

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



Making a fresh start

It has been said that the way to hell is paved with good intentions. And the corollary to this, often cited, is that since we don't keep New Year's resolutions anyway, why make them? However, it is also true that the way to *heaven* is paved with good intentions, even if not always scrupulously or reliably kept!



the unknown.

With each new year we get to try something new, to start over, to try again. Horizons of hope beckon as a new phase of life's journey calls out to us, "See, I am doing something new—do you not perceive it?" (cf. Isaiah 43:19).

you not perceive it?" (cf. Isaiah 43:19).

As the old year passes into memory and a new year approaches, we are offered another twelve months pregnant with possibilities. This kind of new beginning is often marked by midnight celebrations, fireworks, the ringing of bells, and perhaps even by prayer. There is something invigorating and encouraging in the energy of this newness, despite the accompanying elements of uncertainty and surprise. The promise of fresh opportunity mingles with the challenge of

The thing life is fullest of is the thing we find hardest to believe in. New beginnings. The incredible gift of a fresh start. Every new year. Every new day. Every new life. What wonderful gifts! And when we spoil things, and life goes all wrong, we feel dismayed because we find it so hard to see that we can start again. God lets us share it too, you know. Only God

can give life, it's true—make a new baby or a new year—but he gives us the power to give each other a new beginning, to forgive each other and make a fresh start when things go wrong. (*The Hawk and the Dove*, by Penelope Wilcock)

We are invited to make a fresh start with a clean slate. We don't have to be burdened by an unalterable

past or distracted by a future whose opportunities we cannot yet see. Right here, right now—wherever and whenever that may be—we can say yes to God's question, "...do you not perceive it?"

God is always doing something new with and for us. Will we not meet him with our own "something new"?



St. Patrick's Presents...

...Spice Up your Spirituality II with Fr. Pat McGrath

On Jan. 12, St. Patrick's presents a parish-wide inter-generational event, dinner and a presentation by Jesuit Father Pat McGrath. At 6 p.m. St. Patrick's Guild will host a chili supper, followed at 7 p.m. by Fr. Pat McGrath's presentation on spirituality.

There will also be a concurrent children's program for 3- to 12-year-olds, and babysitting for younger children. Families *must* make their reservations in advance for the children's program and babysitting.

Fr. Pat will preside and preach at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses, and he will give the homily at the 12 noon Mass. His presentation on Saturday night will



Parish Nursing at St. Patrick's

Parish nurses are compassionate, uniquely trained registered nurses that care for the bodies, minds, and spirits of parishioners.

They connect parishioners who have health care needs with health care resources, resulting in healthier communities.

Parish nurses have been active at St. Patrick's for ten years. The first parish nurses training for Champaign-Urbana was held at St. Patrick's in 1997.

The parish nurses do not provide direct hands-on patient care. Services provided by St. Patrick's parish nurses include:

- Sponsoring an annual health fair



- Holding classes in CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and health-related issues
- Managing the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Offering monthly blood pressure screening
- Updating a health education bulletin board monthly
- Distributing the Vial of Life kit
- Making home visits upon referrals and/or requests
- Visiting new moms
- Collecting used glasses for the Lions Club
- Providing health education and counseling on health issues

If you wish to speak with one of St. Patrick's parish nurses, call 367-2665, ext. 130, and leave your name and telephone number. Messages are checked weekly.

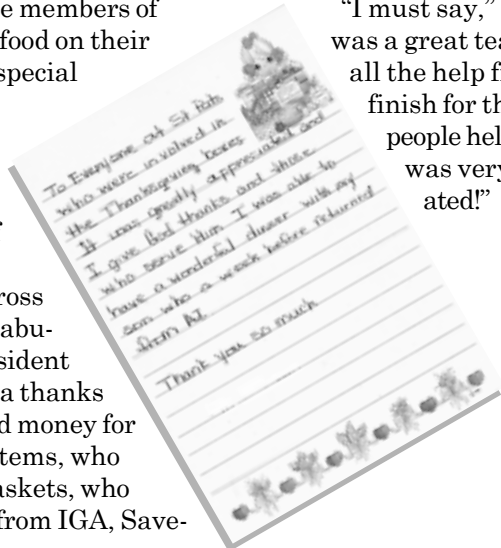
To all who helped: Thank you!

