

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



They were drawn by God: Meet the Neophytes

Elizabeth Hendricks expresses well how our new Catholics (neophytes) were drawn to Catholicism and St. Patrick's community: "Not having attended any church regularly since childhood, I was apprehensive, but from the very first I felt welcomed at St. Patrick's. This community is so rich in warmth, friendliness, inspiration, and humor. I love that there is room for both the deeply serious and the deeply funny. I like the emphasis on social justice. And the music—wonderful music, and almost everyone sings!"

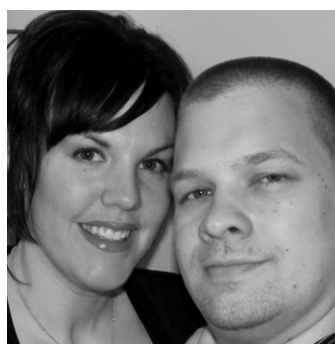


Elizabeth's husband, Jerry Walsh, is a cradle Catholic who joined our parish about five years ago. When their children were baptized two years ago, their older son wanted his mother to become Catholic too. Elizabeth soon "began to feel an affinity for the form and ritual of the Mass. The readings and homilies so often connected

right with thoughts and concerns I was having." Becoming Catholic "made sense since I was going to be raising my children as Catholics, and I loved the Mass and so many other things." However, she was still uncertain. "Over time, though, it became clear to me that I was feeling a call, and when I walked into my first RCIA meeting I knew I was ready."

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults began with Inquiry sessions in October. Since then, those we now call neophytes have been instructed in our faith by Fr. Joe and supported on their journey by the RCIA team, by their sponsors, and by our prayers. On the first Sunday of Lent they responded to God's invitation to become members of the Catholic Church, and during the Easter Vigil they did just that, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion.

"I was looking for a church when I met my wife," shares **Gabriel Bedient**. Sarah is Catholic and a member of



St. Patrick's parish. "She answered many of the initial questions I had about the Catholic faith and corrected many misconceptions. I was interested and wanted to learn more, so I joined the RCIA."

Gabriel and Sarah live in Champaign and were married at St. Patrick's last October. He is employed in

an IT department of a large corporation with a branch in Champaign. Sarah will finish her Bachelor's degree this summer at EIU. They have a "beautiful 6-year-old baby dog named Labby who is spoiled, but not spoiled rotten. Sarah is an artist and we love to spend time in nature."

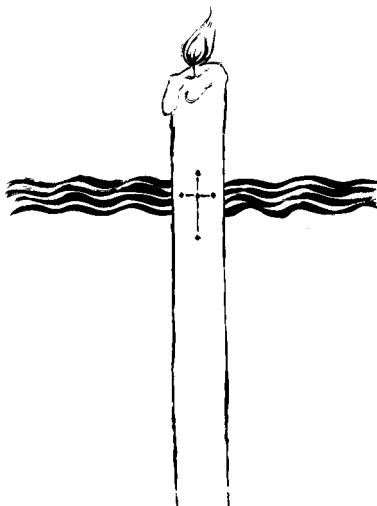
"After neglecting my faith for a number of years I found I had a hole in my life," says **Hayden Webster**.

"So when I became engaged to a beautiful cradle Catholic and we both moved to Urbana, it seemed right that I start my faith journey



again. St. Pat's is a beautiful church with a close-knit family, which is just what we were looking for."

Hayden is from New Zealand and works at the UI Veterinary School as a large-animal vet while pursuing a Master's degree. "I love anything outdoors, I am a huge rugby fan, and I am looking forward to starting married life in August."



Come and get the "scoop"!

Something exciting is happening at St. Patrick's. And, if you're a female parishioner over the age of 18, it's all about you—

more specifically, what God can do for and through you.

The group called **The Women of St. Patrick's** is seeking the participation of all the women of the parish to help live out its three guiding principles: Service, Spiritual Enrichment, and Socializing.

Want to know more? You are invited to attend a kick-off event on Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. There you can get the "scoop," that is,

Women of St. Patrick's



**Spirituality
Service
Social**

more information about the group, as well as a delicious ice cream sundae. Babysitting will be provided.

Mary Hogan,

Fr. Joe's sister, will say a few words. The Women of St. Patrick's board members, Kathy McKenzie, Chris Whippo, Stephanie Smith, Rachael McMillan, Molly Pankau, and Teresa Rund, will introduce themselves and suggest how you can be a part of this exciting group.

Any of these women will be happy to speak with you about the event, or call the parish office (367-2665) for additional information.

Hope to see you there!

Blessings, blossoms, and beads

St. Patrick's celebrates Rosary Week on May 9-14, with the theme "Meditating on the Life of Christ." On Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10, please **bring your rosary to Mass** to have it blessed. Since this is also Mother's Day, mothers will also be blessed, and flowers will be provided to honor Mary, our Blessed Mother. Rosaries will be available to take home, along with a booklet on how to pray the rosary.

