

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

## "Come Play With Me" (God)

Can we imagine our God at play? How else can we explain the giraffe, the platypus, the ostrich, butterflies, and lightning bugs? There is a wonderful passage about this in Proverbs 8:23-31, which concludes: "I was beside the master craftsman, delighting him day after day, ever at play in his presence, at play everywhere on his earth."

Genesis tells us that God used to come by Eden just to walk with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. Can we envision it? God with the first couple just walking and talking and enjoying the bright flowers, colorful birds, beasts tame and contented, trees with luxuriously ripe fruit. Yes, even that special tree, the one in the middle of the



garden, the tree whose fruit was not for eating. Play reminds us that not everything has a purpose, that some times and some things are about enjoyment and appreciation.

Play is doing something just for the fun of it, just for the joy of it. Miriam danced and sang after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea into freedom. She danced for joy, for life, for praise. David, King of Israel, danced before the ark of God, danced with abandon, danced for the joy and praise in his own heart.

Imagination is often a part of play. The prophets connected a playful imagination with the gift of prophecy. Isaiah envisioned his people riding on the back of an eagle. Jeremiah imagined God play-

ing a rousing game of "hide and seek." Ezekiel imagined an almost science-fiction vision of wheels and wheels; he summoned up fantastic creatures and bones connecting to bones.

Jesus, too, had a wonderful imagination. He told amazing stories about a good housekeeper, a good shepherd, a father with two sons. He told about merchants and stewards, fishermen and kings. He imagined mustard seeds growing into huge trees and birds making nests in them.

Imagination is an important and time-honored tool of prayer as well. We are encouraged to take time with a passage from Scripture and, using our imaginations, allow ourselves to become present to the scene. For instance, in the famous story of Abraham and Isaac, how old is Isaac? Was he old enough

*Continued on page 2*

## Get ready for a Rainforest Adventure!

Do you remember the fantastic stories told about youngsters' good times at Vacation Bible School last summer and the summer before? And their eagerness for more of the same the next year? Well, get ready—Vacation Bible School is coming soon, and it offers something that sounds very intriguing: a "Rainforest Adventure." Hmm, wonder what that can be!

Vacation Bible School is for everyone between the ages of 4 to 10. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon,

Monday through Friday, June 23-27. Youngsters will hear stories about Jesus, make "cool" crafts, learn catchy rainforest tunes, play super games, do some zany skits—and make lots of new friends. Each day offers a new Bible story for them to explore through lots of fun activities.

Suzanne D'Andria, Children's Program Coordinator, says she can use any help you can

offer, so if you'd like to help make this year's VBS a huge success,



give her a call (344-0398 or 367-2665). Be prepared to indicate areas of special interest, such as games, decorating, snacks, arts and crafts, music, science, Bible stories, registration, or leading small groups. There's something here that everyone can do to share the love

that Jesus has for each of us, but especially for God's little ones.

## Come Play With Me from page 1

to carry logs up the mountain, or just the kindling to get a fire started? Did he struggle or cooperate with Abraham in the moment of sacrifice? What happened on the trip back? What did they tell Sarah? Who are you in the story? (If God throws the Abraham and Isaac story into your life, you'd better take note of any sacrifices you are asking your child to make and keep your eyes peeled for rams in the thicket!)

At times you might want to imagine yourself in a favorite place and invite the Lord to be with you. Speak with him about life and enjoy his pres-



ence. Let him love you, comfort you, challenge you. Play and pray together.

Another prayer of the imagination is colloquy, or "talking meditation." Just talk with God, not to God. It's best if you can at least begin the conversation aloud, so you might want to go someplace where you can be alone and comfortable and simply open your heart to God.

The prophets used their imaginations to answer these important questions before God: How could things be different? What are our hopes and dreams, our desires and goals? What would it take to get there from here? The answers God inspired gave God's people new possibilities, options, directions for change. Just

imagine what answers God might give to you!

We often fail to understand how close real play is to prayer, and how close to prayer real play is. Both are functionally useless activities; they often do not show immediate results, and sometimes we just have to let go of the results and play and pray for the delight of it.

Play, like prayer, is too important to leave to chance; we have to plan for both. That means setting play and prayer times for ourselves, whether alone, with others, or with God. Can we set some time each day to find something to laugh over, something to dream about, something to talk over with God?

Joy is a gift of the Spirit. All we have to do is accept it, unwrap it, and take it out to play.

## From our Sister Church

Dear friends,  
Greetings from Beit Jala!

During the past period we had many occasions in the parish that prevents us from writing to you about the parish.



After we finished with Holy Week, we had to prepare for Confirmation; 35 children had this secret of Holy Spirit. The patriarchates Michael Sabah led the Mass, his last Mass as a patriarchate in our parish. He will retire on June 22. It was a great Mass and celebration. After the Mass he blessed the new housing project for 32 needy families in the parish.

We began the renovation work in the parish, like cleaning the front face of the church. This project is offering work for many needy families. A new sound system was donated to the church and installed. Also we helped 12 students in paying their tuition fees, as well as helping some needy families and sick people.

