

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

# In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

## We Are an Easter People!

Imagine that you are gazing at a beautiful picture, one that is close to your heart. Sometimes you see the whole image. Sometimes your eye is drawn to one or another of the details. Sometimes your attention is caught by the way the elements relate to each other. The Easter Triduum, from Holy Thursday night through Easter Sunday, is like that. During these days we gaze at the mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—all that he is doing for our salvation.

The whole mystery is immense, so the Church helps us focus on it a bit at a time, day by day. Jesus, the Bread of Life, died for us. His dying shows the depth of his love and his willingness to deal with our sinfulness. His rising shows that he overcomes cruelty, suffering, and death. The Father builds a road home.

In one of his Easter homilies, St. Augustine continues in this vein:

Christ died for us,  
 the Just One for sinners,  
 the Master for slaves,  
 the Free for captives,  
 the Physician for the sick,  
 the Happy One for the wretched,  
 the Rich One for the needy,  
 the Seeker for the lost,  
 the Redeemer for the sold,  
 the Shepherd for the sheep,  
 the Creator for the creature.

These are some of the pieces of the picture. But we can always step back and try to see more of the whole. Step back far enough, and you will discover that you are in the picture. Jesus did not come, teach, die, and

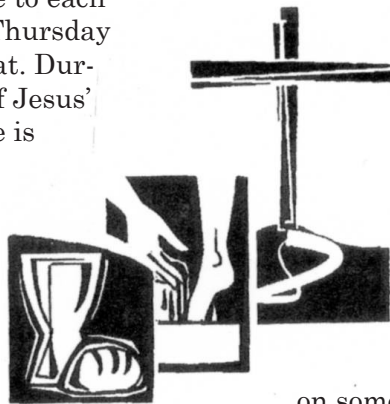
rise for some vague mass of humanity. He did it for each one of us, out of overflowing love for each one of us. Or, in the words of one of our hymns, "Love to the loveless shown that we might lovely be."

During the Triduum, we ponder the most basic questions of who we are and how God relates to us. Please try to come to the services during these three days. Or if you cannot come, take some extra prayer time to reflect

on some of the Scriptures that the Church gives us for these days.

- *Thursday*: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; Cor. 11:23-26; Jn. 13:1-15
- *Friday*: Is. 52:13-53:12; Psalm 71; Heb.4:14-16, 5:7-9, Jn. 18:1-19:42
- *Saturday*: Gen 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104; Ex 14:15-15:1; Psalm 42; Is 55:1-11; Is 12; Rom 6:3-11; Psalm 118; Lk 24:1-12

When you have gazed on all these wondrous and beautiful pieces of the picture, the Easter *Alleluia!* will burst forth from a new place in your being. And this, too, is part of the picture: your faith, given by God, contributing to the life of the Church.





**Q:** What am I supposed to say while shaking hands during Mass?

**A:** What you describe as shaking hands is the gesture most people in this country use in exchanging the sign of peace at Mass. You may see others hug or kiss or bow instead.

This is how it is done: Turning to the person next to you, in front of you, or behind you, clasp the other's hand with both of your own, hold it for a moment as you look into each other's eyes, and say "Peace be with you," or "Christ's peace be with you." Share the sign of peace widely, not with everyone in the church, but also not only with those you know or like. It is a holy, especially significant moment we are caught up in.

This moment is for sharing a sign of Christ's peace (not merely our

own), not for saying hello or learning someone's name or making plans for breakfast. Pope Innocent I taught that the sign of peace is a necessary preparation for those sharing in Christ's body and blood. He added that by sharing the sign of peace we give our consent to all that was prayed in the eucharistic prayer. After asking God to care for the needs of the world and the Church, the sick and the suffering, the dying and the dead, the sign of peace is a sign of our willingness, both individually and collectively, to be part of God's answer to these prayers.

Don't let this holy moment slip by you all unaware; know what it is that you do.

\* \* \*

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

## God's creation cries for justice!

St. Patrick's Peace and Justice Ministry is offering an eight-week education and formation study on "Climate Change: Impact and Response." This study is made available to the parish through JustFaith Ministries.

Sessions will begin on Wednesday evening, April 29, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., continuing through June 24. Daytime sessions will be offered if interest warrants.

