

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

March 2011

St. Patrick's launches capital campaign

After years of prayerful study, and with the enthusiastic support of parishioners, St.



Honoring Our Past
BUILDING OUR FUTURE
ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

Patrick's has initiated a capital campaign. A successful campaign will enable us to enhance our worship space by expanding the church and creating a new gathering space connecting the church with the parish center. The campaign goal is to raise the \$4 million for the project cost, which includes construction, architect fees, and campaign costs.

In reflecting on the launching of the Honoring Our Past — Building Our Future campaign, pastor Fr. Joe Hogan reminds us: "Friends, this campaign is not mine or yours alone. This is God's work for our Church, both present and future. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are building a church where souls will be nurtured and fed. I pray that all of us will have the strength to meet the challenge. Remember, 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be'."

Fr. George Remm, pastor at St. Patrick's from 1986 to 2004, is serving as Honorary Campaign Chair. During this historic time in our parish's life, he reflects: "Imagine the foresight and courage of the 40 families who built St. Patrick's church in 1901-1903. This worship space has blessed us for 100+ years. Now is the time not

only to follow, but to lead."

The success of the campaign relies on the participation

of each parish individual or household. The active phase of the campaign will run from February through May. During that time every family will be approached to support the campaign during home visits by fellow parishioners. The campaign seeks financial support through gifts and pledges payable over a five-year period. Commemorative gift opportunities will be available for parishioners interested in making a gift in memory or recognition of their family or a loved one.



The Campaign Leadership Committee recently gathered for a photo: front row, from the left: Jim and Dottie Davito, Father Joe Hogan; second row, from the left: Jose Schutt-Aine and Patricia Fowler, Joyce and Ed Wagner, Ellen Amberg, Pat Justice; third row, from the left: Marnie Fuesting, Dwight and Marcia Raab, Barb and Steve Beckett, Ray and Ginger Timpone. Not shown: Fr. George Remm, Pat Mayer.

What am I going to stop doing for Lent?

Many of us grew up with the question "What am I going to do for Lent?" But there's a problem with that—sometimes it can make us very self-centered. What if we were to ask three different questions instead?

"What am I going to stop doing for Lent?"

Sometimes when we stop doing something, it makes room for new possibilities. What if we stopped watching so much TV? We might have more time to be quiet with God, more time to play with our families, more time to write a letter or read a book or take a walk. What if we stopped trying to rush on our

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Campaign Leadership Committee

Honorary Campaign Chair

Fr. George Remm

Campaign Chairs

Jim and Dottie Davito

Lead Phase Co-Chairs

Steve and Barb Beckett

Ray and Ginger Timpone

Major Phase Co-Chairs

Jose Schutt-Aine and Patricia Fowler

Ed and Joyce Wagner

Special Phase Co-Chairs

Marnie Fuesting

Dwight and Marcia Raab

Second Century Advisory Committee Representatives

Ellen Amberg

Pat Justice

Marketing and Communications

Pat Mayer

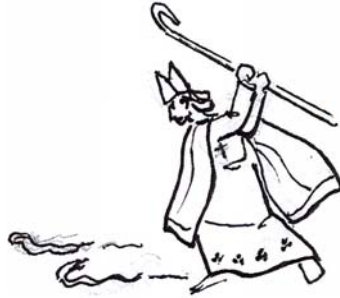
St. Patrick, the man and the legend

St. Patrick was a real person, but one about whom very little is really known-although legends abound. It is from his Confession that we learn most of the history of his life.

His real name was Maewyn Succat, and he was probably born in Scotland or Wales, or maybe even in France, in the late fourth or early fifth century, all depending on the biographical source consulted. It was only later, when his bishop sent him to Ireland as a missionary at the age of about 40, that he was given the name Patercius, or Patritius, from two Latin words meaning "father of his people."

He recorded that as a teenager he was captured in a raid and taken to Ireland as a slave, where he tended his master's sheep, and after several years escaped to home and family.

Young Maewyn Succat found God



while tending sheep.