We need your prayers especially for the Holy Spirit demonstration, which will be on May 9. We also prepare for other occasions in the parish, such as camps for the children, youth, and scouts.

We hope all is fine there; we didn't hear new news from you. Greetings to all the parishioners.

May God bless you.

Fr. Nidal  
Parish priest

## For returning Catholics, a way home

The Re-Membering Church team is offering a six-week summer series for baptized Catholics who are not attending Mass on a regular basis or who have not become members of a Catholic community, but have a strong desire to do so. The team offers instructional, emotional, and spiritual support through discussion, some reading, and a lot of listening. Topics and content are always tailored to the needs of the individuals.

**Sessions begin on Wednesday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center and continue through July 23.**

If you know someone who has expressed an interest in reconnecting with the Catholic Church, please share this information with them. You can also support them by praying for them and by encouraging them to share in our parish programs and activities. Offer to accompany them to a Sunday liturgy—or to one or more of the summer sessions offered by the Re-Membering Church team.

For more information, contact the parish center (367-2665) or members of the Re-Membering Church team: Mary Lou Menches (344-1125), Barbara Wysocki (367-5014), Judy Corbett (398-2322), or Leo Wood (239-2587).



## Saying good-bye is hard!

St. Patrick's is saying farewell to four very special people. Leslie Risatti, parish secretary; Kristi Turner, finance manager; Chris Ángel, music director; and Father Hoa, assistant pastor, are leaving their current positions at the beginning of the summer.

There will be a farewell celebration on Saturday, June 7, at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Please plan to attend to thank these wonderful people for their years of service and to wish them well in the future.

Following are the answers each gave to these questions: What led you to your current position at St. Patrick's? What has been the most enjoyable part of your work here? What is one of your favorite memories of the parish? What do you plan to do next? Is there a special message you'd like to leave for our parishioners?

### Leslie Risatti

I volunteered to help in the office. About 3 months later Fr. Doug Hennessy asked me to work part time with then-secretary, Nancy



Steerman.

The people are definitely the best part of my work in the office—first getting to know who they are, then getting

to meet their families, and finally putting them all together. Watching their babies being baptized, growing up, and pretty soon they are getting married at St. Pat's!

Two events are really memorable. The first was experiencing the death of a priest and former pastor, Fr. Charles Martell. We had to plan the funeral while our then-pastor, Fr. Remm, was in the hospital after a skiing accident. He planned it from his bedside! I was filled with fear at not doing everything correctly, but we did get

through it.

The second was the thrill of planning and being part of the farewell for Fr. Remm. Even though we were feeling the sadness of his departure, the joy and laughter in planning (however deviously) and implementing the day's events were overwhelming. So many people offered to help, and over 550 people turned out. It was a thrill of a lifetime for me!

What comes next? I want to learn how to RELAX; complete some projects at home; visit my daughters and my relatives; sail with my husband when the wind blows "during the week;" take my mother-in-law on garage-sale trips in REVERSE—donating items instead of buying them; floss EVERY DAY; and NEVER set an alarm! When I finally feel "caught up," I plan to volunteer as an E.M. Lastly, my dream is to get to Ireland someday. Then, after the "big farewell," I hope one day to meet up with my grandparents Pat and Madge, with mom and dad, and with the entire Cahill Clan, who are keeping a cup of tea warm for me, and maybe a "cold one."

My message: Do what you can while you can, never lose the uniqueness of who you are—you know, the way God made us all!

### Kristi Turner

I was baptized and married at St. Pat's. When I saw the ad in the News-Gazette, I knew it was the place for me.

The most enjoyable part of the job was getting to know all of the great people at St.

Pat's. I learned that there is no certain way to pray; I thought I had been doing it wrong for years. I have also learned so much about my faith. Just because you go to Catholic school doesn't mean you know



everything about Catholicism.

Memorable? Two years ago I was attending a Financial Affairs meeting, which just happened to be on the same evening of Confirmation. When the meeting was over, I went to my office to get my purse. When I walked in, there were three priests in my office. One happened to be Monsignor Hallin, who was the parish priest when I went to St. Matthew's School. I got to visit with him for a minute. Then Bishop Jenky walked into my office. He reached out his hand and I introduced myself. He asked what I did for St. Pat's, and when I said I was the Finance Manager, he bowed to me. Just then Fr. Joe walked to the doorway and said "It's time." Bishop Jenky said "Gotta go" and darted out of my office. I laughed all the way home. Of course, I called my mother and grandmother the moment I got home (the two people that gave me the gift of Catholicism).

I plan to have a fantastic summer with my daughters. In the fall, I will go to Parkland for Computer Aided Drafting. I have always loved drafting but I stopped when it became computerized. My favorite part was putting the pencil to the paper. Last year was a life-changing year for me: I lost three family members and almost a fourth. I decided to stop riding the wave of life and to start making my own waves.

