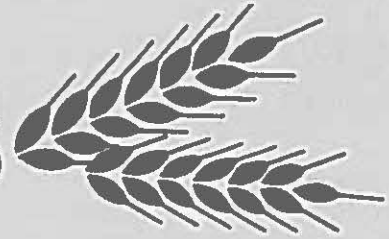


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

RESCUE: To free from confinement, danger or evil. Synonyms: deliver, redeem, ransom, reclaim

Both Old and New Testament Scripture readings for Lent 2007 speak to us of rescue. God's people cry out for reconciliation with the beloved Creator, and they are delivered from slavery of body, mind, and spirit. The connection is so strong that we can hardly miss it. It evokes images of God reaching out a hand to us in our distress, grasping us by the hand and pulling us free, reclaiming us as God's own.



On Jan. 20 members of our parish family spent an evening with cartoonist and theologian Jason Kotecki. During the evening he gave a vivid example of this rescue image when he spoke about trust. He reminded us

that as children we often held the sure, strong hand of a parent for safety. We knew we could trust in the adult guiding and protecting us. We reached out willingly to hold the hand offered to us. Just so, Kotecki reminded us, we must reach out in trust to God, whose eternal hand is stretched out to deliver us from all our fears; all we have to do is ask.

Several times each year members of the Worship Ministries Team meet on a Saturday morning to read prayerfully through the Scripture for the upcoming Liturgical season. During the reading and in the discussion that follows, they try to discern an overreaching theme that appears in the

readings. During Advent 2006 the theme was "standing upright before God our Creator." The Lenten theme discerned is "our longing for reconciliation and God's answering rescue."

The themes that are uncovered are carried out in our worship during the liturgical season. They help direct our thoughts through music, prayers of the faithful, homilies, and the church's environment.

Anyone in the parish who is interested in joining the Worship Ministries Team for these seasonal readings is welcome—we are all ministers of worship, after all! Watch for a bulletin announcement regarding reading for discernment. The sessions begin after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday and last between an hour and 90 minutes. Because of the early hour, coffee and juice are provided.

CREW Service Auction returns

The CREW Youth Group's popular fundraiser will be held on Sunday, Mar. 11. As in past years, the auction will be split into two sessions, one from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. and the other from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. This year you can look forward to great service items: spring yard clean-up, homemade items, car detailing, babysitting, and gift certificates paired with services to make well-rounded offerings. The teens who plan on attending the summer mission trip offer their services to the auction,



along with the services of St. Patrick's other parishioners.

As a bonus, a parishioner has donated to the Service Auction an Agri-Fab 14 hp 63" Finish Cut Mower, retail value \$2000. You can turn your ATV or tractor into a mowing machine and halve your mowing time! Bids on the mower will start at \$400. For details about the mower, see www.agri-fab.com.

As always, all proceeds from the auction will help to underwrite the cost of the Teen Mission Trip, which

this summer is to Detroit. Check the flyer in the bulletin for Mar. 3-4 for a list of all the items to be auctioned on Mar. 11.





Q: Why do people shake hands during Mass?

A: The Church's instructions for Mass indicate that, before the Breaking of the Bread, each person offers a sign of peace to those nearby. This gesture may take any of several forms, such as a handshake, an embrace, a kiss, a bow—more commonly the handshake, in our culture—together with the words "Peace be with you" and the response "And also with you." It is a sign that they have put aside all grudges, forgiven everyone, and extended themselves to their neighbors. By this action the Church asks for peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful offer a

sign of their communion with the Church and their love for one another before receiving Communion together. The exchange of the sign of peace is among the oldest rites connected with the Mass. At least five times the New Testament speaks of Christians greeting one another with a "holy kiss" or a "kiss of love."

By around the year 150 the kiss was already in use as an expression of unity and peace among Christians and constituted a regular part of the Eucharistic liturgy. In the late Middle Ages, this element of the liturgy was reserved to the attending

clergy, and other signs (embraces, for instance) were often substituted for an actual kiss. With the liturgical reforms of Vatican II the kiss, or sign, of peace was restored to all the faithful as a fitting expression of the Christian meaning of the Mass and Holy Communion, the sacrament we still refer to as

"the sign of unity and the bond of love."

* * *

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



Parish Council news

Enlarging St. Patrick's church and parish center in order to create a chapel, a larger vestibule and sanctuary, and enhanced classroom and meeting space were among the recommendations presented by the Second Century Advisory Committee to St. Patrick's Parish Council during the Feb. 15 meeting.

Based on the results of focus groups, a parish-wide survey, and two parish-wide open meetings, the recommendations included:

- Building an addition onto the church to provide a larger worship space, larger vestibule, a 24-hour chapel for daily masses and private prayer, an enlarged sanctuary to accommodate the choir and musical instruments, a space for parents with restless young children during Mass, and convenient, accessible restrooms.

