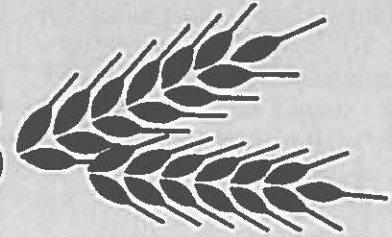


ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

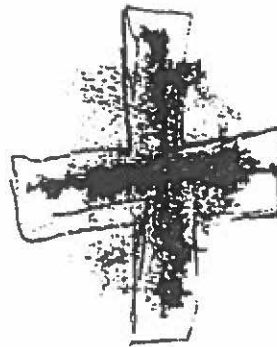
In Focus



Are you ready for Lent?

It does seem a bit early to be thinking about Lent, doesn't it? It was really just a few weeks ago that we thrilled to "Joy to the World," sounding the celestial song of the angels at the birth of a babe destined to save us—every one of us from the beginning of time to its end. Yet in a short few weeks Lent will remind us of the cost of our saving.

Ash Wednesday starts us off on our Lenten journey this year on Feb. 25. But instead of waiting to savor or to have our socks knocked off by the Lenten Scripture readings, we are offered an opportunity to prepare mentally and spiritually for this journey. The Worship Ministries Team is sponsoring a gathering on Saturday, Jan. 31, at 9:00 a.m. to read together the Scripture readings for the Sundays of Lent and to share prayerful reflections on them. From this sharing a theme or



themes evolve that serve to guide the selection of hymns, the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, and banners or other means of conveying the theme visually. Aside from its necessarily practical aim, however, is the help it can be to each participant in preparing himself or herself to walk the walk with Jesus hand in hand with our companions in faith, together the Body of Christ.

Ash Wednesday itself is a healthy reminder of our place in God's creation and the role we are given to play in the scheme of salvation. The Church gives us one of two thoughts to ponder this day: "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you will return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel"—the while marking each of us with a cross of ashes. Who we are and what we're to do.

During this season of remembrance we are provided

See Lent on page 2

Presentation on the annulment process Feb. 6

Probably no action of the Catholic Church is more misunderstood and confusing than that of granting an annulment—a Church process generally understood as invalidating a marriage by stating that the marriage was never valid. An annulment, however, is more than a legal process. It is intended to heal, reconcile, and restore.

To clarify misconceptions and doubts about the annulment process, St. Patrick's is hosting two meetings with Sr. Marianne Burkhard, O.S.B. The first is at 7



Sr. Marianne Burkhard,
O.S.B

p.m. Friday evening, Feb. 6, in the multipurpose room, when Sr. Marianne will provide information about the various processes that are available to resolve a marriage; she will also entertain questions from those present.

On Saturday morning, beginning at 8:30, Sr. Marianne will be available for individual consultations with those

who are seriously interested in initiating an annulment process. Appointments for consultation can be made in advance by contacting the parish office (367-2665); they

can also be made with Sr. Marianne following her Friday night presentation.

Sr. Marianne Burkhard is Director of the Diocesan Tribunal. Trained in Canon Law, she has had many years of experience in processing annulment cases in the Diocese of Peoria. She is also responsible for establishing the training program for notary-auditors, who assist those who are pursuing annulments. Notary-auditors from local parishes will be on hand both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

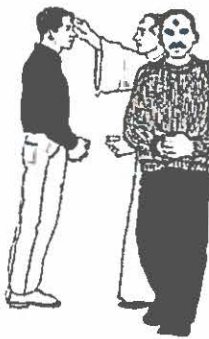
Why should a person consider an annulment? Why revisit a past that holds bad memories? Seeking an

See Presentation on page 7

Lent from page 1

with prayers, programs, and celebrations to carry with us on our journey. We have the opportunity to participate in Mass every day of the week, should we choose to do so—sacrificing a little of our night's sleep to walk through Lent with Jesus, our guide. On Fridays we can walk the Way of the Cross with others in our faith community and afterward feed on fish (prepared by our Knights of Columbus) in the company of fellow parishioners.

We may try to express our repentance through some small sacrifice undertaken during Lent, giving up something pleasurable or undertaking something we know to be "good for us." It's never too little a thing for chocolate lovers, for instance, to give up chocolate, nor too big a thing to come to daily Mass or to give some time to prayer or to reading a bit of Scripture every day. We might reduce our dependence on radio and television for news and entertainment



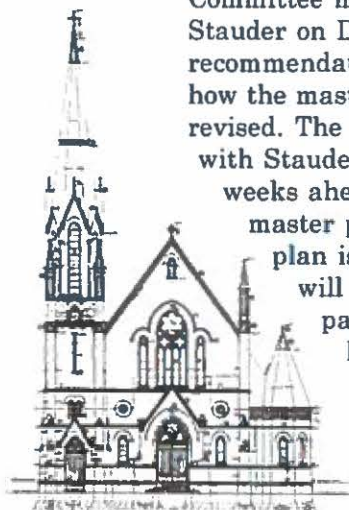
and perhaps find a heretofore unrecognized value in the resulting quiet. We might read that good book we haven't managed to do yet. We could engage in a worthwhile activity, such as helping with the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry or the St. Jude Catholic Worker House in some way. With heightened awareness of the needs of people around us, we might find ways to respond to them. We could even fast! The possibilities are limitless.

