

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



www.stpaturbana.org

Be Reconciled

The dictionary says that to reconcile is to restore friendship or harmony. We have, of course, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and we might think of it solely as reconciliation with God, but it goes far beyond that.

In a way, God is the last person with whom we need to be reconciled. He loves us better than we love ourselves, loves us with more constancy than we can bring to anything we do, loves us with more knowledge of our being than we will ever have. We can never remove ourselves from his friendship and love, even if we fight against it or ignore it.

Lent is the season to stop fighting God and start paying attention. We do this by bringing into balance

the things in our lives that are out of friendship, out of harmony. We do it by the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

What is out of harmony in your life? Have you said to yourself lately, "I really should take the time to do X, but I just never get around to it?" Perhaps this Lent is the time to refocus on the things that

really matter to you.

What is out of harmony in your family? Does someone always get the short end of the stick? Does someone need extra love and attention? Is there an old grudge that keeps poking into your relationships? Perhaps this Lent is the time to bring love and healing to these situations.

What is out of harmony in the political realm? Do you know what your elected officials are doing? Are they acting for the common good? Do you offer your guidance and support of their decisions? Perhaps this Lent is a season to make your voice heard for the good of all.

We hardly need to ask what is out of harmony in the economic realm. It is easy to find people who are hungry, homeless, struggling to make ends meet. We should also ask if we are spending wisely, justly, in accord with our values.

To ask these questions in conversation with God is to pray. To address the answers demands our time, effort, resources: this is to fast, to give alms. And one of the wonders of life in God is that, as we do these things, he makes us more open to him and more like him. We begin to be reconciled with God.

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Are you being called?

Are you being called to serve on the Parish Council? You don't have to know a lot of people in the parish but, by the end of your term, you'll surely have made some wonderful new acquaintances. You don't have to know everything that's going on in the parish—no one does!—but during your service you'll come to appreciate the parish's variety of activities and meet some of the dedicated people who make them happen.

So what is required? The Coun-

cil needs people who care deeply about parish life and want to see it flourish. It needs people from a variety of backgrounds. It needs people who are new to the parish, who can look at things with fresh insight, as well as long-time parishioners who remember the parish's history and customs. It needs people who are responsible, who follow through when they agree to do something.

The Parish Council gathers monthly, usually on third Thursdays, for prayer at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting. This is the essential time commitment, al-

though you'll be invited to participate in other ways at other times as well.

Questions? Contact any of these members of the Council's election committee: Ellen Noon-

nan (403-0979), Thomas Kim (352-6442), or Shelly Benson (352-7230).





Q: *My dad has been away from the Church for a long time. Now he wants to come back, but he says he doesn't know how. What can he do?*

A: There really is no right way or wrong way to come back to the Church. Canon law requires only confession and a return to Mass and Communion. If that's all your father wants or needs, he should be able to find a sympathetic and understanding priest in a parish, a local retreat center, or a Catholic hospital. Perhaps you can refer him to a priest you know. He shouldn't give up if he can't connect with someone on his first try—somewhere there's a priest waiting for his call!

If he's not ready to talk to a priest, he could try going to Mass. It doesn't have to be on a Sunday when the church is bursting with people; he could slip into a week-

day Mass in the morning or on his lunch hour.

Increasingly, parishes are offering outreach programs to connect with people who have left the Church. Some are very simple, not much more than a greeting card before Christmas or Easter with an invitation to "come home," and the names and telephone numbers of priests or lay persons willing to listen and to help if the returning Catholic wishes to talk about why he or she left.

Other parishes invite Catholics to a series of informational sessions designed to identify needs, answer questions, and reacquaint people with the Church. Participants return to the Church when ready.

St. Patrick's outreach program, Re-Membering Church, is one of these. It helps returning Catholics recognize and understand why they left the Church—what hurt or anger or apathy may have prompted the break. It also facilitates

the healing process and prepares them for the Church they will find on their return (probably quite different for someone who left the Church many years ago).

The current series of Re-Membering Church meetings with Catholics seeking to reconnect with the Church began on Feb. 25. You might offer to accompany your dad to this or a later series, or suggest that he leave his name and telephone number with the parish office (367-2665) and ask to be contacted by someone from the Re-Membering Church team.

This longing your dad feels is without any doubt an invitation from God. Coming back to the Church is more process than event, and it starts when he opens himself to the movement of God in his life.

* * *

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

Just what is a Cursillo?

Cursillo ("kur-SEE-yo") is unique among spiritual renewal programs. It is made only once in a lifetime, so it's not considered a substitute for a retreat.

A Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. During these days the participants listen to the Gospel message, broken into fifteen short talks presented in an atmosphere of warmth, joy, and fellowship.

Clergy give five of the talks, about grace, the gift of God to all persons. The other talks are given by lay persons who have made a Cursillo. They reflect on everyday situations such as Christian study, action, leadership, living a life in relationship with God, and the role of the layperson in the Church. A small-group discussion

follows each talk. Music and skits provide entertainment.

It is difficult to explain what the Cursillo does for a person. Since each person comes to it from a different place in time and a different



relationship with God, it is understandable that each will respond differently to the material presented and the experience of community in a Christian atmosphere. For some, it results in a total turnabout in their lives. For others, it is a grand awakening. For yet others, it is an enrichment of what was already known and lived.

The presenters simply offer the program and rely on the grace of God and the openness of the individual to produce its benefits.

A Cursillo for women will be

offered at St. Patrick's Mar. 5-7. More information can be found from www.peoriacursillotec.com, www.champaigncursillo.com, or Deacon Bob Ulbrich (359-2822).

