

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2010

"This is where God wants me to be"

As Dr. Susan Nagele walked forward in St. Patrick's church, she was greeted by a standing ovation. Some in the congregation could still remember her as an enthusiastic little girl with a ready smile. Others had come to know her through her regular letters and visits to the parish when on home leave, and some were perhaps meeting her for the first time.

It was January 17, the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, near the end of the 9 a.m. Mass. Fr. Hogan had introduced Mr. Sam Stanton, Executive Director of Maryknoll Lay Missioners, who came from New York to present to Dr. Nagele a letter from President Obama, received through the Dept. of Faith Based Organizations, recognizing her 25 years of service to the poor in Africa.

As Mr. Stanton called Susan forward, he referred to her as "a very important part of our organization." He thanked St. Patrick's Parish for our part in Susan's formation in her younger years and for the ongoing spiritual and financial support she receives.

Speaking briefly to the congregation, Susan referred to Psalm 96 from the Mass of the day, "Proclaim his marvelous works to

all the nations," to describe what Maryknoll missionaries do. She echoed Mr. Stanton's thanks to the parish. Declaring that no one does this sort of thing alone, she claimed St. Patrick's Parish as her place of rootedness, saying, "You received me in 1967 and you sent me out in 1984."



Susan is the daughter of parishioners Tom and Lenore Nagele and sister to 5 brothers and sisters. The family moved to St. Patrick's Parish in 1967. Susan attended St. Mary's Grade School and Urbana High School. After graduating from

the University of Illinois, she went on to earn her MD at Southern Illinois University.

Asked what things in her early life helped form her for this vocation, Susan identified a number of events. At St. Mary's, numerous projects, such as collecting money for the foreign missions, encouraged her to think of others. She read the Maryknoll Magazine that her grandmother subscribed to. Her uncle was a Glenmary priest at a home mission in Kentucky, and it was on a visit there that she first encountered the humble one-room

Lent: A season of mirrors

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. We can use it as a mirror to look into ourselves to see what is out of balance or out of true so that we can change it. It can also be a time to see the needs of others and to perceive how we can help.

The mirror of Lent can be used to do other things as well. We can use a mirror to see what's around a corner; the mirror of Lent can help us make a decision about something that we want to change. A mirror can show us things in reverse; the mirror of Lent can show us a different perspective or the other side of an argument. Telescopes have mirrors that allow us to see great distances and make new discoveries; the mirror of Lent can be a time to explore new aspects of our faith and to discover new things about ourselves. A mirror can reflect light into dark places; the mirror of Lent can prepare us to light the way for others, sharing our love and our faith.



A mirror is dark unless there's a light source nearby. The light source for the mirror of Lent, as for all as-

see **Nagele** on page 4

see **Mirror** on page 6

Parish Council News

St. Patrick's Parish Council, during its Jan. 21 meeting, endorsed a recommendation by the Second Century Advisory Committee to hire a fundraising firm to organize the campaign to raise money for the renovation/expansion of St. Patrick's church.



The committee interviewed its top three candidate firms on Jan. 20 and unanimously agreed upon one (not named, pending final negotiations with the firm). However, committee members Ellen Amberg and Pat Justice said the chosen company is a firm with a strong background in Catholic parish fundraising and a good track record in Illinois. The firm was chosen in part due to its plan to provide an on-site person for the length of the campaign, and to have a pre-campaign planning assessment, which will serve as an update of the parish's feasibility

study, completed more than a year ago.

The anticipated timeline calls for the parish to sign a contract with the company in late May, the pre-campaign assessment to take place in July and

August, and the campaign to begin in September.

During his report, Fr. Hogan announced that Fr. Mike Adrie will be his replacement while he is on his three-month sabbatical. Fr. Hogan also gave a financial report, noting that collections have gone down a bit, most likely due to the economy. However, there was a good response to the collection for Haiti earthquake relief, which netted between \$7,000 and \$9,000.

In other business:

- Council member Shelly Benson, reporting on the Communications Task Force, showed

the Parish Council an example of the new eight-page parish bulletin and passed around samples of other pieces – designed by parishioner Pat Mayer – to accompany the new look, including a new parish logo, note cards, and bulletin covers. The new designs serve to draw together the three means of parish communications: the bulletin, InFocus, and the Web site.