- Enlarging the parish center, with a main entrance, connection to the church, enhanced classroom, study, and meeting space, office space in one location (office space is currently housed in two buildings), expansion of the parish library, and redesigned space for the parish archives.



Ellen Amberg, a member of the Second Century Advisory Committee and Parish Council member, said, "Most importantly, changes should be made with historic preservation of the church in mind." Recommended changes also include additional parking, a convenient pick-up and drop-off area, and attractive and useful green space.

The Second Century Advisory Committee discussed the recommendations with Father Hogan Jan. 31, before presenting them to the Parish Council. The Council voted to support the recommendations, which will now be presented to the entire parish, most likely through two parish-wide meetings and a mailing. Other future steps include developing a Request for Proposal to be sent to architectural firms, then working with the selected firm to produce a master plan that will guide the parish's steps toward the recommended changes over the next several years.

In other business, the Parish Council approved changes to its constitution as recommended by Council members Mary Karten and Jack Collins. The changes primarily modernize the language of the constitution

without changing or amending the spirit of the document. The revised constitution will be posted on the parish Web site.

During ministry reports, Mary Karten said the Ministry of Worship reviewed the readings for Lent and has developed the following statement to serve as St. Patrick's Lenten theme: "We reach out to God to be reconciled, God reaches out in love to rescue us." This theme will be reflected in liturgical art, music, and the Prayers of the Faithful to help parishioners with their Lenten journey. Mary also mentioned that new Eucharistic ministers are needed; the number is down 12 from last year for a variety of reasons. A suggestion was made to talk to some of the parish's teenagers about considering this ministry.

In reporting on the Ministry of Spiritual Enrichment, Kathy Sarnecki mentioned that the Great Adventure Bible Study is being considered as a way to continue the small groups that are currently meeting for the last year of the Disciples in Mission program. This Catholic Bible study would not compete with the ecumenical Bible study many in our parish already use.

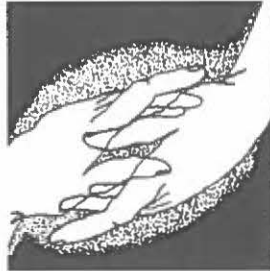
The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 15. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.

Peace and Justice

SAC: A small group bearing much good fruit

Once a month a small but enthusiastic group of St. Patrick's parishioners meets to discuss ways to keep Jesus' teachings of peace and justice alive at St. Patrick's. These members of the Social Action Committee (SAC), one of the Peace and Justice Ministries, discern how we can live out these teachings through education and action. Catholic social teaching is an essential but sometimes unfamiliar part of our faith. American bishops note seven themes in social teaching, and SAC is active in all of them:

Life and dignity of the human person *"Human life is sacred and...the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society."*



A showing of the touching movie "Yesterday," about a young African's struggle with AIDS, highlighted SAC's commemoration of AIDS Compassion Sunday last November. Pat Fettig led a discussion of the film, which put a very human face on the disease that is devastating parts of Africa.

Call to family, community, and participation *"How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community."*

In January SAC welcomed the Rev. Dr. Claude Shelby, Sr., pastor of Salem Baptist Church, as a speaker in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., in a program organized by Ron Peters. In February, SAC joined parishioners with people from other churches and faiths for a full-day retreat, "Black Sacred Song—Our Song Too." The retreat was co-sponsored by Church Women United, Salem Baptist Church, Channing-Murray Foundation, and others. Also, one SAC member, Stan Yanchus, provides suggestions for Prayers of the Faithful that address issues of peace and justice.

Rights and responsibilities *"Corresponding to (the right to life and...to those things required for human decency) are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society."*

To let parishioners immerse themselves in Christ's teaching on social justice issues, this fall SAC will present the JustFaith program, largely through the efforts of Sharon Dorsey, Pat Fettig, and Carolyn McElrath. Sponsored by Catholic Charities USA, this 30-week program helps participants "grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice."

Option for the poor and vulnerable *"Our tradition ... instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first."*

SAC's commitment to the poor is reflected in the parish's annual Rice Bowl collection, money to feed the hungry overseas. But SAC's concern for the poor is also local. SAC is exploring membership in the Canaan Credit Union. The 6-year-old CU, a ministry of Canaan Baptist Church, helps

people improve their financial situation through higher savings rates, low-interest loans, and reduced fees.

Dignity of work and the rights of workers *"The basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative."*



SAC has joined the Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP), a multiethnic faith-based project based in Bloomington that focuses on social and economic justice. Among the issues targeted are living wage, affordable housing, predatory lending, banking, land stewardship, and immigrant

rights. John Schreiber and Ron Peters represent St. Patrick's at CIOP meetings. SAC also helped Coffee Shop switch to Fair Trade Coffee, assuring that the coffee we drink was produced under fair conditions.

