

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2011

## A super idea for a Super (Bowl) breakfast

Back in the 1990s, parishioner Steve Beckett had an idea for a fellowship-based event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights would divide into two teams, each serving a different breakfast dish.

Steve had already been serving his popular homemade biscuits and turkey-sausage gravy



at Sunday morning Coffee Shop, so naturally he would lead the Biscuits and Gravy team. Fellow Knight Chris Stohr accepted the challenge of forming a team that would prepare made-to-order omelets. Score would be kept by using different colored tickets for each dish. And so the Super Bowl Breakfast was born.

That first year, the scoreboard showed the Biscuits and Gravy team well in the lead—until 9:00 Mass ended. As soon as that crowd arrived, the Omelet team took off and never looked back, scoring an overwhelming victory. Analyzing that result, Steve made some observations. The people who attended 7:30 Mass tended to be older and more traditional, more likely to be biscuits and gravy fans. A lot of families attended the 9:00 Mass, so that group was younger.

With this in mind, the next year, Steve pulled a trick play. Without

advance warning, he brought in griddles. His team now offered the “Extra Point Breakfast”: pancakes were added to the roster. It was a

brilliant strategy. While many adults from the 9:00 Mass continued to favor omelets, their children readily switched loyalty to the team serving pancakes.

That year the

Biscuits and Gravy team won, hands down.

Over time, some things have changed. Steve Beckett now enjoys being a team member rather than leader. Chris Stohr has long since been traded to the Dishwashing Team. The popularity of biscuits and gravy waned until it was retired last year, leaving Pancakes and Sausage to carry that team.

What hasn't changed is that every year on one Sunday in late January or early February, people at St. Patrick's can gather in the parish center to enjoy good fellowship and a delicious breakfast. Whether you choose fluffy pancakes and sizzling sausage or a hot, fresh, made-to-order omelet with your choice of ingredients is up to you. No matter which team gets the higher score, everybody wins.

This year's Super Bowl Breakfast takes place on Sunday, Feb. 6, after the 7:30 and 9:00 Masses.

## Church Expansion Update: Plans Underway for a Capital Campaign

After several years of master planning and thoughtful study of our parish's current and future space needs, St. Patrick's Parish is taking an important next step in 2011—embarking on a fundraising campaign



to expand the church and connect it with the parish center.

St. Patrick's has retained Community Counseling Service Company (CCS), a professional fundraising firm, to help manage the campaign and has had a representative on site since early January. CCS has 63 years of experience with the Catholic Church, and has worked with our parish in the past.

Information about the campaign will be sent in a letter from Fr. Joe to all parishioners. Once in the active phase of the campaign, updates will be provided in In Focus and on the parish Web site.

The church expansion plan, developed by Stauder Architecture, has

see **Capital Campaign** on page 9



## in our parish library

The library is processing many recently donated books. Here are a few titles on the New Book Shelf in the library.

***Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith***, by Kathleen Norris. This entertaining and thought-provoking book defines “scary words” that can intimidate and distance us from our religious heritage—words like judgment, faith, dogma, salvation, and sinner. Norris blends history, theology, storytelling, etymology, and memoir to help us reflect on their meanings. Readers will come to know more about the gradual conversion and the daily struggle for faith that Norris described in her bestsellers *A Spiritual Geography* (1992) and *The Cloister Walk* (1996). Call Number: 230 NOR 1998.

***The Gospel According to Women: Christianity’s Creation of the Sex War in the West***, by Karen Armstrong. Armstrong’s book is an extremely well-written account of the Christian churches’s attitude to, and lack of respect for, women. She traces the whole history of Christianity as women have taken it, and also “the gospel for women” as male church leaders have presented it. Readers should use their own common sense and knowledge of history as they consider the message that the author tries to present in some cases. Call Number: 270 ARM 1986.

***Guests in Their Own House: The Women of Vatican II***, by Carmel McEnroy. This is a fascinating account of the 23 women who officially observed Vatican II through interviews and other accounts. McEnroy describes their reception and important contributions. Call Number: 262.5 MCE 1996.