So. Are we ready for Lent? Maybe not yet, but the opportunities lie open to us all, and we will very soon hear the Lord call to us in these words:

Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

"Honoring our past, building our future"

The feasibility study report provided by Joseph Consulting indicated that St. Patrick's parishioners generally approve the proposed master plan for parish facilities that was presented at informational meetings conducted in November 2008. However, based on feedback from parishioners through the informational meetings, confidential interviews, and follow-up questionnaires, it was recommended that



the cost and scope of Phase One be reduced.

The Second Century Advisory Committee met with architect Dan Stauder on Dec. 29 to discuss these recommendations and to explore how the master plan might be revised. The committee will meet with Stauder Architecture in the weeks ahead to develop a revised master plan. Once the revised plan is complete, changes will be shared with the parish. The earliest launch date for a capital campaign to raise funds for any building project would be this fall.

Volunteer Opportunities

Can you be available on a regular basis to set out the bread and wine for 7:30 Sunday Mass? You'd arrive at about 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. to unlock the church for early arrivals and to have time to put all in readiness, with a little quiet time for yourself before Mass begins. With two or more volunteers, serving on alternate weekends could be arranged. Training gladly provided. *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125*

The St. Vincent de Paul Society needs help filling food bags for the next day's applicants. (The number of bags of food given out on any given day continues to climb; the last-heard record was 58 bags of food given to the needy on a single day.) Volunteers are especially welcome on Tuesdays and Thursdays to fill food bags between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m., and on Monday and Thursday mornings between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. to sort and package breads from local bakeries for distribution. *Ellen Abell, 367-5648*

Good Samaritans are needed to provide daytime transportation for parishioners to keep appointments with a doctor or for treatments. And Sunday drivers who can pick up a neighbor on the way to Mass are a special gift to parishioners who would otherwise be unable to join our faith community for worship. Are you willing to be placed on an on-call list for one or both of these opportunities for service? *Carla Simmering, 328-4841.*



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

Parishioners help develop policy at local Catholic schools

"We have ongoing insight into the school's life," says parishioner Gary Laumann of his advisory group to the Pastors' Board for The High School of St. Thomas More. He and George Fahey represent St. Patrick's Parish in this advisory group, which is made up of lay members of every parish that sends students to the local Catholic high school.

Students at St. Thomas More come from parishes in the local area that have elementary schools: St. Thomas, Philo; St. Matthew's and Holy Cross, Champaign; and St. Malachy's, Rantoul. St. Patrick's families have students enrolled in both Holy Cross School and St. Thomas More High School.

Gary, George, and the other lay representatives make up the Education Commission of The High School of St. Thomas More, which assists the Pastors' Board, comprised of the pastors of the above-named parishes.

At the monthly Education Commission meetings, the school principal and staff report on school operations. Commission members often ask questions for clarification and may be appointed to study an issue or policy and report on their findings.

One such issue pertained to student identity and spiritual formation. The Education Commission affirmed service as a priority for students. They also affirmed students' need for the chapel to be open and available for Mass and the sacraments, especially the sacrament of reconciliation.

George Fahey is in his first year on the Education Commission. He and his wife, Amy, are the parents of Bridget, a Holy Cross and STM graduate now at Parkland Community College, and Elizabeth, a second-grader at Holy Cross School.

Gary and Bernadette Laumann are the parents of Theresa, who graduated from STM and now attends the University of Illinois, and Will, who graduated from Holy

Cross School and is now a freshman at St. Thomas More.

The parents' advisory group at Holy Cross is called the Holy Cross Commission on Youth Education. This group is made up of St. Patrick's parishioner Jeannie Rasmussen and two other lay members who are parents of children enrolled at Holy Cross School. Every other month the group meets with the pastor and the school principal. They offer suggestions and opinions, as requested, for planning school activities, and they discuss such matters as test scores and student recruitment. Jeannie is in her fourth year representing St. Patrick's on this advisory group.

Jeannie and Joe Rasmussen are the parents of Annie, in seventh grade, and Kyle, in fourth grade at Holy Cross.

Gary Laumann, George Fahey,

and Jeannie Rasmussen serve the St. Patrick's parents of children enrolled in these Catholic schools—and the entire St. Patrick's family—through their faithful participation on these education commissions. They merit our thanks as well as our prayerful support.



