

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

In Focus



The garden of the saints

The Church is a very human organization but also the garden of God's grace. It is a place where great sanctity keeps blooming. Saints are people who make the living Christ visible to us in a special way.

Some saints have given their lives in the service of Christ and his Church; others have spoken and written words that keep nurturing us; some have lived heroically in difficult situations; others have remained hidden in quiet lives of prayer and meditation; some were prophetic voices calling for renewal; others were spiritual strategists setting up large organizations or networks of people; some were healthy and strong; others were quite sick, and often anxious and insecure.

All of them in their own ways lived in the Church as in a garden where they heard the voice calling them the Beloved and where they found the courage to make Jesus the center of their lives.

—Reflection from J. M. Nouwen's *Bread for the Journey*



Sharing our blessings

Can you believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner? Soon we will be busy planning gatherings with family and friends around tables filled with delicious foods. We will offer prayers of thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received, even during these tough economic times. Yes, we are truly blessed!

But there are many people in our community who will find it difficult, if not impossible, to find the resources to celebrate this great holiday with a wonderful meal. This is where you can be a Thanksgiving Angel.

It has been an annual project of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to make sure that some of the needy in our community are able to participate in the Thanksgiving celebration with a meal while we celebrate with our own family and



friends.

The Thanksgiving "baskets" (actually they're boxes) include such items as a canned ham, vegetables, potatoes or yams, eggs, margarine,

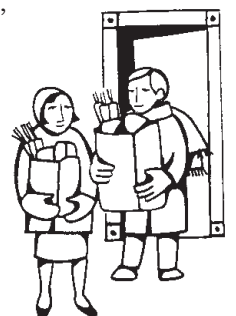
dinner rolls, other goodies, and the traditional pumpkin pie. Last year 250 baskets were distributed to those identified by the Mental Health Center, Family Services, and others.

It is hoped that St. Patrick's parishioners will continue to be generous with donations to cover the cost of the food items. Because of increased food prices, it is estimated that a basket containing the above-mentioned items will cost \$20-\$25. Whether you can help with the cost of one or more baskets or only part of a basket, whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated. Donations should be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving

Baskets" and either placed in the Sunday collection or taken to the parish office. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to share our blessings in the true meaning of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Not only monetary donations are needed. It takes people to get the baskets ready and into the hands of those in need. Volunteers are needed to help assemble the boxes and to fill the boxes with the non-perishable food items. Then, beginning at 8 a.m. sharp on Tuesday, Nov. 24, volunteers are needed to add the refrigerated items and to help deliver the baskets, starting at around 9:30 a.m.

If you can help in any way, please contact Ellen Abell (367-5648).



Where are they, what are they doing now?

In the last few years St. Patrick's has been blessed by the ministry of priests who have served here on a rather temporary basis, growing in the affection of the people they served. Where are they today?

Many of us will remember **Fr. Hoa Pham**, on loan to the Diocese of Peoria (and St. Patrick's) for two years. Following several months in Chicago learning English, he came to us to



assist Fr. Joe with the sacramental needs of the parish: celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, visiting Catholic patients at Carle Hospital, and responding to the needs of our Vietnamese community as only he could. He is back in Vietnam now, serving the Archdiocese of Hue as pastor of Dong Ha Parish—perhaps finding good use for his newly acquired ability to speak English.

Fr. Richard Angolio came to St. Patrick's to assist Fr. Joe until Fr. Hoa's successor was ready for us. Fr. Richard shared elements of his culture with us in homilies and conversations, helping us to understand a bit what



life is like in Nigeria, his home country. While helping with the sacramental needs of the parish, he also found time to participate in parish activities and events—last summer, for instance, he assisted with the presorting of donated items in the brown garage for the Cellar-to-Garret Sale, undeterred by the 90-degree weather. He is currently back in Nigeria, serving at St. Joseph Parish, Kagoro.

Fr. Richard has fond memories of his time with us, saying that he “enjoyed taking Communion to the homebound and to patients at Carle Hospital.” He sends “greetings to my St. Pat's friends.” If you would like to correspond with him, he can be reached by e-mail at rangolio@yahoo.fr or by writing to St. Joseph's Parish / P.O. Box 84, Kagoro / Kaduna State / Nigeria.

On the heels of Fr. Richard's departure, we welcomed **Fr. Stanislaus Mutajwaha**—soon to be known simply as Fr. Stan. During his time with us, Fr. Stan traveled to several places in Illinois and Indiana promoting the cause of the secondary school being built in his home diocese, Bukoba, in Tanzania. But he too assisted our pastor with the sacramental needs



of St. Patrick's parishioners and was quickly integrated into the mainstream of parish life here. A few months before he was due to return to Tanzania, he was asked to serve the people of St. Lawrence, Penfield, in the absence of a pastor until one could be appointed.

Fr. Stan continues his efforts to seek financial support for the Kwauso Secondary School (the name means “Through and to the Honor of His Merciful Face”). He reports that \$29,338 is needed for the roofs of the four buildings “unless inflation strikes before we have done the work.” The water well has only just been completed, at a cost of about \$8,000—the digging alone cost about \$1500. The next job is to get power to the school site. “In this situation,” Fr. Stan writes, “we are not sure whether it will be possible to open the school in January, as we had planned. I shall keep praying that some people can think of contributing to help us.” You can find additional information about the school at www.kwausoschool.blogspot.com.

During this Year for Priests, keep these priests in prayer in gratitude for their generous service. They were all an important part of our lives during their time with us and are warmly remembered for their kindnesses, their great good humor, and their humble service.

Did you know . . . ?