▪ Both the Parish Council elections and the annual Appreciation Dinner are scheduled for April 17. Shelly Benson and Lakshmi Lancaster will serve as the Parish Council members on the Election Committee, which will recruit parishioners to run for the three vacancies that will be opening on the Council.

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The next meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 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.

Update on church expansion

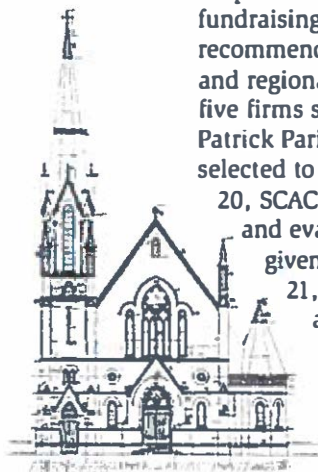
Over the past two months, the Second Century Advisory Committee (SCAC) has taken multiple steps to move forward the parish's plans for a church renovation and expansion.

On Dec. 8, the committee met with Stauder Architecture to discuss modifying certain elements of the proposed building project. After discussion and input, the committee feels that St. Patrick should maximize on the new lower level (below the expanded church) by increasing the usable square footage in order to accommodate more parish activities.

Discussion and input have also resulted in re-examining aspects of the design and function of the gathering space, including how the space

physically connects to the parish center. These new considerations will require new project cost estimates, which are expected to be in hand from Stauder within the next few weeks.

In December, SCAC issued a Request for a Capital Campaign Proposal to eight professional fundraising firms researched and recommended by the diocesan office and regional parishes. A total of five firms submitted proposals to St. Patrick Parish. Of these, three were selected to be interviewed. On Jan. 20, SCAC conducted interviews and evaluated presentations given by the firms and, on Jan. 21, presented its findings and recommendations to the Parish Council.



Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence—when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

~ Rev. Martin Luther King



Why is Fr. Joe going on sabbatical?

What will he do on sabbatical? Imagine if you were the head of not one but 1200 families, the approximate number of families at St. Patrick's. Think of all the joys and sorrows and daily minutia you would have to respond to each day. Fr. Joe firmly believes that priests need a sabbatical to help them focus spiritually and, in turn, help their parish families to focus spiritually. A priest's educational and spiritual growth will benefit his congregation. And so he's going away on sabbatical for three months.

He will be away during February, March, and April. His first month will be spent at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, California. There he will be on a month-long silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises created by St. Ignatius Loyola in the 16th century. The only person with whom Fr. Joe may speak during this time is his spiritual director, who will guide him through this Ignatian retreat each day by giving him four Scripture passages and exercises that accompany each.

The Ignatian retreat is divided into four weeks or movements. During the first week one considers Scripture passages concerning God's generosity and mercy and the complex reality of human sin. The second week examines the life and public ministry of Jesus. The third week concentrates on the last days of Jesus, ending with his crucifixion and death. The final week explores Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and Christ's continued life in the world today through the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Joe will spend March and April at St. Patrick's Seminary and College in Menlo Park, California, only a few minutes from the Jesuit Retreat Center. There he will do an independent study on spirituality with the dean of the college. He will also attend seminars on different subjects (he's bringing 25 books along with him).

We all pray that the head of our parish family at St. Patrick's will complete an inspiring and renewing



sabbatical, and we look forward to his return to continue to inspire and renew us.

Who will stand in for Fr. Joe during his time away? Fr. Luong, of course, will remain during his absence, but a different priest will be sitting at the pastor's desk. The initial plan was that Fr. Julbs Adator, from an order of African missionary priests sent around the world to serve, would stand in for Fr. Joe, but as of this writing he has not yet received his visa. If the visa comes through, Fr. Adator will spend all or part of the three months of Fr. Joe's sabbatical with us.

In the interim, another priest from the same order, Fr. Michael Adrie from Ghana, will come to St. Patrick's. He has been serving since 2007 at St. Thomas in Peoria Heights and hopes that one day he will have his own parish in the Diocese of Peoria.

Fr. Mike will spend four days here with Fr. Joe to learn the daily routine of our parish. Equipped with many lists from Fr. Joe and assisted ably by our parish staff, he should experience a smoothly running parish.

Check future issues of In Focus for more information about Fr. Mike and Fr. Julbs (if he is able to make it here), and help them know just how welcoming our parish can be!

