

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

This question is typically posed by loving parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and friends of parents to youngsters aged anywhere from four years to the teen years. For teens, the question usually changes to "What are you preparing to be? What courses in high school (college, grad school, etc.) are you taking to prepare for your future course in life?"-this with the understanding that life itself is not static, but a continuum in learning how to live and in acquiring life skills.

As one of the younger set, your choice might have been a fire fighter, an airline pilot, a doctor or nurse, a teacher, a mom or dad like your own. As a teenager or young adult, you may have moved to more carefully nuanced though perhaps less specific choices based rather on underlying desires: "I want to help people, so



I'm studying to be a doctor (or nurse)." "I want to teach kids how to read, to write, so they can get a good start in life." "I want to be a lawyer to help poor people stand up for their rights." "I want to have children and bring them up to be a positive force for good in this world."

Not least among ideals expressed by teens and young adults is the desire to bring about good as a priest or religious. In fact, not many years ago it was thought that almost all young people experienced a strong desire to grow close to God and to serve God in some form of consecrated or dedicated life.

Not so, lately—at least, not that is commonly recognized. That altruism still runs strong in those years is acknowledged, but the resultant choices have changed, and for several reasons. Among these: many

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October is Respect Life month

Respect. What does that mean? Respect is defined this way: to consider worthy of esteem which is deferential regard or honor. Respect Life Month is proclaimed so that we can show our esteem for life. Many of us today are concerned about how badly we have treated the earth, the atmosphere, and the many species that are close to extinction. Many of us are appalled at the use of capital punishment, and still more of us think that war is not the answer to much of anything. But the fact is that nearly 50



million abortions have been performed in the United States. There are, of course, many other issues that should be and are concerns, such as research into use of embryonic stem cells, elder abuse, assisted suicide, mental and physical health, cloning, and yes, stewardship of our planet. All of these issues merit careful study and consideration.

Respect Life Sunday is October 5. On this day there are two important ways we can promote a "culture of life" in our community. There will be

the **Pennies for Life** collection after each Mass. We are asked to donate our age in pennies to help support the Family Resource Center in Peoria. (If you want to conceal your age, give \$1.00 instead of pennies—or give even more generously!) The resource center has many instructional videos, tapes, books, and pamphlets that cover every pro-life issue. The staff will send these items to anyone in the diocese when requested. St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee has very often used materials from the Resource Center to inform parishioners about these issues. The Family Resource Center is an

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more avenues have opened up through which individuals can pursue their goals, and frequent encounters with priests and religious men and women have declined along with the decline in their numbers.

The decline in the number of priests has been keenly felt in many parts of the world, where one priest may have to cover thousands of square miles in serving his people, as in Alaska, or may serve as pastor for three or four parishes and/or missions, as in our own diocese.

In the seventies, St. Patrick's Parish enjoyed the "luxury" of having two priests to care for the needs of parishioners. In the eighties and nineties, the pastor was aided by a "retired assisting" priest-Msgr. Paul Kinder assisted through three retirements, and retired Fr. Gene Kane "came home" to St. Patrick's to assist in addressing the sacramental needs of our parishioners.

Of late, St. Patrick's has been blessed by the ministry of foreign-born priests, each of whom has expanded our notion of what it is to be parish. Fr. Hoa Pham came to us from Vietnam and in addition to ministering to our many Vietnamese parishioners, he helped us to understand something of the culture that formed him. Fr. Richard, from Kenya, and Fr. Stan, from Tanzania, during their brief ministry here have shared with us some of the lessons of life lived in far different parts of the world.

In the Diocese of Peoria there are approximately 14 foreign-born priests (the number fluctuates) assisting not only here but at St. Joseph in Bloomington, Immaculate Conception in Monmouth (where Fr. Stan served before coming to St. Patrick's), St. Mary in Kewanee, St. Hyacinth in LaSalle, Holy Family in Lincoln, and others at various hospitals in the diocese.

When Fr. Stan leaves us in

January, another Vietnamese priest (now studying English) is expected to continue the ministry to our Vietnamese parishioners while serving the sacramental needs of us all.