Vocation Prayer



Lord Jesus, grant the abundance of your grace to all persons, particularly to young men and women you call to your service. Enlighten them in their choice, help them in their difficulties, sustain them in their struggle to be faithful, make them courageous in the offering of their life that others may also have life. Amen.

Lenten Taizé prayer service offered

On Tuesday, March 24, parishioners will have an opportunity to participate in the Lenten Taizé prayer service offered by music director Laura Theby.

Taizé prayer originated with an ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, France. This prayer is simple, accessible, and meditative.

An essential part of the prayer service is meditative singing. The songs, most of which were composed by members of the Taizé community, are an easy way to enter into prayer and become even

more deeply aware of God's presence. These short, simple songs are repeated many times over to allow their meaning to penetrate one's whole being. They also evoke a prayerful response to the readings from sacred Scripture.

You would probably recognize several Taizé songs, such as "Veni Sancte Spiritus," "Ubi Caritas," "Jesus, Remember Me," and "Jesu Christe Miserere." Even if you are



not familiar with them at the outset of the prayer service, you will quickly and easily be able to sing them well.

The Taizé service also includes spoken petitions, Scripture readings, extended periods of reflective silence, candlelight, and the presence of icons. Icons are images that reflect the beauty and glory of God on Earth. As visible and concrete symbols of God, they add to the beauty of prayer and help focus our hearts on the Holy Family, the angels and

saints, and the Trinity. Take a break from the hectic pace of everyday life and let your heart respond to the music of Taizé, the words of Scripture, and the pleas we make of our God. Remember: March 24, 7:00 p.m., in the multipurpose room at St. Patrick's parish center. You will find it a renewing, prayerful, and peaceful preparation for the days to come.



Welcome to new parishioners Lilibeth and Roel Agor, Brenda Baumgartner, Dwayne and Emily Hamby, Adria and Sean Hamel, Laura and Nicholas Stefanic, and Patrick and Mary Margaret Twigg.

Farewell to these parishioners who have moved away: Kalah Alene McGraw and Pat Whelan.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Wyatt Leon Blanchard, Anthony Crutcher, Nathaniel Thomas Farney, Levi William Henning, Eamon Isaiah Reedy, Ella Rae Ryan, Jack Murphy Ryan, and Mia Schroeder.

Please pray for deceased parishioners Maria Peters and Joseph Dubois.

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

Let's really celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Mark your calendars now to join in the parish celebration of our patron's feast day! This year's St. Patrick's Day Parish Celebration Weekend is Mar. 14-15. It starts right after the Saturday Mass, with a dinner party from 6 to 10 p.m. in the parish center's main hall.

The evening's entertainment features live Irish music, a special appearance by St. Patrick's own Irish Baritones, and music from a DJ for after-dinner socializing. In the spirit of the Irish, dinner features corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes, but also includes a chicken dish and an expanded salad

bar. St. Patrick's Parish Bakers provide dessert. Coffee, tea, and nonalcoholic refreshments are also provided. Attendees are welcome to bring their own alcoholic beverages (and their designated driver!). Set-up will be provided for those interested in mixed drinks.

Tickets for this event, \$20 per person, go on sale Feb. 28-Mar. 1 at the parish office or at Sunday morning coffee shop. Attendance is limited to 200. Volunteers are still needed, especially for helping in the

kitchen and with the salad bar. To help, please contact Laura and Don Keefer (337-0768 or 621-4042).

The festivities continue on Sunday in the parish center from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. with a focus on fun for all ages. Entertainment includes recorded Irish music, University of Illinois Irish dancers (with lessons for the kids!), a ventriloquist, a caricature artist, crafts, and bingo. Refreshments will be provided. The Sunday celebration is free to all, although free-will donations are gratefully accepted.





in our parish library

Add to your celebration of St. Patrick's Day and our parish's patron saint with these books, available in the parish library, on St. Patrick, Irish Catholics, or Celtic spirituality!

Children's Books

A Child's Book of Celtic Prayers, by Joyce Denham.

Call Number: C 921 DEN

Patrick, Saint of Ireland, by Joyce Denham. Call Number: C 921 DEN

Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland, by Tomie DePaula.

Call Number: C 921 DeP

Regular Collection

The Magic Cup: An Irish Legend Retold (fiction), by Andrew Greeley.

Call Number: FIC GRE

Open Gate: Celtic Prayers for Growing Spirituality, by David Adams.

Call Number: 248 ADA

Read Saint Patrick, by J. M. Holmes. Call Number: 921 HOL

The Saints of Ireland, by Mary Ryan D'Arcy. Call Number: 922 DAR

* * *

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.

In February, participants read and discussed ***Resurrection Song: African-American Spirituality*** by Flora Wilson Bridges. This book presented an overview of African-American spirituality, concepts of time, community, the importance of ancestor, the role of grandparents, and the centrality of God as creator.

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). For the weekly group, contact Kathy Jobin (359-7751) or Joyce Dill (384-4416).

Finding God Again: Spirituality for Adults, by John J. Shea, OSA, is offered for March Lenten reading. Shea, a pastoral counselor and teacher, lets you examine your view of God as an adult believer. 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 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.

Did you know . . . ?

- Seven parishioners take turns driving Frs. Gene Kane and George Wuellner to and from Mass at St. Patrick's. Organized by Randy Sandone (344-7214), this transport enables our priests to join our faith community for worship and our parishioners to enjoy the gift of giving.