The statue of Mary that now graces the shrine in the back of the church once stood on the shelf in what is now the baptistry, in the front of the church. In recognition of the need for a permanent and prominent location for baptism—the sacrament that brings a person to new life in Christ and as a member of the Body of Christ—the statue of Mary was enshrined where once stood a confessional in the back of the church.

The shrine was designed and crafted by parishioner Nick Britsky, now deceased, who also repainted the statue of Mary to give it a more life-like appearance. The Marian shrine provides a fitting environment and a more accessible place for those devoted to Mary to seek her intercession.

I am a stranger in a
strange land.
And now I sit,
wondering what to do.
The world that had formerly
been my home - gone now,
forever changed.
I am now not belonging
anywhere.
But there are no telethons
for me,
no actresses or actors with my
cause on their wrists.
Only bills and more bills.
And children to be fed.
It was just yesterday that the
world was warm,
and I had a home to go to.
Now I don't recognize the world
anymore.
A stranger in a strange land.

~Cynthia A. Ford



St. Patrick's Presents...Supper and Spirituality!

Reserve Saturday evening, Nov. 7, for the next parish-wide inter-generational event in the series "St. Patrick's Presents..."

Following the 5 p.m. Mass, come to the parish hall for a potluck supper beginning at 6 p.m.—take this opportunity to share your favorite recipe! Drinks and desserts will be provided.

At 7 p.m. Sr. Rachel Bergschneider, OSB, will give a presentation on adult spirituality entitled "The Spiritual Journey: Path of Wisdom and Happiness."

Sr. Rachel is a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict, now located in Rock Island, and has



Sr. Rachel Bergschneider, OSB

served as a pastoral assistant at St. Thomas Parish in Peoria Heights since 1983.

Meanwhile, youngsters will enjoy a program of their own, learning about the lives of saints through stories and crafts. Child care for youngsters three years old and younger is also available. You are

asked to register your children beforehand for the Children's Program and for child care so that all can be accommodated.

The only fee for the evening is the dish you bring to share. Come one, come all, for an evening of Supper and Spirituality!

Second Century Advisory Committee Update

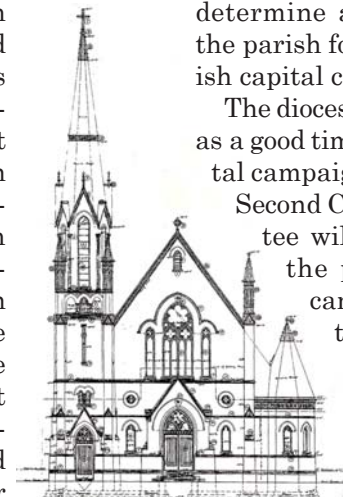
The Second Century Advisory Committee (SCAC) met twice in October, discussing how to maximize what SCAC had learned and observed through the summer parish site visits of new or newly renovated churches. The group has also consulted further with Stauder Architecture on particular elements of the church expansion (for example, a second look at exterior entry ramps; possible reconfiguration of the staircase leading down to the lower-level rooms beneath the church addition; the location and design of areas for the baptistry, tabernacle, choir, and nursery).

The SCAC working group charged with researching parish building fund drives and fundraising firms has contacted the four parishes visited in August as well as St. Matthew in Champaign and St. Malachy in Rantoul, which have recently undertaken major renovation projects. In addition, the group has consulted the Diocese of Peoria about recommended fundraising firms and those used with success by other

parishes in the diocese.

Work is proceeding on the Request for Proposal (RFP) that St. Patrick Parish will send out to well-recommended and researched professional fundraising firms that have particularly strong expertise in church fundraising. The RFP will outline St. Patrick's project, provide background on our parish's history, the master planning process, and the feasibility study conducted over the past few years. The RFP will invite fundraising firms to submit a proposal for a capital campaign plan for St. Patrick's. From proposals submitted, SCAC will select several firms to interview and then determine a firm to recommend to the parish for contracting for the parish capital campaign.

The diocesan office recommends fall as a good time of year to launch a capital campaign. With this in mind, the Second Century Advisory Committee will likely recommend that the parish launch a capital campaign in fall 2010, if this timeline seems feasible.



Funeral meals a comfort for the bereaved

For almost 40 years St. Patrick's Guild, now The Women of St. Patrick's, has made it possible for family and friends of a deceased loved one to sit down to a full meal served in the parish center following the funeral Mass.



dinner, to serve, and to clean up afterward. Pat Sheehan, who recently took over from long-time volunteer Carla Simmering, calls volunteers who have indicated a willingness to cook for funeral meals, to find

out who is available to provide the side dishes to accompany the meal.

Kathy McKenzie currently coordinates this ministry. Started in the 1970s by Rose Breen, it has had a number of coordinators, including Mary Sleeter, Bea Ellsworth, Virginia Alane, and Alice McLaughlin. Fr. Joe Hogan lets the family preparing for the funeral know that this service is available.

The meal is a buffet dinner that includes a main dish of two meats, potatoes, rolls, and beverages, accompanied by side dishes prepared by parishioners. It is served with china and flatware that was purchased especially for this purpose. Kathy shops for the ingredients, the cost of which is reimbursed by the family. She calls parishioners who have volunteered to set up for the

Groups as small as ten and as large as the almost 250 people who recently attended Fr. Gene Kane's funeral have availed themselves of the funeral dinner. Many have expressed their appreciation for this service, which has relieved them of their concerns about providing a meal for those who attend the funeral, some of whom may have come from a considerable distance. At a time of mourning this ministry enables family members and friends to gather in the simple sharing of a meal in a relaxed, informal atmosphere that is somehow comforting in their grief.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Good Samaritans**, a group of parishioners helping other parishioners with small acts of kindness, is looking for volunteers to help with grocery shopping for a parish couple, and for someone to stay with an ill parishioner while her husband goes to 5:00 p.m. Mass. *Carla Simmering, 328-4841*