Solidarity *"Loving our neighbor' has global dimensions in an interdependent world."*

SAC's recent discussions on Palestine, led by Joseph Youakim, and on Cambodia, led by Sharon Dorsey, have given St. Patrick's parishioners new insight into conditions in other parts of the world. This commitment to global awareness continues in May with the International Festival [see announcement elsewhere in this issue].

Care for God's creation *"We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation."*

Last December, SAC participated in the 36th annual C-U Peace Bazaar, with husband and wife team Henry Emmerle and Erin Dunn arranging for donations and volunteers. The bazaar sells new and recycled gifts to raise money for peace and justice programs.

SAC usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the parish center, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; watch the bulletin for exact time and place. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Vocation Prayer

Lord Jesus, bless in a special way the women and men who have consecrated themselves to you and the Church by their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Make them convincing witnesses of your Kingdom, and inspire many more to follow their example. Amen.

The Holy Cross Holler!

By Gracie Mayer

Crazy Catholic Schools Week

So far this year has been stuffed full of exciting projects, field trips, and events! Here at Holy Cross we just wrapped up Catholic Schools Week. This is a week of non-stop fun! Every day has a different activity planned to celebrate Catholic Education. Our first day was an all-school Mass and donuts afterwards. I don't know what donuts have to do with Catholic schools, but no one argued!

On Tuesday, we had an ice cream treat and no homework for the day (however this didn't prevent us from doing lots of work in class). On Wednesday we had our annual open house and went over to the church for patriotic songs and praying the rosary for peace. Thursday was Mrs. White in the Gymnasium with the Candlestick, **GAME MANIA DAY!** On this day we could bring in any board game we wanted and play it with our friend for a class period. Lastly, on Friday we had an all-school Mass and talent show. From piano and dancing, to karate, singing, and comedy, our school was busting with awesome talents!

Stupendous Smith Zach Smith, a sixth-grader at Holy Cross and a St. Pat's parishioner, is this year's Geography Bee champ! He competed successfully against two students from each grade, fourth through eighth! He made it to the seventh round, the final, and answered questions that even collectively as an eighth grade I don't think we could have answered! There were eight questions, no true/false or multiple choice, just you and your brain! Zach answered all eight questions correctly! **WOOHOO!** Let's give it up for Zach: way to go!

Hoppin' Honor Roll This semester there was a big group of St. Pat's students on honor roll. Honor Roll is to celebrate all the students that got all As and Bs on report cards! The following kids achieved this stellar goal: Jamie Simmering, Gabby Wszalek, Mariya Sturdyvin, Caitlin Schutz, Doug Mitchell, Ian Niccum, Peter Kim, Theresa Welle, Sarah Johnson, Claire Drone-Silvers, Luke Cottingham, Cora Friedhof, Shelby Simmering, Gracie Mayer, and Kaleigh Niccum!



A Colossal Challenge Coming up in March, the third-graders will go on a mission! A mission into outer space. Ok, so it might be a little hard to get their parents to sign that permission slip, but the simulation of a real liftoff and mission in space is just as fun! The Challenger Learning Center is a Center in Bloomington that simulates a liftoff into space, a space station, and a mission control center. The kids have different jobs and tasks to perform to make the mission a success. My class and I did a similar mission when we were in sixth grade, which makes it extra phenomenal that this class is doing it as third-graders!!

Adorable Adoption The second-graders of Holy Cross adopted the Champaign County Humane Society this year for their service project. They wrote letters on what it takes to raise a pet, and drew pictures to go with them. These were sent to the CCHS and are now hanging in the dog pound. Also, they have a money jar, and held a bake sale to raise extra money to donate. Instead of bringing in money, they can purchase anything on the CCHS's wish list. They've raised \$240 already! There are gonna be some happy puppies!

Dates to Remember

March

- 2: Chocolate Drive Kickoff
- 2: All-school Mass
- 9: All-school Mass
- 13: Third grade mission to Bloomington
- 14: Sixth grade trip to Medieval Times
- 16: End of the quarter
- 16: Mass at 8:15 a.m., Feast of St. Joseph
- 19-23: Spring Break
- 29: PTC Meeting
- 30: Report Cards
- 31: Market Day, 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

April

- 2-5: Stations of the Cross presented by seventh grade
- 12-15: Spring musical, *The Music Man* (More info in the next *In Focus*.)
- 23-27: Eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.

St. Thomas More's Saber Stories

Campus Ministries Campus ministry is the soul of The High School of St. Thomas More, recognizing that just as the body is nourished with food and the brain with knowledge, so the soul must be nourished with prayer. Fr. Joe Dondanville, the school's chaplain, encourages students in their spiritual journey. Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:00 a.m. in the school chapel, and on Wednesdays and Fridays during the lunch hour the sacrament of Reconciliation is available. On every Friday, Eucharistic Adoration is available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Campus Ministry also makes retreats available to students throughout the year—a favorite is Teens Encounter Christ.