You'll eat well at the Super Bowl Breakfast!

The popular annual contest between "Omelets" and "Biscuits and Gravy" teams, sponsored by the Urbana Knights of Columbus, takes place Sunday, Feb. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. (or whenever supplies run out).

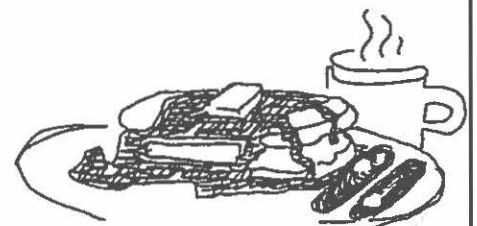
Your free-will donation helps to defray the cost.

Last year the "Omelets" team squeaked out a slim victory, despite the "Biscuit and Gravy" team's trick play by bringing in support from pancakes and sausage links.

The menu for this event includes your choice of biscuits and gravy, pancakes and sausage links, or omelets, in addition to fruit, juice, coffee, and milk.

The Knights proudly state that the sausage is procured from Chuck's Locker, in Ivesdale; that means it's fresh, whole-hog, and lean.

Can you resist? Come and eat well!





Faithful God, through our baptism you blessed us and called us to follow Jesus, who leads us on the path of life. Renew in us the desire to remain faithful to our commitment to serve you and the Church. Bless all who dedicate their lives to you through marriage, the single life, the diaconate, priesthood, and consecrated life, and give insight to those who are discerning their vocation. Send us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To our readers
from the staff of *In Focus*:



"Happy Valentine's Day!"

Trip to Our Lady of the Snows planned for May

The St. Patrick Seniors Group is hosting a one-day bus trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on Wednesday, May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. All parishioners are invited to join the Seniors Group for this inspirational visit to the Shrine.

The bus will depart from St. Patrick's parking lot at 7:30 a.m.



Upon arrival at the Shrine in the southern Illinois town of Belleville, the group will enjoy a lunch of soup and salad at the Shrine restaurant.

A visit to the Gift Shoppe will follow, and then a guide will conduct a tour through the many devotional areas, such as the Lourdes Grotto, the Way of the Cross, and many beautiful devotional gardens. The bus will return to St. Patrick's parking lot in the late afternoon.

The all-inclusive cost of the trip is \$40. Make your reservation early, as the bus will fill up fast. Please RSVP to Pat Sheehan (469-2302) or Shirley Splittstoesser (367-3330).

Financial Affairs Committee elects new chair

At their January meeting, members of St. Patrick's Financial Affairs Committee elected Dwight Raab to serve as chair for 2009, succeeding Scott McCartney.

The committee currently consists of six parishioners in addition to the pastor and the parish bookkeeper, who are ex-officio members.

The goal of the committee is to promote and oversee the generation and use of the funds needed by the parish in keeping with prudent financial processes. The objectives of the committee may be grouped under four headings: (1) to review and present to the Parish Council a reasonable and complete annual operating budget; (2) to assist in the

parish's business processes, including review and approval of month-end and year-end financial statements (Balance Sheet, Income and Expense Statement) for completeness, accuracy, and transparency; (3) to advise the pastor and Parish Council on financial matters; and (4) to present information on stewardship programs and coordinate and monitor the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

A more detailed listing of committee responsibilities is given in the document "St. Patrick's Parish Financial Committee Responsibilities," a copy of which can be obtained from the Committee Secretary, currently Joe Vitosky.



Scott McCartney (left) and Dwight Raab

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 by a variety of authors from various perspectives. All offer an opportunity to know ourselves and our relation with God better.

Resurrection Song: African-American Spirituality, by Flora Wilson Bridges, is offered for February. Readers can build on knowledge of African-American spirituality presented at the January lecture of Professor Jon Nilson, "Towards the Beloved Community: The Church's Role in the Struggle against Racism," to enhance their understanding of God's action in their lives. In this thoughtful work, Bridges, an ordained Baptist minister, presents an overview of African-American spirituality, concepts of time, community, the importance of ancestors, the role of grandparents, and the centrality of God as creator.

Finding God Again: Spirituality for Adults, by John J. Shea, OSA, is offered for March Lenten reading. Shea, a pastoral counselor and teacher, offers readers an opportunity to examine their view



of God as adult believers. This Lent take the opportunity to re-envision the God present in your adult life.

The Cloister Walk, by Kathleen Norris, is offered for April. Part record of her time among the Benedictines, part 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—can impart meaning to everyday events and deepen 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 difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease. Profound and powerful, *Mountains beyond Mountains* takes the reader from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer and his colleague work to change people's lives.