***Hope Again: When Life Hurts and Dreams Fade***, by Charles R. Swindoll. This book, using the teachings of Peter, focuses on the hope we have as believers in Jesus Christ despite our trials and temptations. It is an encouraging, enlivening, and refreshing look at why we can dare to hope, no matter who we are, no matter what we face. Call Number: 248.8 SWI 1996.

***The New Question Box: Catholic Life in a New Century***, by John Dietzen. This book, authored by a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, provides helpful insights in answering questions about the Catholic faith in understandable language. It covers many topics in an educated and thorough manner. Call Number: 230.2 DIE 2002.

***When Women Were Priests: Women’s Leadership in the Early Church and the Scandal of Their Subordination in the Rise of Christianity***, by Karen Jo Torjesen. The author examines the subject of women in early Christianity, particularly their lead role of in the Church, using multiple sources to show evidence that women of that time were preachers, prophets, pastors, and patrons. The book focuses on the socio-political environment of the developing Christian movement, including the Jesus Movement, in relation to women, and how this environment shaped Christianity’s beliefs about women’s roles. Call Number: 262.1 TOR 1993.

***Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now***, by Maya Angelou. This book is a collection of short prose (homilies and reveries), many only two or three pages long. Angelou reflects on various topics such as spirituality, self-worth, style, death, friends, family, racism, sensuality, being a woman, and many others. It offers words of wisdom, inspiration, and reflection. Call Number: 814.5 ANG 1993.

\* \* \*

*If you need help locating materials in the library, Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator. She will be pleased to help. The parish library is open weekdays during office hours (ask for a key at the parish office) and on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.*



**Q:** I heard we could have our throats blessed soon. What is this all about?

**A:** The custom of blessing throats goes back to a miracle attributed to St. Blaise, whose feast day is Feb. 3. St. Blaise, a bishop and physician who lived in the fourth century in Armenia, was executed for his faith during the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor Lucinius.

During his lifetime he was renowned for his healing powers. One day, as he was being led to prison, a mother carried her son, who was choking on a fish bone stuck in his throat and near death, and laid him at St. Blaise’s feet. The child was healed immediately. Thereafter, beginning in the sixth century, St. Blaise’s intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat.

While he was confined to a cell and awaiting execution, St. Blaise was given candles so that he would have light by which to read the Scriptures. That explains why it is the custom for the priest or deacon administering the blessing to use candles that have been blessed on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple (Feb. 2). The candles are tied in the shape of a cross and held to the throat of the person receiving the blessing. The priest prays, “Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Older parishioners may remember when the candles were lit, but the even older prayer from the *Rituale Romanum* mentions wax and not flames, so unlit is just fine.)

Besides asking St. Blaise to protect us against physical ailments, we may also ask him to protect us from using our voices to curse, make unkind remarks, or gossip. We may pray that he will help us use our voices lovingly and to speak assertively when we need to.

\* \* \*

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

## Bob Miller, our reheater, refiller, remover, and rewirer

Bob Miller, parish custodian, is responsible for the general maintenance of parish buildings and the pastor's home. He says, "Every day I check the church and the parish center. Fr. Joe tells me if something needs to be done at his house. Staff members let me know about any

problems and the need to set up for special events. I check for whatever needs to be cleaned, painted, refilled, rewired, reheated, re-cooled, or removed. On Friday I make sure everything is ready for weekend activities; on Monday I see that things are back in place."

In everyday terms, this means that Bob handles the ordinary upkeep of our parish buildings in addition to the unexpected. For instance, he vacuums and cleans carpeted areas, mops and waxes tiled areas, empties wastebaskets, takes out the trash and the recycling, rearranges tables and chairs in the multipurpose room and the main hall as needed, maintains a supply of cleaning materials and equipment, makes minor repairs, and the like. He is also an ex officio member of the Building and Grounds Committee, serving as staff liaison for suggested improvements, repairs, or services needed. He takes care of those he can; for others, he calls on committee members, volunteers, or outside firms.