On Monday and Tuesday, May 11 and 12, at 6:30 p.m., Sr. Sarah Roy from the U of I Newman Center will make a short presentation on the mysteries of the rosary. Wednesday, May 13, features a trip to the shrine of Our Lady of the Snows near Belleville, Ill. On Thursday, May 14, at 6:30, all are invited to gather to pray the Living Rosary outdoors, with each person representing a bead in the rosary. The

Young Adult group will enact each decade of the Glorious Mysteries. After each evening event, a parish ministry offers a dessert reception.

If you have a spare rosary at home, please consider donating it to the parish for distribution to those who don't have one. Just drop it off at the parish center. If you like, include a note about its history, whose it was or the occasion for which it was given.

In preparation for Rosary Week, rosary-making workshops will be held on Monday, April 20, 7-9 p.m., and Wednesday, April 22, 8-11 a.m. You'll be able to take home the necessary materials to make rosaries for yourself and to share with other parishioners.

The rosary is indeed a wonderful way to reflect on the life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary, his mother and ours.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

The Communications Committee is looking for a volunteer to send *The Catholic Post* brief notices about upcoming parish events for its "Around the Diocese" feature. Information about these events will be provided by the committee. *Margaret Stewart, 356-9475*

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



Parish groups can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or by contacting Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu).

Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of your group.

Cards, Coffee and Conversation continues

May's CCC gathering is on **Wed. May 20, 1 p.m.** in the St. Matthew room beside the Library. Card players of any kind are welcome, as are those of you who would just like to visit a bit. As always, light refreshments will be served. For questions, contact Chris Whippo at 352-7263.

You've elected four to the Parish Council

When all the ballots had been carefully tabulated, checked, and double-checked, the results were clear: parishioners elected to three-year terms on the Parish Council are Susan Fowler, Mark Gerhart, Jeff Kneer, and Lakshmi Lancaster.

They will fill vacancies created by the departing Jack Collins, Mary Karten, Cynthia Morgan, and Ellen Noonan, whose terms expire in May.

The new members will be seated at the Council's May meeting. Their first responsibility will be to participate in the election of Council officers for the coming year.

This year over 700 parishioners marked their choices on ballots distributed during the announcements at all Masses on April 18-19. After each Mass, Council members collected the ballots and tallied the votes.

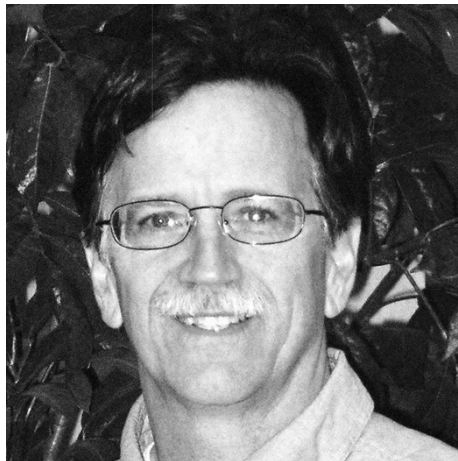
Congratulations to our new Council members, with thanks to all the candidates, who made the choices difficult for voters! And thanks to the outgoing Council members for their generous and faithful service to our parish community!



Susan Fowler



Jeff Kneer



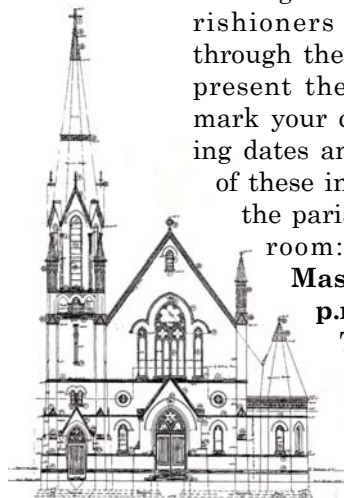
Mark Gerhart



Lakshmi Lancaster

"Honoring our past, building our future"

In recent months, the Second Century Advisory Committee (SCAC) has met several times to review the results of the feasibility study completed last December and to discuss next steps. In general, the feasibility study indicated that parishioners were in favor of the proposed master plan to expand the church and parish center, and in agreement with a two-phased approach to the project. At the same time, the study indicated a need to reduce the overall scope and size of the plan. Thus, in recent months, the



SCAC has met with Stauder Architecture to develop a modified Phase One plan that will focus on the church expansion.

The committee will host several meetings in early May to update parishioners on what was learned through the feasibility study and to present the modified plan. Please mark your calendars for the following dates and be sure to attend one of these informational meetings in the parish center's multipurpose room: **May 2-3 after all Masses, May 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we continue to plan for the future of St. Patrick's Parish.

Although attempting to bring about world peace through the internal transformation of individuals is difficult, it is the only way.

~Dalai Lama, 1991



Easter Greetings...

...from our Sister Church

Dear friends:

I write you some words to greet you this Easter which we will celebrate with joy, very near to you in our spirit, in our prayers, and in our thanks to God for His gifts, especially known in our celebration of the gift of his Resurrection.

For the preparation of this feast we did many things in our parish. We had a reunion with thirty families. Other families too went to these thirty houses, so we finally had encounters with many more families. The priests of the Seminary and some seminarians went to these houses to pray with the families and to talk with them about Lent, a time of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. Also we had, more or less in the middle of Lent, forty hours of adoration in two days with the people of our parish. This has been a great time to grow in the love of our Lord Jesus, being with Him for many hours near the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. At the end of March, the Patriarch came to celebrate with us the feast of our Parish.