Journeying to Jerusalem with Jesus

You are invited to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem as presented in the Lenten Sunday Gospels. The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary are offering the opportunity

- to participate in a one-day retreat on Feb. 13, the Saturday before Ash Wednesday
- to listen with an open heart to the Word of God as found in this liturgical season
- to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem through the Sunday readings

This is an opportunity for you to make a spiritual commitment to draw closer to the Lord. Come away to a place of prayer, silence, reflection, and faith sharing:

Mercy Community
301 North Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820
Feb. 13, 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Lunch provided
Donation: \$25 (or free-will offering)
Deadline for registration: Monday, Feb. 8
Number of participants limited to 30

To register, contact Sr. Charlene Cesario, SSCM (217/841-2916 or charlenemec@sbcglobal.net).

Participants are invited to return for optional weekly sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the Tuesday evenings of Lent: Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 16, and 23.



Nagele from page 1

schoolhouse. Several short mission trips in her college years attracted her, but they also convinced her that two weeks, or even two years, were not long enough for her to become immersed in the culture and make the long-term difference she desired. Searching for a group that would provide the opportunity for a three- or four-year mission experience, she found no organization except Maryknoll that would provide such an opportunity to the laity at that time. She also realized that, for her, the experience must be Catholic because she would need all the spiritual support she could get.

She joined Maryknoll in 1984 and after training went to Tanzania in January 1985. Her experience was good and she loved the people, but eventually she felt needed in Sudan where the people, then as now, suffered greatly in a war-torn country.

In 1991 she went to the Sudanese Diocese of Torit. For the next 12 years she served the people of the region as government forces drove them farther and farther south, all the way to the border of Uganda.

In 2003 she transferred to Kenya, where she oversaw the rebuilding of a run-down 19-bed hospital into an updated 32-bed hospital. The money to rebuild came from her Maryknoll funds, including donations from St. Patrick's, for which she is always grateful. At the end of her home visit she plans to return to Kenya, but this time to the east coast. She has been invited there to supervise the reorganization of their medical system.

After the presentation in church, there was a reception for Susan in the parish center, where she graciously received all who wished to visit with her or ask questions. Pictures and information describing Susan's years in Africa were displayed.



*Mr. Sam Stanton,
Exec. Dir., MKLM*

In the 35 years since its founding, Maryknoll Lay Missioners has had about 600 missionaries in the program. At present there are about 90 serving in 14 countries in Asia, Africa, and South and Central America. Because of the stressed economy, the lay missionaries are now responsible for raising their own money, without the help that the MKLM was formerly able to provide.

About the award she received, Susan said, "It is a very great honor. I'm just grateful for the opportunity to have served with Maryknoll, because Maryknoll gives the laity an opportunity to play our part in Christian outreach."

She has a story about the special kind of witness that lay married couples can give. For some time she and other missionaries served a group who, although happy to receive their services, did not join the Church. Yet when Protestant missionaries came into the region, the natives joined them. Asked why they did not join the Catholic Church, they replied, "We want to be Christian, but you do not marry. We want to get married." There were no married Catholic couples serving among them!

Susan's usual and most simple answer to why she has spent 25 years serving the poor in Africa is, "That's where God wants me to be."



God, I know you love me and have great plans for me. But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk forward, one day at a time. May I take heart while I search openly, learn about all the choices, listen to others for advice, and pay attention to my own feelings. By doing these things may I hear your call to a lifestyle that will let me love as only I can, and let me serve others with the special gifts you have given me. God, thank you for your hope in me.

For women only, a special opportunity

Women of St. Patrick: Are you a teen, a young-at-heart Seasoned Citizen, or somewhere in between? Married, single, widowed, divorced, old and young—ALL are invited to a retreat led by Avah Ministries designed to teach about beauty, sexuality, and worth in God's eyes, and to invite us into a deeper relationship with him.

According to the Avah Ministries Web site, "Avah" is a Hebrew verb meaning "desire, covet...want, crave, long after." Taken from Psalm 45:11, the word refers to how God sees our beauty. The Avah presentations have a dual focus: helping women align their ideas about femininity with God's (instead of society's), and cultivating the desire to seek God as God seeks us.

The retreat will be held the first weekend of February. On the

Women of St. Patrick's



Spirituality
Service
Social

evening of Friday, Feb. 5, the topic will be "Prayer Penguins." It will focus on helping attendees develop a desire for more intimate and unique forms

of prayer. On Saturday, Feb. 6, the topic will be "Beholder: Beautiful Sexuality." This session is designed to confront false ideas about sexuality and to teach us how "to offer our unique femininity to a hurting world."