The accompanying note of thanks from one who received a Thanksgiving basket could have been written by any of the 229 families who enjoyed their dinners this Thanksgiving Day. Many of you were involved in this annual St. Vincent de Paul project to help the less fortunate members of our community have food on their table on at least this special day when we are all called to be thankful for the bountiful harvests we enjoy.

"The cooperation of parishioners from St. Patrick's and Holy Cross was overwhelming! Fabulous!" says SVDP president Sophia Zeigler. Sophia thanks all of you who donated money for the purchase of food items, who assembled the food baskets, who picked up food items from IGA, Save-

a-Lot, and other places, and who answered the call to sort the food items, helped carry food baskets to cars, and delivered food baskets to families—every single one of you who helped in any way to make Thanksgiving a happier day for so many.

"I must say," Sophia adds, "it was a great team effort, and all the help from start to finish for this project—people helping people—was very much appreciated!"



Two ways you can mark anniversary of Roe v Wade

On Jan. 22, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., a candlelight vigil will be held in front of the Women's Health Practice at 2125 S. Neil St., Champaign. The outdoor vigil is a prayerful way of publicly demonstrating opposition to the practice of abortion. Candles will be provided. For more information contact Myrna Buyno (352-1007).

Also on that evening, the anniversary of the day the U.S. Supreme Court declared the constitutionality of abortion, a Community Ecumenical Memorial Prayer Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the First Wesleyan Church, 408 E. Illinois St., Urbana. The service lasts approximately an hour, and refreshments will be served directly after the service. Guest speaker at the prayer service is Greta Henry, Director of Living Alternatives, A Crisis Pregnancy Center. For more information contact Mary Eppich (352-4549).



VOCATION PRAYER

Jesus, my friend and companion, I desire to know your will and to follow your way. As you spoke to the heart of Peter, speak also to my heart. As you called Peter and his companions, telling them they had no need to fear, speak also to me, that I may respond and follow you. Journey with me, Jesus. I love you, and I place my trust in you!

Father Joe shares impressions of China

Father Joe was walking on the famous Great Wall of China last fall when an Indian gentleman, someone he had never seen before, came up to him and said, "Hello." Soon Father Joe noticed that other tourists, obviously from other countries, were greeting and conversing with one another. "It was a world event, an international conversation," he recalled. The Great Wall, built 2000 years ago as a 4000-mile barricade to keep invaders out, has become a place where people from all over the world mingle.

Father Joe went to China with his sister Mary and friend Mary Ellen Moriarty. They arranged tours for just the three of them in various locations. They began in the large cities of Beijing and Shanghai, then traveled in rural areas and along the Yangtze River and, finally, in Tibet.

He noted that although there is still repression of religion, religious practice is very common. "I was amazed at their profound acts of faith," he said. "Millions make pilgrimages, some of them taking a year. The pilgrims will take three steps, prostrate themselves, then take three more steps. That's why it takes so long. It's an amazing physical exertion. And it makes one ask, 'Do we use every ounce of our energy in our worship?'"

He pointed out the many similarities between Buddhism and Catholicism in the use of beads, statues, and incense, though of course

the two religions attach very different meanings to these articles.

The travelers particularly enjoyed their stays in private homes. In fact, the most interesting aspect of the trip was experiencing the heartfelt hospitality and humbleness of the people. As the three of them visited with their hosts, they were watching three or more generations interact. There was great respect for the elderly, and grandparents were taking as active a role in raising the children as the parents themselves were.

In small towns the host might own a small business, like a small grocery store or a newsstand or a bicycle tire repair shop. The contrast between their agricultural practices and ours was startling; on the very small farms there was practically no motorization—a yak might be pulling the plow.

Envisioning what the future might hold for China, Father Joe thought about what some of the people he met were hoping for. When visitors come from all over the world for the Beijing Olympics next year, China is going to be opening its doors wide for the first time; the Chinese are going to be showing themselves off. As Father Joe put it, "There is a humble expectation of wanting to share China with the world. At the same time, the world is going to be influencing China." What a historic opportunity that will be!

You can find photos of Father Joe's trip to China on the parish's Web site, www.stpaturbana.org.

Spirituality //from page 1

continue the theme of living out our baptismal/sacramental spirituality in our busy everyday lives. If you attended his presentation last fall, you already know you will enjoy this all-new presentation! Invite your family and friends to experience Fr. Pat's warm, engaging style and his practical ideas for living out our faith in the real world.