Several students participated in the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20-22. They shared a chartered bus with students from Schlarman High School in Danville. Their itinerary included attending a Youth Rally on Sunday night with Fr. Stan Fortuna and attending the rally and march on Monday.

Sports The girls' varsity basketball team is having a great season with a record of 21 wins and 9 losses. They have won their first regional championship and now advance to Sectional Semifinals. Best wishes, ladies!

Urbana, a.k.a. Congo Northwest

You may have noticed mention of the Congolese Community in the parish bulletin lately. This active and growing community is a blessing to St. Patrick's. There are about 20 people in the parish from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Rwanda. They gather with other immigrants from Africa to form the African Assembly of Central Illinois (AACI), including not just Urbana-Champaign but also Springfield, Bloomington, Chicago, and Peoria. Some study or work at the University of Illinois, while others are busy improving their English so they can study here.

Last fall, AACI members gathered at St. Patrick's to witness the baptism of four children. (See accompanying photos.) They had not yet been baptized because of the turmoil in their home country and the move to the U.S. Another special event was held on New Year's Eve, a vigil Mass celebrating the new year and thanking God

for his blessings. This Mass combined English, French, and a Congolese language called Lingala. It included much singing and dancing, but lasted "only" two and a half hours. Appolinaire Ikuku, a member of the group, explained that a New Year's Eve vigil in Africa often lasts all night! Fr. Joe Hogan and Fr. George, an African priest from St. Louis, presided.

Members of the AACI gather at St. Louis for events around central Illinois that celebrate their heritage and customs, but they also reach out to the people around them. The AACI choir sang at one of St. Patrick's regular Sunday Masses last spring, and they hope to do so often in the future.



Because many of their members are working to improve their English, they welcome opportunities to meet with parishioners at Coffee Shop and other parish events.

They also meet with Fr. Hogan monthly for "adult religious education," sometimes at St. Patrick's and sometimes in one another's homes. This range of gatherings is a continuing effort to maintain their identity as Africans and as Catholic Christians while they adjust to a new culture and a new language.



Faith and Films: Go out as disciples!



The Faith and Films series continues through the Fridays of March, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center's Multipurpose Room.

Come for dinner (Knights of Columbus fish fry at 5:30 p.m.) and a movie.

Each showing includes an introduction, a viewing of the film, a short discussion, and refreshments.

Mar. 2: *In Her Shoes* (2005, PG13) The alternately hilarious and heart-rending story of two sisters who are both best friends and polar opposites traveling a bumpy road as they learn how to make peace with themselves and with each other. The film is about people yearning for human connection and family.

Mar. 9: *Les Choristes* (*The Chorus*)


(2004, PG13) A compassionate music teacher arrives at a boys' reform school to teach a class with difficult pupils, eventually winning their trust and respect. Forming the class as a choir, he discovers one boy's amazing potential, transforming him into a gifted singer and a more disciplined child.

Mar. 16: *The Constant Gardener* (2005, R) A British diplomat marries an impulsive activist; when she is brutally murdered, he investigates her death and uncovers unsavory business practices of the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry involving members of the British High Commission. In learning the secrets of his powerful enemies, he learns not only about his wife but also about himself.

Mar. 23: *Lotto* (2006, not rated) Two people win the lottery on a ticket

they share with coworkers and friends, and must decide whether to share the winnings or not. What they discover about themselves and their friends makes a humorous and thoughtful film about true wealth.

Mar. 30: *Beyond Rangoon* (1995, R) A young physician, trying to piece her life back together after the murder of her husband and son, goes with her sister to Burma. She loses her passport at a political rally and is on her own for a few days, finding new meaning in life by helping needy Burmese. Based on a true story.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 11.

There's more to St. Patrick's Guild than you may imagine! Volunteer Opportunities

Do you realize that when you bring a dish for a funeral dinner, you help the Guild minister to the bereaved? Have you thought of your help at the Guild's annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale as just lending a hand to a big fundraiser for St. Patrick's, or did you realize that the sale is also a Guild ministry to Champaign County, including the poor of all ages, races, and nationalities? Have you considered the Christmas bake sale/auction as just another fundraiser, or did you realize that this event brings our parish together at a time of feasting, adds to the celebration of Christmas in our homes, and gives children a chance to buy an affordable gift for their parents?

Yes, St. Patrick's Guild is much more than fundraising. Be it laundering the altar cloths, preparing and serving funeral dinners, or hosting the two annual sales, the Guild ministers to this parish and to the local community. *All* parishioners over the age of 18 are eligible for membership in St. Patrick's Guild. Many already participate in the Guild's ministries, but many more are needed for these to continue.

The Guild's funeral dinners are noted throughout C-U for quality and service. Bereaved families consistently express appreciation for this ministry. If you can help with serving the dinners, please leave your name and phone number with the parish secretary (367-2665).