Thank you so much for making me feel like I belong. I have moved so much in my life, and it is rare that I feel like I do belong, even in my home town. I will miss being here everyday but that will make the time I do spend here so much more special.

### Chris Ángel

Honestly, I came because I needed a way to pay for tuition at UIUC, and St. Pat's needed a music director. It's worked out very well! I've really enjoyed teach-

*Continued on page 4*

## Saying goodbye is hard from page 3

ing (and learning from) our younger parishioners. The first time I entered the church, I was a substitute accompanist for one Mass. I was welcomed so thoroughly that I left thinking, "You know, that might be a nice place to work someday."

This fall I will be studying liturgy and theology at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

Thank you—for the warm welcome, for the incredible support, and for inviting me into your lives. It's been a great privilege to serve here.

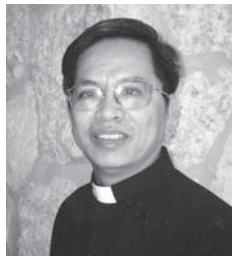


### Father Hoa

You are in my heart.

St. Patrick's Parish is a house built on rock. When I first came here, I simply inherited what had been beautifully built. It had been built by the faithful commitment of the pastor, priests, staff, and parishioners. It had been set upon the solid rock of the spirit of the gospel, which is the spirit of love and care.

Love is the foundation of our house and although it is hidden, it is easy to be felt. There have been so many stormy winds and torrents passing through, especially during



the crisis time of the diocese and the Church in the U.S., yet the house of St. Patrick's still stands firm and has become the

shelter for many seeking love, understanding, and consolation. Everything temporal, which stays on the surface, is passing away due to its nature, but love remains since it is ordained to be eternal.

I have experienced many separations in my life; separations from

family, from relatives and friends in different stages of my journey to priesthood, and I learned that separation is a condition of the human situation. On the same journey I also learned wisdom, knowledge, and different skills preparing for priesthood, and I sometimes held on to those experiences to feel secure and stable. But they all pass away, one after another. Everything is passing away according to its nature, but love remains since it is ordained to be eternal. Love is the foundation of all houses, the foundation of all relationships and the heart of all faith life.

I have not grown so much by the materials the staff gave me, but by their understanding and love. I am not rich by the salaries the priests share with me, but I become rich with the concern and loving support I experience in the house. And I believe that nobody truly grows by food or by knowledge or other material possessions, but we all grow by loving memories we share in loving relationships.

It is memories that shape the way I am, and I will carry those memories wherever I go since those memories are what I am.

Two years! The time is long enough for memories to shape a person. I am thankful for what I am; it means that I am grateful for what you are to me.

Jesus was powerful in his teaching and preaching simply because he told stories, the stories of God and of humanity, the stories that shaped who he was, and he simply preached what his heart felt. He felt love, the love of God the Father, the love of his mother, Mary, and the love of his Jewish brothers and sisters. Jesus was a sum of stories, the loving memories that carried him to the fulfillment of his mission: to die for love and to be resurrected for love.

Today, I am thankful for St. Patrick's parishioners who for two years have shaped my priesthood with memories and stories. I am thankful for Fr. Joe and other priests for the life and ministry I share with them. I am thankful for the staff, and the Guild, and the ministers, and the parishioners.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity and helpfulness for my ministry.

I will pray for you every day when I say the Mass, and I ask you please to pray for me.

May God bless you all.

### Prayer of the Hurried Student

Dear God,  
I'm on the run again,  
between classes and papers and work,  
and—if I'm honest—some good times.  
But I do not want to run from you  
or believe you are ever far from me.  
Help me to be grateful today  
for everything I received yesterday.  
And, tomorrow, show me the path  
that will lead me to do  
what I know to be right and true and good.  
Watch over those whom I love  
and bring us all into the Kingdom  
that your son preached would come  
"on Earth as it is in Heaven."  
Amen.

*From Catholic and College Bound,  
by George R. Szews. Used with permission*

## Presenting the 2008-9 Parish Council

On the April 12-13 weekend it was hard to find a quiet spot at St. Patrick's for counting the votes for three new Council members. But when all 711 marked ballots had been tallied, it was clear that parishioners had elected Doug Wolfersberger, Pam Donze De Ley, and Shelly Benson to serve three-year terms on the Council, a consultative body to the pastor.

New members were seated on the Council at the May meeting, when their first responsibility was to participate in the election of Council

officers for 2008-9. Elected by acclamation were Jack Collins, president; Mary Rose Cottingham, vice-president; and Pam Donze De Ley, secretary.

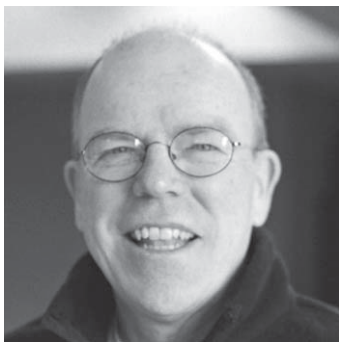
Council members meet monthly on third Thursdays, with the agenda set by the Council officers in conjunction with the parish trustees and the pastor. In addition, members serve on ministry leadership teams for the six key ministry areas of the parish.