Where would we be without the assistance of these dedicated, consecrated men? Our pastor would have a great deal more gray hair, one supposes, and go to bed a great deal more tired at the end of a busy day. Without the assistance of other priests, we would have fewer weekend Masses, since priests are limited to celebrating three parish Masses on a weekend. Meanwhile we, as other parishes have, look to enlarging our church building so that with fewer Masses a larger congregation can be accommodated.

What can we do to help? Well, as baptized Christians we can search our own hearts to find ways we can participate in a number of ministries that, it is hoped, would lessen the burden of a pastor and his staff. We can pray with fervor and with perseverance for the Lord to call many men and women to serve the People of God as priests, deacons, religious, and dedicated lay women and men. We can pray with equal fervor and perseverance for men and women to heed the Lord's call and to respond generously to it. We can cultivate in our young people a recognition of the needs of others and a sense of responsibility for responding to those needs. We can nurture that God-given altruistic spirit that resides in all of us.

So. What was your answer as a child when asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" (A teenager once answered this by saying "I want to be a saint.") What is your answer today?



Welcome to new parishioners

Chris and Jillian Zwilling, Regino and Therese Leti, Ana and Jose Rebello, Brigitte Stevens, Jason and Jennifer Reedy, Jason and Teri McKean, Laura Osmond, Darcy and Kevin Nekolny, Gisela and Nate Schmitz, and Laura Theby.

Farewell to these parishioners

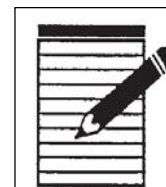
who have moved away: Lori and Matthew Kleffner, John Soucie, and Carrie Peltier.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Erica Hardimon, Delaney Nekolny, and Ainsley Rhoton.

Congratulations to Keith Murphy and Casey Weber, married at St. Patrick's.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Robert Ritter and Lucille Kocher.

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



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is October 12.

Prayer Shawls will be blessed

On Sunday, October 5, prayer shawls will be blessed between the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses.

There will be an in-gathering of shawls being made by parishioners

and a special blessing will be prayed before they are sent on their way. Everyone is welcome to witness this beautiful blessing of the work of loving hands and hearts.

Prayer shawls are made by knitting or crocheting simple or complex patterns, at home or in the monthly shawl group. Before beginning, the maker prays for the eventual recipient and continues praying while working on the shawl. Each stitch is couched in prayer. When the shawl is finished and blessed, it is given to someone in need and they are symbolically and



actually wrapped in the prayer of the maker.

Shawls that have been completed and delivered to date have been blessed by the maker and whoever else was present

when the shawl was completed. The blessing on October 5 will be the first in a succession of such blessings communally here at St. Patrick's, with shawls blessed in this way on a regular basis in the future.

Thus far, shawls have been delivered to someone undergoing radiation treatment for cancer, someone on the eve of life-threatening surgery, someone who is the caregiver for their frail spouse, and others. As the number of participants in the ministry and the number of shawls increase, prayer

shawls can be sent out to many others. Most makers don't know who the recipient will be while they are working, although shawls can be made with a specific person in mind.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Nancy Olson (359-6424 or nancybolson@yahoo.com) or Jolene McGrogan (344-6569 or jmcgrogan@comcast.net); they will be happy to talk with you about it. Even if you haven't picked up knitting needles or a crochet hook for a long time, someone will be glad to get you started. You may also visit the official prayer shawl Web site at www.shawlministry.com for more information and for patterns and prayers.

Shawl ministry is a part of St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation.

Afternoon of Reflection planned for the deaf / hard of hearing

St. Patrick's ministry to the deaf/hard of hearing will host an Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday, October 11. Fr. Joe Mulcrone, the director of the Catholic Office of the Deaf in the Chicago Archdiocese, will talk about Jesus, using the letters of St. Paul. This focus on St. Paul is also an observance of the Year of St. Paul, declared by Pope Benedict XVI.

The afternoon begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Participants will then have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation before celebrating the 5:00 p.m. Mass with St. Patrick's faith community. Fr. Mulcrone will concelebrate the Mass. Afterward, participants will enjoy dinner together in the parish center. All events will occur in "Total Communication," that is, signed and spoken at the same time.

The event is free, but participants are asked to RSVP so that adequate arrangements can be

made for the dinner. To RSVP or for additional information, send an e-mail to Deaf/Hard of Hearing Ministry coordinator Minette Sternke (cudeafministry@gmail.com).