- Those who come to 7 a.m. weekday Mass are welcome afterward to conversation over coffee and a bit of sweet roll in the main hall before heading off to work, school, or chores.

- 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, prayer books, and more—waiting to be claimed by their owners.

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 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.



Our new Assistant Pastor, "Father Good"

It's been a few weeks and we are enjoying the blessings of a new face in our parish: our new assistant pastor, Fr. Bernard Luong Tran. If you haven't had a chance to meet him in person, take some time to get to know him. You will be amazed by what you find.

Fr. Luong hails from a rural area near the Vietnamese city of Hue. Tran is his family name; Luong means "good." The eldest of nine children, he has seventeen nieces and nephews. Six years ago he celebrated Mass for his parents' golden jubilee. Their marriage has lasted an enviable 56 years. (Such Catholic families aren't all that common: only 7% of Vietnamese, about 6 million, are Catholic.)



Fr. Luong Tran takes a quick break from desk work.

(Right) Heads together, Fr. Luong and interviewer Jackie Gitonga confer.



Even as a child, Fr. Luong was drawn to the priesthood. He was still in grade school when his pastor invited him to this vocation. He entered the seminary in 1966. Nine years later when Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese, travel in or out of the seminary was forbidden. Fr. Luong thus remained there for the next 19 years with eleven other seminarians. One way they kept up their spirits was by forming a jazz band.

During this time, our previous visiting pastor, Fr. Hua, was stuck too, but on the other side. Fr. Hoa could not enter the seminary and waited with his family. Finally when the Communist Party relaxed some rules in 1994, Fr.

Luong was ordained. (Fr. Hoa entered the seminary then and was ordained six years later.)

Fr. Luong assisted the Vicar at Phu Cam Cathedral for a few years, during which he also taught piano and drums. Then he spent a dozen years as pastor at two parishes, Thanh Tan

and Tan My. Last June he was assigned to his current mission in America and immediately set out to teach himself English from lessons on the Internet. Formal language lessons, including Latin, continued in the fall semester at DePaul University in Chicago. This was made easier by his study of French while he was in seminary.

In mid-January Fr. Luong arrived at St. Patrick's, where he will remain for two and a half years. He hopes to learn more about parishes, preaching homilies, and working with people. Certainly these last few weeks have shown us that he is a "people person."

Of the five hundred or so Vietnamese in Champaign-Urbana, about a hundred are Catholic. They meet often in St. Patrick's parish center, and welcome others happily. They value vocations highly: their parishes always include two religious Sisters, and every year about a dozen Vietnamese are ordained here to serve the Church in America. (At the present time, the Chicago and Peoria dioceses have 9 and 6 Vietnamese priests, respectively.)

Fr. Luong, we are thankful for your presence here and the generosity that your people show our Church. May we follow this example and be as generous in sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with our neighbors both near and far!

Fish Fry!

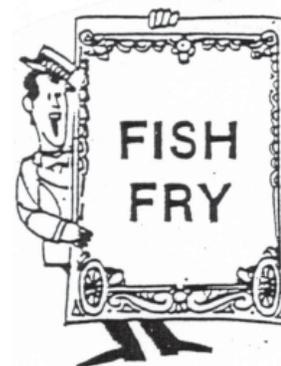
This Lent, the Knights of Columbus will provide their traditional Friday Fish Fries, Feb. 27 through Apr. 3. The prices are \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$5 for children 5-12, and free for children under 5. The Knights start serving at 5:30 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m. This year they have added macaroni and cheese as an alternative for children who do not enjoy eating fish. Proceeds go to the Knights' Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to St.

Patrick's graduating high school seniors in May.

The Knights depend on parishioners to donate desserts for the fish fries. If you would like to donate a dessert, bring it to the parish center Friday evening at 5 p.m. Desserts, besides giving that special touch to the end of a meal, are an important 100% profit item for the Knights!

As we finish with our praying Now the Knights have started frying

Fish and warming brownies—yum!



Holy Cross Happenings

Congratulations to the seventh-grade boys' basketball team! They won fourth place in the State Tournament, played during the week of Feb. 9.

Congratulations also go to sixth-grader and St. Patrick parishioner George Penacchi, first-place winner of the school-wide Geography Bee. Zack Smith, eighth-grader and also a parishioner, placed second. Both boys are also frequent altar servers.

Hardly a week goes by without some excitement at Holy Cross. St. Patrick parishioner Julia Whittington revived an old Holy Cross tradition by helping to organize a Sock Hop at Holy Cross on Feb. 13. Dancers old and young were decked out in poodle skirts and other Fifties costumes as they grooved to Fifties tunes with a live DJ. The cafeteria was transformed into a Dollar Menu Diner and raffle center. It was a fun way to mingle with parents, teachers, and students, and the proceeds went to fund new lockers for the school.

SAVE THE DATE for WILLY WONKA! On Apr. 2, 3, and 4 Holy Cross School presents this musical retelling of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl. Nearly 140 students, from kindergarten through eighth grade, will perform. Be sure to mark your calendars!



Holy Cross fourth-graders had fun with this assignment! Shown with Fr. Joe Hogan are (from the left) St. Patrick parishioners Meghan Kelly as St. Bridget of Sweden, Nicholas Jackson as St. Nicholas, Hans Herzog as St. Francis, Ellie Nyembo as St. Michael, Grace Whittington as St. Joan of Arc, Shelby Turner as St. Clare, and Kyle Rasmussen as St. George.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is March 15.