This approach to climate change focuses on themes of prudence, poverty, and the common good, as well as Catholic social teaching. The program will examine in particular the impact of climate change on the world's poor and the hazards of inaction. Sessions will cover the following topics:

- Catholic theology on the environment, with reflections on our responsibility for stewardship of God's creation
- What science has to say about climate change and how to deal with feelings of fear and powerlessness
- A look at social justice connections, environmental racism, and the impact on the poor
- An immersion experience that sheds light on the implications of climate change and an opportunity to learn about our own local "carbon footprint"
- Suggestions for action that would enable everyone to live in a sustainable future, strengthened by our faith community

For more information or to register, please contact Carolyn McElrath, Pastoral Associate (531-7014 or [cmcelrath@stpaturbana.org](mailto:cmcelrath@stpaturbana.org)).



**Welcome to new parishioners** Joan and Mark Gerhart, Lydie Madle, and Daniel and Tiffany Shenck.

**Please pray for deceased parishioners** Ellery Knake, Bonnie Lammers, and Betty Kelly.

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

## Vocation Prayer



Dear God, help me to understand how I am to live out my calling among my brothers and sisters, how I may put to use those talents and gifts I've received from you. Will I serve you best in some form of consecrated life, in family life, or as a single person, so to carry you in me in all my encounters with others?

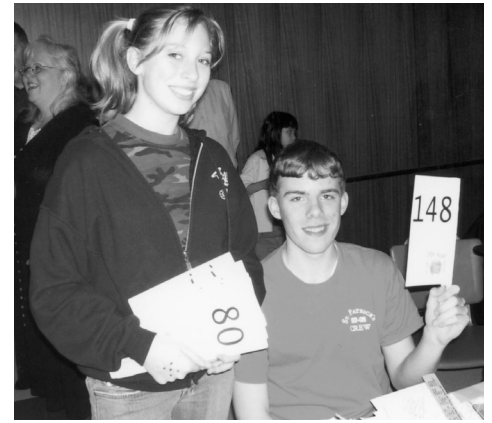
We are so very short of priests, Father. Encourage, comfort, and inspire all our priests with your love and care, and call many others to share in their ministry.

Are you calling me? Speak to my heart, guide and inspire me to live out my faith in and with and for you. I love you, Father; I will do anything for you. Open my heart to hear your voice.

## “I’ve got \$70—anybody for \$75?”

The service auction sponsored by CREW made for a busy morning at Coffee Shop on March 8. Following the 7:30 and 9:00 Masses parishioners gathered up their coffee and donuts and numbered paddles and headed for tables close to the stage, where Steve Beckett held sway as auctioneer. Assisted by CREW members, who displayed items up for bid, he kept the bidding going for items as diverse as pies, cakes, a cookie bouquet, a meal with Fr. Joe, gift baskets, baby sitting and pet sitting, yard work, origami for kids, a digital thermostat with

installation, full-service car washing, even tennis lessons. Participants had a great time, and the successful bidders swelled the coffers for CREW’s summer Mission trip.



## A new home—and a new start—for the Archive Committee

St. Patrick’s parish archive is moving out of the church basement at last. Across the alley, a house owned by the parish is now empty and available for use by the Archive Committee. After viewing the house, all Nancy Steerman (chair) could say is “WOW!” There will be rooms for storage, a room for temporary information and items that need sorting and cataloging, and a room for supplies with adequate space to work.

The Archive Committee was established in 1987. At that time there was no designated place to work or to store anything. Shortly thereafter the Building and Grounds Committee built an insulated room in a corner of the church basement, which was thought would provide adequate space for many, many years to come.

Twenty years later the committee could not function within this space. In fact, there was no space. Supplies were transferred to a

temporary space in the basement of the parish center, and anything else needed for working on the archive had to be transported from the church basement to the parish center basement—and back again.

Members of the Archive Committee are very excited about its new home and would love to continue their work: Artha Chamberlin (resource), Betty Conerty (newsletters), Judy Conover (church records and Parish Council minutes), Mary Grace Bowen (family files), Wilfred Lancaster (photos), and Nancy Steerman (histories).

But they cannot. Most of the present members are presently involved in the downside of their golden years. St. Patrick’s is very much in need of a new group of parishioners who will work closely with the Parish Council. A working Archive Committee is a must.

Did you know that a card file has been set in place from the beginning that records every per-

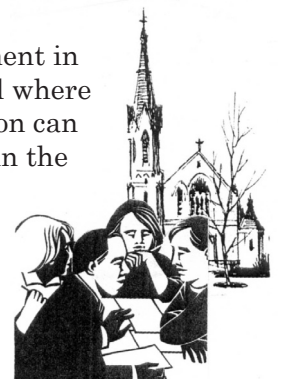
son’s involvement in the parish and where this information can be found within the histories?