St. Patrick's recently celebrated a baptism where one of the extended family members present was deaf. We were able to provide an interpreter so that the deaf family member could be a part of the celebration. If you are celebrating a significant event in your family's life (baptism, first communion, funeral, wedding) and expect to have family members or friends in attendance who are deaf or hard of

hearing, and who might benefit from interpreters or other assistance, please contact Minette; she will do her best to provide assistance at these special moments. The more advance notice you can give, the more likely she will be able to help.



From Dr. Susan Nagele

Dear family and friends,

I feel like I'm finally catching up as I have finished the financial report for my mission account for 2007...better late than never! [This report is posted on the staff bulletin board in the parish center.] Now you can see how we spent your donations. Thanks again for your financial support of our ministry.

All of this delay has been caused mainly by the post election violence that erupted in January. The politicians would like to say it is all over and everything is back to normal, but that is not true.

Yesterday I saw a 57-year-old woman named Josephine, who was raped at gunpoint on 3rd January. She lived on Mt. Elgon and had been told to leave, but she had no way to travel. She went to stay with a neighbor, but the neighbor had no food so Josephine went back home to collect some potatoes. She was a good farmer on her two acres of land. Unfortunately, one of the men in the militia found her alone. She didn't tell her neighbor what happened, and a week later she moved to the Showgrounds in Kitale town, where she stayed for some time. She heard a presentation on sexual assault by Immaculate who works at the Diocesan Justice and Peace Office. She was afraid that she was infected with HIV and got up the courage to tell Immaculate what happened. She was referred to us and while I was happy to tell her that she didn't have HIV, I had to tell her she has early cancer of the cervix and very high blood pressure. She has lost all her property, but we are getting her the treatment she needs with donations that you send.

The next patient was little Rachel, a four-year-old girl who was raped on a Saturday morning in another area racked by violence. Her mother had taken her to the district hospital but they didn't



have medicines and told her to return on Monday. On Monday they screened the little girl for HIV, which was negative, but it took so long that when they sent her for medicine to prevent HIV, the office had closed. When she returned on Tuesday, the doctor told her that it was too late to give the medicine. The mother insisted, the doctor relented, and she was given medicine and told to give it once a day. On the second day of medicine the mother saw that the bottle had twice daily written on it. She went back to the hospital and asked what was correct. The health worker blamed her for giving it only once daily, and by the time she reached us she was in tears and fearful that her little girl would have HIV. Fortunately, all the follow-up tests are still negative for HIV, and we were able to reassure the mother that she had done everything the best she could, that she shouldn't feel guilty.

We continue to see the suffering that all this violence has caused and are trying to make sure that those in need of health care receive the treatment needed when they cannot pay for it themselves. All of you have been very generous with contributions and at the moment I have enough money to meet current needs. What would help most now is for the politicians to provide leadership and concern for the poor

and displaced people, who have already suffered enough.

Speaking of politicians, I have registered to vote absentee in the upcoming U.S. elections and hope each of you will also participate in the process and vote.

I was able to be with my mother after her back surgery in May, which went very well. By the time I left she was walking half a mile, and she has increased the distance to a full mile or more since then. What a good patient! It was also good to be able to spend time with Mom and Dad during the springtime, when all the trees were flowering. Now you are coming into autumn and the leaves are surely changing again. Change is good, and hopefully it will bring each of us closer to God and what is wanted from each of us to make our world a better place to live.

Blessings,

Susan Nagele



Dear God, grant that we may be signs of your love in the world. We pray that you will continue to fill us with an abundance of courage to follow the path you set before us today. May those of us you call to serve as priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, and lay ministers be blessed with the passion and vision to make this world a better place for all.

Ministry sign-up is just the beginning of something wonderful!

During weekend Masses September 6-7, parishioners were invited to sign up for one or more of the over 70 ministries available at St. Patrick's.

Each summer, the Council and Communications Committee update and publish the booklet *Ministry at St. Patrick's: People, Programs, and Possibilities*, which gives brief synopses of all the ministries. It also contains contact information for parishioners involved in the ministries, which are grouped according to Faith Development, Parish Community Life, Peace and Justice, Spiritual Enrichment, Stewardship, and Worship.

