soon have an opportunity to join with others who are grieving. A bereavement group will meet every other Wednesday in the parish center, for four sessions starting in January.

Nancy Olson, a parishioner who is one of the group leaders and a gerontologist, described the purpose of the group as "offering support to participants in their journey of grief as they meet with other people of the same faith tradition." Other group leaders are Sr. Charlene Cesario, Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick's, and Vera Duncanson, a parishioner who is a pastoral minister at Provena Hospital.

The bereavement group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21, and Mar. 7. The approach taken will be to let the group form itself, on the premise that each person grieves in her or his own way. Each session will include time for prayer.

Participants will be asked to make a commitment to attend all four sessions, as each one leads to the next. Those interested should call the parish office (367-2665) to register; participation will be limited to ten parishioners.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

An evening program to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to discuss his life and teachings will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7-9:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the parish center. A segment of the award-winning television series "Eyes on the Prize" will be shown, followed by a discussion on the role of clergy and persons of faith in the Civil Rights Movement and in the continuing struggle for social justice. Refreshments will be served.

This film viewing and discussion, sponsored by St. Patrick's Social Action Committee, is but one of many programs in the local community honoring Dr. King. If he were alive today, he would be 78 on Jan. 15.



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

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

Editorial board: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradysipes@sbcglobal.net); Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@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, Artha Chamberlain, Betty Christian, John 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, Merdy Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Mary Lee Brady, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Mary Karten, Quentin Kirk, Peggy Loftus, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Ron Peters, Susan Reese, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Margaret Stewart, Allison Sutton, and Peggy Whelan. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Susan Reese

Cocoa Brownies

- 1/3 c melted butter or margarine
- 1 c sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 t vanilla
- 1/2 c flour
- 1/2 c cocoa
- 1/2 c chopped nuts (optional)

Melt butter and add sugar, then mix well. Add 1 egg and stir, then add the other egg and stir. Add vanilla and mix. Add flour and cocoa and mix well. Add nuts and stir. Put in a well-greased 8 x 8 inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

These brownies are sometimes called "magic brownies" because they have caused 3 of 4 pregnant overdue women to go into labor the day after eating several of them.



If God is anywhere,
He's not up in the air;
Is that where you want God to be?
He's living all around us,
He's standing just beside us;
Take a look and you will see.
He's in that little baby,
He's in that old lady,
He's in you and me.




St. Patrick's Parish

Urbana, IL

January 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Mary Mother of God: Mass, 9am  1	9:30 Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs 6pm Faith Sharing 6pm Mystagogia Offices Closed 2	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SDVP 3	6:45am Mens Bible Study 6pm Building & Grounds 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm RCIA 7pm Communications 4	10:45am Mass CCNH 5	CREW Bowling 6
9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6pm CREW Mission Meeting 6:30pm Jr-Sr High Rel Ed 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 7pm Website 7	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life 8	6pm Mystagogia 7:30pm Council Exec. Committee 9	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm Social Action Program 10	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 11	10:30pm Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH 12	CREW Pay It Forward 8:30am Lenten Readings Session 13
9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 14	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm FGDW 15	6pm Faith Sharing 6pm Mystagogia 7pm Worship Ministries Team 16	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm Choir 17	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 7pm Parish Council 18	10:30pm Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH 19	3:30pm CREW with Jason Kotecki 6pm Dinner Theater with Jason Kotecki 20
9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am K of C 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 21	7pm Centering Prayer 22	6pm Mystagogia 23	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm Child Choir 9:30am Schola 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm SVDP 7pm Choir 7pm Grief Support Group 24	6:45am Mens Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir 7pm Communications 25	7pm Presentation on Annulments 10:45am Mass CCNH 26	8:30-11am Bible Study Overview 27
8:30-12pm Blood Pressure Screening 10:15am Guild 6:30pm Teen Mass and Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study Leaders 2pm DiM Small Group Leaders 28	7pm Centering Prayer 29	6pm Faith Sharing 6pm Mystagogia 30	9am Moms UIP 5:15pm SVDP 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm Choir 31	<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 Jan. 14.</p>		

CCNH = Champaign County Nursing Home SVDP = St. Vincent de Paul Society Moms UIP = Moms United in Prayer
 FGDW = Finding God in Daily Work