Asked what he likes about his job, Bob says, "The smiling faces I see here." Asked what he sees as the challenges, he offers, "The unexpected. Weather. Snow removal. And being on call at home." He recalls with a smile the night a staff member worked late in the church and,



trying to leave at 10 p.m., set off the alarm. Bob also got called when someone who forgot to turn his clock back tried to enter the parish center at 5 a.m. thinking it was time for his 6 o'clock meeting.

Bob brings plenty of experience to what he does. As a teen he was a painter for his parents, who managed Landmark Apartments down the street from St. Patrick's. After graduating from Centennial High School and four years of Navy service, he worked for his father in Urbana at Miller Appliances Heating and Air Conditioning, eventually running the business.

He tried something different when travel took him to Texas, where he bought a bar and restaurant, "but I didn't like that much." Back in Champaign-Urbana, he worked in maintenance for not-yet-Monsignor Edward Duncan at the Newman Center on campus. There he met Fr. Joe, who was on the Newman staff.

Bob worked at apartment maintenance in Champaign-Urbana, then in appliance parts and service before he answered a parish ad one day in 2004 and came to St. Patrick's, where Fr. Joe had recently become pastor.

Asked if he remembers any funny stories from his six years here he said, "Nothing funny, but Fr. Joe and I were laughing a lot as we mopped up the flooded courtyard once, when rain was running under the courtyard door into the main hall and under the outside door into the lounge. We mopped and mopped and kept on mopping, and it sort of kept on raining. That flooding can't happen again though, because those doors

were replaced by walls!"

Bob enjoys tent camping with his daughter, Jessica, 14, whom he sees every other weekend. "We go to Mill Creek, in southern Illinois. I'm looking forward to next summer!"

Will Bob's duties change when Father Joe takes on his new responsibilities at St. Mary's in March? At press time for In Focus, Bob's answer was "I don't know." One thing is certain: he is a good man to have around—thanks, Bob!



**Happy St. Valentines Day  
to our Readers**



*From  
The Communications Committee*

## Breaking Bread with Father Dominic

Lucky were the hundred and more people who got up early on Jan. 14 to gather at St. Patrick's parish hall to listen and be stirred by the "Baking Monk." His ingredients, bread-baking hints, and comparisons of types of bread to types of Christians, he kneaded into several real loaves of bread, warm and aromatic from the oven, for all to taste. The demonstration was punctuated by the ding of a timer, just as God sometimes interrupts our lives, for giving prizes of loaves of bread, cookbooks, bread tools, and baskets of goodies to winning ticket holders. He entertained, educated, and enlightened all who attended.

The baker of these ingredients is Fr. Dominic Garramone, a Benedictine monk from St. Bede Abbey in Peru, Illinois. Besides his monastic duties of teaching religion and church history, and serving as director of drama at St. Bede's Academy, Fr. Dom appeared on PBS-TV for ten years in a series called "Breaking Bread with Father Dominic." He has also published six cookbooks, two plays, and the first in a series of children's books revolving around works of mercy.

During the first hour of this program, Fr. Dom prepared various breads from newly risen dough that had been prepared earlier by Pat Sheehan and Mary Long. He showed how to braid a loaf from three strips of dough. He formed Bambino Bread by taking a long roll of bread dough, forming a knot, then a figure eight, and tucking it all together so that the finished loaf looks like a baby swaddled in a blanket. For his Rose Rolls, he slathered a slab of rolled-out dough with butter, rolled it up tightly, sliced it into one-inch pieces, and placed the pieces in muffin tins. Then he snipped each top twice with a scissors, making a cross. The rolls spread into buttery petals while baking.