For this year's sign-up weekend, the Council provided a tent outside

the church as a protection against wind and rain, with printed materials as handouts and representatives available before and after all the weekend Masses to meet and talk with interested parishioners. The tent also functioned as an attention-getter and a pleasant place to mingle before and after Mass.

Over the weekend the Council collected over 400 sheets presenting parishioners' offerings of time and talent. Within the week, copies of these sheets were given to representatives of each of the ministries for which people signed up so that follow-up contacts could be made promptly.

By the time you've read this, it is hoped that you will have heard from

a representative of the ministry you've chosen. If not, call the person listed below on the leadership team for the area of ministry or ministries you're interested in. Something wonderful awaits you!

Faith Development: Suzanne D'Andria, 344-0398, and Peggy Loftus, 356-8843

Parish Community Life: Mary Long, 531-7008

Peace and Justice: Carolyn McElrath, 367-2665

Spiritual Enrichment: Amy Jobin, 367-2665

Stewardship: Thomas Kim, 352-6442

Worship: Laura Theby, 531-7003



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. *Pastoral Care:* Donna Thompson, 688-2701

The **parish library offers many ways that volunteers can enhance its usefulness** for parishioners. No special skills or experience required! *Parish Library:* Lori Mestre, 365-9994 or lmestre@illinois.edu



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

How can we choose love when we have experienced so little of it? We choose love by taking small steps of love every time there is an opportunity. A smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, a helping hand, a present, a financial contribution, a visit ... all these are little steps toward love.

Each step is like a candle burning in the night. It does not take the darkness away, but it guides us through the darkness. When we look back after many small steps of love, we will discover that we have made a long and beautiful journey.

~Henri J. M. Nouwen



An SOS from some worthy ministries

We all know what SOS signifies. It is an internationally recognized signal of distress in radio code taken as a call for help. Some parish ministries have sent out an SOS from time to time; these have appeared in *In Focus* as "Volunteer Opportunities."

Perhaps this feature should be renamed to reflect the depth or urgency of need. Perhaps this SOS will draw attention to the needs currently recognized. Perhaps you can help, either on a short-term or long-term basis. Any help in need is help indeed!

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Pastoral care to the homebound and residents of nursing homes requires 2-3 hours once a month. The volunteer carries the Blessed Sacrament to parishioners who are unable to participate with us as we gather for Mass and fellowship. A few moments of conversation, the blessed moment of Communion, a brief prayer—and then on to the next parishioner. That's all it takes. But as the number of shut-ins grows and as new assisted-living accommodations open, and as volunteers move away or are unable to serve any longer for whatever reason, the need increases for volunteer pastoral care ministers.

Can you imagine being out of touch with your faith community, feeling forgotten or ignored, unable to come to church to worship with your friends and to receive the Lord in Holy Communion? Then you can understand how our shut-ins feel. If you can help, contact **Donna Thompson (688-2701)**. She will see to it that you receive the training and experience you need before sending you out on your own.

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Through **pastoral care ministry to Catholic patients in Carle Foundation Hospital**, whether members of our parish or not, those

recovering from surgery or under treatment for an illness are assured of the Lord's love and care for them when they are enabled to receive the Lord in Holy Communion. St. Patrick's provides this pastoral care ministry to hospitalized Catholics every weekday, rain or shine, every week of the year.

Can you imagine facing a serious illness, an uncertain or difficult recovery, or painful treatments without having the opportunity to receive Our Lord through the loving service of these faithful ministers? Sometimes the coordinator has difficulty filling gaps in the schedule because of individual



ministers' vacation plans, family emergencies, illness, and the like. If you can help on even a semi-regular basis—once or twice a month, say—please contact Laura Cohen (344-5062).

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Some **wheelchair residents at Champaign County Nursing Home** need help getting to and from their chapel for Mass on Fridays. A small group of dedicated volunteers prepare for the Mass that is celebrated at the Home every Friday morning at 10:45 a.m. Several Catholic residents in wheelchairs need the help of a volunteer to gather for Mass and to get back to their rooms afterward. Other Catholic residents who are

unable to go to the Mass itself receive Holy Communion in their rooms from one of the volunteers.