Each card also states their relationship to other members in the parish.

Did you know that photos are being documented in a way that will enable you to find archived pictures of your ancestors?

What needs to be done most immediately is setting up—Nancy is willing to serve as a consultant for this. Someone skilled in data processing is needed to set up an archiving program to carry our parish records into the future.

Think about what an interesting and rewarding way this could be for you to give back to your parish. Call Fr. Joe and tell him how excited you would be to help.







## in our parish library

The following are some library books to help guide you through the last part of your Lenten journey.

- ***The Lenten Pharmacy: Daily Healing Therapies***, by Edward Hays. Call Number 263.2 HAY 2006. In this imaginative collection of Lenten reflections, Edward Hays invites us to focus on Jesus the Healer. Each daily prescription encourages us to explore our lives, embrace goodness, and open ourselves to the wholesome spiritual healing Jesus offers.
- ***The Mystery of Christ: The Liturgy as Christian Experience***, by Thomas Keating. Call Number 264 KEA. Fr. Keating leads the reader in a contemplative exploration of the mysteries of Catholic liturgy as reflected in the central themes of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time, integrating the experience of centering prayer and contemplative prayer.
- ***Of Fast and Festival: Celebrating Lent and Easter***, by Barbara O'Dea. Call Number 263.2 ODE.
- ***Pilgrim in Lent***, by Donal Neary, S.J. Call Number 263.2 NEA.
- ***The Three Days: Parish Prayer in the Paschal Triduum***, by Gabe Huck. Call Number 263 HUC. This uplifting book provides a beautiful description of the rites and sacraments as

performed by the early Christians.

- ***Walk with Jesus: Stations of the Cross***, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Call Number 263.2 NOU. The beautiful drawings of Sr. Helen David together with the meditations of Henri Nouwen present a look at the sufferings of Jesus through the experience of human suffering in the world today.

### Children's Books

- ***Easter Is Coming: Lenten Celebrations for the Family***, by Mary and Herb Montgomery. Call Number CH 232.9 MON.
- ***The Easter Story***, by Carol Heyer. Call Number CH 232.9 HEY.
- ***Hosanna: Calendars, Crafts, and Creative Projects for Lent and Easter***. Call Number CH 264 LEE.
- ***Prayers at Eastertime***, by Pamela Kennedy. Call Number C 232 KEN.

\* \* \*

*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.*

## Read a good book, share reflections

The St. Patrick's Adult Education Book Series offers a fine selection of books for reading for your adult spiritual growth. The books are written from a variety of perspectives. All offer an opportunity to better know ourselves and our relation with God.

It's not too late to begin; if you haven't yet taken advantage of this opportunity, just take up a book and read! You can meet with other parishioners weekly on Tuesday evenings, or once a month on Sunday mornings, to share your reflections on what you've read. To learn about or join the monthly group, contact Claude Cole (367-4187, [Claude\\_Cole@hotmail.com](mailto:Claude_Cole@hotmail.com)). For the weekly group, contact Kathy Jobin (359-7751) or Joyce Dill (384-4416).

***The Cloister Walk***, by Kathleen Norris, is offered for April. Part a record of her time among the Benedictines, part a meditation on the various aspects of monastic life, *The Cloister Walk* demonstrates, from the rare perspective of someone who is both an insider and an outsider, how immersion in the cloistered world—its liturgy, its sense of community—imparts meaning to everyday events and deepens our lives.

***Mountains beyond Mountains***, by Tracey Kidder, is offered for May. Kidder's account of Paul Farmer's life working with the poor and sick of Haiti shows how one person can make a differ-

ence in solving global health problems, through a clear understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease. Profound and powerful, *Mountains beyond Mountains* follows Farmer's life-changing work from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia.



## Council election nears

In April we will be asked to read statements prepared by eight parishioners who are standing for election to the Parish Council, a consultative body to the pastor.

Those eight parishioners have given considerable thought to what parishioners would like to know about them, their life experiences that might

stand them in good stead for service on the Council, and what they hope to see come to fruition in the near future of the parish.

And now it's our turn. Our turn to read what they have writ-



ten about themselves and their hopes for St. Patrick's. Our turn to pray for the candidates, for the election process, and for guid-

ance. Our turn to make our individual selections of candidates to fill four seats on the Council for the next three years.

Next weekend, April 4-5, you will have

their statements before you. Read them carefully. Pray. And be prepared to cast your vote on April 18-19. (If you expect to be away that weekend, know that provision is made for absentee voting.)