As a result of the recent election, the Parish Council for 2008-9 is

made up of ten elected members and three ex-officio members. All will be grateful for your prayerful support.



*Fr. Joe Hogan  
Pastor*



*Jack Collins  
2006-09, president*



*Ellen Noonan  
2006-09*



*Mary Karten  
2006-09*



*Cynthia Morgan  
2006-09*



*Mary Rose Cottingham  
2007-10, vice-president*



*Thomas Kim  
2007-10*



*Marty Sierra-Perry  
2007-10*



*Shelly Benson  
2008-11*



*Pam Donze De Ley  
2008-11, secretary*



*Doug Wolfersberger  
2008-11*



*Joe Rasmussen  
2005-10, Trustee*



*Ginger Timpone  
2008-13, Trustee*

## Parish Council News

When people are asked this fall to consider how they can use their time and talents as parishioners of St. Patrick's, even the younger members of the parish will have an opportunity to demonstrate how they intend to be active parishioners in the next year.

During their regular monthly meeting May 15, Parish Council members reviewed a new Youth Time and Talent survey that will be distributed along with the Ministry booklets at Masses August 23-24. The survey, similar to the one familiar to adults at St. Patrick's, will give those in third grade through high school the opportunity to express interest in different ministries, from singing in the Children's Choir to participating in the CREW mission trip. The intention is to help the children and teens of St. Patrick's understand the special role they, too, play in our parish community.

During his report, Fr. Joe Hogan gave an update on new staff members. Parishioner Katie Hinrichs has accepted the position of parish secretary and will start May 27.

As of the Parish Council meet-

ing, the Personnel Committee was still working on filling the music director and business manager positions. Father said eventually St. Patrick's will receive another to succeed Fr. Hoa, but for the interim between Fr. Hoa's departure and the new priest's arrival, the parish will receive assistance, starting in June, from another priest.



Fr. Hogan also announced that the remodeling of the classrooms, including repainting, re-carpeting, and new lighting, started May 14.

In other business:

The Parish Council welcomed new members Shelly Benson, Pam Donze De Ley, and Doug Wolfersberger, and thanked outgoing members Annessa Parisi, Kathy Sarnecki, and Jim Mayer for their three years of service.

The nominated slate of officers was elected by the Parish Council. The officers are Jack Collins, president; Mary Rose Cottingham, vice president; and Pam Donze De Ley, secretary. In addition, new Parish Council members Shelly Benson and Doug Wolfersberger will assist and advise the Faith Development and Spiritual Enrichment minis-

tries, respectively.

A Farewell Party in honor of departing staff members is scheduled for June 7 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., with a recognition ceremony at 6:30. The event will include egg rolls and baked goods, possibly skits and performances, and an emcee.

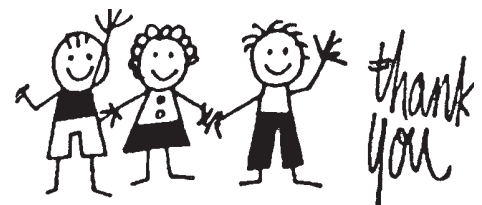
The Parish Council in March was approached by two parishioners about providing assistance to a woman in the neighborhood whose porch was deemed unsafe by the City of Urbana. The Parish Council approved making a financial contribution to Empty Tomb with end-of-the-year funds, and suggested that the Building and Grounds Committee and the Knights of Columbus be contacted for possible volunteer assistance.

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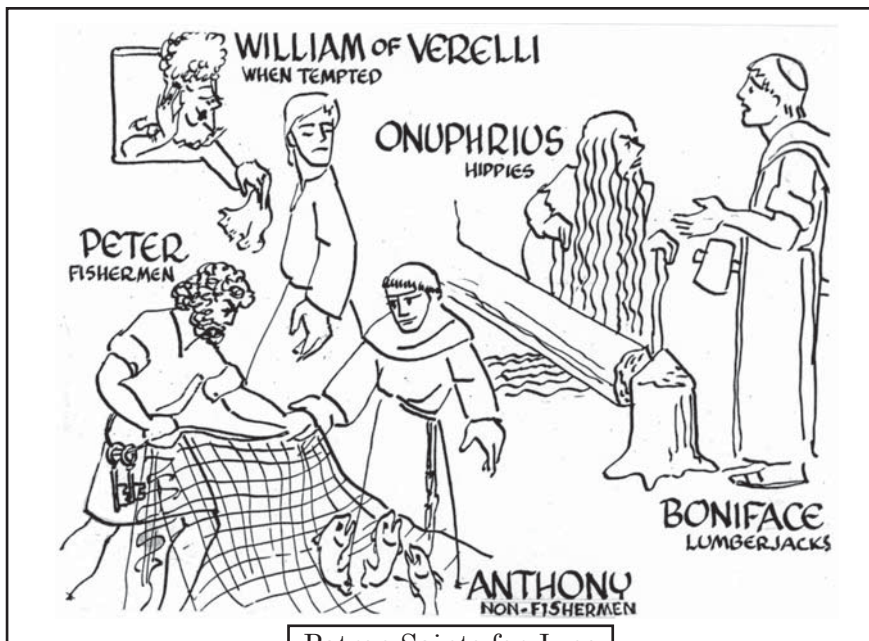
*The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, in the parish center following a 6:30 p.m. gathering in the church for prayer. All parishioners are welcome to attend these open meetings.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

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



Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by contacting Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or [mmenches@uiuc.edu](mailto:mmenches@uiuc.edu)). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.