Tickets will go on sale Dec. 30 and must be purchased in advance. Proceeds will benefit the Guild and their many projects for the parish. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under.

Fr. Patrick McGrath is a Jesuit of the Chicago Province. He is a frequent retreat leader and presenter who uses storytelling, Scripture, wisdom from the Catholic tradition, and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola to help audiences reflect on and experience God in all things. Fr. McGrath serves as the Provincial Assistant for Secondary Education for the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus and is a member of Charis's Board of Directors. He holds a B.A. from Notre Dame, a M.Div. from the Jesuit School of Theology, and a M.S. from Northwestern. The Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus produces weekly Lenten webcasts featuring 5-minute reflections prepared by Fr. Pat McGrath.

Seniors Group enjoyed potluck and slide show

St. Patrick's Seniors met for their Advent-Christmas potluck on Dec. 12. Fr. Joe said grace and wished everyone a blessed Advent. Forty seniors and 3 long-way-from-being-seniors parishioners attended; all brought goods for St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry. Betty LaBerge brought a sparkling poinsettia centerpiece. Names were drawn from a basket to identify lucky recipients of the 14 door prizes provided by Jo Mahannah.

Walter Splittstoesser showed slides

of animals, birds, and snakes of the Serengeti Wildlife Park and Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, Africa. The Serengeti is the size of the state of Connecticut and was Tanzania's first National Park, established in 1951. Wildebeests, giraffes, elephants, lions, and leopards were present in large numbers. Special treats were seeing the elusive cheetah strolling beside the safari vehicle, sighting the endangered

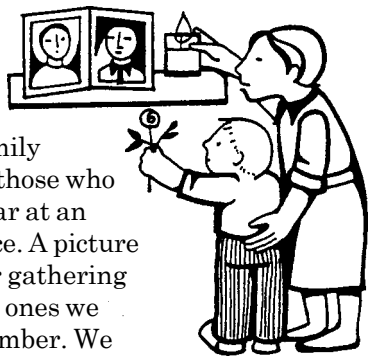
black rhino, and visiting a traditional Masai village.

The next Seniors meeting will be Tuesday, Apr. 1. An informational letter will be sent in March to the 99 member Seniors. For information, contact Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330).

We remember

Fall was a time of blessing for the Ministry of Consolation at St. Patrick's. In October we welcomed over 30 family members and friends of those who have died in the past year at an Evening of Remembrance. A picture table in the center of our gathering reminded us of the loved ones we came to honor and remember. We shared memories, laughter, and tears. Fr. Joe led us in prayer after reminding us that we are each incorporated in the Communion of Saints and are never more than a prayer away from our beloved dead.

November brought a viewing of the video "A Ray of Hope: Facing the Holiday Following a Loss." Discussion and sharing the video highlight ways to cope with the challenges of holidays and other special occasions when there is an empty place at the table and in our lives. The rain and wind that evening mirrored the bleakness that we often feel when facing special



times without a loved one. The candle on the table of pictures and mementoes reminded us to celebrate their presence with us in new ways.

December was fast upon us when we gathered for the annual Widows Luncheon. In a lovely

tradition begun by Sr. Charlene Cesario, widows of the parish gathered in the multipurpose room for a soup and salad lunch with a festive theme. Over 20 widows shared this time together before the hubbub of the holiday season began in earnest.

The Liturgical Arts Team helped us all to remember our beloved dead during the month of November, the month of Holy Souls. Once again they arranged for the wonderful scroll in the sanctuary, listing the names and calling forth the spirits of those who have died in the past year to be with

us at our liturgical celebrations.

For those of us who want to remember those who have gone before us in the Communion of Saints, the Book of Remembrance was also in the sanctuary during November. If you and your family haven't added a page for your loved ones, be sure to do so when November 2008 approaches! This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare a page, decorated or plain, that lists the names of the deceased members of our families and our friends. The simple book placed in the sanctuary reminds us at a glance of our shared love and hope in the Resurrection.

The Ministers of Consolation wish you a peaceful, holy, and blessed Christmas season. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. *Alleluia!*



Q: When Pope Benedict XVI was elected, I read a lot of newspaper accounts about what takes place

when a pope dies and how a new pope is elected. I found it puzzling in some ways and kind of bizarre in others. For instance, what's all that about the little hammer—why is it used?

A: On the election of a pope the joyful words "*Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: Habemus Papam!*" [I announce to you a great joy: We have a Pope!] are proclaimed to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square and to the whole world.