With this letter I wanted to tell you these things with our best wishes of doing it very near you. Our Lord has risen and He has opened for us the doors of Heaven. Dear friends, congratulations for the next Easter feast. Very near you in our Lord Jesus Christ, your friend,

Fr. Nidal Qanzou'a



Elizabeth Ministry, being a mom isn't always easy

Mothers experiencing difficult challenges in parenting now have a lifeline through the parish's newly organized Elizabeth Ministry.

The fatigue of caring for a newborn, the stress of coping with a rebellious adolescent, or the sorrow accompanying a miscarriage are but some of the concerns that the Elizabeth Ministry addresses. The ministry now includes about ten volunteers who are themselves mothers. They have received training to meet one-on-one with other mothers who are beset with these and other problems of parenthood, such as infertility, caring for a special-needs



child, or concerns about adoption.

The Ministry is guided by the story of the Visitation and the example of Elizabeth and Mary, who loved and supported each other. The volunteers are prepared to provide nonjudgmental support and reassurance. Individually, they represent a wide range of ages and parenting experiences.

Expectant families, both biological and adoptive, will receive a special blessing at a Sunday mass in May. A commemorative token of the occasion will be presented to each family.

If you'd like to meet with a volunteer or to become a volunteer yourself, contact Pastoral Associate Amy Jobin (367-2665) or ministry coordinator Erin Dunn (erindunn3@hotmail.com).

Read a good book, share reflections

The St. Patrick's Adult Education Book Series has offered a fine selection of books for reading this spring for your adult spiritual growth. Written from a variety of perspectives, they offer an opportunity to better know ourselves and our relation with God.

It's not too late to join in. 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.

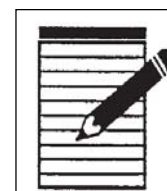
Mountains beyond Mountains, by Tracey Kidder, is the last of the books in the current selection and



is offered for reading in 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.

To 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).



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is May 17.

Beyond the Pew

Mark your calendar for one of the biggest gatherings of Catholics our area has ever experienced: ***Catholic Connected: Beyond the Pew, June 3,***

7 p.m., at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana.

Catholic Connected originated last Spring when C-U parishes collaborated to bring to the Virginia Theatre the pre-screening of the movie "The Human Experience." Over 800 people attended that first event. During the Fall 2008 pastors' gathering, Fr. Joe suggested that we occasionally bring together Catholics of the Champaign Vicariate to strengthen our larger community through prayer, community building, and sharing of the Faith. We are now officially up and running, with the Catholic Connected team made up of representatives of the vicariate's 19 parishes.

The first event is set for June 3 at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. There are three parts to the evening. The featured event will be a presentation by Bishop Daniel Jenky. There will also be an all-area choir concert and sing-along. The evening will end with a reception in the Krannert Center lobby. There is no charge for this event, although a free-will offering on the night of the event



will be requested. Funds from the diocesan Sheen Grant have also been procured.

The CC Team is providing each parish with bulletin inserts and

posters to advertise the event. Parishes will also receive free "ticket nametags" for distribution to those who call in. The nametags will be worn the evening of the event so people can get to know one another. All parishioners are encouraged to attend—there is a 2000-seat auditorium to fill!

Every parish is also creating a banner to be displayed over the stage at Krannert. Jan Callahan of St. Patrick's Urbana Liturgical Arts Team has ordered the fabric and distributed the banners to each parish for their own design. The Liturgical Arts Team will design St. Patrick's banner.

Music Director Laura Theby and the music director from St. John's Catholic Chapel are organizing the choir, which will be made up of all the parish choirs.

This is the first of what we hope will be an annual Vicariate event. We plan to bring in major speakers for the Catholics of East Central Illinois. We hope that every Catholic in the area will take part in this groundbreaking event.



Lenten Project. Pendo Blasio from Tanzania, East Africa, is the sponsored child of The High School of St. Thomas More. She is now in fourth grade and has been able to receive a solid Catholic education because of students' generosity. Donations for Pendo's tuition at St. Peter Claver Grade School have been collected through the theology classes. Lenten contributions above the cost of tuition will be used toward building a new orphanage. Orphans sponsored at St. Peter Claver have nowhere to live and must return to Angel Home Orphanage during school vacations. Pictures and more information will be available at www.hs-stm.org. Students are encouraged to give from their own spending money to help a child in need. God has blessed them with generosity during Lent.

Twilight Gala. Saturday, April 18, was St. Thomas More's Annual Gala, "Show Your Stripes: American Sabers." This fundraiser included something for everyone: a raffle, live and silent auctions, county-fair games, lemonade shake-ups, a good old-fashioned cake walk, and live entertainment by STM's highly talented music and drama departments.

Did you know . . .?