On TV

On March 9, EWTN will broadcast "A Grave in Perm: The Fr. Walter Ciszek Story." Even if he wasn't a parishioner, Fr. Ciszek still has a St. Patrick's connection. He was Sophia Zeigler's niece's husband's uncle! Originally from Pennsylvania, Fr. Ciszek joined the Jesuits in 1928 and volunteered to serve in the Soviet Union. In 1939 he succeeded in smuggling himself into the country, but soon afterward he was arrested and spent 23 years in gulags. His books, *With God in Russia* and *He Leadeth Me*, describe his experiences. The program airs on Mar. 9 at 3 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus

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

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

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Pat Fettig, Jackie Gitonga, Bob Glazier, Katie Hinrichs, Mary Karten, Don and Laura Keefer, David Kraft, Mary Long, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Shirley Splittstoesser, Laura Theby, and Chris Whippo. March saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and paged by John Colombo.

Volunteer Opportunities

Can you be regularly available to set out the bread and wine for the 5:00 p.m. or 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass? For the **5:00 Mass**, you'd arrive at about 4:15 p.m. to put all in readiness for the celebration of Mass. For the **7:30 Mass**, you'd arrive at about 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. to unlock the church for early arrivals, with time to make ready for Mass. In each case, you'd have a little quiet time for yourself before Mass begins.

With two or more volunteers for each Mass time, 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 5:00-5:30 p.m. Also, on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. volunteers can 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. Also, drivers who can pick up a neighbor on the way to Sunday Mass are a special gift to

parishioners who would otherwise be unable to worship with our parish community. 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.

From our Sister Church

We send you greetings and best wishes from Beit Jala.

We hope you all are doing well and in good health.

We finished our latest project, the hall, for our parish senior citizen activities. It's very nice, and we will start furnishing it during the coming month with suitable furniture.

Last Sunday, we had a wonderful Mass for the intentions of the sick people in the parish. And after the Mass we had lunch for the senior citizens in the new parish hall. It was a great day for them; they enjoyed the attention and the special treatment.

Next period our prayers will be for all our friends, especially when we will have the prostration for the Holy Sacrifice.

Joseph [Youakim], we hope to see you among your people in Beit Jala. It was a pleasure to have your wife and son here with us. It's always good to feel that we are supported morally at least from true friends.

God bless you.

Regards,
Fr. Nidal Qanzou'a
Parish priest



The duty of the Christian is to do the one task which God has imposed on us in the world today. That task is to work for the total abolition of war... Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and much more purity of conscience. The Christian quest for peace is not to be confused with defeatism.

—Thomas Merton,
Catholic Worker 1961

Lenten Prayer

Jesus, you call to my heart once more:

"Leave anything that holds you back from deeper love.

Come follow me, again and again."

Grant me the courage to leave behind whatever keeps me from you

and to trust you with my life.

May my heart's connection with you be so strong and true

that I will daily risk the road of following in your footsteps.

Keep me open to the adventure of life where I meet you day by day.

Remind me often of my inner goodness.

Help me to believe that you look upon me with love.

Thank you for the call to be your disciple.

—Joyce Rupp

A different hierarchy: The C-U Council of Congregations

How do you feel about interfaith work? You might find the idea of joining people with different beliefs in an effort to find a common purpose frightening, exciting, or both.

St. Patrick's belongs to a local interfaith group called the Council of Congregations. Other members include the First Baptist Church of Champaign/Savoy, Salem Baptist Church, Sinai Temple, Grace Lutheran Church, the First Presbyterian Churches of Champaign and Urbana, Faith United Methodist, First United Methodist, Wesley United Methodist, Community United Church of Christ, St. John the Divine Episcopal, and the Urbana-Champaign Friends meeting.

The Council of Congregations meets monthly throughout the school year, and promotes three main outreach projects:

- Donations from its member and supporting congregations maintain a fund for the emergency needs of persons in the community, at the request of social workers from community agencies such as Family Service.
- Volunteers from each congregation drive members of the local community to and from medical appointments.
- Volunteers visit with nursing home residents in need of a friendly visit.

These services have benefited such people as dialysis patients needing thrice-weekly transportation, a Mississippi truck driver who was stranded here after he became ill and needed hospitalization, and a woman who needed a ride to see a specialist in St. Louis.

The Council is remarkable not only for what it does, but for what it is.

Peggy Whelan, the delegate from St. Patrick's, said, "My work with the Council of Congregations has broken down walls that I used to feel surrounded other congrega-

tions and people of other faiths." Indeed, an important aspect of the Council's existence is the idea that member congregations should work with and support one another. For example, the Council recruited volunteers to help with child care for members of Sinai Temple during their observance of the Jewish High Holy Days.

In addition, each year the Council tours one of its member congregations' place of worship. This

helps the members understand more about one another and about the C-U faith community in general.