The newly elected Pope then gives his first apostolic blessing, *Urbi et Orbi* (to the city [Rome] and to the world). The election of a new successor to Peter has followed a traditional procedure for many centuries.

On the death of the previous pope, there is a verification of death, first by a physician and then, according to tradition, by the papal chamberlain, who gently taps the pope three times with a small silver hammer while calling him by his Christian name. (In recent years this has been further simplified; only the calling of the name is in use today.) The Ring of the Fisherman worn by the pope and the papal seal are then destroyed to signal the end of his time as pope. Burial takes place within 4 to 6 days, followed by a nine-day period of mourning, during which time the Cardinals of the Church gather from around the world to elect a new pope.

The Cardinals gather in papal conclave in the Sistine Chapel, secluded from the world to ensure that the election will be guided only by grace and the Holy Spirit. Seclusion gives them time to consider the signs of the times and the needs of the Church, and to discern prayerfully a new chief shepherd for the People of God.

The conclave may progress for several days without a successful vote. When this happens, dark smoke is sent forth at the end of each day's voting to let the people know that the voting has been unsuccessful. Once a successful vote is obtained (requiring a two-thirds majority), white smoke is traditionally sent forth. Because the color of the smoke is sometimes ambiguous, the current practice of ringing bells has been added to ensure that the people know there is a new pope.

All that remains before the proclamation "*Habemus Papam*" is for the newly elected pope to give free assent to the call to be "Servant of the Servants of God."

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

A welcoming outreach within St. Patrick's grows

The Congolese have been parishioners of St Patrick for some time now. Fr Joe and many parishioners have been active in helping the Congolese and other native French speakers to become active members of St. Patrick's Parish.

French is commonly spoken in the Congo, although it is not the only language spoken there. As a native French speaker and retired faculty member of the UI French Department, Paul Talbot was an early volunteer translator who helped the Congolese immigrants to feel at home in our parish and assisted Appollinaire Ikuku and Claude M'Buyi and their families to participate in parish activities.

As Appollinaire's command of the English language grew and he became more comfortable in communicating with parishioners, he was able to bring to light the plight of those from his country who were now parishioners. When relatives and others from the Congo arrived, those who came first began to realize that the newcomers needed help.

Paul Talbot contacted the UI French Department and challenged students to consider stepping out of their comfort zone to help the French-speaking Congolese learn English. Some students saw this as a way to help improve their own French-speaking skills; others, some of whom don't speak French, offered to help the Congolese improve their computer skills and to look for jobs, and still others cared for the Congolese children during the group's Sunday morning meetings.

The students first started coming in the fall of 2006. At the end of the spring 2007 semester many of the students graduated, so August 2007 presented a challenge that brought many new students and a few from the previous year returning to help.

Junior Danielle Ciribassi not only returned but took responsibility for serving as recruiter and organizer of the student group and facilitator of the Sunday meetings. Her recruiting efforts have attracted students from other cities and schools who bring



new skills and knowledge to share.

So once again each Sunday at 10:20 a.m. about 15 students and 11 French-speaking parishioners arrive. After enjoying the donuts, coffee, juice, and milk of Jerry & Company's Coffee Shop, they sit down for an hour or two of discussion and camaraderie. There is conversational partnering in English, cultural exchange activities (a song, a traditional dish, traditional clothing, some aspect of American culture the group has found interesting), advice in writing résumés, help with interview skills, and planning social events.

The students strive to create a comfortable learning environment where the assimilation process is less stressful, one in which the immigrants can share aspects of their own culture with interested American students.

Danielle believes that the future of the group depends on the success of the work provided by the students—determined by whether the French-speaking community continues to feel engaged and finds the exchange useful. She says that the students intend to put forth their best efforts to assist the group in whatever their

aspirations are for life in the United States.

Although the French-speaking group was originally made up of the Congolese, other French speakers have joined them. As a result the group has decided to call itself the Francophone Community Partnership.

New strategies are being developed through the efforts of Fr. Joe and the parish staff to make the many sacramental and community opportunities of St Patrick's available to the French speakers. And the students are working hard to chart a course that will help the group to find a rich and rewarding life in Champaign-Urbana.