After his escape he visited the St. Martin's monastery at Tours and the island sanctuary of Lerins, eventually placing himself under the guidance of Bishop Germain. In the years that followed, he was

ordained a priest and, haunted by memories of Ireland, and asked to be sent there. When his request was finally granted, he was made a bishop by Pope Celestine, and it was during this occasion that he was given the name Patritius.

In Ireland he suffered many trials as a missionary, was even imprisoned for a time by the Druids. Many legends tell about the miracles and magical fights between Patrick and the Druids. According to one, he was confronted by a Druid chieftain, who drew his sword to kill him but was unable to because his arm became rigid until he declared himself

obedient to Patrick.

Another legend has it that Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland, standing on a hill and using a wooden staff to drive them into the sea, banished forever. Although it is indeed true that there are no snakes in Ireland today, zoologists contend there never have been snakes in the Emerald Isle.

The most famous legend has Patrick using the shamrock to explain the Trinity. The shamrock was a sacred plant among the Druids, so this is one legend that may be explained by its usefulness to the missionary Patrick.

Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 461 A.D., and is said to be the first saint canonized (in 993 A.D.). He is, of course, the patron saint of Ireland-and our very own patron saint.

St. Patrick, pray for us!

Special Volunteer Opportunities

- 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

- 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 collection 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



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.

Dry Bones

*Our bones are dry,
Our hope has gone;
We are done for.*
—Ezekiel 37:11

**Tiredness grounds me
into a quiet stupor
of the spirit.
I yearn to be inspired,
to be lifted up, set free
beyond the place of deadness.
The struggle goes on,
however,
and you and I, God,
we exist together
with seemingly
little communion.
Yet in the deepest part of me,
I believe in you,
perhaps more strongly than ever.
I am learning you
as a God of silence,
of darkness, deep and strong.
I do not wrestle anymore,
only wait, only wait,
for you to bring my dry bones
into dancing once again.**

—Joyce Rupp
Used with permission

Two parishes, one pastor

St. Patrick's and St. Mary's parishes have always enjoyed a special relationship. It was 40 or so families from St. Mary's, after all, who crossed from Champaign to Urbana over a century ago to found St. Patrick's Parish, and youngsters from St. Patrick's were educated for several decades at St. Mary's School.

Now the two parishes enter upon an even closer relationship—two distinct parishes, but with one and the same pastor.

Fr. Tom Royer, 76, pastor of St. Mary's Parish since 1973, celebrates his retirement with his parishioners on Sunday, Feb. 27, joined by many well-wishing priest-friends and his faith community. He has undoubtedly been sorting through the accumulations of the last thirty years and more in preparation for his move to an apartment in the area, and to turn over to the incoming pastor whatever may prove useful for the years to come.



With Fr. Royer's retirement, effective Mar. 1, Fr. Joe Hogan takes on the added responsibilities of pastor of St. Mary's while remaining pastor of St. Patrick's.

Asked what might change for either parish as a result, Fr. Joe responded with a hearty "Nothing!" He expects to spend time at St. Mary's to get acquainted with the approximately 240 parish families and the parish's physical plant, although he will maintain his office at St. Patrick's. No changes to staff in either parish are planned. (St. Mary's secretary would like to retire, but Fr. Joe hopes that she will stay on at least for a few months to facilitate the transition.)

Mass schedules in both parishes will remain unchanged; our priests will rotate celebration of the Masses weekly, as they do now. They will continue to provide pastoral care at Provena and Carle hospitals. Fr. Joe plans to join the group from St. Mary's on their next trip to San

Salvador, continuing this ministry that has meant so much both to St. Mary's parishioners and to the people of San Salvador.