Registration is \$20 and covers both sessions. Meals will be provided. Friday night's session runs from 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturday's session, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be no sleeping accommodations on site; attendees will return home between sessions.

For more information about the event, or to sign up, contact Teresa Rund (832-2089 or teresarund@gmail.com). For more information about Avah Ministries, visit their Web site: www.avahministries.com.



Where are my sunglasses (keys, gloves...)?

Each Monday morning personal belongings left behind in the church over the weekend are taken to the parish office, where they join a growing collection called Lost and Found.

With each season the harvest of personal belongings left behind in the church, takes on a different character. Spring and fall bring sweaters, hoodies, and light jackets. Summer is marked by sunglasses, children's sunbonnets, binkies, and water bottles. Winter brings an almost steady stream of knit hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves.

Throughout the year the items left in the church after a busy weekend have included car keys, camera lenses, rings and earrings, watches, baby blankets, combs, rosaries, eyeglasses, prayer books, missals, and any number of other belongings. In recent weeks, for instance, this

harvest of lost items includes the following:

- 1 small black knit glove
- pair of blue-green gloves
- leather case with many crayons
- digital Timex watch
- coin purse (empty)
- 1 small brown glove
- 1 small gray glove
- 1 small blue mitten
- 1 earring (for pierced ears)
- key for a red Chevy Impala
- stainless steel travel mug (Alladin migo)
- Beanie Baby named Bananas
- pair of black gloves clipped together

Are any of these yours? If so, you can retrieve them from the parish office (367-2665). The parish secretary will be happy to return them to you, making room for the following week's donations to the parish's Lost and Found.

Volunteer needed

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to succeed Sue Schreiber as Recording Secretary. Council members meet on third Thursdays except in July. The Recording Secretary is a non-voting member of the Council. Contact Mary Rose Cottingham, 355-5721 or mcotting@illinois.edu.



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.

Mirror from page 1

pects of our lives, is Jesus. He gives us the light of faith so we can know the mirror is there. He gives us the light of hope and courage so that we can look into it. He gives us the light of forgiveness so we do not become discouraged. He gives us the light of love so we can share what we have.

Think: If I didn't have the season of Lent to guide and encourage me, would I stop to look in the mirror every year? Maybe, maybe not. The Church gives me the season of Lent to remind me to stop and look, but not just me. We are meant to use the mirror of Lent as family, as parish, as community, as Church. It's easier because we do it together. As you use the mirror of Lent this year, try to find a way to encourage someone else to use it too, by prayer, by example, by sharing the experience. Then, when we come to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection, more of his light will be reflected all around us, and we will be ready to celebrate anew.

Roe v. Wade anniversary observed

Jan. 22 marked the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions. The theme of this year's ecumenical memorial prayer vigil is "Simply Human—Eternally Valuable."



The interfaith observance included a candlelight vigil for victims of abortion held outside the Women's Health Practice in Champaign, laying of a wreath at the Unborn Memorial at St. Matthew Church, and a prayer vigil at Windsor Road Christian Church, featuring keynote speaker Msgr. Mark Merdian, pastor of St. Matthew's, and personal testimony given by Carrie Burns, from WGNN-FM, a Christian radio station.

Cards, Coffee and Conversation starts off Year 2

Once a month, parishioners and friends meet for a couple of hours of relaxation and fun playing cards or a game of choice. Cards, Coffee and Conversation (CCC) meets at the same time each month. Mark your calendars to join the group on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in St. Matthew Room (next to the library) in the parish center.

"The group varies a little from month to month and euchre seems

to be the most popular game, but participants are open to new and different games as well. It's fun for me to see who shows up. I like playing hostess since I don't play cards. And it's a nice way to spend an afternoon," says organizer Chris Whippo.

Parishioner John Maloney is willing to share his talents with those who wish to learn or to brush up on bridge. If you are interested in this, please contact Chris (352-7263) to let her know.

CCC is meant to be a time for parishioners to come together and visit, not to become a bridge or euchre group; those who come are open to any new ideas.

The next few gatherings are on Feb. 11, Mar. 11, and April 8. Everyone is welcome!