## Evening of Remembrance offered

On Tuesday evening, April 28, St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation will hold its spring Evening of Remembrance. The evening is open to everyone, but especially to those who have lost a loved one in the past several months and their families, friends, and all who wish to join them.

The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. with introductions and the sharing of memories about the persons who have died. We remember how they graced our lives, and what their living and dying has taught us about them, about ourselves, and about God. Some people find it difficult to talk about the person who has died or to share memories. Honor and respect are the watchwords of the evening and everyone who comes is supported, no matter where they are in their journey of grieving.

Together with Fr. Joe Hogan and the Ministry of Consolation team members, those gathered end the evening with a prayer service and quiet time to pray and reflect. God's Holy Spirit is always present to us, but it is particularly apparent dur-

ing this time that all in the room are especially being filled with the gift of God's grace.

The Evening of Remembrance gives our parish community a time to come together to reflect on those who have gone before us but remain present with us in the Communion of Saints. It is a good time for us to remember that we are all members of the Body of Christ and, as such, a part of that communion. Our lives are richer for those we have known and loved, and the Evening of Remembrance gives us time and space to celebrate those relationships.

If you would like more information about the evening, please call Nancy Olson (359-6424) in the evenings or Amy Jobin, Pastoral Associate, at the parish office (367-2665).



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Can you be regularly available to set out the bread and wine for the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass?** You'd arrive at about 6:45 a.m. to make all ready for Mass, with yet a little quiet time for yourself before Mass begins. Join two other volunteers, making it easy to plan on weekends that meet your personal needs. Training gladly provided. *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125*

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society asks for periodic donations of certain food items not regularly available from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.** These include powdered milk, dishwashing liquid, cooking oil, and canned meats or fish (e.g., spam, beef stew, tuna). Donated items can be taken directly to the food pantry any afternoon after about 4:00 p.m., or placed in the large basket in the church vestibule. *Ellen Abell, 367-5648*



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

### Feet Needed!

At Mass on Holy Thursday, the Church remembers that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. If you would like to participate in this rite, please call Cathy Salika (367-7861). The Mass is on April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

## Holy Cross Happenings

In honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, all Holy Cross fourth-graders made oil pastel portraits in art class. The Lincoln portraits were on display for the school's Lincoln Birthday celebration and were also displayed through late March at the Early American



Museum in Mahomet. Selected portraits will remain through December as part of the museum's 2009 Lincoln show.

Shown here with their portraits are (from the left) Juan Bautista, Mickie Walker, and parishioners Grace Whittington and Hans Herzog.

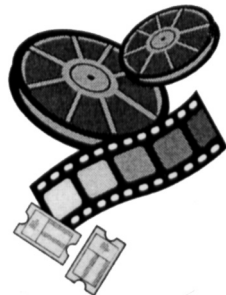


## Last chance to enjoy the Lenten Film Series!

In response to numerous requests from parishioners who missed the Faith and Films Series during Lent last year, it was brought back for parishioners' viewing this year with entertaining, thought-provoking films that inspire us to look beyond our differences (the theme of this year's selections).

The film series takes place at 7:00 p.m. on the Fridays of Lent in the multipurpose room of the parish center. Come for the Stations of the Cross in the church at 5:15 p.m., followed by the K of C's

fish fry in the main hall at 5:30 p.m., and the film viewing at 7:00 p.m. accompanied by a short discussion.



If you have missed the earlier film selections, don't let that stop you from enjoying the last one, on April 3: **The Visitor (PG 13)**. This deeply moving drama features longtime character actor Richard Jenkins, a college professor and a recent widower, who returns to his New York apartment only to discover a pair of illegal aliens, the victims of a real-estate scam, living there.



Someday, after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tides, and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. Then for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire.

—Teilhard de Chardin,  
*Biological Weapons Convention*,  
1972

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.

**Editorial board:** Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@insightbb.com); Suzanne Kayala, 344-4894 (louissettelukusa@yahoo.fr); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uillinois.edu); Brigitte Stevens, 351-4169 (brigitte@aol.com); Margaret Stewart, 356-9475 (mkstewart@aol.com); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668.

**Associates:** Carol Bosley, Betty Christian, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Mary Fonner, Camille Goudeseune, Dave and Cole Grabow, Lisa Herzog, Rachael McMillan, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Merdy Smith, Stephanie Smith, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, Mary Welle, and Joseph Youakim.