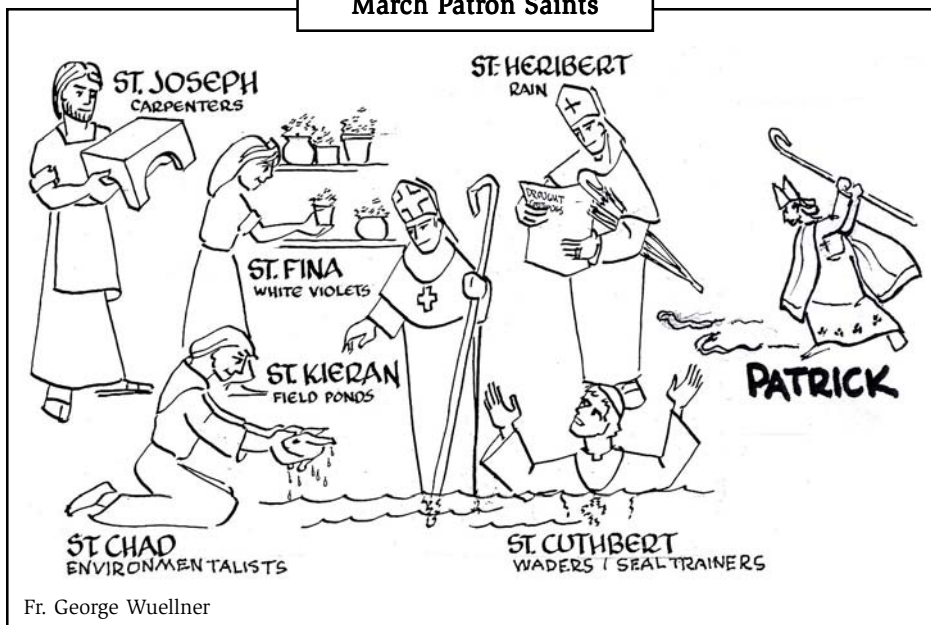
Of course, some changes are in the offing. Fr. Joe and Fr. Luong will eventually move into St. Mary's rectory, after some renovation of the building. Fr. Joe says the kitchen will require extensive remodeling and a new bathroom may be installed to accommodate the three priests who will reside there, perhaps as early as June. When the priests move in, the house in southeast Urbana that has been St. Patrick's rectory for several years will be put up for sale.

Three priests? Yes, Fr. Joe expects to be joined in June by a bilingual priest, whose ministries will include helping with St. Mary's Latino parishioners and the Champaign Vicariate. Whenever Fr. Luong is called back to Vietnam by his bishop, he will be succeeded by another priest whose ministry will focus on the Vietnamese community here. Fr. Joe looks forward to living in a rectory with other priests, where they will be able to pray and dine together.

Both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's have large and active ethnic minorities—St. Patrick's Vietnamese and Congolese communities, and St. Mary's Korean and Latino communities. Because the two parishes are already a close match, especially in their social justice ministries, Father sees a tremendous opportunity for the parishes to become an even greater force for good in the area of social justice concerns through a united effort. In the spring he hopes to form groups with members of both parishes to address these and other matters arising from this closer relationship.

There is much to be learned, much to be accomplished, and many ideas and hands are needed. If you volunteer to help, expect to work hard! Meanwhile, we can all help by praying. Pray for our priests, pray for our people, pray for a clearer sense of mission.

March Patron Saints



Fr. George Wuellner

A look back...at our parish buildings

Now that plans for expansion of our church are underway, it's a good time to look back at the many buildings that have served our parish over the years.

On June 30, 1901, Fr. J. H. Cannon said Mass at St. Mary's Church. He announced that he would lay the cornerstone for a new church, which he named for St. Patrick, at 7 a.m. the next day and say Mass there the following Sunday. That week, parishioners built a simple frame church in 37 ½ hours of round-the-clock work and, sure enough, it was ready for Mass the following Sunday! The frame building was probably located just north of our present church.

That was Fr. Cannon's first week of ministry here. Before the first month was out, he had signed the contract to build the permanent church. He and his sister, Anna, lived in a rented house a few blocks away, at 810 W. Stoughton, but work began on a rectory the following year. By May 24, 1903, when the church was dedicated, the rectory was also complete. Total cost: \$56,000, of which only \$12,000 had not been raised by the time of the dedication. That was a wonderful accomplishment for a parish of only 40-44 families!