- A Mass in Vietnamese is now celebrated once a month at St. Patrick's - a wonderful opportunity for our Vietnamese friends to celebrate together and in their own language.
- The deadline for submitting announcements for the parish bulletin is now 4 p.m. on Wednesday, roughly ten days before the weekend it is intended for. Submit bulletin announcements through the staff member for your group's ministry.
- Items left in the church over the weekend are taken on Monday morning to the parish office (367-2665) and added to the Lost and Found collection of scarves, caps, gloves, sweaters, missals, prayer books, and more - waiting to be claimed by their owners. Keys were turned in last week!
- Spring is here at last, as evidenced by birds singing to greet the sunrise, longer days, greener grass, and defiantly blooming flowers. It's time to service the lawnmower!

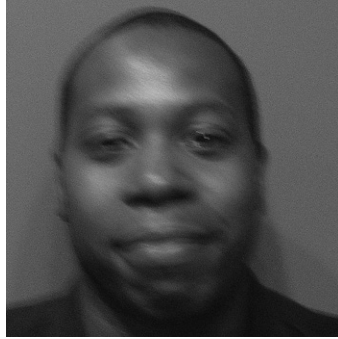
Calendar:

- May 2: Prom
- May 6: Fine Arts Night
- May 17: Graduation
- May 22: School ends

Neophytes from page 1

“What caused me to inquire into the Catholic faith was my wife, Jenny, and coming to church with her and my son, Jonathan Palmisano,” shares **Keithon Flintroy**. “What attracted me was listening to Fr. Joe speak the words of the Lord. It made me want to hear more and learn more about our Lord, Jesus Christ.”

“I’m a very understanding, easy-going, laid-back person with a good sense of humor. My interest is to become one with the Lord, to love the Lord, to love myself, my wife, and son. I look forward to everything that the Lord brings into my life.”

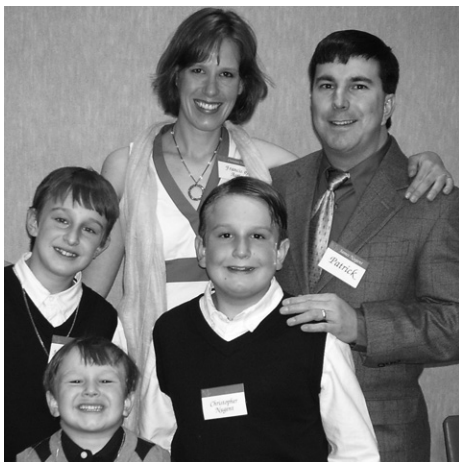


According to **Andy Roberts**, “I ‘inherited’ my faith from my parents but stopped practicing in college. I started attending St. Pat’s about three years ago with my wife. Since we were attending regularly, I decided to find out more about the faith—and now I’m Catholic!”



Andy is the afternoon personality “Dangerboy” on WIXY 100.3 FM. He met his wife when the station gave a date with Dangerboy. “I’ve lived in C-U for ten years and we don’t plan on leaving.” Andy really likes running: he has run five marathons and hopes to run a 30-miler in the future, perhaps even a triathlon. “I’m an Eagle Scout and, even though we don’t have kids, I’m a Cub Scout volunteer. It’s a good excuse to eat s’mores and hot dogs.”

Christie and Jimmy Nugent and their three boys, Joshua, Christopher, and Matthew, came into the Church together at Easter. Jimmy reports that “Christie’s friend Ann is Catholic, and Christie spent a lot of time asking Ann questions because she had never known a Catholic before and had a LOT of questions. Everything she talked about made sense and an interest in attending Mass began to grow.” So Jimmy and Christie took their children to Mass at St. Patrick’s because the church was closest



to their home—and it was the one Ann had recommended. “After the first Mass we attended we were certain we wanted to become Catholic. So a year and a half later we are here to join.”

Christie stays at home with their three sons, aged 6, 9, and 12. She enjoys home remodeling, reading fiction, Pilates, yoga, cycling, drawing, and painting. Jimmy is an engineer for Lyondell Basell. He enjoys chess, reading, billiards, and ping-pong.

“My wife and I have been attending St. Pat’s for about two years now,” shares **Christopher Stack**. “She is a cradle Catholic, and I had always discussed with her my desire to attend RCIA. She was very understanding, never pushy, and allowed me to make the decision on my own.”



Christopher’s son, Anthony, was baptized by Fr. Joe in April 2007. His daughter, Jessyka, 11, is now a server at Mass. Both Jessyka and her sister, Sophia, 7, participate in religious education at St. Patrick’s. Christopher is a Network Security Engineer at the U.S. Army CERL in Champaign. His interests include spending time with his family (always number one) and hobbies that are “computer related” (Jessyka says he is a giant computer geek). A Marine Corps veteran of six years and life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Christopher coaches basketball for his daughter’s team.

Christopher admits that his primary motivation for joining RCIA was the fact that he was “raising three Catholic children and wanted to be the best example possible for them. This way they would not grow up to be in the dark about their spirituality, as I always felt I was.”

Christopher has come to realize that “the real reason for one to desire RCIA is a profound personal decision and a powerful calling that we are blessed to realize. It is every bit as important for me as for my children. I continue to grow spiritually due in great part to the wonderful community of St. Patrick’s and the RCIA team. I am proud to be a member of St. Patrick’s and to soon be a celebrating member of the Catholic Church.”