The parishioners who help gather Catholic residents of the Champaign County Nursing Home for Mass each Friday are well aware of their ministry to elderly Catholics in this county. They would appreciate your assistance on any Friday from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m., to gather the wheelchair-bound for Mass and afterward return

them to their rooms. You will have the satisfaction of providing a service that is well appreciated by the Catholic residents in addition to having the pleasure of attending Mass that day. To help, contact Sandy Anderson (469-2416).

For the Cellar-to-Garret Sale to continue, the Guild really needs two couples to co-chair the event. Ideally, they would work with several subcommittees: *pre-sale coordinators* to accept goods in the preceding weeks, *setup coordinators* to guide the placement of goods in the parish hall, *hauling/moving coordinators* to arrange pickup of donated items and disposal of items afterward, *food coordinators* for the sale helpers' meals, and *clean-up coordinators* to prepare the hall for Coffee Shop the next day. The co-chairs would thereby be freed for general coordination of the Cellar-to-Garret Committee, and could take turns being "point person" during the sale itself. Many clients depend on this service to the community each year. This committee structure should ease the co-chairs' burden and ensure the sale's future.

Please prayerfully consider either co-chairing the sale or stepping up to be one of the coordinators this year. For details about the work, contact either of the Cellar-to-Garret co-chairs of the past five sales: Carla and Bill Simmering (328-4841) or Susan Hublein (384-8356).

In an effort to reach out to prospective members who work during the week, St. Patrick's Guild now meets three or four times a year, on a Sunday at 10:15 a.m. in the multipurpose room. The Guild happily welcomed many newcomers at the Jan. 28 meeting. Please help continue this trend at the next two meetings, Apr. 15 and Jul. 22.

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

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

Give the Lord's Body and Blood to others as a Eucharistic minister at Mass. *Worship Ministries Team:* Chris Angel, 531-7003



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.

Share your culture at the International Festival May 5



St. Patrick's will hold its second International Festival on Saturday, May 5. The successful festival in 2005

enjoyed outstanding participation by parishioners who set up exhibits and others who came to dine on homemade international foods and dance.

In order for this year's festival to be as successful, a planning committee for the event will be established, and parishioners are needed to set up exhibits representing their country of ancestry.

To set up an exhibit or join the planning committee, contact Sharon Dorsey (344-3016 or smondaydorsey@yahoo.com) or Joseph Youakim (355-0793 or jyouakim@ameritech.net).



St. Patrick's celebrates its patron in style

Any parish named St. Patrick's should commemorate St. Patrick's Day with a grand celebration, and that's just what we plan on doing here in Urbana.

The weekend of Mar. 17-18 begins by reinstating the dinner-dance that was traditional for many decades. The doors open at 6 p.m. Saturday for a corned beef and cabbage dinner, prepared and served by members of the parish. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and set-ups are provided, but you may bring your own beverage.

After dinner we will enjoy some truly Irish music from a Celtic group with potential for a sing-a-long. The dance band includes bassist Ed Schaller, son of parishioners Ed and Kay Schaller. So whether you want to dance or just enjoy the music, we believe it will be a great night for our adult parish community.

The dinner dance is for adults only. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased from Tom and Helene Kacich (344-6760 or hkacich@yahoo.com). We will reserve tables for your family and

friends so let us know the number in your party. Tickets will be sold at Coffee Shop on Sunday mornings, and at the parish office. The last day for reservations is Tuesday, Mar. 13.

CREW members will staff a coat room and clean up after the dinner. This will also premiere the dishes, silverware, and glassware recently purchased by St. Patrick's Guild, the first new dishes since 1965.

On Sunday the celebration continues from 2 to 5 p.m. for the whole parish. Expect green punch and desserts, more Irish musicians and storytellers, children's songs, sing-a-longs, and maybe even Irish jigs. If you want to volunteer for dancing, contact the Kacichs.



What's up with CREW?

During Lent, teens are participating in the Disciples in Mission Bible study with their small groups, and they celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation in a service on Feb. 18. On Feb. 25, guest speaker Lynn Grandon, from the diocesan Office of Respect Life and Human Dignity, will present a talk on chastity from a medical and theological background.

Teens attended the third Catholic Teen Connection at Our Lady of the Lake church in Mahomet, focusing on a session of the Dead Theologians Society after a teen Mass. For the next CTC, on Apr. 6, teens will experience the Newman Center's live Stations of the Cross at the UI quad.

Around 40 teens and a handful of adults participated in the January teen Mass, with the CREW Praise Band providing the music. The next teen Mass will be on Apr. 1, Passion (Palm) Sunday.

The third fundraiser, the Jason Kotecki Dinner Theater, raised about \$1500, and the Tips for Teens on a Mission brought in another \$900, so fundraising for the mission trip is right on track. The next fundraiser, the popular Service Auction, will take place after 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses on Mar. 11. The 50/50 ticket sales, during the fish fries on the Fridays of Lent, this year include a second-chance drawing for a delectable homemade dessert.