Patron Saints for June



**Congratulations to the Class of 2008.** The High School of St. Thomas More commencement ceremonies took place in the afternoon on Sunday, May 18, in the gymnasium of the school. This event marked the culmination of four years of dedicated scholastics, spiritual growth, and community services. Like most graduates, they will probably remember the good times with classmates, exciting achievements in athletics and the arts, and inspirational moments shared with faculty and friends.

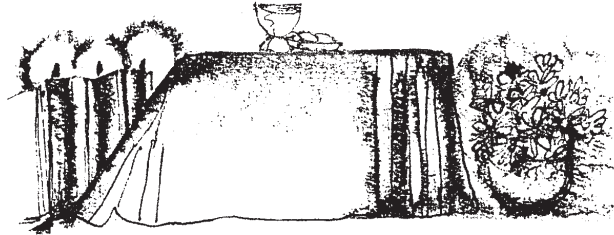
St. Patrick's parishioners graduating from St. Thomas More include Grant Cinker, Justin Drook, Kirsten Faught, Caroline Jones, Catherine Keane, Christian Kurtz, Theresa Laumann, Nathaniel Perry, Dylan Ray, Avery Schael, Natalie Timpone, and Michael Towns. Best wishes to all of this year's graduates!

**Registration forms are now available for sports programs:** baseball, boys and girls basketball, football and volleyball summer camps. Please contact the office for registration information.

**STM Musical Theatre Camp: Godspell Jr.**, is a 9-day camp for students aged 8-17. Campers will learn the entire process of producing a musical, starting with auditions for specific roles and ending with performances on the final day of camp. They will learn about costumes, make-up, set design and construction, props, lighting, and sound. There will be hands-on workshops in these and other aspects of theatre. Participants will also play many theatre games designed to build the young actors' confidence and develop acting and vocal skills. Camp dates: July 7-10 and 14-18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## First Communion, a simple but festive step in faith

For six of the seven sacraments, the Church has a special rite that tells the priest, bishop, and participants what to say and do. But for First Holy Communion, there is no rite. We simply do what we do at any Mass and our children "simply" receive from God what God gives at any Mass. And yet, First Communion is one of many of a child's first steps, all of which give joy to those who watch the child grow. So this day is as ordinary as daily bread and as festive as a fine wine. Congratulations to all our First Communicants!



John Acklin  
Sarah Acklin  
Jakob Arend  
Sam Arend  
Hank Asmussen  
Brooke Berry  
Jordan Brooks  
Ellie D'Andria  
Jessyka Diaz-Stack  
Domenic DiGirolamo  
Noah Dowling  
Nathan Elsbernd  
Celia Faux  
Stella Faux  
Mason Flaningam  
Ethan Flassig  
Noah Getty  
Daniel Giger  
Drew Havrilla  
Renata Herrera  
Rachel Johnson  
Audry Kiamana  
Aurelie Kiamana

Courtney Kneer  
Julia Maloney  
Kailey McQueen  
Laney Menees  
Abbey Mizer  
Cassie Monk  
Paul Nguyen  
Yasmine Nyembo  
Antonio Olson  
Michael Overmann  
Allison Place  
Xochitl Quiroz  
Nicholas Ragle  
Cameron Robinson  
Nathan Schuele  
Ethan Smith  
Valentina Stafford  
Haley Starkell  
Joanie Urban  
Magdalena Yopez  
Kaitlyn Wilson  
Wyatt Wolfersberger  
Maris Wszalek



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next (July/August) issue of *In Focus* is June 15, for publication at the end of June. Please note that the *In Focus* staff takes a summer holiday in June; consequently **there will not be an issue of *In Focus* published at the end of July; watch for the fall issue at the end of August.**

**Mark your calendars now for 2008-9 high school registration** Tuesday, August 12, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. If you are

interested in volunteering to help on that day, please contact Mrs. Strater (jstrater@hs-stm.org or 352-7210).



## in our parish library

As summer approaches we think about going on journeys. Here are some books in the parish library that you can check out related to spiritual journeys.

*In the Footsteps of the Mystics*, by Henry C. Simmons (248 SIM). This introduction to the spiritual life consists of topically arranged quotations from the Classics of Western Spirituality series. It provides a guide to the series and its writers, as well as to spirituality.