- **On Thanksgiving Day**, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass, a potluck breakfast offers parishioners a relaxed and pleasant way to begin the holiday. A couple of volunteers are needed to prepare the coffee and to set out dishes and tableware on a serving table—others will bring food items to share. Can you come and bring a friend along to help? *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125*

- Have you ever wondered who **counts the Sunday collection**? Parishioners just like you! Right now each of the two teams of counters (they alternate on a monthly basis) could use 1-2 more helpers. *Joe Costa, 328-3748*

- Some **wheelchair residents at Champaign County Nursing Home need help getting to and from their chapel for Mass on Friday mornings**. The need is great; one helper must stay at the chapel so early arrivals don't wander off, while other helpers collect Catholic residents for Mass. There simply aren't enough helpers at the present time. Can you help even once a month if weekly isn't possible? *Sandy Anderson, 469-2416*

Just what is a mini lock-in? Vivo knows!

The junior high students of Saint Patrick's youth group, Vivo, will be gathering on Nov. 15 for a Mini Lock-in. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. with a pizza and salad dinner and will continue with games, relays, movies, the rosary, Bible studies, and lots of desserts. At 9 p.m. participants will gather in the church for a private mass with Father Joe. The evening will end at 10 p.m.

If you are a junior high student (7th or 8th grade) and you are not yet participating in the Vivo youth group, this would be a great opportunity to come and see what you've been missing. Already this year Vivo has had a Wii party, visited the corn maze, and learned about how the Catholic faith differs from many of Protestant faiths.

If you don't want to wait until the Mini Lock-in to join Vivo, you can come to the Vivo meetings in the parish center Oct. 19 and 25 and Nov. 1 and 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Please contact Amy Schuele (469-7941 or aschuele_99@yahoo.com) if you would like to come for the Mini Lock-in on Nov. 15 or if you'd like more information about Vivo!



Parish groups or individuals can submit entries for this column to the Communications Committee or contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address with a brief description of the kind of help being sought.

Keeping up with The Women of St. Patrick

Decluttering. Cinnamon Rolls. Prayer Shawls. Coffee. Fun, fellowship, and spirituality. These were all things The Women of St. Patrick spent time pondering, doing, and enjoying in the last month.

The Women held their bi-monthly **luncheon and rosary** on Sept. 23. Member Pat Sheehan led the group in praying the rosary, and parishioner Jolene McGrogan gave a presentation to the group on the prayer shawl ministry at St. Patrick's, which she coordinates with Nancy Olson. The beautiful handmade shawls provide physical and spiritual comfort to those who are grieving or ill.

On Sept. 30, parishioner Lucy Synk gave a refreshing and insightful talk about **how to declutter one's home and life**. Synk provided suggestions for ridding our lives of excess "stuff" and showed pictures of ways to organize the items we choose to keep. Those in attendance found her ideas inspiring and practical.

A new group for mothers of young children, **Moms Meeting Moms (M³)**, kicked off in September. It meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Currently there are about 20 moms and their children attending on a regular basis, with new moms showing up all the time. Babysitting is provided at these meetings.

During their time at M³, moms get

Women of St. Patrick's



**Spirituality
Service
Social**

an uninterrupted breakfast, time to chat and confide with other moms, and spiritual food for thought as they discuss a book they're studying. The current theme is how to fill one's spiritual cup while spending so much time filling others'. (Many thanks to WSP member Molly Pankau for starting this beneficial new program!)

On Oct. 12 parishioner **Betty Conerty and her famous cinnamon rolls** were the subject of another fantastic Taste and See event. Betty rolled out some of the tempting treats while the 30 attendees jotted down a few extra tips and tricks that don't appear on the official recipe. At 90 years of age, Betty recalls learning to make the pastries in her mother's kitchen without the aid of electricity. Instead of Crisco, they used lard her father had rendered from the pigs they raised, and the butter in the frosting was churned by hand on the premises.

Betty shared a few words of inspiration from a card she received at her 90th birthday party, which was held in the multipurpose room at St.

Patrick's. Those who attended the Taste and See event found Betty's mixture of baking expertise and life experience both educational and heartwarming.

Oct. 17 saw another cozy **coffee shop event at the Morning Cup & More in Urbana**. The women who attended sipped, nibbled, and chatted their way through a bright but chilly Saturday morning.

As the month winds to a close, The Women of St. Patrick look forward to an engaging **talk on Empowering Choices** to be given on Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Acclaimed and nationally renowned Christian speaker Kendra Smiley will give the presentation. Refreshments and socializing will kick off the event.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events, such as the **next rosary and luncheon on Nov. 18**. Soups made by WSP members will be on the menu. Babysitting will be provided.

Also, **on Dec. 6, the Christmas basket and cookie bazaar will be held during Coffee Shop** after Mass. More details to come, but plan on attending and scoring some fabulous holiday goodies and gifts! Those who want to participate by selling crafts can still purchase a table; please call the parish office (367-2665) today to reserve yours!



Lucy Synk convinced parishioners of the virtue of decluttering.



Betty Conerty (left) with her daughter Beth Anderson demonstrate steps in making Betty's famous cinnamon rolls.



Q: Can I pray to my mom and dad, who have died?

A: Of course you can! It is fitting not only to pray *for* our loved ones who

have died, but also to pray *to* them. Love is not severed by death—it survives for all eternity. Those who loved you in life continue to love and care for you after death, and as you ask the intercession of Jesus, Mary, and all the saints on their behalf, so too do those who love you plead on your behalf.

This is a teaching of the Church that should bring comfort to all of us—the Communion of Saints touches our lives in all respects. Those who have gone before us to the Father, now sharing in the glory and blessedness of heaven, have not forgotten us. Their love is even more effective now than when we could see, embrace, and talk with them during their life with us on earth, because they are with the Father now, the Father who loves each of us far more than we can imagine.