The Council is always looking for new member congregations, and St. Patrick's always seeks volunteers to help meet its responsibilities to the Council.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting and highly beneficial ministry, call Peggy Whelan (367-3668)

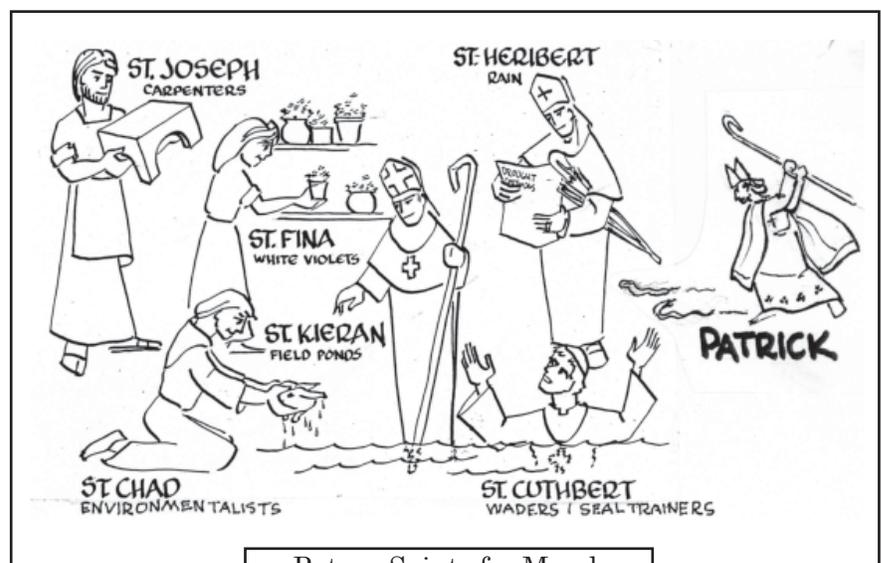
"Through this holy anointing..."

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at all Masses the weekend of Mar. 21-22. This will be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to be anointed to do so in the presence of our parish community. Like all sacraments, this is an occasion of grace and should be celebrated by anyone needing healing from physical, emotional, or spiritual distress, as well as those suffering from the infirmities of age or a chronic illness.

When we celebrate the Anointing at Mass, it provides a wonderful opportunity for those who do not take part in the actual anointing to spend time in prayer for those who do. We unite our prayers with those of the anointing priest and of the anointed. This is perhaps the best gift we can give to one another as a parish family—to pray for one another.

If you have any questions about the Anointing of the Sick, please speak with Fr. Joe or Fr. Luong, or with one of the pastoral associates on the parish staff.

*Through this holy anointing
may the Lord in his love and mercy help you
with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord who frees you from sin
save you and raise you up.*



Patron Saints for March

Parish Council News

During its monthly meeting Feb. 19, the Parish Council approved new uses for the religious education house, located north of St. Patrick's church.

Since pastoral associate Carolyn McElrath now has an office in the parish center and children's religious education coordinator, Suzanne D'Andria, and youth leader, Peggy Loftus, are working from home, there is open space in the small building that has housed religious education offices for a number of years. That space will now be used for computer classes for the Congolese, for mystagogia gatherings, and for parish archives.

In other business:

- April 18 is the date chosen for the Council-sponsored Ministry Volunteer Appreciation event, which is scheduled to follow the 5 p.m. Mass. Invitations will be sent

by e-mail to those parishioners for whom the parish has an e-mail address.

- Stauder Architecture, the firm that is working on the plans for the church and parish center expansion, will be coming back with revisions of their original design on Mar. 3. At this meeting the Second Century Committee will discuss the next steps, as well as how the current economy might affect building plans.

- Seven candidates for four seats on the Parish Council are needed by March 21, with the election scheduled for Apr. 18-19.

- The parish's ministry leadership teams are being asked to come up with a process for keeping their records and for passing them along to Mary Long for electronic storage. They are urged to determine what should be kept, who will keep

it, and in what format. This new record-keeping process could eventually be part of the parish's paper-reduction plans.

- Parish Council member Ellen Noonan, representing the Faith Development Ministry, reported that the youth of the parish will be collecting money for Heifer International this Lent.

- Mary Karten, representing the Worship Ministries, announced that the lighting will remain subdued before Mass during Lent. Also, for some Masses, all Eucharistic ministers will distribute Communion at the front of the church instead of having some of the ministers in the back, due to overcrowding in the back of the church when there is standing-room only.

* * *

The next Parish Council meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 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.



St. Patrick's parish staff went to Peoria for a mini-retreat on Jan.30. They enjoyed a tour of the cathedral, and after lunch met at the newly opened chancery for this photo op with a "virtual" Bishop Jenky. Sr. Diane VandeVoorde gave inspiring talk on improving working relationships and ministry in the parish.

Sr. Charlene shared sabbatical highlights with Seniors Group

At their last social gathering, St. Patrick's seniors invited Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm, to share highlights of her sabbatical of renewal in England last fall, after leaving her post as pastoral associate at St. Patrick's. Here are a few of those highlights.

Sister spent her 2007 sabbatical at Hawkstone Hall, England, from Sept. 9 through Dec. 6. Hawkstone Hall was the Hill family home from 1556 to 1906. In 1926 the hall and 25 acres of the estate were purchased by the Redemptorists, a Roman Catholic missionary congregation. They established it as a pastoral center in 1973.

Sr. Charlene took side trips on weekends. One of these was to St. Winefride's Well in Holywell, Wales. In the seventh century St. Winefride died as a martyr resisting an aggressive suitor who cut off her head, and the well erupted at the site. Through the prayers of her uncle, St. Winefride was restored to life. She lived 22 years longer, as a nun. Since then her well has been known as a place of

healing, "the Lourdes of England."