*The Joy of Feeling Good*, by William A. Miller (158 MIL). The author, who has a background in religion and counseling, has written a book about eight precepts that can help one to achieve contentment in life. The concepts stress obtaining a balance in our thoughts and actions, thereby avoiding extremes. He emphasizes the importance of a positive self-image, knowledge of one's own values and beliefs, and acceptance of oneself as well as other people. The author includes several exercises and self-tests to help illustrate his points.

*Journey into God: Meditations and Stories from Scripture That Deepen Our Relationship with God*, by Patricia Beall Gavigan (231 GAU).

*The Road Less Traveled*, by M. Scott Peck, M.D. (136.5 PEC 1979). Peck provides an inspirational framework for achieving profound personal growth and satisfaction. His crucial premise—that life is hard—is challenging, but the key is discipline. With Dr. Peck's assistance, the reader will learn to master the four principles of discipline needed for every healthy, life-affirming act.

*Further Along the Road Less Traveled*, by M. Scott Peck, M.D. (158.1 PEC 1993). This sequel to *The Road Less Traveled* presents spiritual as well as psychological aspects of adult maturation. Peck explores growing up into forgiveness rather than blame; finding meaning in death; developing genuine self-esteem while dealing with problems of omnipotence, good and evil, and heroism; coping with addictions (which Peck terms the sacred disease); and finding a personal god.

*The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey*, by Henri M. Nouwen (248 NOU). This journal documents the author's journey from Ivy League professor to the priest of a community of people with severe disabilities. It recounts one man's struggle for personal and spiritual growth.

*The Trodden Road: The Stages of the Spiritual Life*, by Hubert Van Zellen (248.2 VAN).

*The Way of the Pilgrim: Complete Text and Reader's Guide*, by Dennis J. Billy (248 WAY). A version of the original book about a nineteenth-century peasant seeking the truth with simple humility, finding joy and plenty everywhere in life.

*The Way to Christ: Spiritual Exercises*, by Pope John Paul II (248 WOJ). Inspiring sermons Pope John Paul II preached during spiritual retreats he led while he was still a cardinal. The book is helpful for those who seek spiritual renewal; it could also be used as a guide for spiritual direction and retreats, both on an individual and communal level.

*A Way without Words: A Guide for Spiritually Emerging Adults*, by Marsha Sinetar (248 SIN). This guide presents a method for adult spiritual growth through dialog, either alone or with a small group. "A way without words" is a term that refers to the fragility of the spoken language in describing the feelings and issues brought on by befriending your spiritual side, and also the difficulties of sharing these ensuing feelings and new personal realities with other people."

*Your Mythic Journey: Finding Meaning in Your Life through Writing and Storytelling*, by Sam Keen and A. Valley-Fox (155.2 KEE 1989). This is a book for those who find journaling a therapeutic path. It is a guide to self-discovery through crafting the stories that make up one's personal mythology. It is a written version of some of the material that Sam Keen developed in workshops on personal mythology that he conducted for many years with Joseph Campbell.

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*If you would like to donate books on the parish library's wish list, please contact Lori Mestre (365-9994), library team coordinator. If you need help locating materials in the library, Lori or one of the other team members will be happy to help. The parish library is open weekdays during office hours, and on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.*

### Vocation Prayer



We praise you for your goodness and thank you for your gifts, O God, especially for those dedicated to serving your Church as priests and religious. Selfishly, we ask "Give us more, O God!"

Strengthen us all, priests, religious, and laity, to live in love and service after the example of your son, Jesus. Help us to see our vocations in life as a journey toward you. You have called us to bring us together with all who need your love—make us faithful signs of your presence in our midst. Amen.



## JustFaith group strengthened, looking forward

Poverty. Workers' rights. Racism. Human dignity. War and peace.

**J**ustFaith. For 30 weeks, 19 participants have delved into these issues of social justice—reading books, watching films, hearing speakers, and taking part in “border crossings,” the opportunity to immerse themselves in the lives of others. They were participants in JustFaith, a program sponsored by Catholic Social Services, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Catholic Relief Services, one that seeks to help Catholics develop a passion for justice.

“I joined JustFaith to look for trying to mix my passion for social justice and my faith,” said Mark Cousert, “I hope to develop a personal plan of putting my faith into action.”

Linda Weber noted, “We are called to be people who live out Catholic social teachings. This is a good foundation to begin this journey.”

The information and images presented were often moving, sometimes devastating. But instead of being overwhelmed by the social issues that exist in our world, the JustFaith participants emerged energized and ready to take on new challenges, with the support of a new group of friends.

“I have always felt that social justice issues are the forgotten concerns of our world,” said Kathy Jobin, “and yet if we came together and truly worked for social justice, we would have a much safer, kinder, and faith-filled world. I learned a great deal about social justice issues from our readings and discussions. Many ideas that I had not thought about were brought to light, as well as frequent examples of how we might all be better prepared to do more of this type of

work. I would encourage the entire parish to take this course!”

This sentiment—that other St. Patrick parishioners would benefit from taking part in this extraordinary program—was repeated by participant after participant.