The rectory was just east of the church, separated from it by a narrow walkway. It had four bedrooms for the priests and space for their offices. The parish secretary had an office on the first floor. Nancy Steerman, who typed the bulletins on her manual typewriter, remembers the printer that was used to print the bulletins in an alcove, hidden by a curtain. Betty Conerty

recalls making breakfast for parish children in the basement every day, so they could have a warm meal after Mass before going to St. Mary's for school. There were two other homes east of the rectory. The first was acquired for use as the housekeeper's residence. The other, at the corner of Main and Coler, was demolished in 1964 to make way for the parish center.

The parish center was built in two phases. The first phase met the need for religious education classrooms and offices. It consisted of what is now the main hall, the classroom wing, the Main Street entrance, and the nursery space at the east end of the hall. The religious education offices were in the space that is now used as a nursery.

The second phase of the parish center met the need for staff offices and meeting rooms. Before it was built, all offices were accessed by stairs, and meetings were sometimes held in the rectory's roughly finished basement or the pastor's office. The new wing of the parish center, completed in the summer of 1983, included the basement, the staff offices, the kitchen, the lounge, and the multipurpose room. The rectory and housekeeper's house were demolished to make way for it. After this, the priests lived in rented apartments or houses in the area that were purchased by the parish.

Over the last 15 years, St. Patrick's Parish has purchased the land on the north side of the block, as opportunities arose. This investment has made it possible for us to plan now to meet the present and future needs of our second century.

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way to and from work? We might become aware of the emerging beauties of spring and give thanks. We might begin the workday more open to others.

The things we stop doing aren't necessarily bad. After all, TV can be relaxing or informational, and a quick trip to work may allow us more time for others. We might want to stop doing something not because it's bad but because it may open us up to something new that God wants to do in our life.

"What am I going to let someone else do for Lent?"

There may be people around us who would like to try something new. Maybe they need

encouragement, or a friend. Maybe they need our skills or financial help. Maybe they need us to step back so they can begin to grow into a role that we usually fill. Perhaps there is someone we don't know, someone in the local community or the wider world, who needs our help to do something new.

"What am I going to ask God to do for Lent?"

There are some needs that can be addressed only by prayer. Some needs are too great for any person or group to meet effectively; maybe we could set time aside to pray for peace in the world. Some needs are right under our noses; maybe we could pray for two people who aren't getting along, or for someone at one of life's transitions.

As you consider the possibilities of Lent, if you find that you're thinking only about yourself, look for something else. If you find that you're thinking about Lent in the same way you do every year, look deeper for something new. And ask God to make this season a time of newness and growth.



Good-bye, Fish Fry! Hello, Lenten Supper!

It's Lent. It's Friday. What's for supper? Maybe some baked tilapia. Pasta might hit the spot. A nice green salad and some garlic bread will fit with any of those choices. And perhaps just a little dessert...

Sound good? The Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus hopes you think so.

These are some of the choices on the menu they are developing for their Lenten Supper, which will be held every Friday evening in Lent. Proceeds will go to fund the Father Charles Martell scholarships for high school seniors.

This year the Knights are dropping their traditional fish fry because attendance has gone down sharply in recent years. They believe their new Lenten Supper will have a much wider appeal. Fish lovers will still get their fish, just in a healthier—but still tasty-form. People who don't care for fish or who prefer a vegetarian meal will now be able to choose pasta. Because they are still developing the menu, the Knights are happy to hear suggestions from parishioners about



what foods they would like to find at a Lenten Supper.

The change will make things a lot easier for volunteers. In the past, the Knights had difficulty finding enough volunteers who could arrive early enough to get the fryer set up and ready to go by dinner time, or who

could stay late enough to finish the very messy, greasy cleanup afterward. Eliminating frying eliminates a lot of extra work, not to mention that fried fish smell that clung to clothes and coats and permeated every corner of the parish center!

Whatever the changes to the food, some things won't change. Every Friday during Lent, the Knights will be providing an opportunity for all of us to break bread together, to share a good meal and good conversation, and to experience the fellowship of our parish community. What could be more healthy, nourishing, and satisfying than that? (And yes, there will still be a dessert table!)

The Lenten Suppers begin Friday, Mar. 11. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for the latest information.

Kiss me, I'm Irish!