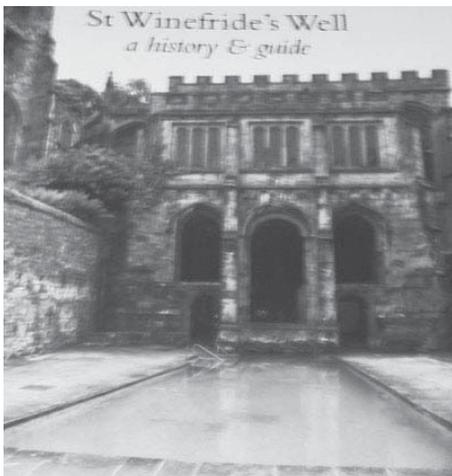
In her own words, here is Sr. Charlene's description of her experience at this well: "I set up in my bedroom a reminder and memory of the healing that took place there. I will tell you the story of my own healing at St. Winefride's well. For a few years previous to my sabbatical, it had become painful for me to walk. I was permitted to enter the well up to my knees, and when I came out of the well I experienced excruciating pain, and then the pain left me completely and I was able to walk again in the manner with which I was familiar. I believe the Lord healed me for almost a year. I was very grateful and deeply moved. When I was in the water, I cried like a little baby pleading in the following words, 'Jesus, I trust you with my whole life. Please heal me in body, mind, and spirit.'"

With her group, Sr. Charlene journeyed to Oban, Scotland, and from there by ferry to the Isle of Iona. Iona Abbey was founded in 536 by St. Columba and his Irish

followers. On their arrival, the pilgrims celebrated Mass in the House of Prayer on the "Hill of the Dove." The House of Prayer was officially opened by Archbishop O'Brien in the spring of 1997 on the 1400th anniversary of the death of St. Columba.

Sr. Charlene found the scenery in England and Scotland breathtaking. She made many new friends among the participants, who were from all over the world and of several other faiths. One of these was Fr. Mike, from Brazil; he told of his escape after overhearing a plot to kill him, and added that it is not safe for him to return to his homeland.

Sr. Charlene returned to her home in Champaign with the Mercy community, her sister Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. She now works in private practice, seeing individuals for spiritual accompaniment on their faith journey. She meets with them in the Archbishop Oscar Romero Center, behind St. Mary's Church, serving the Champaign-Urbana area and beyond.



Holywell, where Sr. Charlene experienced healing



Hawkstone Hall, Sr. Charlene's sabbatical home

Will you join Fr. Joe on the Walk to Jerusalem?

Lent is a time of renewal, for our physical as well as our spiritual life. The “Walk to Jerusalem” program exercises souls and bodies throughout Lent. This imaginary trip to Jerusalem is accomplished by logging your walking miles each week.

The Walk to Jerusalem will begin on Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday, with the goal of accumulating enough miles to reach Jerusalem by Easter, Apr. 12. The goal of the program is to collectively travel 6700 miles to Jerusalem. We will travel virtually across the Atlantic



Ocean to Ireland, Britain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, and Israel on our way to Jerusalem.

Check the display on the window wall of the parish center lounge for an update on our progress and learn about the places we pass through.

Every week of Lent, each participant or family records how many miles they have walked, and either puts their mileage slip in the Sunday collection or calls in their miles to Mary Long (531-7008) at the parish center. Those who cannot walk get a mile credit for every 20 minutes of exercise, whether

it be swimming, stretching, chair exercises, or cycling—any way to keep moving and praying. Participants can walk indoors or outside. Extended family can be invited to participate.

Get a jump on your miles by joining Fr. Joe and staff on Wednesday, Apr. 1, for a “Fools for Christ” walk around the parish block at 1 p.m. or at 5:30 p.m. Fr. Joe will walk regardless of rain, sleet, snow, or sunshine! This could be a fun way to celebrate April Fool’s Day—and continue the Walk to Jerusalem (3 laps = 1 mile).

If you miss the handout in the bulletin with the information and prayer cards to use while you walk, or if you would like another copy, stop by the parish office to pick up a packet.

What are Vivo and CREW up to now?

St. Patrick’s teens have a busy time of it in March, what with all the good things planned for and with them!

Parents’ Night, on Monday, Mar. 2, will open with a potluck at 6 p.m. (fried chicken, Italian beef sandwiches, drinks—plus the side dishes and desserts that parents bring to share), followed by guest speaker Karen Pope. All parents of junior- and senior-high teens are invited to this get-together for an opportunity to share stories, successes, and stresses. Please RSVP to Peggy Loftus (356-8843, peggy@loftuscountry.com).

The Bible and Breakfast, on the Saturdays of Lent (Feb. 28-Apr. 4), offers a Bible study opportunity for teens—with a breakfast of juice, coffee, tea, cocoa, and bagels or donuts or waffles or fruit salad. In other words, come hungry but don’t expect a three-course breakfast! The Bible study will use the booklet Disciples on the Journey to help participants engage with the Lenten Scripture

readings. Prepare to gather in the religious education annex from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., and bring your appetite!

The Service Auction will take place on Sunday, Mar. 8, in the main hall. Again this year it will be presented in two sections, one beginning at 8:45 a.m. and the other at 10:15 a.m. Gift baskets and services from parish teens, adults, and local businesses will be up for auction. As in former years, items for bidding will include yard work, baby sitting, Mary Kay products, power washing, window washing, car detailing, delicious homemade foods and desserts, pet sitting, and

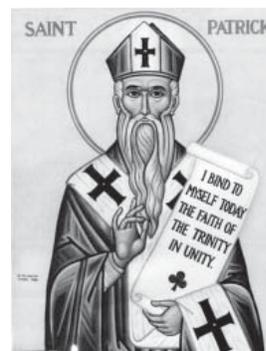
much, much more.

This year Peggy Loftus is offering “ghost bidding”—if you are unable to attend the auction, call Peggy (356-8843) to identify the item you wish to bid on and the maximum limit of your bid, and she will represent you in the bidding. (But it’s more fun if you can be there!)