“I certainly would encourage all that can to participate because the more we learn, the more we can effect changes,” said Sharyn DuPuy. “If we do not become part of the solutions, we remain part of the problems. By doing nothing we make it easy on ourselves, but so much harder on those that already have a hard life.

“Seeing those that have made a difference gives us courage to try to do the same,” she added. “Instead of feeling the overwhelming scope

of these problems, it gives us hope that we can make a change even if we are not rich and important in

the world. Most of those who have made the biggest changes were common people just like me and you.”

Others taking part in the JustFaith program were Ellen Abell, Richard and Margaret Bronson, Diane Cousert, Marnie Fuesting, Fran and Joe Hacker, Michael Krassa, Carolyn McElrath, Lenore Nagele, John and Sue Schreiber,



**Welcome to new parishioners** Ellen Kinney and Mary and Terry Lewis.

**Farewell to these parishioners who have moved away:** Teresa Spence, Georgina Cheng, and Jessie and Mary Manning.

**Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community:** McKenzie Lyle Atwood, Camden Michael Getty, Addison Taylor Brooks, Adam Steven Bramowicz, and William Emil Emerle.

**Congratulations to Jamie Spencer and Travis Ashmore,** married at St. Patrick's.

**Please pray for deceased parishioners** Teresa Zapp and Joseph E. Voelkl.

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

Tony Schutz, Stan Yanchus, and Joseph Youakim.

For more information on the next session of JustFaith, which is expected to start in the fall, watch the parish bulletins and *In Focus*, or call Carolyn McElrath (278-2126).



We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms, we are one human family and one earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of the earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

*Preamble, The Earth Charter*



**Q: Do churches today still have an altar stone with the relic of a saint embedded in it?**

**A:** Some churches do and some don't. St. Patrick's altar does not have an altar stone with a saint's relic. Msgr. Doug Hennessy, who was pastor preceding Fathers George Remm and Joe Hogan, cannot remember whether the former altar contained an altar stone. He does remember celebrating Mass in our parish center for nine months while the church was being modified to meet Vatican II requirements, and that the portable altar he used during this time did have an altar stone that contained a saint's relic.

St. Mary's altar does have an altar stone, but the identity of the saint whose relic is embedded is unknown. St. Matthew's altar does not have an altar stone, but instead has a corporal [a fine cloth, usually of linen] with a saint's relic sewn into it; this is placed under the altar cloth. The altar stone at St. John's Chapel contains a relic of St. Ireneas and one (it is said) of St. John. Their portable altar also has an altar stone. The altar at Holy Cross has a couple of relics in the altar stone, one of which is of St. Urban.

Why an altar stone? The Council

of Nicea II, in 787, required that altars in Catholic churches have an altar stone with at least one saint's relic. This was decreed to commemorate the earliest Christians who celebrated Mass in the catacombs of Rome on the sarcophagi that held the bodies and bones of the early saints.

The altar stone is a heavy slab, usually of marble, about half an inch thick; its size ranges from about that of a paperback book to a placemat. The stone is fitted into the top of the altar; in the top of the stone, cemented in place, is a matchbook-sized container for the saint's relic. Relics can be as tiny as a piece of lead foil containing the ground portion of a bone. Most relics are embedded in the altar stone with a certificate of authenticity from the Vatican and information about the relic. Retrieving this information is nearly impossible without destroying the stone.

Standards for altar stones changed in the 1960s. New churches were required to use a relic that was big enough to be identified as part of the body of the saint. Since these larger relics are much harder to procure, the Church has lifted the requirement for altar stones containing relics.

You will have noticed that the priest kisses the altar at the beginning of Mass. This is done out of

reverence, for the altar is the table of the Lord. It is not, then, the bodies of the saints that render the altar holy, it is the altar that provides a holy resting place for the bones of the saints.

\* \* \*

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



*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. Bylines are generally omitted.

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**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Chris Ángel, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Denise Freidhof, Carolyn McElrath, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Fr. Hoa Pham, Leslie Risatti, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Margaret Stewart, Kristi Turner, Mary Welle, Barbara Wysocki, and Joseph Youakim. This issue was edited by John Towns and pagged by John Colombo.

## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Denise Freidhof

### Hamburger and Tater Tot Dinner

1.5 lbs hamburger  
1 can cheese soup  
1 pkg Tater Tots

Crumble hamburger on the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch pan. Spread cheese soup (Fiesta or Nacho cheese soup adds a little spice!) on top of the hamburger. Distribute Tater Tots on top, and bake at 375° 40-45 minutes until cheese is bubbling and the top is golden brown.

\* \* \*

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Ellen Noonan (403-0979 or eknoon@comcast.net). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!*



## Germaine Cousin, "Cinderella" Saint

A 16th-century shepherdess was ignored by her father, abused by her stepmother, and unknown outside her village, yet nearly three hundred years later Germaine Cousin became a saint. She is recognized as the patron saint of domestic abuse victims and people with disabilities.