Irish or not, St. Patrick of Ireland is our parish patron. We are all invited to celebrate in his honor at a family party on Sunday, Mar. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both 10:30 and noon Mass-goers will find the time convenient. Stop at a table of homemade baked goodies—or try something altogether new, the CREW Cafe, where you can buy yourself an Irish lunch with trimmings in support of CREW's summer mission trip.

It will be a grand racket (that's Irish for a great party) for all ages. The organizers are planning



children's crafts and entertainment for adults. Details of the latter include several kinds of talent, some familiar and some brand new, to be announced in the parish bulletin. Organizers are excited about their plans

and promise you will be excited on the big day.

A big day it will be, for everyone—for families, singles, young people—to have fun together as a parish dedicated to the saint whose name, holiness, and statue grace our church, and whom we have a right to call on in heaven and be glad for on earth.



Q: Why is Easter so late this year?

A: The Church year is a lot like our spiritual lives: they both revolve around the death

and resurrection of Jesus. So let's think about Easter first.

Since the fourth century, in most parts of the western Church Easter has been celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon of spring-time. Because of this, Easter is usually celebrated at the same time that our Jewish neighbors celebrate Passover. The date for Passover is set on the Jewish calendar, in which each month begins at the new moon—which explains why the phase of the moon is used to determine the date for Easter. Since Jesus' Last Supper was a celebration of a Passover Seder, it is fitting that Passover and Easter fall together.

The earliest possible date for Easter is Mar. 22 and the latest is Apr. 25. Since Easter falls on Apr. 24 this year, it is almost as late as it can be. From Easter, we count backwards 40 days, leaving off the Sundays, which brings us to Ash Wednesday, which falls on Mar. 9 this year.

From Easter, if we count forward 50 days, we land on the feast of Pentecost, which is Jun. 12. The following Sunday is the feast of the Holy Trinity (Jun. 19), and the Sunday after that is the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Jun. 26). Christmas, of course, is always Dec. 25, and the four Sundays preceding it are the Sundays of Advent. The Sundays of Ordinary Time fill in around the other feasts.

So you see, once you know the date of Easter (or the date of the first full moon of spring) you can make your own church calendar!

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

Great Dates couples enjoy an evening of romance

On a recent Saturday evening in February, married couples participating in the Great Dates program were asked to take a journey through their past, present, and future. They met as usual in the church following the 5 p.m. Mass before setting out to a place of their choosing for a "date."

Each couple was asked to consider their relationship as a "Great Romance," going back through time to the period they dated, allowing themselves to recall the emotions, the places, the tender spots, the awkward spots, and how each came to appreciate the best in the other.

To add to the fun, they were invited to look into the future and plan a 24-hour or 48-hour escape for just the two of them.

When the couples returned to the parish center at 8 p.m. that evening, they were treated to the "present" — dessert, wine, and coffee "Men-in-Black Café," with Fr. Joe and Fr. Luong serving as their waiters! This annual treat for couples took place in the multipurpose room, which was transformed with soft lighting, flowers, elegant table settings, and tables filled with indulgent desserts. It was an evening to recognize and celebrate their chosen vocation of marriage and the life they bring to our parish community. They came to know each other better, share stories, and have fun.



The Great Dates program is a ministry designed to serve all married couples in the parish. Those who participate meet together for a 15-minute presentation one Saturday each month from October through April, before heading out on a "date" to a place of their choosing.



This year the program is fueled by the publication of our own parish book on marriage: *Fried Chicken & Donuts and Other Stories of Covenant Marriage*. This book compiles individual stories that reveal different aspects of married life lived out as a sacrament, as told by couples from St. Patrick's. Two or three stories are selected to be read each date night.

Child care is provided by CREW teens and their parents, under the supervision of Peggy Loftus — parent and teacher extraordinaire! Donations are appreciated as these teens prepare for their mission trip in the summer. Their participation with the younger children makes this a remarkable intergenerational program for our parish: parents are assured of a safe, supervised place to leave their children for a few hours, and teens provide a valuable service for parents while investing in their own summer mission experience.