**Articles and information** for this issue were provided by Ellen Abell, Pat Fettig, Bob Glazier, Katie Hinrichs, Mary Karten, Don and Laura Keefer, Mary Long, Jonathan McCoy, Carolyn McElrath, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Stephanie Smith, Nancy Steerman, and Minette Sterneke. April saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by John Colombo.



## Change an essential element of growth

With increasing numbers of parishioners participating in the 5:00 p.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. Masses, crowded conditions in the back of the church and the church vestibule have often made it difficult for people to approach for Communion in an orderly and reverential manner.

An analysis of the situation by the Worship Ministries Team led to the testing of a revised procedure at 10:30 Mass that brought all to the front to receive Communion. The change met with recognized success, not only in resolving the difficulties in the rear of the church but in a greater sense of community with everyone moving in the same direction. In addition, many parishioners expressed their pleasure at being able to process forward rather than to the rear of the church to receive Communion. Consequently, this procedure has been adopted for use at all 5:00, 9:00, and 10:30 Masses, and was implemented March 21-22.

The new procedure provides the same number of ministers giving Communion, all in front of the first

pews: two ministers with hosts and two with cups of Precious Blood on each side of the center aisle. When the person before you goes to one minister for the Body of Christ, you are free to move past to the other minister; and having received the host, to move on to whichever minister holding a communion cup is available. An added advantage to this method is that it will be rare for you to be deprived of the Precious Blood; if one minister's cup has been emptied, the other's cup will be only a step or two away.

So sing with joy in procession as you prepare to receive Communion, more visibly one in spirit with all present, together one body in Christ.



## Speak, Lord, Your Servant Listens

Lord,  
in the middle of the night  
you called to Samuel,  
to Samuel, who was sound asleep.

Again and again you called him,  
and he did not know you  
for you had not shown yourself  
to him before.

Samuel, you called, Samuel!  
And Samuel at long last answered:  
"Speak, Lord, your servant listens."

Thus began a lifelong friendship,  
you and Samuel, Samuel and you,  
together.

Lord,  
you call to each of us  
in the slumber of unawareness.  
Rise from sleep, you say,  
Come and follow me, you say.

Where do you lead, Lord?  
Where do you stay?  
Come and see, you say,  
Come and see!

Here we are, Lord, we come.  
Speak, Lord, we listen—  
deep in our hearts we listen.

We hear your voice  
in the words of Scripture,  
in the still, small whisper  
of your Spirit when we pray,  
in the words and doings  
of your friends (and ours, too),  
in the quiet of the night  
and the glories of the day.

Be with us, Lord,  
today and all our tomorrows,  
friends forever.

### *Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Faith De Haven*

#### Sweet Potato Bake

6 medium sweet potatoes, or yams  
1/3 c brown sugar  
1/3 c dried cranberries (optional)  
1 T corn starch  
1 c orange juice  
2 T butter  
1 t salt



Boil potatoes, peel, and cut in half lengthwise. Arrange in 9 x 13-inch ungreased pan. Heat orange juice with butter, mix in brown sugar, salt, cranberries, and corn starch. Stir over low heat until thick and bubbly, about 1 minute. Pour over potatoes, cover, and bake for 1 hour at 400°, basting occasionally. If potatoes become too dry, pour a little orange or apple juice into the bottom of the pan.

\* \* \*

*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!*



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is April 5.

## Courageous St. George

George, the patron saint of England, is best known as the legendary slayer of the dragon and thereby savior of the maiden. It is likely but not certain that he was a soldier.

According to legend, there was a dragon that terrorized a whole country, poisoning with its breath all who approached it. When the daily offering of two sheep resulted in a scarcity of victims to appease the dragon, a human victim chosen by lot was substituted. But the victim was the king's daughter.

George saved her by attacking the dragon with his lance and taking it captive. He assured the people that he would rid them of the monster if they would believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized. The king agreed, George slew the dragon, and 15,000 men were baptized.