The social event for February, the junior/senior high ski trip to Chestnut Mountain in Galena, was regrettably canceled due to lack of interest. The social event for March is an afternoon Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, Mar. 10.

For their next major service activity, CREW will host a Mom and Dad's Night Out on Mar. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. — free babysitting for the parents of 15-17 lucky families.

And that's what's up with CREW!

CREW gives Mom and Dad a night out

To honor our parish's hard-working parents, the CREW Youth Group is hosting a Mom and Dad's Night Out. On Mar. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., CREW teens and their adult helpers will babysit the children of several lucky families in the parish hall, nursery, and some of the adjoining classrooms. They will have activities and snacks for the youngsters, specific to various ages. They ask only that the children brought are used to being away from Mom and Dad. (Nonstop crying is no more fun for the teens than for the child!) This event is completely free; tips and donations are absolutely forbidden.

If you and your spouse are ready for a quiet evening out without your loving children, place your reservation now with Peggy Loftus (356-8843) — only 15-17 families, depending on family size, can be accommodated.



Joseph, I'm pregnant
by the Holy Ghost

Life was simple before that angel
pushed open the kitchen door,
announced light and trouble, as though
a foe had roiled the bottom of the well
and now the pail brings up only

murky water. I'm chosen for some
terrible grace beyond the well.
After short light long dark,
left to stumble through the Sinai

desert. No manna to gather, no quail
to catch. Nothing. When I tell Joseph
I'm pregnant by the Holy Ghost,
he stares, ox-dumb. I've asked

him to believe that I, God's
Moses-girl, part seas, give
Torah. He turns, leaves
without a word. Why should my dearest

love believe? Yahweh's not fair.
Where's the voice of light? Where
the pillar of fire? My man drops
me cold, as though I were a concubine

dismissed without a drachma for cheating
on her master's blanket with that
swarthy Roman soldier from the barracks.
Joseph doesn't expose me; I will not

be stoned. My heart eats Yahweh's
cinders; I drink the last date wine
gone sour at the dregs.
God does nothing. But I carry life.

*Fr. Killian McDonnell, OSB
Used with permission*



Menu for a Lenten feast

As you plan your Lent, feast on St. Patrick's rich menu.
Each dish fosters a particular springtime growth:

Daily Mass

Fasting and abstinence

Day of reflection with Fr. Joseph A. Brown, S.J.

Stations of the Cross

Fish fries

Faith and Films Series

Disciples in Mission

Bible study

Rice bowls

Taizé prayer service

Spring cleaning of the church

Communal Reconciliation

Holy Thursday Morning Prayer and Mass of the Lord's
Supper

Good Friday Morning Prayer and Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday Morning Prayer and Easter Vigil



For details of day, time, and place for any of these Lenten observances, see the parish bulletin or call the parish office (367-2665).

Knights of Columbus 125 years old!

The 125th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus will be celebrated in many countries of the world on Mar. 29, Founder's Day. The "strong right arm of the Church" has been praised by and other world of the Church, prozation and Catholic involvement, and need.



popes, presidents, leaders for support grams of evangeli-education, civic aid to those in

Our own parish many KC activi-

benefits from ties. Grand

Knight Mike Hodits reports that the Knights annually put on a "Ladies Knight Out" dinner around Valentine's Day, sponsor a Super Bowl Breakfast, offer fish fries during Lent, present the Father Martell Scholarship for high school students of the parish, and participate in other activities throughout the year as determined by their membership.

Hodits said they have worked closely with CREW, St. Patrick's youth group, to support its summer mission trip. The Knights also run the fall Tootsie Roll fundraiser, which benefits handicapped children in Champaign County and the rest of Illinois.

The Knights meet on the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. in the parish lounge. They have about 50 active members, with many more on their local roster. Any man 18 or older is welcome to join. As Grand Knight Hodits says, "We are Catholic men trying to do service to God, the parish, and the community."

Healing Mass planned for Mar. 11

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick addresses many of the things that go on in the life of a sick person. Its prayers ask for physical healing, emotional strength, and spiritual grace. The sacrament also recognizes that a sick person may feel isolated or afraid. All of the sacraments are meant to be celebrated with the community—the sacraments are signs of God’s love for all, not just for those who receive them. But it is especially appropriate that the Anointing of the Sick be celebrated with a community because of the isolation and fear that frequently accompanies



sickness. St. Patrick’s will celebrate a Mass of Healing at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 11 in the church. This Mass fulfills the normal Sunday obligation and is also a special opportunity to pray for, and with, the sick. Anyone suffering from physical or emotional illness, or over the age of 65, may receive the sacrament. Perhaps early spring weather will encourage some to come who have been unable to get to Mass during the winter. If you know someone who has been housebound, why not offer to bring them to this Mass?



in our parish library

Lent is a time of transformation. The following books provide a variety of perspectives and reflections on this important season. Feeling like you don’t have much time to devote to reading? These books are short—the daily meditations take a page or less—but they provide powerful food for thought.