So pray for your mom and dad, but also assure them of your continuing love for them and ask for their help on your own journey through life to life eternal.

+ + +

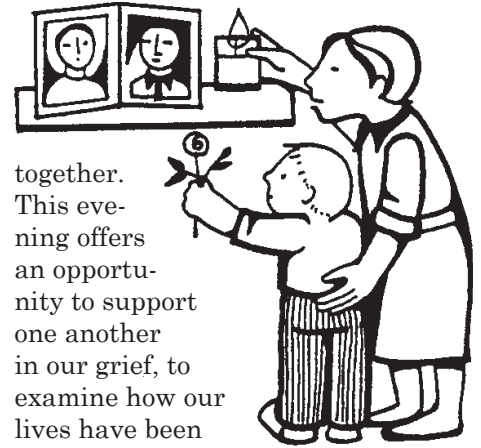
Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.

Help for the bereaved from the Ministry of Consolation

In her wisdom Mother Church offers us the opportunity during the month of November to remember those we love who have died. We celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls in November as a reminder that we are all part of the Communion of Saints and that our lives are inexplicably intertwined with all those who have crossed our path during our lifetime.

The Ministry of Consolation will offer two evening gatherings during November to remember and to help find a way through grief. On Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m., the ministry team will offer “**A Ray of Hope: Facing the Holidays Following a Loss.**” This evening will be a time for exploring how those who are coping with the death of a loved one or friend can find peace and comfort when others around them are celebrating the season.

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. we will gather for our fall **Evening of Remembrance.** Those who have lost a loved one in the last several months are invited to join the Ministry of Consolation team members and Fr. Hogan for an evening of sharing, remembering, and praying



together. This evening offers an opportunity to support one another in our grief, to examine how our lives have been changed by the loved ones we mourn, to rejoice in the gift of their lives, and to pray for them and for one another. Our lives are richer for those we have known and loved, and the Evening of Remembrance gives us time and space to celebrate those relationships.

Anyone in the parish who has lost a loved one is welcome to join us for either or both evenings. For more information about these events you may contact Nancy Olson (359-6424 or nancybolson@yahoo.com) or any of the Consolation team ministers.

Reminder

We give back to you, O God, those whom you gave to us. You did not lose them when you gave them to us and we do not lose them by their return to you.

Your dear son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die, so each death is only a horizon and a horizon is only the limit of our sight.

Open our eyes to see more clearly and draw us closer to you that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you.

You have told us that you are preparing a place for us; prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may also be always, O dear Lord of life and death.

—George Fox, from *Prayers from Around the World and Across the Ages*

St. Catherine of Alexandria

or: How an Egyptian girl changed the Christian world

Catherine was born c. 290 a.d. in Alexandria, Egypt, to a wealthy family. She loved books and had access to many in her early life. She became learned in science and was a natural debater with anyone who would engage her. When she was 18 years old, while praying before a painting of the Virgin Mary and Child, she was converted to Christianity.

Christianity was a growing force in Egypt at this time. In fact, St. Mark the Apostle went to Egypt and converted many in the countryside before continuing to Alexandria, where he founded the Christian church of Egypt. He was also its first martyr. The first Christian monastery in the world was founded in Egypt by St. Anthony, born in 251 a.d.

Meanwhile, Emperor Maximus was punishing any Christians he caught. When he heard that Catherine was debating with pagan philosophers and converting them to Christianity, he had her scourged and thrown into prison. Angels came to Catherine at night and ministered to her. When the empress heard this story, she and leaders of Maximus' army visited Catherine in prison, were converted—and subsequently martyred.

Then Maximus planned to kill Catherine on the wheel, a device that pulled limbs from one's body. As soon as Catherine's body touched the wheel, it broke apart and pieces flew into the crowd. Enraged, Maximus ordered her head cut off. Legend has it that milk, instead of blood, flowed

from her neck. Angels carried her body over the Red Sea to a summit of Mt. Sinai, now named St. Catherine's Peak, where they buried her body under the Burning Bush from Moses' time.

Catherine's fame grew. In 527 a.d. Byzantine Emperor Justinian built a monastery to honor St. Catherine on the site where her bones were found under the Burning Bush. It is the oldest working monastery, open to this day. Patronized during much of its history by the Russian

Orthodox Church, it is now under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Church and most of its monks are Greek. When the Muslims captured Egypt in the eighth century, St. Catherine's Monastery was spared because Mohammed himself told them not to molest it. This monastery is renowned to this day for its priceless books and art; it is second only to the Vatican for its collection of illuminated manuscripts.

Catherine's fame expanded to Europe in the Middle Ages. The Crusaders to the Holy Land brought her story home with them. Many churches were built in her honor, and statues or chapels were dedicated to her. In France, her feast day, Nov. 25, became a holy day of obligation. Catherine, one of the divine advisors of Joan of Arc and one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, became the patron saint of lawyers, librarians, teachers, unmarried girls, wheelwrights, etc.

The Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois has a lovely painting of St. Catherine of Alexandria. It was painted c.1335 by



Ugolino di Nerio of Siena, Italy. His painting, in the Byzantine tradition, shows Catherine full of sad remoteness. It was part of a five-painting altarpiece intended to help worshippers focus on their prayers. Ugolino did not paint Catherine with the wheel; instead he depicted her holding a palm frond, the symbol of martyrdom, and wearing a double tiara, the symbol of martyrdom and virginity. The liberal use in this painting of gold leaf and blue paint from ground lapis lazuli attest to her veneration. Catherine has been an inspiration to artists and Catholics for nearly 2,000 years.