“I came in after going to Cursillo. I am now living in Urbana and know many members here,” says **Ron Eagan**. Ron has three children, Ron Jr., Jeremy, and Elizabeth, and three grandchildren, Hope, Ceselie, and Nickolas. Ron married Lillian Bolton in 1972 but has been a widower



since 2002.

Steve Altaner has attended St. Patrick's with his wife, Judy (a cradle Catholic), for about ten years. "I have always seen St. Patrick's as a warm, open, and accepting community. Our family greatly appreciated the overwhelming kindness shown us in our time of need several years ago. I've learned some about the Catholic faith over the years just by attending Mass and interacting with the priests and parishioners. I decided it was time to make the step to becoming Catholic."

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Steve was raised on the East Coast, particularly in the "Chocolatetown" of Hershey, Penn. He has three brothers, including a twin. Judy Altaner formerly taught high school Earth Science, but is now a stay-at-home mom. The Altaners have three children, Sam, 21, a student at the U of I, Lisa, 6, a Holy Cross student, and Marissa, 3, their "Energizer Bunny." Steve is a geology professor at the U of I. He enjoys teaching, running, the Indigo Girls, and, like a certain pastor we know, the Chicago Cubs. "This is THE year!" he insists.

Dawn Morrison is married to the "most wonderful and goofy" Nick Josefik, a Catholic. She has been going to church with him for many years now.

"When Nick and I were married last year, I learned—quite to my dismay—that I had never been baptized. Not only did this fact greatly disturb me for my own sake, but more upsetting is that according to the Church, my not being baptized prevented Nick from receiving the sacrament of Matrimony. (It also meant that our marriage was eligible for a de facto annulment, and as I keep telling Nick, we need to close that loop so that he can never be rid of me easily!) Thus, baptism became a top priority for me, both for my own sake and for Nick's."

Dawn and Nick both work for the Army Corps of Engineers (CERL), where Nick is an engineer dealing with fuel cells and alternative energy. Dawn is a cultural geographer focusing on urban modeling. "We both greatly enjoy sports, including walking, canoeing, basketball, and biking, as well as following professional teams, especially the Chicago Bulls."

Dawn hopes that St. Patrick's can help Nick with his "disability": he is a Chicago Bears fan, while she loves the Green Bay Packers. She compares the Bears to an

opossum ("both play dead at home and get killed on the road") and unfavorably to a dollar bill ("at least the bill gives you four quarters").

Dawn speaks for many of our neophytes when she says about her decision to become a Catholic, "First, I don't think that I chose the Catholic Church so much as it chose me—through my relationship with Nick, my many Catholic friends, and the incredible sense of rightness and community that I feel every time I step through the doors of the church. Second, what attracted me to St. Patrick's was the community, especially Father Joe."

Others who came into the Church this Holy Saturday evening are **Ryan Crackel**; **Beckie, Eric, and Erica Heller**; and **Misty Taylor**.

Once you get to know these new members of our Catholic family, you will appreciate each of them as individuals who have chosen to join us on our own journey of faith. Welcome them into their new parish home!



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Erica Heller



Misty Taylor



Ryan Crackel

St Patrick's Day celebration, revisited

Our chronicle of our parish celebrations of St. Patrick's Day, begun in last month's In Focus, concludes with more photos and the following account of the festivities prepared by the organizing committee.

The 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parish celebration was held on March 14-15, with a dinner party on Saturday night and fun for the family on Sunday afternoon. Over a hundred revelers enjoyed the dinner dance. Dinner was accompanied by a 3-piece Irish band consisting of keyboard, squeezebox, and penny whistle. Classic Events catered the dinner of corned beef and cabbage, marinated chicken, and red potatoes, with a full salad bar provided by volunteers and a variety of desserts from our very own St. Pat's Bakers.

After dinner, the St. Patrick's Irish Baritones serenaded the crowd with a number of favorite Irish ballads. The local vocals were followed by several hours of music provided by a DJ, an amiable backdrop for partygoers to talk, mingle, and dance. The DJ enticed dozens at a time to show off their moves with the Electric Slide, YMCA, and several line dances.

Sunday's activities were broader, keeping children happy as well with crafts and desserts. The skillful Cosa Meara Irish Dancers from the U of I provided the children with their first lessons in Irish dance. Along with her friends, our own ventriloquist Hannah Leskosky captured their imaginations and had the adults laughing along. Bingo provided opportunities for good fortune and fun for children and adults alike. Finally, a caricaturist enthralled the children until the floors were cleaned and the lights turned off.

It was a weekend packed full of fun and great opportunities for sharing with family and friends. Mark your calendars for next year and make sure to join the fun!

Credit for the celebration's success lies in the participation and help of parishioners, in particular the volunteers who helped organize, decorate, cook, clean, and lead. The organizing committee, Laura and Don Keefer and Denise and Chris Freidhof, thank all for their hard work and support. "This kind of contribution makes St. Patrick's a great community to be a part of!"





Parish Council News

Four members of the St. Patrick's Parish Council were thanked for their three years of service to the parish, during the Parish Council's regular meeting April 16. New



Parish Council members, replacing outgoing members Cynthia Morgan, Mary Price, Ellen Noonan, and Jack Collins, were to be elected during the Parish Council elections April 18 and 19. The new Parish Council members will begin their terms at the May 21 meeting.