Clockwise, from the left: Mike Catanzaro, Marge Hartrick, Mary Jo Thomsen, Sophia Zeigler, and Ron Eagan take a break from playing euchre at the Cards, Coffee and Conversation gathering in January.

Did you know . . . ?

- The names of new parishioners, those who have moved away, and the recently baptized, wed, and deceased parishioners will now appear in the expanded weekly bulletin instead of in In Focus, thereby enabling all of us to welcome, rejoice, and pray with and for one another on a timely basis. The monthly calendar of parish activities and events has also moved from In Focus to the parish bulletin-watch for it!
- The new design of the parish newsletter, appearing for the first time in this issue, was prepared by parishioner Pat Mayer. Thank you, Pat!
- If you need a printed acknowledgment of your contributions to the parish in 2009, just call the office to request it. Because many people don't itemize their income tax and therefore don't need a receipt, the parish is "going green" by printing receipts only for those who request them.
- During Lent, a second Mass will be celebrated on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m. It's hoped that this will enable more of us to worship together during Lent.

Support your team at the Super Bowl Breakfast

The popular annual Super Bowl Breakfast, sponsored by the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus, takes place Sunday, Feb. 7, in the main hall of the parish center, beginning after the 7:30 a.m. Mass and continuing until 10:30 a.m. or whenever the food runs out.

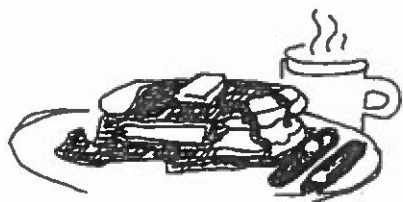
As always, there will be a contest between two teams to see whose breakfast offering is more popular. This year the playing field will be leveled with the elimination of biscuits and gravy: the Pancakes and Sausage Team will have to face the Omelet

Team without the help of another entrée.

In addition to the choice of pancakes and sausage or omelet, there will be fresh fruit, juice, milk, and coffee available. Once again, the sausage is fresh from Chuck's Locker in Ivesdale.

Your free-will offering will help fund the Knights' charitable projects.

Will the Omelet Team triumph, or will the Pancakes and Sausage Team prevail? Support your team by enjoying a delicious breakfast!



Got books?

Vivo, St. Patrick's Junior High Youth Group, will be collecting gently used books after all Masses the weekend of Feb. 13-14. Needed are children's books for The Crisis Nursery and The Champaign Public Library as well as young-adult and adult books for Books 2 Prisoners (Illinois prison inmates).

Cash donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase dictionaries for Books 2 Prisoners, a project that provides books to Illinois inmates at no cost. It offers books by mail to all Illinois inmates and operates lending libraries in our two local county jails. More information can be found at www.books2prisoners.org



Paperback and hardcover books in good condition are sought. *Not* accepted are magazines, spiral-bound materials, trade journals, or manuals. Encyclopedias and textbooks must be less than four years old. Please do not donate torn, dirty, worn, or moldy books.

Vivo students will be in the parish center after all Masses to accept donated books. There will also be a box for books in the church vestibule. If you have a large number of books and would like to arrange for pickup, or if you have questions, please call Amy Schuele (469-7941).

Please help make Vivo's book drive a success!

FISH FRY-DAYS

Feb. 19-Mar. 26
5:30-7 p.m., Main Hall
(after Stations in the church)

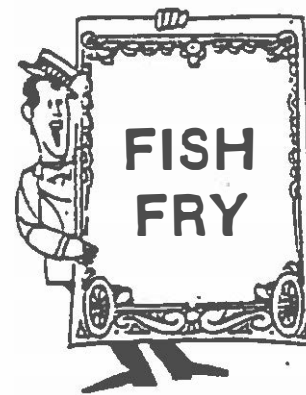
NEW ON THE MENU THIS YEAR, cheese quesadillas!— in addition to the ever-popular macaroni and cheese, baked or deep-fried fish, french fries and cole slaw, bread, and condiments.

Soda pop: 75 cents
Desserts: \$1.00 and \$1.25

Adults \$7, seniors \$6,
children \$5
(no charge for pre-schoolers)

All funds raised are used for the Knights' Fr. Charles Martell Scholarships for our graduating seniors next May.

P.S. Desserts needed! Be sweet and bring your donation to the parish center Friday evening at 5 p.m.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is February 14.



in our parish library

Have you stopped by the parish library recently? It contains a little something for everyone—you're sure to find something you'd like to read!