Welcome to new parishioners Martin Ostoja-Starzewski, Bob LaCharite, Andy and Christina Cherna, Caroline Masweka, Mary Beth Wase and Eric Schacht, and Phyllis Shelinadine.

Congratulations to Brittany Ann Collenberger and Adam Henry Friese, married at St. Patrick's, and to JoAnn Hesselmann and parishioner John Smith, married in Tolono.

Welcome to the following, baptized into our faith community: Anna Denise Schneider, Cooper Elliot Buldak, Ryan Michael Mengarelli, and Augustin Giovanni Rund.

Please pray for deceased parishioner Howard Cahill.

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

Interfaith program brought a diverse group together in prayer

For the "One Light, Many Lamps" interfaith retreat, more than five dozen people gathered together to learn dances of universal peace and to pray the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer in the Aramaic language of Jesus' time.

About a third of the participants were Roman Catholic; they were joined by people from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths. There were persons from the Friends Meeting (Quaker), First Mennonite, Unitarian Universalist, School of Metaphysics, Ananda Liina Eco-Spiritual Center, Episcopal, Methodist, Christ Unity, and Presbyterian churches in attendance as well. It was a great way to practice hospitality and respect for one another while continuing to foster the vision of Vatican II to foster greater unity, healing and understanding amongst the world religions.

Brother Joseph Kilikevice, OP, and founder of the Shem Center for Interfaith Spirituality in Oak Park, was the retreat leader. Brother

Joseph has been guiding people in interfaith worship and prayer for over 20 years.

Some of the comments from people who attended included these:

"Remembering that there are so many wonderful and wise things we can learn from all the spiritual paths to God and that God is much bigger than we can ever imagine." "A great sense of peace and community." "A heart, mind and soul filled day with the joy of community." "The joy of gazing into many people's eyes." "A better appreciation of interfaith traditions." "Wow. My cup runneth over."

Wow indeed! May this experience be just the start of a widening circle of love and respect between our parish and the broader community of persons of faith.



Brother Joseph Kilikev-
ice, OP

Grace in Chaos: Advent Retreat

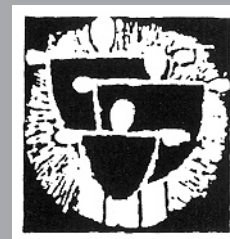
How are the Advent scriptures asking us to listen, reflect, and contribute to our world in a time of chaos? How will we respond to the grace given to us individually and collectively as a faith community?

The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary are sponsoring four evenings of presentation and reflection on the Advent scriptures (Cycle C), to be offered on the Tuesday evenings of December: Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The series will be hosted in the Mercy Community chapel, at 301 N. Wright St., Champaign. A fee of \$20 is requested, although a free-will offering will be gratefully accepted.

To register for this prayerful experience in preparation for Christmas, please call or e-mail:

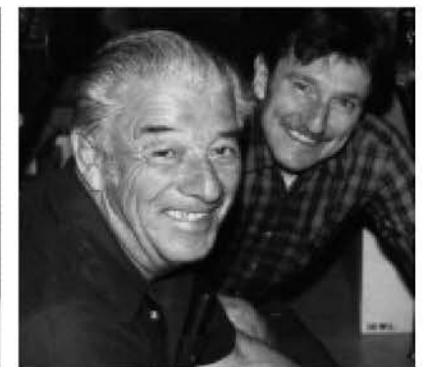
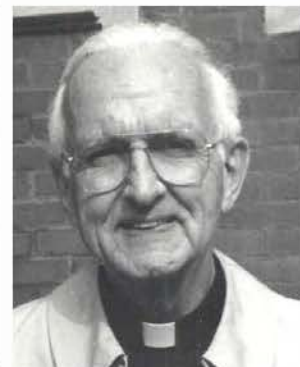
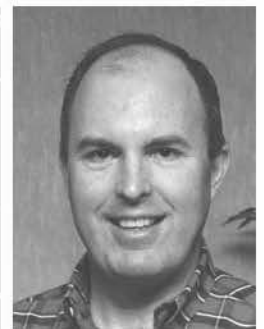
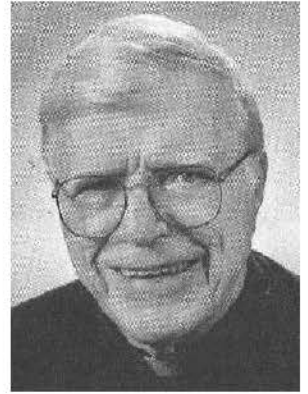
Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm
217/841-2916 (cell phone)
217/337-2193 (community phone)
charlenemec@sbcglobal.net



Lord of all, I ask you to bless your Church with love. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, and deacons. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen them so that they may serve your people following the example of your son, Jesus, in whose name I offer this prayer.

All saints, all sorts

God our Father, Source of all holiness, the work of your hands is manifested in your saints, the beauty of your truth is reflected in their faith. May we who aspire to have part in their joy be filled with the Spirit that blessed their lives, so that having shared their faith on earth we may also know their peace in your Kingdom.



Parish Council News

St. Patrick's parishioners will be able to continue to receive Communion from the cup, members of the Parish Council heard at their monthly meeting Oct. 15.



Some people have expressed concern about the H1N1 virus and the practice of Eucharistic ministers drinking the remaining Precious Blood after many others have taken Communion from the cup. Father Hogan explained that there is no middle ground—either we offer Communion from the cup or we don't—and many parishioners wouldn't like eliminating the opportunity to take Communion under both species. Instead, parishioners will be reminded in the bulletin to be considerate of others, not drinking from the cup—or attending Mass—if they are ill. Eucharistic ministers who are concerned about potential health problems can take a break from serving.