+ + +

Opportunities for readers to discuss the books with other parishioners are provided once a month on Sunday morning or Tuesday evening (see schedule below). Readers who prefer to join an ongoing weekly book discussion group will gather on Tuesday mornings.

Read the books with others or on your own. Join a discussion group. Call or e-mail Claude Cole (367-4187 or Claude_Cole@hotmail.com) for participation in the monthly group. Call Kathy Jobin (359-7751) or Joyce Dill (384-4416) for information and participation in the weekly group.

Ladies, you're all invited to Ladies Knight Out

For just \$20 you can be waited on by the Urbana Knights of Columbus at a meal that includes a dinner of appetizers, tossed salad, steak or chicken, vegetables, wine, coffee, and dessert, with entertainment provided by "The Catholic Boys" of St. Patrick's in a special called "The Catholic Boys Go to Wall Street."

This year diners can anticipate sampling a variety of fresh fish from socially responsible fisheries. Feedback will guide the Knights in their selection of fish for

the Lenten fish fries.

This annual event is offered to the ladies of the parish on Saturday, Feb. 21. Door prizes will be awarded, and raffle tickets for a week's vacation in Florida will be available (\$5 each or 5 for \$20).

Tickets for Ladies Knight Out, \$20 each, can be obtained from the parish office or on Sundays at the coffee shop. Don't wait too long to buy yours—attendance at this event is limited to 150 ladies!



Discussion schedule:

- **February:** Sunday, Feb. 15, or Tuesday, Feb. 17
- **March:** Sunday, Mar. 15, or Tuesday, Mar. 17
- **April:** Sunday, Apr. 19, or Tuesday, Apr. 21
- **May:** Sunday, May 10, or Tuesday, May 12



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is February 15.

The sin of racism

Although the temperature hovered at five degrees above zero on the evening of Jan. 16, over 150 parishioners and community members came to St. Patrick's parish center to hear Dr. Jon Nilson speak on "Toward the Beloved Community: The Church's Role in the



Fr. Joe Hogan with Prof. Jon Nilson

Struggle against

Racism." This event was sponsored by St. Patrick's Peace and Justice Ministry and co-sponsored by 15 community churches and university organizations.

Father Hogan began the evening with an inspirational prayer that addressed the sin of racism. Dr. Nilson, Professor of Theology at Loyola University in Chicago and past president of the Catholic Theological Society, began by observing that the "beloved community" that Martin Luther King sought to advance was the actualization of the Kingdom of God, "where all belong, all are accepted." This parallels Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, where "Church is a sign and means of union of people with God and with one another." The Church is to be both model and instrument of unity where there is division, enmity, injustice, and discrimination; thus, reconciliation is to be the mission of the Church.

He then examined the history of the Catholic Church in America. Before the Civil War, seminary textbooks justified slavery; after the Civil War, the plight of African Americans was ignored because the Church's hands were full with aiding all the Catholic immigrants to this country. Currently Catholic schools in African American neighborhoods are being closed while they flourish in affluent, white suburbs.

Prof. Nilson used statistics on employment, health care, life expectancy, household wealth, and income to demonstrate that the battle for

equality has not yet been won even today, despite the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1968, and the recent election of Barack Obama to the office of President of the United States. Racism, a social sin that remains systemic in our country, is a mockery of the idea that we are all made

in the image of God.

He concluded with suggestions of what the Church should be doing at the national, diocesan, and parish level to advance the "beloved community," where respect and love replace racism, exploitation, oppression, and indifference. He cited several examples of model approaches that exist and should be more widely implemented, highlighting the importance at the parish level of "a ministry of interracial friendships, for without them, all the programs and pastoral letters in the world make no difference." He also called attention to the value of adult educational events such as this one.

Dr. Claude Shelby, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church, was the first of two respondents. He shared some of his recollections and experiences that corroborated points made by Prof. Nilson, agreeing that even though an African American was elected President, everything is not all right in this country. He mentioned the Martin Luther King Day celebrations, which began in this community in 1986; in the beginning there were pulpit exchanges between ministers of different churches, but these occur no more. In fact, church worship is more segregated than it has ever been in our nation.

The second respondent was Prof. Robert McKim, head of the Dept. of Religion at the U. of I. Recalling that as a Protestant lad in Ireland he was on the side of the Catholics, he pointed out that we have to be open

to others and other religions. He generalized on the evening's theme to include all types of social injustice, from environmental exploitation to the present conflict in Gaza. "What we need," he said, "is a caring response to the distress of others regardless of who they are, what their religion is, what their race is, what their nationality is, what their country is; all options other than this are hopeless."

The Rev. Jerome Chambers, president of Champaign County NAACP, was among those who offered remarks during the question and comment session following the formal program. He observed that seemingly the only time we can come together is on Martin Luther King Day. In Martin Luther King's words, he added, "we have to live together as brothers or die as fools."