Proceeds from the auction will help defray expenses for the summer Mission Trip.



*Dear St. Patrick,
we are privileged to have you
as our parish’s patron saint.
We honor you,
we thank you for your faithful patronage,
and we pray that we may continue
to enjoy your guidance and protection!*



Back by popular demand: The Lenten Film Series!

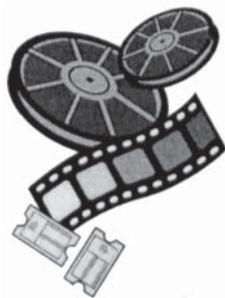
In response to numerous requests from parishioners who missed the Faith and Films Series during Lent last year, it has been brought back for parishioners' viewing this year. Come for entertaining, thought-provoking films that inspire us to look beyond our differences (the theme of this year's selections).

The film series will take place at 7:00 p.m. on the Fridays of Lent in the multipurpose room of the parish center. Come for prayer (Stations of the Cross in the church at 5:15 p.m.), followed by dinner (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.

Because of the timing of this issue of *In Focus*, you may have missed the first film selection, but don't let that stop you from enjoying the others!

Feb. 27: Beyond Our Differences (not rated). A PBS documentary calls upon key religious leaders, politicians, and luminaries in their fields to tackle the toughest and most complex issues in the modern age, and it asks what it is that inspires them to affect positive change. They share their personal experiences, and each person provides a unique perspective on how to support and strengthen compassionate and non-violent activism when resolving difficult disputes.

Mar. 6: Canvas (PG 13). The film follows the Marino family, who live in South Florida. Joe Panteliano plays the father, a struggling working-class man whose wife (played beautifully by Marsha Gay Harden) has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Their son, Chris, is struggling to find his own identity while dealing with his mother's troubling illness.



Mar. 13: The Painted Veil (PG 13). This love story, set in the 1920s, tells the story of a young English couple—Walter, a middle-class doctor, and Kitty, an upper-class woman—who are married for the wrong reasons and relocate to Shanghai, where she falls in love with someone else. When her husband uncovers her infidelity, in an act of vengeance he accepts a job in a remote Chinese village ravaged by a deadly epidemic, and takes her with him. Their journey brings mean-

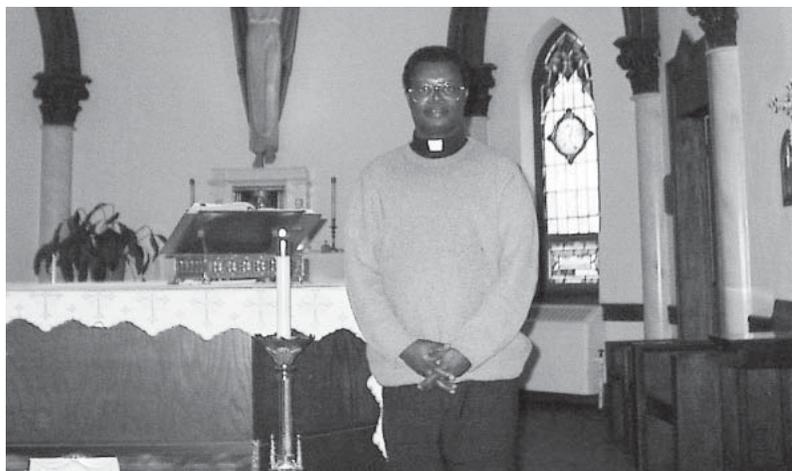
ing to their relationship and gives them purpose in one of the most remote and beautiful places on earth.

Mar. 20: Real Women Have Curves (PG 13). This is the story of Ana, a first-generation Mexican-American teenager on the verge of becoming a woman. She lives in the predominately Latino community of East Los Angeles. Freshly graduated from high school, Ana receives a full scholarship to Columbia University. Her very traditional old-world parents feel that now is the time for Ana to help provide for the family, not the time for college. Torn between her mainstream ambitions and her cultural heritage, she agrees to work with

her mother at her sister's downtown sewing factory.

Mar. 27: The Kite Runner (PG 13). In the Seventies in Afghanistan, the Pushtun boy Amir and the Hazara boy Hassan, Amir's loyal friend and son of their Hazara servant, are raised together in Amir's home, playing and kiting on the streets of a peaceful Kabul. After Amir wins a kiting competition, Hassan runs to bring a kite to Amir but is brutally beaten in an empty street as he seeks to protect Amir's kite. Unseen, the cowardly Amir witnesses the assault but does not step in to help the loyal Hassan. In 1979 the Russians invade Afghanistan, and Amir's family escapes to Pakistan. In 2000, Amir has become a famous novelist; he receives a phone call disclosing secrets about his family, forcing him to return to Peshawar, in Pakistan, in a journey of redemption.

Apr. 3: The Visitor (PG 13). A deeply moving drama featuring longtime character actor Richard Jenkins, this film is a simmering drama about a college professor, 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.



Fr. Stan sends greetings from St. Lawrence Parish in Penfield. We have David Kraft to thank for the photo, taken on a recent monthly pilgrimage to visit with Fr. Stan.

The first-ever Cards, Coffee, and Conversation a success

Something new is going on once a month at St. Patrick's, and it may be just what you are looking for. The first gathering of Cards, Coffee, and Conversation (CCC) met on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. Those who came formed a foursome of bridge and a foursome of euchre. Not a bad turnout for a first-time event, and in January no less!