In other business:

- Two doorways in the parish center—one in the lounge and the other in the parish hall—have been

replaced with brick walls and windows. The doorways, which used to lead to the courtyard, flooded whenever there were heavy rains.

- Parish Council members discussed the best time of

year to conduct the annual Time and Talent Weekend. Some feel that early September is too busy a time of year, but there are other considerations, such as recruitment of Religious Education teachers. Two Council members, Susan Fowler and Shelly Benson, will meet with a pastoral staff member to determine whether there is a better time for the annual event.

- The parish's new home page is up. Those working on the web site hope to have a prototype of the rest of the site ready for testing by Nov. 1, with everything up and running by summer. Parish Council members have been asked to give feedback on the home page, including what they like and what they would like to see changed. Similar feedback will be requested for the weekly bulletin and the parish newsletter, *In Focus*.

- Mary Rose Cottingham

presented a rewording of Article 1 of the Parish Council by-laws. Instead of the annual election of officers by Parish Council members, the pastor will appoint one of the new Parish Council members as secretary, and this person will go on to serve as Council vice president and president in subsequent years.

During ministry reports, Susan Hublein, representing the Worship ministries, noted that 11 new altar servers have been trained. All Masses except the 7:30 a.m. Mass will now have three altar servers.

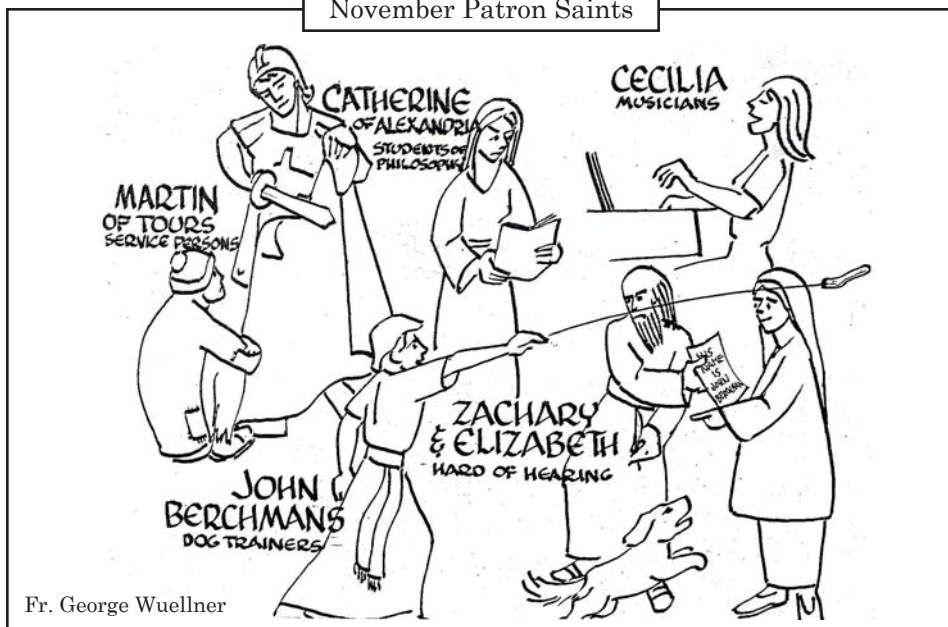
Susan Fowler, representing the Faith Development ministries, asked Parish Council members to think about funding for Religious Education. The fee for Religious Ed went up \$15 (from \$30 to \$45) this year, although it is still lower than fees requested in other area parishes.

Susan also noted that this year Confirmation is offered to high school freshmen and sophomores (instead of to juniors and seniors), with the idea that as juniors and seniors they will serve as "sponsors" for the younger students.


+ + +

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

November Patron Saints



Fr. George Wuellner



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is November 8.

Holy Cross Happenings

Even though the weather was dismal, spirits were high: the whole school celebrated Hot Dog Day on Oct. 16. Over 900 hot dogs were enjoyed by students, teachers, families, and alumni. Sprinkles and chilly temperatures couldn't keep the kids from enjoying this annual event!

The varsity baseball team defeated Springfield Christ the King 4-3 in an extra inning to become state champions for 2A. They remain



undefeated for the entire season with 25 wins. Congratulations to Coach Plecki and his team!

This month the Virtue is WORK. In addition to the Pledge of Allegiance, students at Holy Cross recite daily the School Prayer (Holy

Cross School is dedicated to St. Joseph, patron saint of workers): "St. Joseph, watch over our school family as you watched over the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us to follow your example so that we may grow

in honor and holiness. St. Joseph, patron of workers, pray for us."

Students have been bringing in donations for Food for Families and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Hard-working students were rewarded with a rare "out of uniform" day.

St. Thomas More's



Academic Letter Awards. The Academic Letter Awards Ceremony was hosted by the STM Administration and the National Honor Society on Oct. 7. Academic Letters are presented to upperclass students maintaining a cumulative GPA above 3 to 3.5 (depending on years in school); 140 student were recipients. This included St. Patrick's parishioners Mary Cimaskasy, Timothy Columbo, Claire Drone-Silvers, Tyler Faught, Cora Friedhoff, Gracie Mayer, Johanna McCarthy, Kaleigh Niccum, John Patterson, Shelby Simmering, Matthew Tate, and Andrew Wszalek. Congratulations to all.

Madrigal Dinner. The High School of St. Thomas More is hosting its annual Madrigals Dinner on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5. This is an evening of entertainment with a medieval flair. The castle is under a new monarchy, and guests are sure to enjoy food and frivolity with kings and queens, lords and ladies. St. Patrick's parishioners performing include Gracie Mayer, Shelby Simmering, and Claire Drone-Silvers. Contact the school for tickets.