Can you imagine yourself waiting and hoping for someone to assist you in getting to Mass, or waiting for Holy Communion? Can you help, either weekly or monthly or even just now and then? Then call **Sandy Anderson (469-2416)**, who coordinates this ministry for St. Patrick's.

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The **food pantry operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society** has a long history at St. Patrick's. The number of people coming for foodstuffs continues to grow with the skyrocketing cost of food, gas, and health care. This ministry's current need is for volunteers to assist with the distribution of bagged food items 4:30-5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and on Thursdays. Sometimes the need is for someone to help fill grocery bags with food items—this is especially the case the week before Thanksgiving, when 125-150 Thanksgiving dinners are readied for distribution to the community's neediest.

Can you imagine what it must mean to go to bed hungry night after night, or to have to choose between medicine and food for a sick child? To come asking for food because your paycheck doesn't stretch to cover your family's need for the week or the month? If you can help, contact **Ellen Abell (367-5648)**, who has succeeded Sophia Zeigler in supervising this compassionate ministry to the hungry and the homeless in our community.

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A final word: a pledge to all our parish ministries. If you need help, of whatever kind, and give us the details, your call for help will appear in the following issue of *In Focus*. Contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu) with your own SOS.

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excellent facility, and it is funded in large part by donations.

Also on Respect Life Sunday we can participate in the **Life Chain**. This is a prayer service held on the public sidewalk along Hessell Park in Champaign. From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. signs are held and participants pray silently for an end to abortion. You can pick up the signs at the southwest corner of the park. People are asked to stand about 3 feet apart. Participation in the Life Chain is an excellent way to proclaim to the community that abortion is unacceptable. The more participants, the clearer the message. If you cannot be there, you might join participants in prayer during that hour.

During the rest of the month, continue to pray for life. A special **rosary for life** can be obtained by calling Mary Lee Brady (355-2784). The **spiritual adoption** program can be done at any time; The idea is to adopt spiritually a baby in the womb who is in danger of abortion. Each day for nine months you pray for the family and for the baby so that each day you may be saving a life. At the end of the nine months, you can donate some item to the Crisis Pregnancy Center as if for a baby shower. It is a quick yet very effective way of saving lives. If you have children, this might be a good way to educate them on the development of children in the womb and to get them in the habit of praying.

Lastly, this would be an excellent month to consider joining the **Pro-Life Committee**. Membership could be an easy way to get involved in pro-life activities. Pray about it!

Are you ready for Advent?

It does seem a little early to be thinking about Advent, doesn't it? But St. Patrick's staff and Worship Ministries Team have to get an early start in planning for the parish liturgies of Advent and for the art and environment in the church to enhance our communal weekend worship during the Advent season.

How is this done? As many as can, gather to read together the Scripture readings for the Sundays of Advent and to share their



prayerful reflections on them. From this sharing a theme or themes evolve that serve to guide the selection of hymns, general intercessions, and banners or other

means of conveying the theme visually.

You are invited to participate in this preparation. The session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, in the parish center lounge. You may find that it helps to prepare yourself as well for this holy season!

St. Thomas More's



School Days:

The High School of St. Thomas More is pleased to welcome 27 young adults from St. Patrick's for the academic year 2008-9. The school is a community of students, administrators, faculty, staff, and families committed to teaching the Catholic faith and providing a strong program of education and formation that reflects the best of those current educational principles and practices consistent with the teachings of the Church. It is committed to the development of its students spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically in an atmosphere of respect and reverence that will enable them to fulfill their baptismal call to witness to Jesus Christ in the modern world.

In "Saber Stories" we wish to inform parishioners about the academic and extra-curricular achievements of our youth. Those with news of special interest about their teens for this monthly feature article are invited to contact Mary Welle (m.welle@comcast.net).

Music Program Fundraiser:

"I Do! I Do!" is a musical in celebration of marriage to be performed on Friday and Saturday, October 3-4, at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's parish center. Come to enjoy this delightful musical comedy, which follows a couple through the ups and downs of 50 years of marriage. The production features Jim Mayer and Jodi Prosser, with music direction by Nick Stefanic. Adults: \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door; students: \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Seating is limited, so reserve tickets soon by calling 384-4860. The proceeds of this final event in the Great Dates program will benefit The High School of St. Thomas More music programs.