Besides these specific breads, Father Dom provided a variety of tips for successful bread creation. He said that you know the bread dough has beautifully risen when you stick your finger in it and the dough doesn't fill in the hole. The more slowly the bread rises, the better the flavor. After you punch down the first rising of the dough, let it rest for ten minutes before you form it into a loaf. The internal temperature of a baked loaf of bread should be 195°, 200° for grainy breads.

Fr. Dom emphasized the importance of using name-brand cooking spray. He warned not to spray pans over the floor, adding that he has a scar to show that God doesn't protect fools! A good bread knife is an important investment. He cautioned that if you make any of his



breads with margarine instead of butter, you could earn another century in Purgatory. Another rather indulgent advice given was, "Don't eat 'til you're full; eat 'til you're tired!"

Father likened kneading dough to prayer. It seems like it takes forever to knead the dough into the correct consistency, and then, bam, it's bread dough. Waiting for results from prayer is much the same.

He also compared many different types of breads to different characteristics of Christians, which he elaborated on with humorous stories:

- *Rye bread's* unique flavor represents Christians who are not afraid to be themselves, even if others don't understand them (Mother Teresa and St. Francis).
- *Italian bread* is crusty on the outside but soft in the middle, like Fr. Dom's grandfather.
- *Corn bread*, given to starving European settlers by Native Americans, is the bread of Christian humility, like the teacher who is willing to listen to the student, or the parents who learn from their children.
- *Pita dough* is rolled out thin under great pressure and then put into a very hot oven until it poofs. This will happen to all of us one day, hollowed out by pain and suffering. We need to fill that hollow place with God.
- *Pizza* represents the pastor, a crust or foundation that holds a great deal of different toppings. The priest brings the tomato sauce of passion to his parish and the cheese of Christian charity to hold it all together. (Fr. Dom "re-ordained" Fr. Joe as a Pizza Priest.) He pointed out how blessed it is to be a priest, raising up bread during Mass and bringing down God!

Fr. Dom concluded his presentation with a prayer and a blessing, and then invited all to taste the freshly baked breads. He stayed to pen personalized notes in his books for the purchasers, and answered many questions.

We especially thank the Women of St. Patrick who planned, set up, and assisted Fr. Dom's demonstration of bread baking, a thoroughly enjoyable educational event with spiritual dimensions.



## With your help, CREW will be going, going, gone to Detroit this summer

Could you use a babysitter? How about someone to detail your car, power-wash your house, or clean your windows? Maybe you're interested in piano or sports lessons for yourself or your child, need a closet to be organized, or would enjoy a nice batch of homemade treats. Maybe a gift certificate to a fitness center, spa, or salon would help renew those lapsing New Year's resolutions, while a restaurant dinner or tickets to a performance might boost a sagging morale.

These are just some of the services and certificates you might bid on at this year's CREW Service Auction. Every year the CREW teens volunteer their own time and talents for service certificates, as well as seeking donations of gift certificates from parishioner-owned and other area businesses. Generous parishioners also offer their own contributions to the auction (hint, hint!), in the form of timeshare vacation weeks, for instance, or services in areas such as sewing, photography, organizing, or woodworking.

The Service Auction is the most popular of CREW's Summer Mission Trip fundraisers. It costs \$500 to \$600 per person to send forty teens and adult chaperones on this social justice mission trip. That means that every year CREW must raise about \$20,000. According to CREW coordinator Peggy Loftus, rising costs and falling revenues meant that this year the Mission fund starts with a zero balance, so fundraising is more important than ever in 2011.

To ensure that they reach their goal this year, CREW is announcing a "Sponsor a Teen" initiative. Parishioners will be able to make a tax-

deductible donation to help cover specific costs for teens going on the Mission. (Some of the amounts paid for auction items will also be tax-deductible.)

Meanwhile, CREW teens work for the privilege of participating in the Mission. Each teen must pay \$100 toward the cost and put in 12 hours of fundraising. They must also earn 17 religious education credits through

attending Sunday evening classes, special events, and retreats, and complete 20 service hours through volunteer work such as teaching children's religious education classes, helping in the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry or the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, being altar servers, helping with Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts and fish fries, and participating in other parish projects.