Sports Page. St. Thomas More's organized sports programs allow students many opportunities to develop their athletic abilities while learning

about teamwork and the competitive spirit. All student athletes are responsible for upholding a high standard of Christian conduct and sportsmanship, both during school and after.

Fall sports at St. Thomas More include cross country, boys and girls golf, volleyball, soccer, football, and cheerleading. There is also an enthusiastic pep band playing at football and basketball games throughout the year. The sports season has been exciting with the undefeated football team advancing to the playoffs. Cross-country and golf are also competing in their post-season contests. Many St. Patrick's parishioners participate in these events. Sports schedules are available at the high school's Web site, www.hs-stm.org. "Go Sabers!"

Coming Attractions

First Annual Madrigal Dinner – Dec. 4, 5
 Christmas Concert – Dec. 11
 Christmas Break Begins – Dec. 19
 Battle of the Bands – Feb. 12
 Music Solo & Ensemble Contest – Feb. 27

November begins with special days

Don't let the first days of November, however dark or chill, get you down.

We are celebrating:

ALL SAINTS DAY

Sunday, November 1,
 And we pray, as we read the names of those we love who died in the past year, remembering *all* our loved ones who have gone before us in faith:

ALL SOULS DAY

Monday, November 2,
 Mass at 7:00 a.m.—not a day of obligation, but a day of prayer.





in our parish library

The following books were recently received in the parish library.

Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation, by Jonathon Kozul. Call Number: 362.7 KOZ 1995. This book provides an honest view of reality of the lives of many children and adults that somehow go beyond surviving their rigorous obstacles of their environment in the South Bronx. "Amazingly these children show a strong sense of hope and caring that touches the heart of those around them. Their resilience is remarkable and encouraging. It should motivate us to listen more and honor the many stories children carry with them everyday."

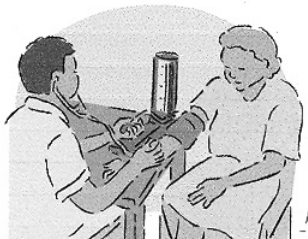
Cloud of Witnesses, by Jim Wallis and Hoyce Hollyday. Call Number: 270 WAL 2005. "Through interviews and biographical profiles, *Cloud of Witnesses* introduces us to a company of modern witnesses—peacemakers, martyrs, saints—who have embodied the gospel challenge of our day."

The Heart of Hope: Contemplating Life, Awakening Love, by Michael Downey. Call Number: 942 DOW 2005. More than a book on how to change your life, this is the story of a man whose life and heart were changed, inadvertently, forever. Like a walk with a spiritual guide, you will finish the book feeling that your heart has been refreshed and awoken.

Parish Nurses present fall Health Fair

This year's Health Fair will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the main hall of St. Patrick's parish center.

Sponsored by St. Patrick's Parish Nurses, the event will include information about the Home Health Care Agency, senior services, cancer awareness, homeopathy, pharmaceuticals, the Vial of Life, and



How Much Is Enough? Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture, by Arthur Simon. Call Number: 241.6 SIM 2003. Simon encourages North American Christians to examine how their materialistic culture has stunted their compassion and driven a wedge between themselves and God. Without discounting prosperity as a blessing, *the author* proposes new pathways to living as disciples of Jesus. He suggests a myriad of solutions for taming materialism and sheds light on the profound reality that possessions may capture our hearts, but they are unable to nourish our souls.

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the ***Heart of Contemporary Faith***, by Marcus J. Borg. Call Number: 232.9 BUR 1994. New Testament scholar Marcus Borg attempts to understand how popular images of Jesus connect Christians to their savior and isolate them from him. He provides an account of contemporary Jesus scholarship—told in simple language for lay readers—and of his personal struggle to find authentic, mature faith.

Pope John Paul II: A Tribute. Call Number: 282.09 POP 2005. This is a coffee table-sized illustrated book that serves as a poignant biography, both visually and in the captured word. It follows Pope John

Paul II's monumental religious life from childhood, to his early papacy, up to the time of the Jubilee Festival.

Travelling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith, by Anne LaMott. Call Number: 241.6 SIM 2003. Anne Lamott chronicles her journey of faith. From drug addiction to alcoholism: through the deaths of her father and best friend, and the birth of her son, she traces her spiritual journey in a series of moving, funny, and deeply personal anecdotes. She possesses the rare gift of translating her faith into day-to-day experiences and sharing her innermost, most difficult, and most stressful thoughts in a very funny, realistic, human way.

+ + +

If you would like to donate books on the parish library's wish list, please contact Lori Mestre (365-9004), 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.

much more. There will also be demonstrations of CPR and use of the AED equipment. Our Parish Nurses provide valuable services to parishioners in addition to this annual gathering of information. Stop by to find out more about this group and what it does—and have your blood pressure checked!

Parishioners affirm respect for life.

In an Angelus address given on Feb. 8, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI stated that “each [person] according to his or her possibilities, profession, and responsibilities, should feel an obligation to love and serve life, from its beginning to its natural end.”

As we enter a new month, the St. Patrick's Respect Life Committee would like to express its thanks to the members of St. Patrick's Parish for the various ways in which they have manifested respect for life during October, Respect Life Month.

Thanks to all parishioners, young and old, who contributed to the “Pennies for Life” collection on Oct. 4: because of your generosity, \$500 was sent to support the Family Resources Center in Peoria in its important ministry of affirming the cause of life.

Thanks to all parishioners who have borne public witness to the need to affirm the integral goodness of *all* human life by participation

in the Life Chain on Oct. 4 or in the 40 Days of Life program, which has been a steadfast affirmation of the sanctity of life, from Sept. 23 through Nov. 1.

Finally, thanks to all parishioners who, in the privacy of their homes and the silence of their hearts, have reflected on the need for, and prayed for the fulfillment of, greater respect for the life of the unborn, the infirm, the aged, and the unwanted in our country and in the world.