Following the program, a reception hosted by JustFaith participants reflected the hospitality of St. Patrick's Parish.

The evening proved to be an eye-opening experience for all who attended. For those who didn't attend, the event has been recorded on video with plans to make a DVD of it available for checkout from the parish library.

I object to violence

because when it appears to do good,

the good is only temporary;

the evil it does is permanent.

~Gandhi



Celebrating Service: Catholic Schools Week at Holy Cross School

Being "persons for others" is a way of life at Holy Cross School, not just during Catholic Schools Week.

Service is an integral part of the education program. Beginning in the early grades, students are asked to participate in service opportunities and to reflect on their service to others in their "Sacrament and Service" portfolios. These portfolios are passed on from year to year as students travel through the grades. In this way, it is hoped, students will come to understand that being "persons for others" is an essential and ongoing part of their lives as Catholics.

Holy Cross has adopted the St. Jude Catholic Worker House, located just blocks from the school in Champaign. Each week, students from all grades take turns walking to the Worker House to bring gifts of milk and fresh fruit for those who come to the Worker House soup kitchen.

In addition to this ongoing project, students also participate in the service projects of their individual classes. For example, fifth- and sixth-graders visit their adopted nursing homes on a monthly basis throughout the year. During Advent, the Girl Scout



troop collected food for the St. Vincent de Paul pantry in the Holy Cross parish center. Each year, students participate in the annual Food for Families drive to benefit the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

Christmas cards were made and sent to those in Veterans homes and to parish shut-ins. And an eighth-grader organized a shoe collection through Soles for Souls to benefit victims of the recent hurricanes. Items are collected for the men at the Times Center shelter. Indeed, the students are truly "persons for others"!

Here's how Holy Cross School celebrated service during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 25-30:

- **Sunday, Jan. 25: "In Our Parish"** Banner hanging in church, flier thanking parish for support, collage of school service projects at HC coffee and donuts

- **Monday, Jan. 26: "In Our Community"** All-school Mass with featured speakers from Catholic Worker House and St. Vincent de Paul

- **Tuesday, Jan. 27: "In Our Students"** Special Bible verse and prayer at morning announcements, treats from teachers to students, Catholic Trivia Competition, and

Kindergarten Round-up in the evening

- **Wednesday, Jan. 28: "In Our Vocation"** Special Bible verse and prayer at morning announcements, Open House 9 a.m.-12, Lunch with Clergy, Living Rosary in church at 1:40 p.m.

- **Thursday, Jan. 29: "In Our Nation"** Special Bible verse and prayer at morning announcements, RED/WHITE/BLUE Free Dress Day (\$1 donation to wear red, white, blue top with uniform bottom, donations to purchase supplies for gift boxes to be sent to HC parishioners that are deployed. Students will include handmade cards.)

- **Friday, Jan. 30: "In Our Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers"** All-school Mass with representatives from other schools, Student Talent Show at 12:50 p.m.

Presentation from page 1

annulment can be emotionally healing. The legal procedure is first and foremost a search for truth. The questions, testimony, and fact finding touch on the lives and relationship of the persons who lived the marriage. For many, this is their first opportunity to recall and reflect with a sympathetic helper on the relationship, their role in it, and the consequences of their actions. For the individual, the process can be a cathartic experience, allowing the person to view a painful situation in a new light and to begin to bring a healthy closure to it.

Parishioner Barbara Wysocki has been trained as a notary-auditor for St. Patrick's and has been serving the parish in this capacity for six years. Those seeking to start the annulment process, or desiring further information about it, can contact her directly (367-5014) at any time.

THE GREATEST HONOR
YOU CAN GIVE ALMIGHTY GOD
GREATER THAN ALL YOUR SACRIFICES
AND MORTIFICATIONS IS TO
LIVE JOYFULLY
BECAUSE OF THE KNOWLEDGE
OF HIS LOVE.
JULIANA OF NORWICK

Parish Council News

St. Patrick's parishioners who visit churches in Penfield and Homer in the coming months could possibly see a familiar face or two, members of the St. Patrick's Parish Council learned at its monthly meeting Jan. 15.



Father Stan Mutajwaha, who just completed a short stint as St. Patrick's assistant pastor, is now the priest-in-residence for St. Lawrence Parish in Penfield and its mission church, St. Charles Borromeo in Homer. Father Joseph Hogan will serve as administrator of the two churches, most likely until June.

Meanwhile, St. Patrick's welcomes Father Luong Tran, a Vietnamese priest of 14 years, who will serve as St. Patrick's assistant pastor for the next two or three years.

Father Hogan, during his report to the Council, said that the results of the feasibility study for the church expansion were very positive; respondents were positive about the staff, about making recommendations, and about going forward on this project. George Joseph of Joseph Consulting has concluded the study and will help with the next steps. Another rendition from the architect—not reflecting major changes but incorporating

some of the suggestions made during the feasibility study—is expected this spring.