The Service Auction is a great way to support CREW. This year there will be a live auction and a silent auction running concurrently all morning, with lots of wonderful items available in both. So mark your calendars for Sunday, April 3. You just might come away from the auction with something that could help your life become a little more relaxed, healthy, fun, clean, organized, or delicious—as well as giving CREW much-appreciated support.

To donate an item or service for the auction, or to sponsor a CREW teen, please contact Peggy Loftus (979-7625, [peggy.loftus@stpaturbana.org](mailto:peggy.loftus@stpaturbana.org)).



## Special calls for volunteers


- Do you enjoy the colorful first page of *In Focus*? To keep it in color, this page must be printed separately and then collated and stapled with the rest of the issue's pages. Can you help? The work crew gathers usually on the last Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or [mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)

- Each week you can read in the parish bulletin the total amount contributed in the Mass collections the weekend before. That amount is arrived at by two small groups of parishioners, alternating monthly, who count and recount what was collected at all the Masses. With some counters unavoidably out of action, both groups need help. They gather on Mondays at 8 a.m., enjoy a quick cup of coffee, and get to work. Can you help? Parish office, 367-2665

- Do you enjoy singing in the choir? In church? Lend your voice to the 9:00 Mass choir! The choir rehearses in the choir loft on Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m. Laura Theby, 531-7003 or [laura.theby@stpaturbana.org](mailto:laura.theby@stpaturbana.org)



*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](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)). Provide your name and telephone number or e-mail address with a brief description of the kind of help being sought.*



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is February 13.

## St. Brigid, the other Irish saint

Second only to St. Patrick in the esteem in which the Irish hold her, St. Brigid was born about 450 A.D. just north of modern-day Dublin, the child of an Irish chieftain and his wife, who was an early convert to Christianity.

Legend has it that her mother took Brigid to hear St. Patrick preach, and she became captivated by the message of the gospel. She refused to marry, determined to devote her life to God. Over time she drew many Celtic noblewomen into the circle of her influence and became a nun and ultimately abbess of Kildare, a double monastery consisting of both men and women. She established many convents throughout the island and became known for her compassion for the sick and for her God-given abilities to heal them.

So great was her authority, it seems, that she even induced a bishop to join her community and to share her leadership. According



to legend, the bishop came to ordain Brigid as a fellow bishop. Some chroniclers cite this in a matter-of-fact way; others report the story while suggesting that the bishop was so intoxicated with the grace of God that he didn't know what he was doing. Whatever the historical facts, the persistence

of such a tale says a good deal about Brigid's status in the Irish conscience.

Another famous story describes how she sat by the bedside of a dying Celtic chieftain, consoling him with her testimony about the power of the Christian faith to overcome death. As she spoke, she plaited an impromptu cross out of local river

rushes, a practice many Irish schoolchildren still learn, resulting in the simple, four-armed cross that graces Irish homes to this day.

Many celebrate her feast day, Feb. 1, by hanging a white piece of cloth or even just a white ribbon outside a window or door for her to bless as she passes by during the night. The blessed piece of cloth is later used for prayer and especially for healing.

Others observe it by leaving the saint a buttered oatcake as a snack and perhaps a nibble for one of her cows, which legend says often accompanied her on her travels throughout Ireland. She was particularly fond of animals, and of cattle and butter-making in particular, and thus became the patron saint of such mundane yet vital Irish concerns as sheep rearing, cattle herding, and dairy farming.

St. Brigid was also said to have been a renowned brewer of ale. Lifting a pint on Feb. 1 in honor of this earthy, practical, and compassionate Irish woman seems an entirely appropriate way to celebrate her feast day, as is reciting the prayer attributed to her, part of which invokes "a great lake of beer for the King of the kings; I should like the people of heaven to be drinking it through time eternal."