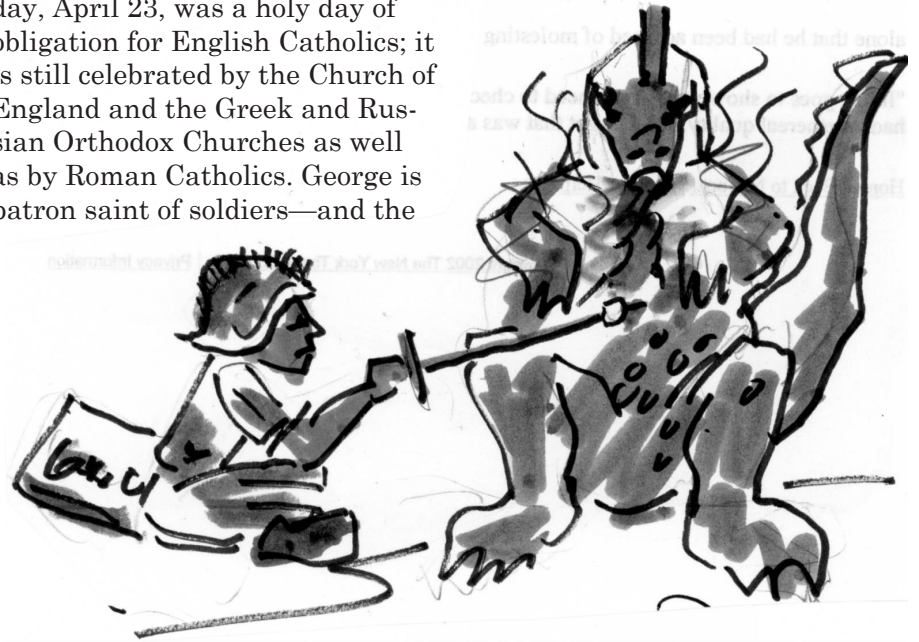
The legend concluded with an account of George's death in Lydda

(present-day Lod in Israel), during the persecution of Diocletian and Maximian.

George's cult was ancient and widespread, surviving the centuries. For a time in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries his feast day, April 23, was a holy day of obligation for English Catholics; it is still celebrated by the Church of England and the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches as well as by Roman Catholics. George is patron saint of soldiers—and the

Boy Scouts.

Brave, courageous St. George, one who risked much and brought many thousands into the Church, while saving a king's daughter and restoring peace to a whole country. The stuff of legend indeed!



## New Bible study opportunity offered

Have you ever wished you knew more about the whole story of the Bible, how it all fits together? If so, consider joining other parishioners for a 3-week "short course" this spring called "The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Seminar." You can choose a daytime (1-3 p.m.) or evening (7-9 p.m.) meeting in the multipurpose room on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 21
- Tuesday, April 28
- Tuesday, May 5

This is a shortened version of the 24-session Great Adventure Study, giving a similar, faster overview. If you enjoy this study, in the fall you

may choose to join the in-depth study of the Gospel of Matthew. "Adventures in Matthew" will begin in September and continue for 24 sessions throughout the year. There will be a daytime as well as an evening option on Tuesdays.

To sign up for The Great Ad-

venture Bible Timeline Seminar, contact Mary Long or Carolyn McElrath at the parish office (367-2665) by April 1 to order materials. The cost of materials, including a Bible Timeline Chart, Guidebook, Bookmark, and color-coded Memory Bead Wristband, is \$20.



Patron Saints for April



## Pray for renewal of the deaf Catholic Church

Father Mike Depcik, a young deaf priest who lives in Chicago, is very active within the deaf Catholic community in his ministry. He has become very concerned about the deaf Catholic Church, primarily about vocations within the deaf community to the priesthood and religious life, and about young deaf adults not becoming involved in the Church.



A number of older deaf and hearing adults—priests, religious, and lay people—have spent a long time in deaf ministry, and Father Depcik is concerned about who will take over for them. In response to this concern and need, he has written a Prayer for Renewal of the Deaf Catholic Church. He asks that people pray this on Fridays to help the deaf Catholic Church within the United States.

The text of the prayer follows. If you would like to see Father Depcik signing the prayer in American Sign Language, go to his Vlog (video blog) at [www.frmd.org](http://www.frmd.org) and click on the video under “Prayer for Renewal of Deaf Catholic Church.”

### *Prayer for Renewal of the Deaf Catholic Church*

Father, we ask you to look with mercy at us,  
your deaf Catholic Church.

We ask you to bless us, inspire us always to love you  
above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray to you for our bishops, our spiritual leaders.

Please bless them and give them the strength  
and wisdom to guide us, their people. Help them to recognize,  
understand, and respond to our unique needs.

Please bless the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people  
who serve our community. Inspire them  
so that they may then inspire the hearts of all deaf people  
to know, love, and serve you and your Catholic Church.

Father, we pray to you

for our baptized deaf Catholic brothers and sisters.

Please send your Holy Spirit to enkindle and renew  
their hearts so that they may continue to grow spiritually  
through prayer, receiving the sacraments,  
and serving other people.