Children's Books: An assortment of stories and books geared for elementary to middle school.

Fiction Books: A variety of Catholic best-selling fiction.

Catholic Nonfiction: Including best-selling works by renown theologians; biographies; histories; bible commentaries, philosophical works; books to help with developing a prayer and spiritual life; works to help the soul and the healing process.

Reference Books: Including theological dictionaries, encyclopedias, anthologies, almanacs, bibles, concordances, patron saint indexes, catechisms.

Catholic Magazines and Newspapers: *The Catholic Post*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *America Magazine*, *U.S. Catholic*, and more.

Hours: The library is open during the week when the parish office is open, and on fourth and fifth Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Information about checking out materials is available beside the computer. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer to help at the library, please contact the library coordinator, Lori Mestre (lmestre@illinois.edu or 365-9004).

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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.



Q: I received some mail recently about the 50th anniversary of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception. What is a basilica anyway?

A: A church is designated a basilica by the Holy Father, usually because of its antiquity, or because it is an important place of pilgrimage, or because it has a distinctive ministry. Because of its special ties to the pope, a basilica serves as a sign of the universality of the Church. There are more than 60 basilicas in the United States, including Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago, and more than 1500 worldwide.

Every basilica has two distinctive items that would be called into use if the pope were to visit. One is a canopy that would be used to protect the pope from the elements as he arrives at the basilica. The other is a bell mounted on a pole, which would be carried in front of him to announce his presence.

The patron saint of the United States is Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. This

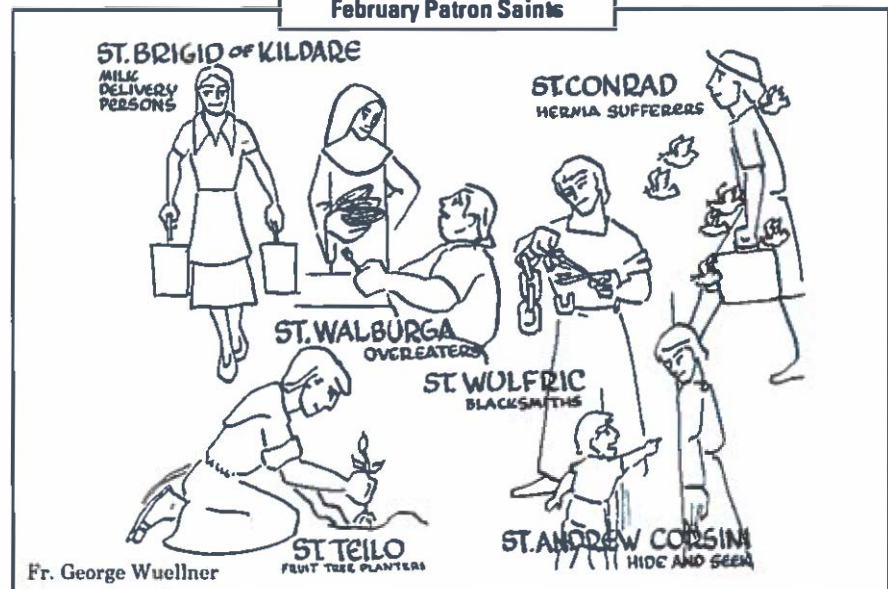


is one reason why the feast of the Immaculate Conception is especially significant in this country. It also explains the importance of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is located in our nation's capitol, both as a place of pilgrimage and as a center of prayer and study. It is near the Catholic University of America and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The church was dedicated 50 years ago, in November 1959 and was designated a basilica in 1990 by Pope John Paul II.

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

February Patron Saints



Holy Cross Happenings

Night Prayer

Lord, it is night.
 The night is for stillness.
 Let us be still
 in the presence of God.
 It is night after a long day.
 What has been done
 has been done.
 What has not been done
 has not been done;
 let it be.
 The night is dark.
 Let our fears
 of the darkness of the world
 and of our own lives
 rest in you.
 The night is quiet.
 Let the quietness of your peace
 enfold us, all dear to us,
 and all who have no peace.
 The night heralds the dawn.
 Let us look expectantly
 to a new day, new joys,
 new possibilities.
 In your name we pray.

~ From A New Zealand Prayer Book



On Jan. 15 George Pennacchi, 7th-grader, was crowned champion of the Geography Bee for the third year in a row! His sister Sally, also a 7th-grader, came in second place.