Card players, lovers of board games, and those just looking for company are encouraged to come and spend some time together. Says parishioner Chris Whippo, "I was motivated to organize this group because I recently met three new parishioners who were looking for other card players. My dad enjoys cards, so I figured we had a foursome already, and there must be more people out there who would enjoy this. The church is accessible and the newly renovated rooms near the library are pleasant. Let's see what happens."

Shirley Splittstoesser distributed a survey at a Seniors luncheon and the results indicated that a once-a-month meeting for

CCC seemed ideal. Everyone is welcome.

The group met again on Feb. 26 and agreed on having the next gathering on Thursday, Mar. 19, at 1 p.m. in the St. Matthew room next to the library. The games played are determined by those who come, so bring along your favorite card or board game and invite others to come with you. There will always be some refreshments and conversation. Questions? Call Chris Whippo (352-7263).

Wonderful things happen when we spend time together.



Sophia Zeigler, Ann Hanak, John Smith, and Joe Hanak take a break from playing bridge at Cards, Coffee, and Conversation on Jan. 22.

Calling all women of St. Patrick's!

This is for YOU! Something NEW! In years past the women of St. Patrick's Guild have lovingly and faithfully served St. Patrick's in a great many ways. But it is time to reinvent and reorganize, beginning with the new name, Women of St. Patrick's, to meet the needs of today's women of all ages.

Women of St. Patrick's



With a well-rounded emphasis on Spirituality, Service, and Social, the events for Women of St. Patrick's will speak to all the ways in which women want to be involved and grow in faith.

You are invited to a kick-off event for the very first Women of St. Patrick's gathering on Wednesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars now and watch the bulletin for more information on an exciting evening. Child care will be provided.

If you are interested in getting in on the planning stages of the reorganization of the Women's group, you are welcome to attend the meeting on Thursday, Mar. 12, at 7 p.m. in the lounge.

Be reconciled

From page 1

If this line of thought makes sense to you, you might find yourself coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation saying something like this: "I've been trying to focus on X, but it's been hard because of this sinful thing in me. I need God's grace and forgiveness to continue." Friendship and harmony will be restored indeed!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Chris Whippo

Texas Caviar

- 2 cans hominy, drained and rinsed
- 2 cans black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 1 onion or 6 green onions, chopped
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow pepper, chopped
- 1 can diced tomatoes, drained



Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Optional: Add just enough salad dressing of your choice to coat ingredients and give the mixture flavor. Store in a covered container. Serve with scoop-shaped corn chips, or as a salad on a bed of lettuce.

* * *

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!

St. Patrick's Parish March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 AM Parish Community Life Ministries 9:15 AM Rel Ed. 10:30 AM Children's Mass 3:00 PM Web Site 6:00 PM CREW Mission Meeting 6:30 PM Jr. and Sr. High Reconciliation 6:00 PM Young Adults 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study	2 1:30 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM VIVO/CREW Parents Night 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality	3 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Cursillo Meeting, Mass 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Great Adventure Bible Study	4 12:00 PM Men's Book Club 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM Peace and Justice Ministries 6:30 PM Religious Education, St. Joe 7:00 PM Baptism Preparation 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Re-Membering Church	5 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Building and Grounds 6:30 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA Cursillo Retreat	6 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 5:15 PM Stations 5:30 PM K of C  Cursillo Retreat	7 10:00 AM CREW Bible and Breakfast 6:15 PM Great Dates Cursillo Retreat
8 8:30-9:15 AM and 10:00-10:45 AM CREW Service Auction 9:15 AM Religious Education 10:30 AM Children's Mass 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study 6:30 PM Vivo Cursillo Retreat	9 1:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality 7:00 PM Young Adults	10 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Financial Affairs 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Great Adventure Bible Study	11 9:30 AM Schola 4:30 PM Bible Study 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustSkills 6:30 PM Religious Education, St. Joe 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Re-Membering Church	12 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM CREW, Social Justice 6:30 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM Women of St. Patrick's 7:00 PM Young Adults	13 10:30 AM Mass, Care Center 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 5:15 PM Stations 5:30 PM K of C  Cursillo Retreat	14 9:00 AM Holy Week Planning 10:00 AM CREW Bible and Breakfast 6:00 PM St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party
15 8:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 AM Religious Education 10:15 AM Knights of Columbus 1:30 PM St. Patrick's Day Parish Celebration 6:30 PM CREW, Vivo 6:30 PM Leaders Bible Study	16 1:30 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM CREW SALT Training 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality	17 St. Patrick's Day 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Great Adventure Bible Study	18 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustSkills 6:30 PM Religious Education, St. Joe 7:00 PM Re-Membering Church	19 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 1:00 PM Cards, Coffee, and Conversation 6:30 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Communications 7:00 PM Parish Council 7:00 PM RCIA 7:00 PM Young Adults	20 10:30 AM Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 5:15 PM Stations 5:30 PM K of C  Cursillo Retreat	21 10:00 AM CREW Bible and Breakfast 5:00 PM Anointing of the Sick during Mass
22 8:30 AM Library Open 7:30, 9, 10:30 AM, 12 PM Anointing of the Sick during Mass	23 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality	24 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Taizé Prayer Service	25 9:30 AM Schola 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustSkills 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Re-Membering Church	26 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM RCIA	27 10:00 AM Shawl Ministry 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH 5:15 PM Stations 5:30 PM K of C  Cursillo Retreat	28 10:00 AM CREW Bible and Breakfast
29 8:30 AM Library Open	30 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Women's Spirituality	31 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Communal Reconciliation	<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>The deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is March 15.</p>			