Coming Attractions:

October 5-11:

Homecoming

October 22:

Academic Letter Award

Ceremony

October 28:

New Student STM Preview Night

Your discards are now someone else's treasures!

The annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale, officially sponsored by St. Patrick's Guild and co-chaired by Amy and Marco Boscolo and Alice McLaughlin, garnered slightly more than \$8000 for the parish, when all was said and done. "Absolutely nothing was thrown away at the end of the sale," said Alice McLaughlin. "Everything left over was picked up by individuals or organizations who could find a use for them—books went to libraries for their book sale, clothing to agencies for redistribution, some older equipment for use as parts for repair, some cast-offs in the dumpster we rented were salvaged by people who carried away their lucky finds. Even all the furniture went!"

Many individual parishioners and parish groups lent their untiring support in innumerable ways; many donated the items that made the sale such a success; and many more discovered new ways to minister to the local community and made new friends.



Health Fair returns

St. Patrick's Parish Nurses will present a Health Information Fair for parishioners again this fall. You won't want to miss this informative event, so mark your calendars now!

- October 26, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Main hall, parish center
- Flu shots available

Meanwhile, here are some health tips from your Parish Nurses to carry you safely through the cold and flu season. Take care of your immune system:

- Make healthy food choices.
- Exercise regularly.
- Get adequate rest.
- Decrease your stress level.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands! Consider carrying a small bottle of hand sanitizer.



Amy Jobin joins our parish staff



St. Patrick's welcomes Amy Jobin, new Lay Pastoral Associate for adult spiritual enrichment. Amy's responsibilities include overseeing the Ministry of Consolation, the Parish Nurses program, and Eucharistic ministers. In addition, she offers retreats, provides spiritual direction, and works with young adults.

Amy has a background as a speech therapist and worked in hospitals for a number of years. In 2006 she moved to California to pursue studies at the

Franciscan School of Theology. She says this was an amazing experience, as she and other laypersons studied in the seminary with Franciscan friars and future diocesan priests. She felt it was an enriching experience for everyone involved. Amy's particular areas of interest were women's spirituality, young adult spirituality, and faith life.

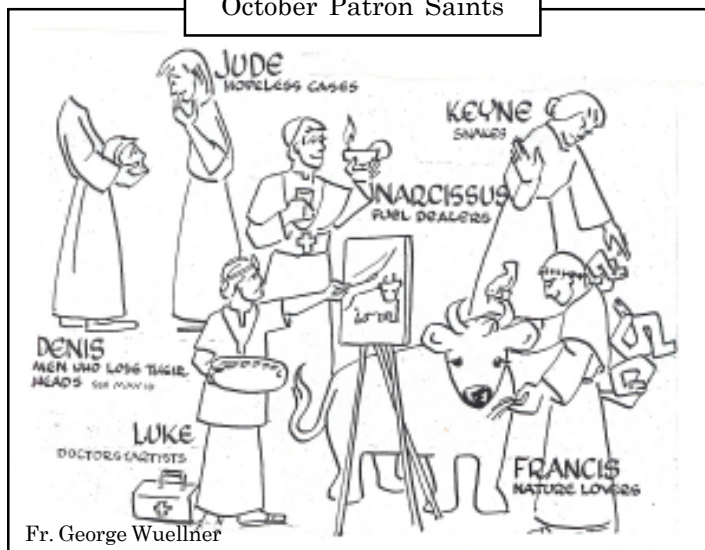
She is excited to work with the young adults of our parish. They've grown up in a world full of technology and have been more exposed to other faiths and cultures, and she's looking to see what their spiritual needs are and how we as Church can nourish their faith and spiritual lives.

Amy also has experiences with other cultures. She spent two years in Haiti, living in community, volunteering, and working with the Religious of Jesus and Mary, an order of sisters. Amy says she always wanted to work in a developing country and had considered the Peace Corps, but was drawn to Haiti through the work of the EIU Newman Center when she was studying there.

When she isn't busy with her St. Patrick's work, Amy enjoys hiking and being outdoors. Allerton Park is one of her favorite local places to hike.