In other business:

- The parish staff anticipates receiving a draft of the Parish Pictorial Directory shortly and hopes to have the books completed soon.

Four new Parish Council members will be elected April 18. Anyone interested in being a candidate should contact a member of the Parish Council—the names and phone numbers of Council officers are listed on the front of the parish bulletin.

- Volunteers who have given their time to the various parish ministries will be invited to an appreciation dinner, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Apr. 18.

- The Building and Grounds Committee has been sending volunteers to help Fr. Hogan and Bob Miller, maintenance, with snow removal from the sidewalks around the church and parish center.

- Mary Karten said the Worship Ministry Team is interested in receiving feedback on the seasonal liturgies.

- Cynthia Morgan, who represents the Parish Community Life Ministry, mentioned that the Com-

munications Committee is undertaking a recruiting effort for new members, looking for fresh ideas for the newsletter, *In Focus*.

There was also discussion about the need to have a standard means of keeping records of parish committee meetings, including the Parish Council's. Currently some committees keep records on paper, some electronically, and still others keep no records at all. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council's executive committee.

+ + +

The next meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 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.

Praying Breath

May the breath you give me
be my prayer
of praise and thanks and
adoration
when words
cannot be found.
May the rhythm
of this breath
draw me deeper,
beyond all
words.
May each breath
be a sigh of love
and surrender,
holding me
in your presence.
Each breath you give me
returns to you.
You breathe me and I live;
you love me and
I breathe you;
I love you
and you breathe me.

~Susan Whitney

Did you know . . . ?

- Items left in the church over the weekend are taken to the parish office (367-2665) on Monday morning and added to the **Lost and Found** collection of scarves, caps, gloves, sweaters, prayer books, etc.

- **Cards, Coffee, and Conversation** is a really new group (first meeting: Jan. 22), intended to provide informal get-togethers for socializing. It's so new it's without much structure, and may never have much of that, according to Chris Whippo. Interest piqued? Call Chris (352-7263).

- The sign-up book for **donating flowers** for the altar has been moved to the parish office. If you would like to purchase a floral arrangement (\$35) in memory of a loved one or to mark an anniversary, etc., you may make arrangements with payment in advance through the parish office.



Q: What is an indulgence? Does the Church still grant indulgences?

A: Is there a "Get into Heaven Quick" card? Wouldn't that be nice! But no, the granting of indulgences does not mean quick access to heaven. In 1967 Pope Paul VI clarified the Church's teaching on the practice of indulgences. He defined an indulgence as "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has been forgiven."

The practice must always be seen in light of the Church as the Communion of Saints with a real bond among the triumphant souls in heaven, the souls in process of purification (purgatory), and the pilgrim Church on earth. There can and should be an influence on one another within this communion. In granting an indulgence the Church draws on the treasury of merits of Christ and the saints, thereby removing totally or partially the temporal punishment due to sin.

To understand the Church's doctrine and practice of indulgences, one must place them in the

context of the sacrament of reconciliation. Sin has a double consequence, breaking or hampering our full communion with God. The healing of this breach is effected by the forgiveness of guilt, restoring our communion with God. Remission of temporal punishment, some form of satisfaction for the damage done by sin, is effected through works of mercy and of love as well as through prayer and penance.

Pope John Paul II indicated that an indulgence is a help for real conversion of heart. The current manual of indulgences lists four indulgence categories:

- Invoking God's mercy and protection while fulfilling one's responsibilities and enduring difficulties
- Offering oneself and one's possessions, in a spirit of faith, to people in need
- Voluntarily forgoing some pleasure in a spirit of repentance and sacrifice
- Giving public witness to one's faith to nonbelievers by word and example

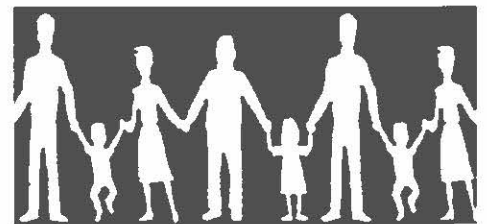
The number of days of temporary punishment remitted is no longer stated as part of an indulgence. Nor are indulgences automatic, in the sense that the effect occurs regard-

less of a person's spiritual condition and intention.

Although Pope Paul VI greatly reduced the actual number of indulgenced prayers and good works, indulgences are definitely still around. It is still a wholesome religious tradition to pray for those in purgatory and to gain indulgences for them and for oneself. But the Church today takes care to keep the understanding of indulgences in harmony with the Gospel and teachings of Vatican II.