Welcome to new parishioners Fidele and Delphine Tshimanga, Elizabeth Beth, Robert Flassig, Emily Rohrer, Donna and Thomas Skaggs, Tara and Phillip Miller, Gracia Kibwenge, Kathleen Nagle, Stella Salvo, and Mary Jo Thomsen.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved away: Eileen Scott, Mary Ellen Tracy, Terry Lafengagen, Melissa Riley, Teresa and Sean Fingland, Doug Tucker, Deborah Cessna, and Paula and William Besson.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Parker McCan Moore and Harry Matthew Polonus.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Rosalie Bell, Josephine Ann Myers, Ramon Antonio Daguio, Sr., Frank Richard D'Urso, Vivian Virginia Wilson, Florence Wise Cain, and Clara Ruth Butler.

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

George Fox and the Quakers

George Fox, founder of the Quakers, was born in England in 1624. As son of a weaver he had very little formal education but he had an inquiring mind, and his inquiries were mainly directed at spiritual matters. He spent many years searching for a religion that could move him—and then, one day, he heard an inner voice telling him that Jesus Christ could “speak to thy condition.” At that moment he knew



he had no need of mediators between him and God. He had the “Seed of God” in his own soul, and his mission was to attend to that seed, to heed the “inner voice,” and to awaken others to that same seed.

From then on, he shared his vision with other “Friends.” He spoke often out-of-doors and in churches, asking questions of preachers. He appealed to a wide audience and had many followers.

Within a decade he attracted tens of thousands to join what he called the Society of Friends.

Fox paid little heed to social conventions, dressing plainly and refusing to swear an oath, believing in the Gospel text that a simple yes or no should suffice. He opposed war and violence as contrary to the Gospels, and constantly warned the rich and powerful against oppressing the poor.

These attitudes and activities fairly invited persecution. Arrested eight times, he spent six years in various prisons, and many of his followers were also put in prison. During their many trials, these “Friends” were friendly toward everyone, including their persecutors. Their willingness to look for God in everyone they met eventually led to their receiving the respect of others.

The term “Quakers,” which today identifies the “Friends” religion, came from one of the magistrates who put Fox in prison. Fox apparently told him to “tremble before the Lord,” and the magistrate applied the term “Quakers” to Fox and his followers. Although it was meant to be an insult, Fox and his followers took this name for their religion as a mark of honor.

Fox traveled throughout England, though his efforts were mainly in the north, and to America, where he spent almost two years. Quakers later traveled to America in great numbers; one of Fox’s followers, William Penn, won a charter to establish the Quaker commonwealth of Pennsylvania. After a long illness, Fox died on Jan. 13, 1691, at the age of 67.

Remember the Woman

The child who helped her mother, father, sisters
push her drunken older brother out of their house
in a Mexican town long ago;
a child who crossed central park each day
for reading and writing by nuns;
and after school played
in a nearby river with the other girls;
and who threw rocks at boys
watching them from bushes.

An eleven-year-old with her tiny typewriter
who took an old bus alone across Mexico
to Secretary School at Pichucalco;
who later worked in city offices;
and much later danced with me at Tuxtla Gutierrez
so many times to generous applause.
A woman who plunged in the ocean
with Ana Laura off Puerto Arista,
and at Huatulco swam ashore
from a yacht anchored in a bay.

Remember a woman who visited me
in mid-winter, seeing snow for the first time,
handfuls in the air;
can magically spell hard words in English;
laughs and smiles easily;
cries sometimes quietly for no reason.

Can it be that all of these women
and the one that helped me scoop water
when our apartment flooded;
the one who can answer a bank's telephone
in two languages;
one who saved winged maple seeds in plastic bags,
hoping to drop blessings on Mexico;
and the person warm beside me now
are all, all, all the same person?

~Unpublished poem by Quentin Kirk



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is January 13.

St. Patrick visited the Market at the Square—and stayed

This spring, at a special Mass and dinner marking the conclusion of the Disciples in Mission program, keynote speaker Deacon Gregory L. Serangeli, Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Peoria, urged attendees to continue to shine as lights in the darkness. “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

One way to do this became a new ministry for St. Patrick’s, staffing a booth at the Market at the Square—the farmers market at Lincoln Square, Urbana. Besides the throng of peddlers and vendors, there is a section reserved for the public interest, where there are booths for animal activists, health advocates, political interests, and some religious groups. Fr. Hogan and the parish staff approved staffing a booth at the market on a monthly basis. The mission was to provide contacts and information on the Church, as well as to invite people to participate in Mass and Coffee Shop at St. Patrick’s.