Second-graders at Holy Cross School celebrated the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Jan. 26.

Holy Cross, along with all other schools in the diocese, is celebrating Catholic Schools Week Sunday, Jan. 31 through Saturday, Feb. 6. This year's theme, "Dividends for Life," reminds students and parents how their Catholic education affects students now and throughout their life. The schedule of events in observance of Catholic Schools Week is as follows:

- Sunday, 1/31: "In Our Parish" HC students host Masses at Holy Cross church
- Monday, 2/1: "In Our Community" Mass with Bishop Jenky at St. Matthew, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 2/2: "In Our



Students" Catholic Trivia Competition (5th-8th grade) at 1 p.m.; also Kindergarten Round-Up at 7 p.m. in the Holy Cross parish center

- Wednesday, 2/3: "In Our Nation" Open House, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, 2/4: "In Our

Vocation" Student testimonials throughout the day in the parish center

- Friday, 2/5: "In Our Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers" Talent Show at 12:50 p.m. in the gym

Mark your calendar!

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, 9-10:30 a.m. Mrs. Costello, principal, is hosting a special Open House just for St. Patrick's families interested in enrolling their children, any grade level. St. Patrick's families with current students will help with tours and answer questions. A Catholic education is the greatest gift you can give your child!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Shirley Penny

Fannie May Fudge

Makes 5 pounds; recipe can safely be halved.

- 4 c sugar
- 1 c whole or 2% milk
- 1 t vanilla
- 250 miniature marshmallows
- 1 c butter (not margarine)
- 12-13 oz bag, semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 bag milk chocolate chips
- 2 oz unsweetened chocolate, cut into small pieces
- 1 c nut pieces

Mix milk, sugar, butter, marshmallows, and vanilla in a



pan and boil for 2 minutes. Turn off heat and add all chocolate chips and pieces; stir rapidly until melted (reheat briefly if necessary), and add nut pieces. Pour into two buttered 8x12 inch dishes or pans. Cut when cool but not cold.

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If you have a recipe you would 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!

There's something special about February

There is indeed much that is special about the month of February—and not only Groundhog Day! February brings a reminder of Jesus' presentation in the temple by his parents, a day when altar candles are blessed (Feb. 2). The following day throats are blessed, invoking the aid of St. Blaise, who is said to have saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone.

In February we honor and pray for the help of many saints: Agatha, a person of outstanding courage who was persecuted and killed for her faith; Paul Miki (a Jesuit priest) and his companions, the first Christian martyrs of Japan and the Far East; Scholastica, the first woman to live under the Rule of St. Benedict, her brother; and Cyril and Methodius, brothers, who used Greek letters to invent an alphabet for the Slavic people.

We also honor Valentine (we all know who he was!), a Roman priest and physician who sent letters of love and encouragement to the people of his community, who were living in fear of persecution; Peter Damian, a bishop and cardinal of the Church, who fought hard against abuses of power by the clergy and encouraged monks to live a simple life of prayer; and Polycarp (he knew people who had known Jesus), a bishop, who spoke against false teachers to protect his people from confusion and earned the enmity of those looking for Christians to be sacrificed.

In February we remember Our Lady of Lourdes, who appeared to Bernadette 18 times and left lasting evidence of her healing love for suffering humankind.

February also brings reminders of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12), Martin Luther (Feb. 18), Frederick Douglass (Feb. 20), and George Washington (Feb. 22)—great men all.

There really is something special about February, the last touch of winter often marked by long, cold, dreary days—but filled with sparks of fire to give light and warmth to our lives of faith!



St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

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

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Sr. Charlene Cesario, Judy Fierke, Mary Fonner, Elizabeth Hendricks, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Lori Mestre, Ellen Noonan, Shirley Penny, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, Amy Schuele, Peggy Whelan, and Chris Whippo. February saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by John Towns and paged by Jim Urban.

Lenten observances bring teens together

St. Patrick's teens will be setting a good example for all of us as they begin their observance for Lent on Feb. 19. CREW, the Senior High youth group, will meet each Friday evening for Fish and Fellowship. After enjoying the fish fry, they will meet for Bible study using the "Disciples on the



Journey" program.

Together with *Vivo*, the Junior High youth group, they will have

Communal Reconciliation and an opportunity for individual reconciliation on Feb. 28, then top off the evening with a pizza supper.