In other business, Ellen Amberg, representing the Second Century Committee, reported on the results of the feasibility study for the church addition. This included parishioners' reactions, the estimated gift analysis, and the recommendations of Joseph Consulting, which conducted the study. She also shared revised drawings and floor plans of the proposed addi-

tion. Both the results of the feasibility study and the new drawings will be shared with parishioners during meetings May 2 and 3 after Masses, and on May 6 and 7.

In an effort to learn more about the communication tools that are used to keep parishioners informed about parish happenings, the Parish Council heard from Mary Lou Menches, a member of the Communications Committee. She shared several details about the history and current workings of the newsletter, including:

- *In Focus* started as an 8- or 12-page tabloid newspaper approximately 28 years ago. At the time, all parish households received it in the mail.

- At one time, all of the children in the middle-school religious education program were required to write an article for *In Focus*,

giving a young voice and outlook to the newsletter.

- Currently three people share editing responsibilities for *In Focus*; a fourth is being trained.

- Since color copies are now the same price as black-and-white, there will probably be more color in the newsletter, when it has been redesigned.

- The committee tries to involve as many people in each issue as possible.

- It has been four or five years since the committee has conducted a survey about what people would like to see in the parish newsletter; they may consider distributing a new survey in the near future.

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The next meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 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.

Holy Cross Happenings

Holy Cross produced another musical spectacular: **Willy Wonka**. 136 students from kindergarten through 8th grade—and one teacher—starred in four performances on April 2-4. Cameo appearances included Gary Wszalek as the Candy Man, as well as several teachers and administrators. Fr. Willard and Fr. Joe Hogan even appeared as Oompa Loompas! This grand production would not have been possible without the support and assistance of innumerable parent volunteers.

Congratulations to sixth-grader **George Pennacchi**, who qualified for the state level of the National Geography Bee in Chicago. Good luck, George!

Calendar:

May 2, 10 a.m.: First Communion

May 19, 1 p.m.: Honors Day Assembly in Holy Cross Gym

May 20, 7 p.m.: Graduation Mass for eighth grade, reception following in Holy Cross Parish Center

May 29: Last day of school





Q: My sister's parish is having something called a "May Crowning"—can you tell me what this is?

A: May is the month for Catholics to honor their two mothers—their earthly one, who gave birth to them, and their spiritual mother, Mary. Traditionally one day in May is chosen for a devotion called a May Crowning, when a statue of Mary is crowned in recognition of her heavenly position as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Parishes in the United States began holding May Crownings in the early 1900s with processions, singing, flowers, and prayers. One might see girls in pretty dresses carrying flowers in a church procession, one of them placing a wreath of flowers atop a statue of Mary. Singing the "crowning hymn" by Mary E. Walsh ("Bring Flowers of the Rarest") became a ritual standard, with its refrain: "O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May." Often the ceremony includes praying the rosary or the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Today this devotional ceremony is less commonly experienced in parish churches, although it does persist in many places, especially where there are Catholic schools. Boys and girls are more likely to share the honor of placing the crown, and sometimes the First Communion class serves as an honor guard.

In the home, the family might prepare a simple May altar—a space reserved for a statue of Mary, perhaps with a candle or two and fresh flowers—in a prominent place, and children could be helped to make a small wreath for the crowning.

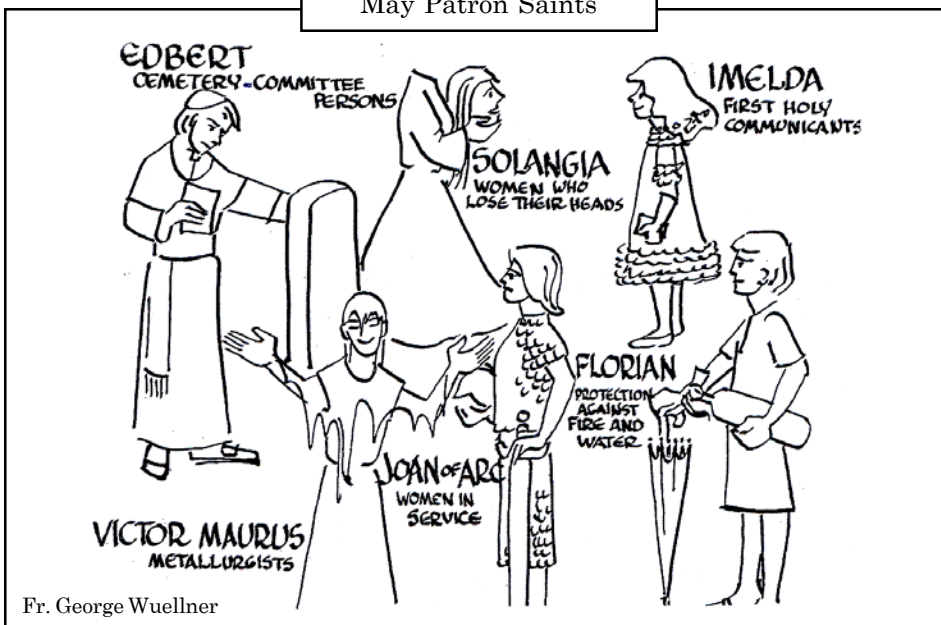
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Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.