Germaine lived in a French village near the city of Toulouse. She suffered from scrofula, a nauseous disease which causes abscesses around the neck. Her right arm was deformed and partially paralyzed. Maybe that is why she was treated so badly by her parents. Although her family was quite well-to-do, she was sent to live in the stable with the animals when she was only nine years old. She slept on a mattress made of hay and twigs in a corner of the barn. Her stepmother beat her savagely and scalded her with hot water as punishment for supposed bad behavior. She was fed scraps and dressed in rags. She was never given a pair of shoes, and her feet were frost-bitten in winter and bloody in summer as she went about taking care of the sheep. She was shunned and ridiculed by the villagers.

Germaine's only education was in preparation for her First Holy Communion. She did attend Mass every day, leaving the sheep in the care of her guardian angel. Though wolves lurked in the area, the sheep were never attacked, and they never wandered.

Even before she died, miraculous events were associated with her. Once when her stepmother was running after her as she drove her flock down the road, the stepmother was screaming and threatening to strike her with a club as she demanded that the girl unfold her apron. When Germaine did so, a cascade of fragrant flowers that did not grow in the region fell to the snow-covered ground. After that, the villagers began to treat her

with a certain reverence and awe.

On the night of her death two monks who were traveling in the region lost their way and took shelter in the ruins of an old castle. At midnight they awoke to hear music, and they saw some white-clothed figures in a lightened pathway over a barn in the distance. The forms appeared to be ascending in the sky and leading another form. The next morning the monks asked if anyone had died during the night. "Yes," they were told, "but only a shepherd girl." Germaine's body had been found that morning in the stable.

To the astonishment of the villagers, after Germaine's death her body took on a certain beauty, and throngs of people came to see her. She was interred in the village church in a family burial place under the flagstone floor with no marker or inscription, as was the custom at the time. Forty-one years later a family member

who had asked to be buried in the same place died. When the grave diggers exhumed the bodies, they found a beautiful girl beneath the flagstone. Old-time residents, seeing scrofula scars and a deformed arm, identified the body as that of Germaine.

For seventeen years after that many miracles were attributed to her. The vicar general of the archdiocese was sent to the village to investigate them, and he found her body still perfect nearly sixty years after her death. Many influential people became fascinated with her story throughout the ensuing years. Finally, after many missteps and political obstacles, including events occurring during the French Revolution, Germaine was canonized in 1867.

St. Germaine's feast day is June 15. In art she is represented with a shepherd's crook, with a watch dog or a sheep, or with flowers in her apron.

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### "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit!"

Congratulations to those in our parish who are newly confirmed, who received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on May 13: the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, courage, piety, and awe and reverence for the Lord. May the exercise of these gifts enrich your lives and bear much fruit!

Timothy J. Anderson  
Aimee Nicole Black  
Stacy Ann Black  
Sophie Bui  
Tony Bui  
Justin Paul Drook  
Michael Fitzgerald  
Cassandra Lin Glazier  
Jessica Nicole Glazier  
Kerim Handal  
Aaron C. Helregel  
Samantha Christine Ingram  
Karolina Kalbarczyk  
Mary Elizabeth Kimball

Mandy Kirby  
Megan Kirby  
Johanna Eileen McCarthy  
Anne Michelle Machesky  
Isidra Macias  
Maritza Jane Mestre  
Justin H. Nguyen  
Khai Nguyen  
Courtney Lee Osmond  
Collin R. Price  
Kirsten Avery Schael  
Shelby Marie Simmering  
Paige Joy Whippo  
Marian Wease





# St. Patrick's Parish June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Centering Prayer	3	12pm Men's Book Club	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Social Action	10:45am Mass CCNH 6:15pm 10 Great Dates	6pm Staff Farewell Party
8	7pm Centering Prayer 7pm Spiritual Enrichment Ministries	10	11	12	13	14
Vietnamese Farewell to Fr. Hoa	12pm Seniors Lunch 5:30pm Financial Affairs 6pm Faith Sharing 7pm Cancer Companions			6:45am Men's Bible Study	10:30am Mass Care Center 10:45am Mass CCNH	9am Prayer Shawl Ministry
15	7pm Centering Prayer	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Father's Day</b> 10:15am K of C	7pm Worship Ministry Team		7pm Re-Membering Church Series For Returning Catholics 7:30pm Faith Development Ministries	6:45am Men's Bible Study 7pm Parish Council	10:30am Mass Clark-Lindsey 10:45am Mass CCNH	4:15pm Summer Choir
22	7pm Baptism Prep 7pm Centering Prayer	24	25	26	27	28
8:30-12pm Blood Pressure Screening	6pm Faith Sharing		7pm Re-Membering Church Series For Returning Catholics	6:45am Men's Bible Study	10:45am Mass CCNH 10am Prayer Shawl Ministry	4:15pm Summer Choir
	<b>Vacation Bible School 8am - Noon</b>					
29	7pm Centering Prayer	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the bulletin to confirm dates and times.</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of In Focus is June 15.</p> <p>CCNH - Champaign County Nursing Home</p> </div>			