Patron Saints for February

### Vocation Prayer



O God, source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through the gift of our life. May your grace encourage men and women to serve the Church as priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves, and challenge me to do the same.

## Carols and theater from the mouths of babes

On Sunday morning, Dec. 12, the boys and girls in our children's religious education classes presented a Christmas program at Coffee Shop, enjoyed by parents, friends, and friends of friends. Here are just a few visual highlights.



*Above: Kindergarteners and first-graders lead everyone in a carol sing-along.*

*Right: Second-graders sing the Ten Commandments to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."*



*Above: Preschoolers act out the story of the Nativity.*



## Sounds of the season

The Christmas Sing-Along on December 19 filled the main hall with the music of the season. A choir of Vietnamese singers that included Fr. Luong Tran got everyone in the mood. When they reached a carol with a refrain that sounded a bit like "Brahms's Lullaby," many found that they could hum along.

Four singers from our Congolese community were up next. Their selections had familiar melodies, sung mostly in French. When they started "Adeste Fidelis" in Latin, more people were able to join in, and it felt so good to sing together that we sang the first verse again.

Next, our music director, Laura Theby, took the piano bench and led a selection of songs. Since we had the words in a booklet, everyone could join in. We sang silly songs like "Frosty the Snowman," sentimental ones like "White Christmas" (God must have heard us sing that one!), and hymns like "Silent Night." A few intrepid volunteers rang handbells on two of the hymns.

The evening ended pleasantly with treats provided by the Women of St. Patrick, who also organized the event. Thank you to all the singers and ringers and bakers and setter-uppers who shared their talents!



### Did you know?

- Our parish library was once housed in the room off the main hall that is now designated as the nursery. When Mass was celebrated in the main hall during the church renovation in the 1970s, the Blessed Sacrament was also housed there.
- Speaking of the parish library, Megan Raab has made great strides in recreating a database of our library holdings—data for over 2000 titles have already been entered. Lori Mestre, parish librarian, rejoices in such great good fortune and hopes that the library will once again be fully functional in the near future.

## Generous neighbors add to Congo collection

In response to an invitation from St. Patrick's, members of Salem Baptist Church, Sinai Temple, and other local congregations brought clothing and bedding during the Christmas holidays to add to our collection for the needs of the Congolese.

A surprise donation of 50 boxes of clothing came from Empty Tomb. Sylvia Ronsvale, Executive Vice President of that organization, is usually asking for donors. But when she read our e-mailed invitation in the newsletter of First United Methodist Church of Champaign, she wanted to participate. She suggested that Empty Tomb's overflow supply of light clothing—50 boxes!—be given to St. Patrick's for shipment to the Congo. We are grateful for her help in making up what was needed to fill the cargo container, and for the assistance of Richard Keane, who transported all those boxes to St. Patrick's.

Watch the bulletin to learn when the cargo container will be ready for shipping and your kindness embarks on its trip across the seas.

From the Parish Nurses:

## Take care of your heart!

February is American Heart Month—and not because of Valentine's Day! The month of February is dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and increasing knowledge about prevention. Heart disease is a leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, but the good news is that many risk factors can be reduced by making changes in your lifestyle:

- Exercise 30 to 60 minutes on most days of the week.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Quit smoking—or don't start.
- Eat a diet that's low in saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

The American Heart Association has an excellent tool at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) that can help you determine your recommended daily amounts of fat and sodium.

Several studies have shown that depression can increase your heart risk, so talk to your physician if you are having symptoms of depression. Psychological distress can increase certain stress hormones in the nervous system, which negatively affects the heart over time. Depression also may reduce motivation to comply with the healthy lifestyle changes listed above.

Your heart is in your hands! Take good care of it by following a healthy lifestyle and having regular check-ups with your health care provider.



## Pray for the sick and dying

In 1992 Pope John Paul II named Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the World Day of the Sick, to emphasize the importance both of those who suffer illness and of those who care for them. What better day than that given to remembrance of Our Lady, who appeared at Lourdes to a young peasant girl and whose intercession has subsequently cured so many who sought her help?