Heavenly Father, we pray you, call many men and women to serve you. Call them from our families, our parish, and our community to care for those who do not know you. Make them messengers of your love. Give them fervor, sanctity, and determination to serve and love your Church. Help those who have abandoned the priesthood; guide, protect, and bring them under the umbrella of your nurturing love. Help those who labor in your service. Keep them faithful in their ministry, constantly growing in love for you and for all they serve in your name. Amen.

May Patron Saints



Welcome to new parishioners Ana and Michael Hernandez, Lisa Muszynski, Charles and Kate Nadolski, Eric and Mickalei Lindquist, Allan and Russia Vega, James and Kena Hahn, Jarrod and Megan Beedy, Kathryn Spila, and Lilibeth and Roger Agor.

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

And you thought our grown-ups were busy!

The school year is winding down quickly. The children of St. Patrick's religious education programs have been busy since the start of it, learning their catechism and applying what they've learned.

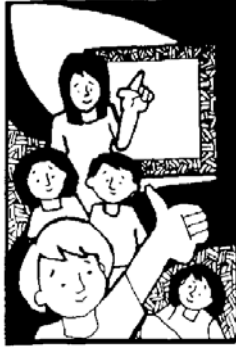
From the younger children's program, 32 new little faces now participate in the celebration of the Eucharist after completing their First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Also, students in different grades helped to raise funds for Heifer International, an organization which provides livestock and other agricultural products to people in third-world countries. The program seeks to educate these citizens on how to sustain and enrich their food supply.

Suzanne D'Andria, coordinator of the parish's religious education program for children, reports that over 200 children are enrolled this year, including 75 who attend classes on Wednesday evenings at St. Joseph Middle School. She credits an amazing group of volunteer catechists for making the program—which she states is growing every year—a success.

Peggy Loftus reports that the senior-high group, CREW, has had a similarly exciting and successful year. The theme of religious education for our parish teens this year was "Christian morality." One lesson, for example, was a three-way debate about whether illegally downloaded music constitutes theft.

CREW entertained guest speakers Gary Laumann and Sharon Monday-Dorsey, who spoke about social justice, Dorothy Day, and the Catholic Worker movement. For the local Catholic Worker House, the group raised funds for Christmas decorations. They are also helping to build a shed for Habitat for Humanity.

Peggy says CREW has had a "decently successful" year raising funds for its annual mission trip. CREW thanks parishioners for steadfastly supporting fundraisers such as the



sale of fresh evergreens at Christmas time, the Be Crazy with Crew dinner, the More Great Dates Babysitting Nights, and the service auction. On this year's mission trip, July 12-17, CREW members will join MIFA, the Metropolitan InterFaith Association, to deliver Meals on Wheels

and to repair homes in the Memphis area.

In October CREW took a trip to Chicago to see the Blue Man Group; the next social event planned is this spring at a 4-H park in Monticello.



Vivo, the junior-high program, also had a good year. This group collected luggage to donate to Catholic Charities' foster care program and hosted a parent-teen night featuring "The Newly Teen Game."

The next event on the horizon for parish youth aged 4-10 will be Vacation Bible School, the week of June 22-26, on the theme "Son Rock Kid's Camp." Those 11 years old or older who'd like to join in the fun are invited to help as volunteers. Vacation Bible School will lead into the parish's Summer Festival, another great activity for St. Patrick's families and individuals to participate in.

Parishioner a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate

David Zola has been a member of St. Patrick's Parish for thirty years. He lives in Champaign with his wife, Susan, and three children, Sarah (15), Anne (12), and Luke (12). He is a faculty member of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois; Susan is the principal of Jefferson Middle School in Champaign.

In June 2007, David and Susan attended an informational presentation in Peoria about the Permanent Diaconate ministry within the Diocese of Peoria. They were intrigued by the presentation, and after prayerful consideration applied for the program.

Over the past 18 months, they have participated in 12 Friday-through-Sunday sessions in Peoria with 33 other couples exploring this ministry. They gather monthly during the academic year for scholarly and reflective presentations of inquiry. Their time together is meant to discern a calling and to acquire



Catholic foundational knowledge.

On March 7, David was admitted to candidacy for the diaconate, completing the initial stage of the program. He and Susan will continue to discern this ministerial calling over the next three years of serious prayer and study. They are committed to continue with this program.

They find the weekends in Peoria both enriching and informative. Their reading and study have deepened their Roman Catholic background knowledge and their individual spirituality. They truly enjoy the time spent with the other couples from around the diocese, and with the teaching staff under Msgr. Charles Beebe's leadership.

David acknowledges a debt of gratitude to Fr. Joe Hogan and the parish for support in this ministerial exploration. He pledges that he and Susan will continue to pray about their response to the Diaconate Ministry as they participate in the Peoria weekends.



in our parish library

May is one of the traditional months that the Church has dedicated to special devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Here are some books to help deepen your love for our Blessed Mother.

Miryam of Nazareth, by Ann Johnson. Call number 813.54 Joh. In an easy-reading free-verse style, we look into the mind and heart of Mary of Nazareth.