In an interview conducted with Zenit News Agency on March 26, 2006, Monsignor Jean Lafitte, vice-president of the Pontifical Institute for Life, observed that “behind each human face, behind each person, there is a singularity, a unique wealth in which believers recognize an intention of God, a plan of love. Life is the gift of God's love to all.” May we, as members of the Body of Christ, continue to affirm God's love for all by our respect for the life of all!



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. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

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

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

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

Articles and information for this issue were provided by Ellen Abell, Carol Bosley, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Tom Dousa, Judy Fierke, David Kraft, Bernie Laumann, Roxane Lowry, Rachael Mc-Millan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestri, Sharon Monday-Dorsey, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Amy Schuele, Stephanie Smith, Margaret Stewart, Peggy Whelan. November saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns and paced by Jim Urban.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Bernie Laumann

Garlic Pork Roast with Sweet Potatoes

A slow-cooker recipe

3.5 lb pork loin roast, fat removed
1 T vegetable oil
½ t pepper
4 c 1-inch pieces, peeled sweet potatoes
1 medium onion, sliced
6 cloves garlic, peeled
1 c fat-free chicken broth

Remove any netting or strings from the pork roast. In a 10 in. skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sprinkle pork with salt and pepper and cook in oil for about 10 minutes, turning the roast until it is brown on




all sides. Place sweet potatoes, onion, and garlic in a 4-5 qt. slow cooker, and put the browned roast on top. Pour chicken broth over all. Cover and cook on low-heat setting 8-10 hours.

+ + +

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

St. Patrick's Parish

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 8:30-11:00 AM Health Fair 8:30 AM CREW Evergreen Sales 9:15 AM Rel Ed 10:30 AM Children's Mass 6:00 PM CREW Mission Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM CTC: St. Mary's, Pesotum 6:30 PM Vivo	2 All Souls Day 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Liturgical Arts Team 5:30 PM St Pat's Presents Team 6:30 PM Engaging Spirituality 7:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM KC Mass 7:00 PM Respect Life	3 12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Parents' Night: Judy Schmidt on "Adolescent Development" 7:00 PM Baptism Prep 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Ray of Hope 7:00 PM Web Site 7:00 PM Mystagogia	4 9:00 AM Moms Meeting Moms 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Women's Faith Sharing 6:30 PM Peace and Justice Ministries 6:30 PM Religious Ed, St Joe 7:00 PM Choir	5 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Group 5:30 PM Building and Grounds 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM CREW Prep Meeting 7:00 PM Divorce Care 7:00 PM RCIA	6 10:45 AM Mass, CCHN 7:00 PM Young Adults Book Club	7 6:00 PM St. Pat's Presents... Supper & Spirituality: Sr. Rachel Bergschneider on "The Spiritual Journey: Path of Wisdom and Happi- ness"
8 8:30 AM CREW Evergreen Sales 8:30 AM-1:00 PM Fingerprinting of All Who Work with Children 9:15 AM Religious Ed 10:30 AM Children's Mass 6:30 PM CREW Confirmation Forma- tion 6:30 PM Vivo	9 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Engag- ing Spirituality 7:00 PM Center- ing Prayer	10 12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Financial Affairs 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Mystagogia	11 9:30 AM Funeral Schola 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:30 PM JustFaith 6:30 PM Religious Ed, St Joe 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Ministry of Faith Developmt 7:00 PM Evening of Remembrance	12 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Group 1:00 PM Cards, Coffee, & Conversation 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM CREW Prep Meeting 7:00 PM Divorce Care 7:00 PM RCIA	13 10:30 AM Mass, Canterbury Ridge 10:45 AM Com- munion Service, CCHN 7:00 PM Young Adults Book Club	14 5:00-10:00 PM Vivo Mini Lock-In 6:00 PM Great Dates
15 9:15 AM Religious Ed 10:15 AM K of C 1:00 PM Reconcil- iation Retreat 6:30 PM CREW Confirmation Forma- tion	16 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM SALT Leadership Training 6:30 PM Engag- ing Spirituality 7:00 PM Center- ing Prayer	17 12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship Ministries Team 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Mystagogia	18 9:00 AM Moms Meeting Moms 11:30 AM WSP Rosary, Luncheon 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Women's Faith Sharing 6:30 PM JustFaith 6:30 PM Religious Ed, St Joe 7:00 PM Choir	19 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Group 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Communications 7:00 PM CREW Prep Meeting 7:00 PM Divorce Care 7:00 PM RCIA	20 10:30 AM Mass, Clark-Lindsey 10:45 AM Mass, CCHN	21 CREW Lock-in, St. Matthew's
22 8:30 AM Library Open 9:15 AM Rel Ed 6:30 PM CREW Confirmation Forma- tion 6:30 PM Vivo: St Vincent de Paul	23 6:30 AM Engag- ing Spirituality 7:00 PM Center- ing Prayer	24 6:30 PM First Reconciliation 7:00 PM Mystagogia	25 6:30 PM JustFaith	 8:00 AM Mass & Potluck Breakfast	27 10:45 AM Mass, CCHN 4:00 PM Viet- namese Thanks- giving Celebra- tion for the Entire Parish	28 5:00 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick 5:00 PM Congolese Gathering
29 Advent Begins RCIA Rite of Acceptance All Masses: Anoint- ing of the Sick Coffee Shop: K of C Pancake Breakfast 3:30 PM Vietnamese Reconciliation, Mass 6:30 PM CREW Confirmation Forma- tion	30 6:30 AM Engag- ing Spirituality 7:00 PM Center- ing Prayer	<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>-----</p> <p>The deadline for the next issue of <i>In Focus</i> is November 8.</p>				