Amy's message to the parish: "My door is always open. We all go through times in life when we are called to discern important things, and it can help to discern them in the context of spirituality and with the support of our faith. Please feel welcome to come in or call me if you feel you are in that place of discernment."

October Patron Saints



Parish Council News

Fr. Hogan thanked Council members for their hard work and support for what he said was a wonderful three weeks of ministry sign-up. Council members said they thought it was well advertised, the tent was welcoming to all, the speakers at each Mass were excellent, and the ministry booklet and youth handouts nicely done.



The Gathering of Ministries was held on September 13. It was a chance for all of the ministries to meet as a group for prayer and reflection as well as to meet in individual groups to share their ministry's plans, goals, and new ideas.

In other business:

- Fr. Hogan announced that St. Patrick's has hired Dianne Gordon as the new bookkeeper. Dianne has many years of experience and is a welcome addition to the staff.

- On Saturday, September 20, a re-commitment session is planned for liturgical ministers. Eucharistic ministers (for Mass as well as for hospital, nursing homes, and homebound) will be asked to sign affidavits for a three-year renewal of their ministry. At 9:45 a.m. Msgr. Doug Hennessy will speak on the Eucharist; all parishioners are invited to hear his talk.

- A comprehensive recycling program proposal was given to each of the Council members to read and review for discussion at next month's Council meeting.

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The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 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.

in our parish library

This month the Church commemorates guardian angels (October 2). You may find the following books and Web pages on angels and guardian angels of interest. Children's books are now located with other library materials; you'll find them on the first shelf to the right of the windows.

+ ***Do the Angels Watch Close By?*** by Joslin and Danuta Mayer. This beautiful picture book for children illustrates and describes angels singing, dancing, rejoicing, and protecting the children they love. Call number: C 235.

+ ***The Angels: The Catholic teaching on the angels***, by Pascal P. Parente. This well-documented book (with footnotes, quotations, and bibliography) provides the Church's traditional teaching about the angels. Fr. Parente covers the position of the Roman Catholic Church and quotes theologians on both sides of his position. The two parts of the book include topics such as what angels are and what they do; their creation, their test, their intelligence and free will; their hierarchy; titles; and guardian angels. Call number: 235.3.

+ ***Angels and Their Mission: According to the Fathers of the Church***, by Jean Danielou. The author is a theologian who has condensed a vast subject area into a short, concise, readable volume. The book covers ancient, extra-biblical belief in angels, as well as their manifestation in both the Old and New Testaments. It is focused on the Patristic understanding of angels and is backed heavily by scriptural references. Call number: 235.3.

+ ***The Guardian Angels: Our Heavenly Companions. This booklet provides what the Church teaches about guardian angels, saints and their guardian angels, how our guardian angels help us, and how we should pray to them.*** Call number: 235.3

+ ***St. Michael and the Angels: A Month with St. Michael and the Holy Angels.*** This classic

includes beautiful and inspiring stories on angels taken from the lives and writings of the saints. Angels are explained in their relationship with Mary, the Mother of God, and her role in sending angels to aid us. This book includes many prayers, litanies, and details on the preeminent role of St. Michael.

Web pages about angels:

+ ***Angel Pages:*** Posted at Catholic Online, www.catholic.org/saints/angel.php. These pages provide information on what angels are; how we know that angels exist; why God created angels; angels with names; guardian angels; prayers to the angels of God.

+ ***Angels:*** A definition from the *Catholic Encyclopedia* (available in the parish library's reference section and at www.newadvent.org/cathen/01476d.htm). Coverage includes articles on angels; attendants at God's throne; God's messengers to humankind; personal guardians; angels in Babylonian literature; angels in Zend-Avesta; and angels in the New Testament.

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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.





Q: Did Jesus have a guardian angel?

A: Maybe you haven't thought about your guardian angel since you were a

child. Guardian angels are usually pictured as watching over, protecting children. In fact, the strongest argument for the existence of guardian angels comes from Christ's own lips: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matt. 18:10). Yet guardian angels are not just for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of guardian angels goes back to the Old Testament. One of the many references is found in Psalm 90:11: "For he hath given his angels charge over thee; to keep thee in all thy ways." The nation of Israel believed that Archangel Michael was its own

special guardian angel.