The World's Great Madonnas, by Cynthia Maus. Call number 808.6 Mau. An anthology presenting the Mother of our Lord through pictures, poetry, stories, and music.

Mary at the Foot of the Cross, Teacher and Example of Holiness, by James Cardinal Hickey. Call number 232.93 Hic. A retreat given to Pope John Paul II and the papal household.

The Rosary, a Path into Prayer, by Liz Kelly. Call number 242 Kel. The practical as well as the spiritual benefits that this often misunderstood prayer can have for modern life.

The World's First Love, by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Call number 232.93

She. Bishop Sheen masterfully portrays the many facets of womanhood in the life of Mary, the Mother of God.

Mary in our Life, by William Most. Call number 232.93 Mos. A study that shows Mary's place in the plan of God, and how we too can make our lives harmonize with God's plan.

Children's Books

The Life of Mary, by Louis Savary. Call number C932 Mar. Even though she is very special, Mary is also a very real and believable human person.

Mary Mother of Jesus, by Mary Joslin and Alison Wisenfeld. Call number C921. A timeless story with an enduring message of love.

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If you would like to donate books on the parish library's wish list, please contact Lori Mestre (365-9994), library team coordinator. 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.

Our Vietnamese community will conduct a search for the first Vietnamese American Idol on Saturday, May 23. The contest will take place in the main hall, St. Patrick's parish center. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; the participation fee is \$10.



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 Ellen Amberg, Nancy Costa, Pat Fettig, Katie Hinrichs, Don and Laura Keefer, Mary Long, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Carole Rebeiz, Zoila Risatti, Cathy Salika, Stephanie Smith, Margaret Stewart, Mary Welle, Chris Whippo, Joseph Youakim, and David Zola. May saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune and pagged by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Zoila Risatti

Frozen Cranberry Banana Salad

- 20-oz can pineapple tidbits
- 5 medium firm bananas, halved lengthwise and sliced
- 16-oz can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1/2 c sugar
- 20-oz carton frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1/2 c chopped walnuts

Drain pineapple juice into a medium bowl; set pineapple aside. Soak bananas in the juice. In a large bowl, combine cranberry sauce and sugar. Drain bananas and add them to



the cranberry mixture. Stir in pineapple, whipped topping, and nuts. Pour into a 13 x 9 x 2 inch dish. Freeze until solid. Remove from freezer 15 minutes before cutting. Yields 12-16 servings.

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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 is easy and quick to prepare!

St. Patrick's Parish

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the calendar is prepared in advance, be sure to check the bulletin to confirm dates and times.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is May 17.</p>					<p>1 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH</p> <p>Just Skills Closing Retreat</p>	<p>2 6:00 PM Revised Plans for Church Expansion</p> <p>Just Skills Closing Retreat</p>
<p>3 After All Masses: Revised Plans for Church Expansion 10:30 AM Children's Mass 11:30 AM Religious Education Picnic 3:00 PM Web Site 6:00 PM Mission Planning 6:30 PM Teen Mass, CREW & Vivo Party</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>5 1:00 PM Great Adventure Bible Study 6:30 PM Mystagogia 7:00 PM Great Adventure Bible Study</p>	<p>6 12:00 PM Men's Book Club 1:00 PM Cream Puffs with Sophia 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustMatters 6:30 PM Peace and Justice 7:00 PM Revised Plans, Church Expansion 7:00 PM Baptism Prep 7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>7 National Day of Prayer 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Building and Grounds 6:30 PM JustFaith 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Revised Plans, Church Expansion</p>	<p>8 10:30 AM Mass, Care Center 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH</p>	<p>9 6:00 PM Great Dates</p> <p>Rosary Week Observance at Mass</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day</p> <p>Rosary Week Observance at All Masses</p>	<p>11 6:30 PM Rosary Week: Sr. Sarah Roy 7:00 PM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>12 5:30 PM Financial Affairs 6:30 PM Rosary Week: Sr. Sarah Roy 6:30 PM Mystagogia</p>	<p>13 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Rosary Week: Trip to Our Lady of the Snows 9:30 AM Funeral Schola 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustMatters</p>	<p>14 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM CREW, Social Justice 6:30 PM JustFaith 6:30 PM Rosary Week: Living Rosary</p>	<p>15 10:30 AM Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening, "Prepare for a Healthy Summer" 10:15 AM Knights of Columbus</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>19 6:30 PM Mystagogia 6:30 PM Worship Ministries Team 7:00 PM Women of St. Patrick's Social</p>	<p>20 1:00 PM Cards, Coffee, Conversation 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustMatters</p>	<p>21 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM JustFaith 6:45 PM Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM Communications</p>	<p>22 10:00 AM Shawl Ministry 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH</p>	<p>23 Vietnamese Young People Gathering</p>
<p>24 8:30 AM Library Open</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day 7:00 PM Centering Prayer</p>	<p>26 6:30 PM Mystagogia</p>	<p>27 9:30 AM Funeral Schola 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustMatters</p>	<p>28 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM JustFaith</p>	<p>29 10:45 AM Mass, CCNH</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Pentecost 8:30 AM Library Open 5:00 PM Vietnamese Mass</p>						