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



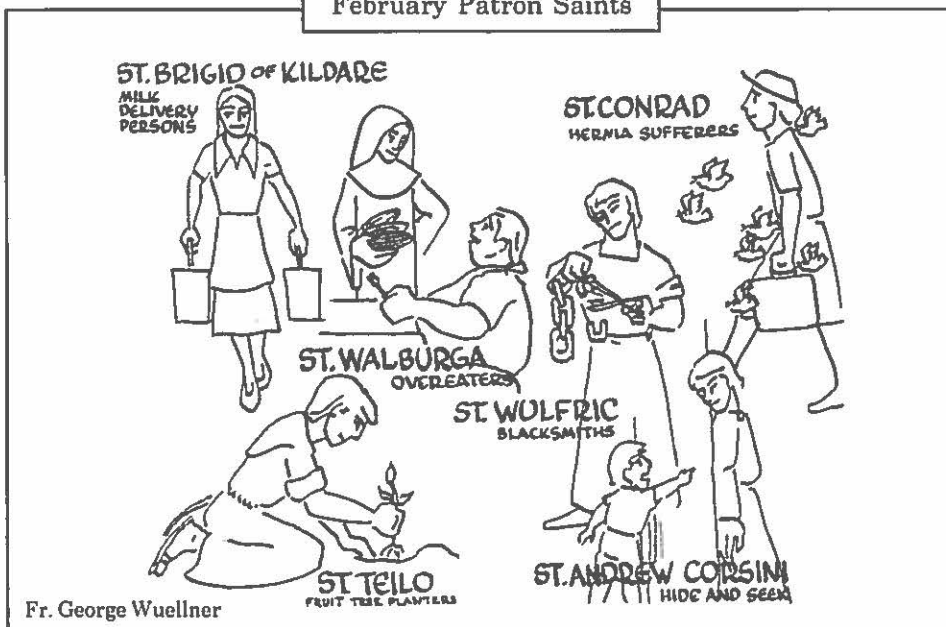
Welcome to new parishioners Joshua Blickhan, Joshua and Kara Dolence, Jacqueline Gitonga, Kathy Mengarelli, Gary and Wendy Pinkerton, and Allison and Joe Ryan.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Matthew Corrigan Kirby and Steven Parker Scott.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Mary Hurt Millican.

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

February Patron Saints



Fr. George Wuellner

Making a monastic retreat

The Monastery of Saint Meinrad, which observes the Rule of St. Benedict, hosted a conference on Gaudete weekend, the third weekend of Advent. It was attended by Benedictine oblates, lay associates who follow the spirit of the monastic life. There are about 110 Benedictine monks and over 900 oblates throughout the United States.

St. Meinrad Archabbey, founded in 1854 by monks from Switzerland, sits in the rolling Hoosier Hills area, about halfway between Evansville, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky. The campus offers a graduate degree in Theology and Divine Music, a large library, a guest house, and a magnificent Archabbey Church. It also houses Abbey Press, which has an extensive gift collection. The monastery hosts about a dozen retreats or conferences a year, as well as trips to Europe and the Holy Land.

The theme of the Advent retreat was conversion, the ongoing openness to the grace of God in the life of the faithful, heeding the call to repentance. It began on Friday with the celebration of Mass. Throughout the retreat oblates had the opportunity to join with the monks in praying the Liturgy of the Hours and in celebrating Mass.

Each of the four conferences was led by a different monk on a different aspect of conversion.

The first conference dwelt on the need to give up one's own will and to be obedient to the will of God. The truth of human frailty demonstrates the need to turn again and again to God, seeking the *Imago Dei* on which to model one's thought and conduct.

The second conference spoke of



using Scripture as a help in turning away from sin and turning to God—to follow Jesus through the guidance of the Church, being malleable in the hands of God. Some tools in this work are humility, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Eucharist, recognition that the saints made the effort of volition (will power), and the need for self-denial.

The third conference focused on prayer. Prayer is meeting Christ in the Gospel. Prayer is meeting Christ in others. Prayer is meeting Christ in devotion and worship. One moves from fear of hell to yearning for heaven, falling in love with God. One must come to grips with one's mortality in order to live with right intention. One must struggle with what blocks openness to God: food, sex, things, anger, dejection, spiritual boredom, vainglory, pride. One must cultivate both interior and exterior silence in order to hear the voice of God. One lives a lifetime and changes slowly, but good changes can happen. Spiritual reading is a must.

The final conference, given by the Director of Oblates, Father Meinrad Brune, presented conversion as the call to joy. As St. Paul exhorts, Christians must be joyful, ceaseless in prayer, and thankful. In the Gospels joy is linked with life, discovery, penance, and suffering. Conversion is living joyfully, immersed in creating, serving, studying life. St. Benedict offers the following tools for joy: having a short memory, continuing to learn, friendship, virtue, thankfulness, humor, faith, quiet, and peace. In keeping with the call to joy, the conference concluded with a rousing rendition of "Joy to the World."