To attract the interest of passers-by, Mary Long designed a poster that features Nick Britzky’s *The Rising Christ*. A matching flyer includes a map and Mass times. The booth also displayed a small banner with the words “St. Patrick Church” and photographs of the interior and exterior of the church. And there was



also a bit of candy for the youngsters!

Some of those who approached the booth included out-of-towners looking for a church where they could go to Mass. A similar group was made up of students and newcomers looking for a Catholic church. As could be expected, inactive Catholics who came by expressed mixed forms of interest and curiosity. Many St. Patrick’s parishioners came by and evinced delight with the parish’s public presence in Urbana.

St. Patrick’s presence at the Market on the Square will resume next April and run through November. Those who staffed the booth last year included Richard Bronson, Mary Long, Beth McDonald, Ruth Ann Kingery, Mary Fonner, Leo Wood, and Dan Richards. It is hoped, however, that next spring and summer other parishioners will help to

staff the booth since each parishioner may know different people who go to the market, many of whom are doing some level of spiritual seeking.

In his pastoral letter on evangelization Bishop Daniel Jenky wrote: “To evangelize is essential to the mission of this diocese and the entire Catholic Church. This great commission comes directly from the lips of the savior, and not just to the clergy and religious but to each and every baptized believer. We assemble as Church to praise and thank God, to love and serve our neighbor, and to announce the Good News. The grace and goodness of Christ is so wonderful, how could we not share the experience with everyone we meet? That is the mission of our cathedral, our parishes, our schools, our monasteries, religious communities ... and every other Catholic association, group, and program in this diocese.”

Those who staffed the booth last year had fun at the market, and they are raring to go next spring. Will you join them? If you would like to try a fresh and invigorating way to live out your faith, call Mary Long (351-7008) or Dan Richards (714-3707) for more information.



Academic Letter Awards

Academic Letter Awards Ceremony was hosted by the STM Administration and the National Honor Society on Oct. 17. Academic Letters are presented to upperclassmen maintaining a cumulative GPA above 3 to 3.5 (depending on years in school), and recipients included 12 St. Patrick’s parishioners. Congratulations to Ian Tate, Andrew Wszalek, Johanna McCarthy, Kristen Faight, Tyler Faight, Caroline Jones, Catherine

Keane, Christian Kurtz, Theresa Laumann, Nathaniel Perry, K. Avery Schael, Natalie Timpone, and Laura Welle.

Madrigal Dinner The school hosted its Annual Madrigals Dinner on Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1. The evening of entertainment with a medieval flair invited participants to travel back in time 500 years to enjoy food and frivolity with kings and queens, lords and ladies. St. Patrick’s parishioners performing included Gracie Mayer, Shelby Simmering, Claire Drone-Silvers, and Laura Welle.


Coming Attraction Battle of the Bands, Jan. 26

What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.

~Rev. Martin Luther King

Address to the
Southern Christian
Leadership
Conference, 1967




in our parish library

The parish library now has a small Catholic Fiction section, which is located next to the New Book section. Following are some recently donated books. We're eagerly looking for other Catholic fiction.

Five for Sorrow, Ten for Joy, by Rumer Godden (FIC GOD 2007-12-10) This inspiring and convincing conversion story shows how the mercy of God extends to the darkest human places. Degradation, despair, and eventual redemption are the themes of this novel. Godden also weaves in the history of the order of nuns that Liz, the protagonist, joins—an order founded to rescue the prostitutes of Paris.

Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norell, by Susanna Clark (FIC CLA 2007) Set in an alternate 19th-century Britain during the Napoleonic Wars, the story is based on the premise of magic returning to England after hundreds of years, and the tumultuous relationship between two fictional magicians of the time. This book has inspired conversations about magic and miracles of the Church.

Joshua: A Parable for Today, by Joseph Girzone (FIC 813 GIR) Father Girzone retells the story of Christ through Joshua, a young man who moves to a small town in New York State. This book has a simply rendered yet powerful message. The library also has other books in the Joshua series.

The Keys of the Kingdom, by A. J. Cronin (FIC 823 GRO) Recognized as Cronin's best novel, *The Keys of the Kingdom* is a gripping and thoughtful tale of a man called to do good in an imperfect world. It is the story of Francis Chisholm, son of Alec Chisholm, a Catholic in Presbyterian Scotland. Francis is orphaned at a young age when his father and mother are killed in a wave of anti-Catholicism. After his boyhood love commits suicide, young Francis decides to be a priest.