In the New Testament there are many references to helpful angels. An angel accepted Mary's "Be it done to me according to your word," her "yes" to God's plan for the redemption of the world. Angels ministered to Christ after his three temptations in the desert. An angel delivered Peter from prison. An angel spoke to Mary and others from Christ's empty tomb.

In the Catholic Church devotion to the angels began to develop with the start of the monastic tradition. St. Benedict gave it impetus and Bernard of Clairvaux, the great twelfth-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day. In 1670 Pope Clement X assigned October 2 for commemoration of guardian angels, and this observance remains on the General Roman Calendar to this day even though guardian angels are not an article of faith.

So, did Jesus have a guardian angel? Jesus was as completely and genuinely human as divine, so it is not at all inappropriate for us to

assume that he too was given an angel to watch over him during his earthly sojourn.

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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. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Mary Lee Brady, Mary Rose Cottingham, Pam Donze De Ley, Frances Drone-Silvers, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Katie Hinrichs, Roxane Lowry, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Minette Sternke, and Mary Welle. Artwork by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Pam Donze De Ley

Lenore Nagele's Unbelievable Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 egg
- 1 t vanilla extract
- 1 c sugar
- 1 c peanut butter
- (That's right-no flour!)

Mix all four ingredients with a spoon. Roll into small balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet about an inch



apart. Press slightly with a fork to flatten, and bake at 300?-325? for 15-20 minutes. Makes 35-40 mouth-watering cookies.

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

St. Patrick's Parish

October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because this calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the bulletin to confirm actual dates and times of specific events.</p> <p>Deadline for the next In Focus is October 12.</p>			1 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Men's Book Club 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Chil.'s Choir 6:00 PM Server Training 6:30 PM St. Joe RelEd 7:00 PM Baptism Prep 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Peace & Justice Ministries	2 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Building & Grounds 7:00 PM Social Action 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA	3 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 7:00 PM St. Pat's Presents..."I Do, I Do"	4 5:00 PM Commissioning of Ministers at Mass 7:00 PM St. Pat's Presents..."I Do, I Do"
5 Commissioning of Ministers, All Masses 9:15 AM Religious Ed 10:30 AM Children's Liturgy 2:00 PM St. Pat's Presents..."I Do, I Do" 6:00 PM Mission Mtg 6:30 PM Jr-Sr High Religious Ed 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study	6 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Pro-Life	7 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Faith Sharing 6:30 PM Mystagogia	8 9:30 AM Schola 10:30 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM St. Joe Religious Ed 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM JustSkills	9 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Financial Affairs 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM CREW Social Justice Ed	10 10:30 AM Mass, Care Center 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH JustSkills Retreat	11 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl 1:00 PM Day of Renewal for Deaf, Hard of Hearing 5:00 PM Children's Choir Leads Singing JustSkills Retreat
12 9:15 AM Religious Ed 10:30 AM Children's Liturgy 6:30 PM Jr-Sr High Religious Ed 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study 8:00 PM CREW Teen Time	13 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Centering Prayer	14 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Faith Sharing 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Cancer Companions	15 10:30 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM St. Joe Religious Ed 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM JustSkills	16 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:45 PM Parish Council 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM JustFaith	17 10:30 AM Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH	18
19 9:15 AM Religious Ed 10:15 AM Knights of Columbus 4:00 PM CREW: Blue Man Group Show, Chicago 6:30 PM Junior High Religious Ed 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study	20 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Centering Prayer	21 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Faith Sharing 6:30 PM Worship Ministries Team 6:30 PM Mystagogia	22 9:30 AM Schola 10:30 AM Bible St. 11:30 AM Cooking with Shirley 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM St. Joe RE 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM JustSkills	23 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Communications 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM JustFaith	24 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH	25 CREW Teen Retreat, Homer Lake
26 8:30 AM-Noon Health Fair 8:30-10:30 AM Parish Library Open 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study 6:30 PM Teen Mass, Dinner	27 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Centering Prayer	28 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Faith Sharing 6:30 PM Mystagogia	29 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Seniors Lunch 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM JustSkills	30 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM JustFaith	31 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 5:15 PM Mass, All Saints Day Vigil	

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
 CCNH: Champaign County Nursing Home