Our young baptized deaf Catholics are growing up  
in a challenging and confused world.

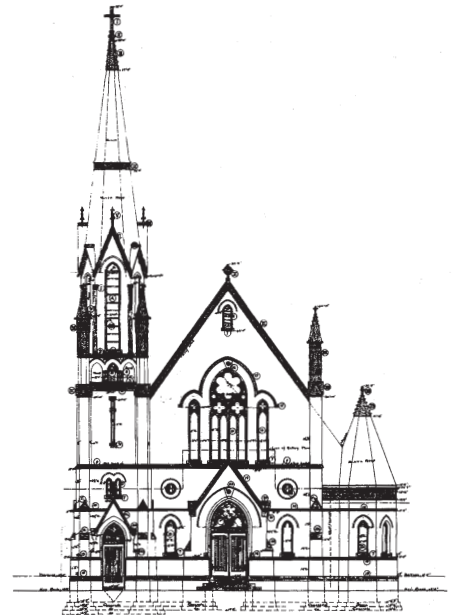
Almighty God, please help them understand  
that the way of the world does not give life;  
your way alone gives true life. Please touch their hearts  
and guide them to find your love.

Bring them back to the Church. Put in them the desire  
to pray, to receive the sacraments, and to serve other people.

Holy Spirit, come and transform each of us  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
Holy Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

## Honoring our past, building our future

On March 3 the Second Century Advisory Committee met with representatives of Stauder Architecture to view revisions of their original design for expansion of our parish church and to discuss the next steps. The committee expects to share information and conclusions from that meeting with parishioners in a letter to go out in the next few weeks.



### Attention, graduating high school seniors!

The Knights of Columbus are offering their Fr. Martell Scholarships to St. Patrick's graduating high school seniors. The application forms may be picked up at the parish office and must be returned by April 12. Scholarships will be awarded at the noon Mass on April 26.



## Mystagogia

What is Mystagogia, a word that seems to puzzle many parishioners? In its simplest form, Mystagogia is the study of the mysteries. Mystagogia has become a major aspect of the St. Patrick's spiritual and educational community. Many of those received into the Church and confirmed at St. Patrick's come together afterward in a group as they continue to explore their faith. These graduates of the RCIA process, their spouses and future spouses, have joined in the "study of the mysteries" since 2004, some for a few months, some for a year or even longer.

The study of the mysteries is what they do each time they come together. They explore the mysteries of our faith while looking at how these affect their own lives. However, that exploration is done in an unstructured format that allows them to touch on a range of topics in a short amount of time. For more than 40 weeks a year they share information about our faith and share their faith life with one another.

The Catholic Church itself is full of many mysteries, from the life of Jesus to everyday decisions made by the bishops and the Vatican—the power of the Eucharist and all the sacraments, the unique culture and prayer life of the Church, the hierarchy and the ministry of the people. The group considers an endless list of topics in their discussions of Scripture, articles from books and magazines, and their shared knowledge and experiences.

They also study the mystery of our faith through prayer. Most of them have heard Fr. Joe say that

the most important part of the RCIA process is prayer. This is true of the Mystagogia process as well. They constantly look for ways to develop their prayer life each and every day by finding time to talk to God in their own way.

They delve into Scripture, sometimes opening their Bibles and wandering through various readings for the entire meeting. At other times they might read passages related to the topics they are discussing. But every time, they examine how Scripture impacts their daily lives and their faith.

Another great mystery studied is life itself. They look for faith-building moments in their lives and reflect on them. Whether it's an interaction with a co-worker or a complete stranger on the street, they look at daily events and their impact on their spirituality.

Through this study of the mysteries, close friendships develop. They share in one another's lives by attending baptisms, enjoying dinner together, and participating in Mass together on holy days of obligation. It is this strength within the group that encourages many of them to participate in other groups (RCIA team, St. Vincent de Paul, CREW, etc.) within the St. Patrick's community. From their small Christian community they reach out to the larger faith community and beyond.

After the present RCIA candidates have become full members of the Church and of the parish during the Easter Vigil, those who wish to study the mysteries to which they have been introduced will receive a warm welcome from those standing ready to study, reflect, and share with them.