The Man Born to Be King, by Dorothy Sayer (FIC 808 SAY 1943) This is a play cycle consisting of twelve plays that depict specific periods in Jesus' life, from the events surrounding his birth to his death and resurrection. Sayer writes in a realistic and engaging manner that makes the Gospel story come

alive as an actual event taking place in our midst..

The Man Who Was Thursday: A Nightmare, by G. K. Chesterton (FIC CHE 1908) This Christian allegory is a tense thriller that has powerful echoes of the Biblical book of Job. It is as relevant today as it was when written, almost a century ago.

The Name of the Rose, by Umberto Eco (FIC ECO) This murder mystery is set in a 14th-century Italian abbey during a time when ideas concerning the divinity of Christ, the power of the popes, and the importance of older, "pagan" philosophies were constantly fought over. A monk and his young assistant (the narrator) arrive at a monastery to investigate heresy at the height of the Inquisition. No sooner do they arrive than their focus is shifted to a series of mysterious murders.

The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis, by Felix Timmerman (FIC 813 TIM) The author provides an interpretation of the man Francis and the ideals that enabled him to move and to shake the whole world. "His burning love of God and fellow man, which led him to renounce a life of ease and luxury for one of perfect simplicity and superb holiness, provides a message of hope and inspiration that is more timely and appropriate today than ever before."

The Power and the Glory, by Graham Greene (FIC 823 GRE) Graham Greene explores corruption and atonement through a priest and the people he encounters. The novel follows a priest in his flight from authorities who are trying to eradicate the Catholic Church in a Mexican state, naming it a source of greed and debauchery. Throughout is the "truth that corrupt characters might still be capable of goodness, and virtuous ones might indulge their virtues murderously."

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

Assistance is needed to continue the Personnel Committee's research and monitoring of parish personnel guidelines that assure all salaried employees of the parish of fair employment practices and competitive compensation levels. Can you help? *Personnel Committee:* Cindy Kelly, 355-0541

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



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

Youngsters celebrate First Reconciliation

Second-grade catechists Angie Monk and Carla Simmering assisted Suzanne D'Andria, parish coordinator of children's religious education, in preparing second-grade boys and girls for this their first experience of the sacrament of reconciliation.

The event, celebrated Nov. 27 in St. Patrick's church, welcomed entire families to participate in the service and to receive the sacrament in turn with the children. Fr. Joe Hogan, presider, was assisted in this special ceremony by Fr. Hoa Pham and other priests from the area.

Those receiving the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time were:

John Acklin
Sarah Acklin
Jakob Arend
Sam Arend
Hank Asmussen
Brooke Berry
Emma Broda
Jordan Brooks
Ellie D'Andrea
Domenic DiGirolamo
Noah Dowling
Nathan Elsbernd
Celia Faux
Stella Faux
Mason Flaningam
Ethan Flassig
Noah Getty
Drew Havrilla
Renata Herrera
Rachel Johnston
Audry Kiamana
Aurelie Kiamana
Courtney Kneer



Julia Maloney
Kailey McQueen
Laney Menees
Abby Mizer
Cassie Monk
Matthew Morgan
Paul Nguyen
Yasmine Nyembo
Antonio Olson
Michael Overman
Allison Place
Xotil Quiroz
Nicholas Ragel
Cameron Robinson
Nathan Schuele
Ethan Smith
Valentina Stafford
Haley Starkell
Joanie Urban
Kaitlyn Wilson
Wyatt Wolfersberger
Magdalena Yepcz
Maris Wszalek



ST. PATRICK'S PARISH **In Focus**

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

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

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Mary Lee Brady, Pat Fettig, Judy Huelsbusch, Mary Long, Carolyn McElrath, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Lilia Peters, Dan Richards, Leslie Risatti, Margaret Stewart, and Sophia Zeigler. Artwork, p. 1, by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Judy Huelsbusch

Shrimp and Cheese Ball

2 cans small shrimp
2 8-oz pkgs cream cheese, softened
1 pkg Italian dressing mix
Chopped parsley or chopped pecans (optional)

Put shrimp, cream cheese, and dressing mix in food processor and mix thoroughly. Form into two balls and roll in nuts or parsley, if desired. Cool in refrigerator for at least two hours. Serve with veggies or crackers. Can be frozen.