What Color Is Your Lent? by Theresa Cotter (263.92 COT), contends that Lent does not need to be just a traditional purple. The author suggests eight colors, each symbolizing a virtue that we would wish to include in our lives: green for hope; blue for stewardship, justice, peace; rose for joy; red for charity and fervor; etc. Each section offers practical ways to carry out the virtues we wish to work on.

A Feast for Lent, by Delia Smith (263.92 SMI) provides daily excerpts from Scripture, meditation, and prayer based on the Divine Office. This book invites us to change our hearts and minds while praying with the Church through Lent.

A Lenten Journey with Jesus: Prayerful Steps for Each Day, by Joan Cole (264 COL) offers brief meditations on the daily Gospel and steps to consider—concrete things to do or think about that offer a new way to reflect or think about the Word of God.

All the Days of Lent: Scripture, Thoughts, and Things to Do, by Colane Recker (263 REC) is a very practical (and brief) “everyone can do it” guide to a rewarding Lent. For each day of the season the author expresses a thought taken from the liturgy of that day, makes a suggestion for a deed to be done or a promise to be made that requires a degree of sacrifice, and offers a passage from Scripture for meditation.

* * *

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

Nobody can be Christian without being a peacemaker.... What we are called to is a life of peacemaking in which all that we do, say, think, or dream is part of our concern to bring peace to our world....

A peacemaker prays. Prayer is the beginning and the end, the source and the fruit, the core and the content, the basis and the goal of all peacemaking. I say this without apology, because it allows me to go straight to the heart of the matter, which is that peace is a divine gift, a gift we receive in prayer.

In his farewell discourse Jesus said to his apostles, “Peace I leave to you, my own peace I give to you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you” (John 14: 27). When we want to make peace, we first of all have to move away from the dwelling places of those who hate peace. This entering into a new dwelling place is what prayer is all about. The question indeed is: Where are you staying? To whom do you belong? Where is your home? Praying is living in the House of the Lord.

—From *Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community* by Henri Nouwen



Celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was established around the year 400 and had spread to the whole Church by the late seventh century. So important does the Church regard Gabriel's announcement and Mary's response, often called the *Fiat* from its Latin rendering, *Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*, "Be it done to me according to your word."

The Annunciation is normally celebrated on Mar. 25, but because that date falls on a Sunday this year, the feast transfers to the following day, Mar. 26, because the Sunday celebration takes precedence.

On this year's feast St. Patrick's will display a banner commissioned by Lu Pillar that was inspired by a prayer card she received at a pro-life event. The banner shows the Holy Spirit coming upon Mary, held in God's hands. It was designed by Beth McDonald, a former liturgical art coordinator at St. Patrick's. Beth and Lu together chose the fabrics, including the tapestry background and organza rays.

If you look closely and ponder awhile, you will see that the banner is also a representation of the Holy Trinity.



De nocte iremos: We go by night

"Jésus le Christ... ne laisse pas mes ténèbres me parler..."

(Lord Jesus Christ... let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.)

In the darkness of night, things are not always what they seem. As any child who's had a bad dream will tell you, darkness often seems foreboding and frightening. The power of evil may seem stronger.



"De nocte iremos, de nocte..."

(By night, we hasten, in darkness...)

But the darkness of night allows us the opportunity to meditate on Christ, the one true light, who has come into the world. In the stillness, we have the chance to examine our lives and contemplate on our relationship with God.

"Domine Deus, Filius Patris, miserere nobis."

(Lord God, Son of the Father, have mercy on us.)

Lent can be a night, perhaps even "a dark night of the soul," to paraphrase St. John of the Cross. We face our shortcomings and failings, not so that we are overwhelmed by the darkness, but to focus anew on the God who is our source and strength.

These quotations are from texts that will be prayed at the Lenten Taizé service that St. Patrick's will host on Tuesday, Mar. 6, at 7 p.m. This service will be led by musicians from St. Thomas Church, Philo, and St. Patrick's. We will gather around the cross and sing, pray, listen to Scripture, and listen to the silence.

Discerning spiritual gifts

Highlighting the Spiritual Enrichment ministries of St. Patrick's, parishioners were recently encouraged to discern their spiritual gifts and how these might be shared with others. A graphic representation paired with meditations paved the way for a brief invitation at all Masses on Feb. 10-11 to consider how best to share these gifts.



A display in the parish center focused awareness on areas of spiritual ministry at St. Patrick's: the parish library, Moms United in Prayer, Bible study, reading groups, base communities, Catholic Young Adults, Remembering Church, bereavement, Parish Nurses, pastoral care Eucharistic ministry, centering prayer, Finding God in Daily Work, and vocational awareness.



Welcome to the following, baptized in Welcome to new parishioners Erin Baxley, Christine and Rod Beyers, John Brockenbrough, Leofredo Echavez, Chris and Peggy Huson, Scott and Nancy McElwain Paluska, and Greg Wolf.