### Did you know . . . ?

- Kathy McKenzie has agreed to chair The Women of St. Patrick's, the newly restructured group formerly known as St. Patrick's Guild.
- Earth Day is April 22. "It is to the Creator of the universe, then, that we are accountable for what we do or fail to do to preserve and care for the earth and all its creatures" (USCCB, "Renewing the Earth").
- The program Faith in Action has "morphed" into Provena's Senior Support Services program, offering services to persons aged 55 or older who are patients of Provena Covenant, Christie Clinic, or an Independent Physician, and who have a Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, Rantoul, or Thomasboro address.
- Items left in the church over the weekend are taken on Monday morning to the parish office (367-2665) and added there to the Lost and Found collection of scarves, caps, gloves, sweaters, missals, prayer books, and more—waiting to be claimed by their owners.

## Parishioners really know how to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Following Saturday evening's dinner dance on March 14, entire families returned to St. Patrick's on Sunday afternoon to enjoy Irish music, dance, drinks, and treats. A

little something for everyone included an Irish band, Irish dancers (with lessons in Irish dancing), a caricature artist, a magician, crafts and coloring, and Bingo.





# St. Patrick's Parish

## April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the bulletin to confirm dates and times.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is April 5.</p>			<p><b>1</b>  <b>12:00 PM</b> Men's Book Club  <b>12:10 PM</b> Mass  <b>1:00 PM</b> Walk to Jerusalem with Fr. Joe  <b>5:15 PM</b> Children's Choir  <b>5:30 PM</b> Walk to Jerusalem with Fr. Joe  <b>6:30 PM</b> Peace and Justice  <b>6:30 PM</b> Rel Ed, St. Joe  <b>7:00 PM</b> Baptism Preparation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>6:45 AM</b> Men's Bible Study  <b>5:30 PM</b> Building and Grounds  <b>6:00 PM</b> CREW, Social Justice  <b>6:30 PM</b> Just Faith  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> RCIA</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>10:45 AM</b> Mass, CCNH  <b>12:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>5:15 PM</b> Living Stations of the Cross  <b>5:30 PM</b> K of C    <b>7:00 PM</b> Film</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Great Dates</p>	
<p><b>5</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b>  <b>9:15 AM</b> Religious Education  <b>3:00 PM</b> Web Site  <b>5:00 PM</b> Teen Mass, Dinner  <b>6:00 PM</b> CREW  <b>6:30 PM</b> Vivo</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>12:10 PM</b> Mass  <b>6:30 PM</b> Mystagogia  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>12:10 PM</b> Mass  <b>6:00 PM</b> Seder Meal  <b>7:00 PM</b> Combined Choirs</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>Holy Thursday</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Stations of the Cross  <b>7:00 PM</b> Liturgy</p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>Easter Vigil</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b> Liturgy</p>	
<p><b>12</b>    <b>Easter Sunday</b>            Masses at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>5:30 PM</b> Financial Affairs  <b>6:30 PM</b> Mystagogia  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> JustSkills  <b>6:30 PM</b> Religious Education, St. Joe</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>6:45 AM</b> Men's Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> JustFaith  <b>7:00 PM</b> Parish Council  <b>7:00 PM</b> RCIA</p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> Mass, Clark-Lindsey  <b>10:45 AM</b> Mass, CCNH</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Day of Renewal for Deaf, Hard of Hearing  <b>6:00 PM</b> Volunteer Appreciation Dinner             Council Election</p>	
<p><b>19</b>  <b>8:30 AM</b> Blood Pressure Screening  <b>9:15 AM</b> Rel Ed  <b>10:15 AM</b> Knights of Columbus  <b>1:00 PM</b> First Communion Retreat  <b>6:30-9:30 PM</b> CREW  <b>6:30 PM</b> Vivo             Council Election</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>6:00 PM</b> SALT Training  <b>7:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> Mystagogia  <b>6:30 PM</b> Worship  <b>7:00 PM</b> Ministries Team  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Funeral Schola  <b>5:15 PM</b> Children's Choir  <b>6:30 PM</b> JustSkills  <b>6:30 PM</b> Religious Education, St. Joe  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>6:45 AM</b> Men's Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> JustFaith  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Shawl Ministry  <b>10:45 AM</b> Mass, CCNH  <b>11:00 PM</b> Seniors Luncheon</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> CREW Shed Building Project  <b>1:30 PM</b> First Communion Mass</p>	
<p><b>26</b>  <b>7:00 AM</b> CREW  <b>8:30 AM</b> Library Open  <b>8:30 AM</b> Welcome to New Parishioners  <b>12:00 PM</b> Graduation Mass, Lunch</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>5:30 PM</b> St. Patrick's Presents, Team  <b>7:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> Mystagogia  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> Evening of Remembrance</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>5:15 PM</b> Children's Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>6:45 AM</b> Men's Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> JustFaith  <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> Communications</p>			