From the Parish Nurses

By the time you read this, the January Health Fair will have taken place. Were you able to stop by and learn about some healthy tips to begin the New Year? If not, it isn't too late to include healthier practices into your everyday routine.



February is an excellent month to be heart smart. Taking care of your body makes sense. To keep physically fit, take a walk; to keep spiritually fit, walk with the Lord.

- Make a daily commitment to read the Bible to strengthen your heart spiritually.
 - Visit the walking.org Web site and read about motivation, stress reduction, or making a plan.
 - Take a walk; look for God.
- Join a walking group to stay motivated.

Shipwreck!

February 10 is the feast of the Shipwreck of St. Paul. This is a minor feast so most churches don't observe it, but it's a holy day of obligation on the island of Malta, where the wreck took place. Some Catholic and Anglican churches named for St. Paul remember the date too. And it's a fun date to remember for all of us in this, The Year of St. Paul.



The shipwreck took place during the winter around the year 60 A.D. It was St. Paul's final journey, when he was taken to Rome for trial. Most of the journey was by boat; because unfavorable winds caused delays, they set out much later in the season than normal and were caught by a nor'easter. The crew fought it for 14 days before... Well, if you want to know the rest of the story, check it out in the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 27 and 28!





in our parish library

In observance of The Year of St. Paul, this month's focus is on St. Paul's writings, as well as commentaries and reflections on the Church's great first missionary.

Books

- ***The Genius of Paul: A Study in History***, by Samuel Sandmell. The author investigates the cultural and theological characteristics of Paul from his writings in the New Testament and compares the profile and thematic development in his writings with other Jewish and Hellenistic writings of his time. Call Number 227 SAN

- ***In Hope of God's Glory: Pauline Theological Perspectives***, by Charles Giblin. Call Number 227 GIB

- ***It Is Paul Who Writes: Based on the Translation of the Epistles of Saint Paul & on the Acts of the Apostles***, by Ronald Knox. Translations of Scripture arranged in continuous narrative and paired with commentary. Call Number 227 KNO

- ***Jesus, Paul, and Judaism: An Introduction to New Testament Theology***, by Leonhard Goppel. English translation. Call

Number 225 GOP

- ***New Testament for Spiritual Reading***, by John L.

McKenzie. This is a series of ten books on St. Paul's letters, with commentary. Call Number 227

MCK

- ***Paul***, by Lucas Grollenberg. Call Number 220.9 GRO

- ***The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter to the Ephesians***, by Peter T.

O'Brien. Call Number 227 OBR

Websites Dedicated to St. Paul

- "Jubilee Year of St. Paul." *Catholic News Agency*. Announcements, pilgrimage, resources, biography of St. Paul, his beginnings, conversion, journey, and martyrdom.

www.catholicnewsagency.com/paulineyear/

- "Year of St. Paul." *Catholic News*. Includes, updates, news, background, his conversion, missionary efforts, and readings.

www.americancatholic.org/news/newslst.aspx?categoryid=23

- "Year of St. Paul." Liturgy Office, England & Wales. Leaflets, letters. www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Scripture/Paul.html and

www.catholicchurch.org.uk/ccb/catholicchurch/events/yearofstpaul (background, case resources, St. Paul's letters, meditation (mp3), etc.

- "The Year of St. Paul for Young People." St. James Cathedral. www.stjames-cathedral.org/kids/kids-paul/stpaul.htm



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: Mary Lee Brady, 344-3752 (bradysipes@sbcglobal.net); Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@insightbb.com); Suzanne Kayala, 344-4894 (louisettelukusa@yahoo.fr); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@uillinois.edu); Margaret Stewart, 356-9475 (mkestewart@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, Shirley Splittstoesser, John Towns, Jim Urban, Naneera Vidhayasirinun, and Mary Welle.

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Mary Lee Brady, Claude and Susan Cole, Rose Costello, Mary Rose Cottingham, Lyle Fettig, Pat Fettig, Judy Fierke, Katie Hinrichs, Roxane Lowry, Alice McLaughlin, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Pat Sheehan, Stephanie Smith, Chris Stohr, Peggy Whelan, and Barbara Wysocki. February saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches and paged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Mary Rose Cottingham

Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole

2 c chicken, cooked
1 can chicken broth
2/3 c wild rice
1/3 c white rice
1/4 c butter
1 c sour cream
1 can cream of mushroom soup
2 cans mushrooms, drained

Cook rice according to directions, using chicken broth for the liquid. Mix chicken, rice, butter, sour cream, soup, and



mushrooms, and pour mixture into casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 1 hour, or heat in the microwave for approximately 20 minutes (check to make sure casserole is hot in the center). Serves 4-6.

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!