Farewell to these parishioners, who have moved from C-U: Mary Corcoran, Dan and Maria Gumble, and Joseph Straw.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Andrew Hoye, Alanna Hoye, Francis N. Brigoli, Zoe Rose Hall, Hayden William Callaghan, Jacob Michael Morris, Teresa Tina Thi Le, Nash Andrew Bayilu, Lola Michelle Juarez, Henry Joseph Burrus, and Elijah Eugene Bryand.

Congratulations to these couples, married at St. Patrick's: Patricia Fowler and Jose Schutt-Aine, and Phillip Holler and Alyssa Johnsen.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Matthew Busey, Connie Difanis, Norma Kroes, and Joseph Ziegler.

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.



Barbara Wysocki (left) and Sr. Charlene greet Sr. Marianne Burkhard, director of the diocesan tribunal office, visiting St. Patrick's in January to give a presentation on annulments.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of... Suzanne D'Andria

Roasted Chicken

whole chicken, cut into quarters or smaller pieces
4-6 potatoes
garlic
paprika
oregano
salt
pepper
olive oil



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Arrange chicken and potatoes on a shallow pan. Coat or spray chicken with olive oil and sprinkle generously with spices. Bake 30 minutes. Cover with foil. Bake another 30-40 minutes. Remove potatoes and chicken from pan. Add wine or water to pan, scraping chicken bits and juice in the pan for a sauce. Pour sauce over chicken and potatoes.

Parishioners deliver Meals on Wheels

In last fall's Time and Talent drive, several St. Patrick's parishioners volunteered to deliver Meals-on-Wheels in Champaign-Urbana. Braving wintry weather, the following parishioners carried meals to shut-ins the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 2: Ellen Amberg, Roger and Sharon Armstrong, Ernest Barenberg, Jeanine Berlocher, Joe Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Tim Fitzgerald, Cesaria Lancaster, Celia McCartney, Debbie McCartney, Jolene McGrogan, Rachel McMillan, Kathy Mengarelli, Lenore Nagele, and Marcia and Jim Reed.

St. Patrick's next participation in Meals-on-Wheels is June 25-29. If you'd like to take part in delivering these meals, contact Marcia Reed (359-6112). She schedules volunteers in pairs, and is always happy to have extra volunteers for backup.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

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

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

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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, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle



Articles and information for this issue were provided by Chris Ángel, Suzanne D'Andria, Sharon Dorsey, Pat Fettig, Helene Kacich, Peggy Loftus, Gracie Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Marcia Reed, Carole Rebeiz, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Margaret Stewart, Mary Welle, and Peggy Whelan. Annunciation drawing by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John Colombo.

St. Patrick's Parish

Urbana, IL

March 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the parish bulletin to confirm dates and times of listed events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is Mar. 11.</p>				6:45am Men's Bible Study 6pm Building & Grounds 7pm RCIA 7pmChoir	10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films	5-8pm CREW Service Event: Mom and Dad's Night Out
				1	2	3
9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 6:30pm Jr-Sr. High Rel Ed 7pm Website 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Pro-Life 7pm Social Action	9:30am Mass Canterbury Ridge 5:30pm Financial Affairs 6pm Mystagogia 7pm Taize Prayer Service 7:30pm Council Exec. Com.	4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St Joe Rel Ed 7pm Baptism Prep 7pm SVDP 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pmChoir	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films	1-4pm CREW Scavenger Hunt 6pm Congolese Community Adult Education
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8-12pm CREW Service Auction 9:15am Rel Ed 10:30am Children's Liturgy 2pm Healing Mass 6:30pm Jr-Sr. High Rel Ed 8:30pm Leaders Bible Study 7pm Website	7pm Centering Prayer	6pm Mystagogia 7pm Holy Week Planning	9:30am Schola 4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St Joe Rel Ed 7pm SVDP 7pm Social Action 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Parish Council 7pm Communications 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films	6pm St. Patrick's Dinner Dance
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30-12pm Blood Pressure Screenings 9:15am Rel Ed 6:30pm Leaders Bible Study 2-5pm Family Fun Day	7pm Centering Prayer  JOS EPH	6pm Mystagogia	4:30pm Bible Study Team 5:15pm Children's Choir 6:30pm St. Joe Rel Ed 7pm SVDP 7pm Re-Membering Church 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films	Cursillo Day of Reflection
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
6:30pm Leaders Bible Study	7pm Centering Prayer 	5:30pm Disciples in Mission 6pm Mystagogia 7pm Communal Penance	9:30am Schola 5:15pm Children's Choir 7pm SVDP 7pm Choir	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm RCIA 7pm Choir	10:45am Mass CCNH 5:15pm Stations of the Cross 5:30pm Fish Fry CREW 50/50 Sales 6:30pm Faith & Films	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31