Parishioners who are ill, suffering, or dying often become forgotten members of our faith community—except for immediate family, friends, and care givers. Out of concern for their privacy, we are not permitted by law to name them in our Prayers of the Faithful. They tend to become “invisible” to those of us who can still gather each week to worship. We no longer see them at Mass, at parish special events, walking in our neighborhoods, shopping in our supermarkets.

On this World Day of the Sick, we might make a start to remember daily in prayer our faithful parishioners who are homebound or ill, especially those who are dying, and those who care for them. We might also ask the sick we do know to pray for us, needy as we are.

## More bricks purchased for the new church sign

The new, majestic sign for St. Patrick's at the corner of Main St. and Coler Ave. is cause for gratitude for Will Justice. “I continue to be amazed by the support I have received for my Eagle Scout project. I am grateful not only for the donations but also for the kind words many have offered about it. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this project.”

Since November the following parishioners have bought bricks (parentheses indicate in honor of, or in loving memory of):

- Anonymous
- Felix, Kathy, and Mary Cimakasky (Fr. Joe Hogan)
- William Basehart (Helen M., Joseph A., Patrick A., and William E. Basehart)
- Paul and Pat Doebel (Karen and Ann Doebel)
- Bob and Linda Glazier (The Glazier Family)
- Wally and Betty LaBerge (The Laberge Family)
- Charles and Cheryl Milewski (Felix Milewski)
- Gail Rogers (Mary Long and Jean Metz)
- The Children of Raymond Sturdyvin (Raymond Sturdyvin)
- Irma and Ray Wait

### Ladies' Knight Out

The Knights of Columbus's annual thank you to all the women of the parish, Ladies' Knight Out, will be on Sat., Feb. 26. The evening includes your choice of chicken or steak dinner, followed by a musical show presented by the irrepressible (though hardly infallible) Catholic Boys. Tickets are \$20 at the parish office. Get yours now!





## Capital Campaign

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been carefully developed to enhance our worship and draw us together more closely as a faith community. It doubles seating capacity while preserving the sacredness and beauty of our current worship space, and matching its architecture and aesthetics. It will also include a new gathering space connecting the church and parish center, a lower level with additional meeting space, an updated entry plaza, and other features that will make the church and parish center more welcoming and accessible.

Please continue to keep St. Patrick's and the building project in your prayers.

## Vietnamese celebrate the Year of the Hare

The Vietnamese community in Champaign-Urbana will celebrate the Lunar Vietnamese New Year on Sat., Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's social hall. Food, entertainment, music, and a raffle will be part of the night's celebration. All St. Patrick's parishioners are invited to join in the festivities.

This is the Year of the Hare. Persons born in the Year of the Hare are talented and ambitious. They are popular and good entertainers, which often make them the center of attention. Even though they are liked, they are rather pessimistic, insecure, and



afraid of change. They rarely lose their temper and are very good-natured. In business, they are smart and instinctively make the right decisions, yet they are not gamblers.

Hares, known for their artistic sense, often have beautiful homes. They match persons born in the Year of the Sheep, Pig, or Dog.

If you've seen how the Vietnamese can throw a party with elegance and joy, or even if you want to make a

second attempt at a new year's resolution, then you won't want to miss this. Happy New Year!

## 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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### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

#### Mary Ann Luedtke

##### Vegetable Casserole

- 16 oz bag of frozen mixed vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cauliflower), thawed and drained
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c (4 oz) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/3 c sour cream
- 1/4 t black pepper
- jar of chopped pimientos, drained
- 1 can (2.5 oz) French fried onions

Mix veggies, soup, half the cheese, sour cream, pepper, pimientos, and half the onions. Pour the mixture into a 1-quart casserole dish and bake, covered, at 350° for 30 minutes. Top with remaining onions and cheese and bake, uncovered, for additional 5 minutes.

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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 be easy and quick to prepare!*