There are two Great Dates still to come in the current season: Mar. 12 on the theme "Spirituality—Looking to Each Other" and Apr. 9, "Re-connecting—Using Our Strengths."

If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Steve and Mary Karten (mlkarten@hotmail.com or 351-6316).



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is March 6.

What's Vivo up to?

On Sunday, Mar. 13, Vivo students and parents will test their knowledge of each other by playing St. Patrick's version of "The Newlywed Game," dubbed Test Your Knowledge. The kids and their parents will answer questions about each other and try to match the answers. The winning team will receive a fabulous prize! (Last year's winning team was the Kneer family.) Any students in seventh and eighth grades are invited to join the fun with their parents.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room and concludes with yummy desserts. Any questions, please contact Amy Schuele (aschuele@ncsa.illinois.edu).

Did you know . . . ?

- Knitted hats and gloves, prayer books and cards, reading glasses, scarves, sometimes even jackets—all items found in the church after weekend Masses are taken to the parish office on Monday for the Lost and Found collection. After a few weeks, these are put out on a table outside the Food Pantry for anyone to take who would find them useful. Call the parish office (367-2665) if you think you've left something behind!
- Fr. Joe takes up his new responsibilities at St. Mary's on Mar. 1, while continuing to serve as our pastor. Pray for him!
- The Stations of the Cross in our church were painted by Chicago artist Richard Benda and obtained for St. Patrick's by Fr. Gene Kane.
- A splendid new rose-pink vestment has been donated to St. Patrick's for use on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent). Many thanks to Marcia Raab, who designed, stitched, and generously shared this gift of her talents with us to enhance our worship!

Just what is the Parish Council and what does it do?

The Parish Council is a group of ten parishioners elected by the parish to serve a three-year term on a consultative basis as liaisons between the parish and the pastor. Three or four members are elected each year, replacing the out-going members, which gives the Council continuity from year to year, as well as new insights, direction, and personality. It is a dynamic group of parishioners from all different backgrounds but with one very important thing in common: love of St. Patrick's Parish and a desire to see the parish flourish and grow.

Each Council member has a specific role. Seven members serve as a liaison between the Council and one of the six ministry groups, with Faith Development having two Council representatives. They are asked to participate in that ministry's monthly or quarterly meeting and then report back to the Parish Council on the ministry's activities and bring to light any items requiring Council attention.

The other three Council members serve on the Executive Committee as secretary, vice-president, and president. Fr. Joe appoints a newly elected Council member to serve as secretary, and each year thereafter that member assumes the role of vice-president, and then president. Along with the parish trustees, the Executive Committee meets with Fr. Joe about a week before the Parish Council meeting to consult on various matters and to set and approve the Council meeting agenda.

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, except for July and December. Before the meeting, members gather at 6:30 p.m. in the church for prayer, led by a different Council member each month. (Fr. Joe believes very much that the most important thing a Council member can do is to pray for the parish.) Afterward, all move to the parish

center to conduct business.

Participating in the Council meetings are Fr. Joe, the ten elected Council members, the two parish trustees, and the recording secretary. The meetings are open to the parish, and all parishioners are welcome to attend. The Council president presides at the meetings, which generally conclude by 8:00 p.m.

Not all is business, though! In August, Council members participate in an off-site pot-luck retreat, which allows them some time to get to know one another better and to share in some wonderful food, while also setting the tone and focus of the Council for the year ahead. In



December, they celebrate Christmas with a pot-luck get-together in the rectory.

Fr. Joe encourages Council members to stay connected with parishioners by participating in the functions of the various ministries, but especially in parish-wide activities and events, which help the Council to remain visible to the parish and available for conversations. Members welcome and value parishioners' input, suggestions, and ideas. If there is a topic you would like to have discussed at an upcoming Parish Council meeting, please address it with the president at least two weeks before the next Council meeting.

Council members appreciate the opportunity to serve the parish in

this way and find that it helps them to grow in understanding of what it means to be "parish." Jeff Kneer, current vice-president of the Council, says, "I enjoy being on the Council because it allows me to participate, although maybe in only in a small way, in every one of the wonderful ministries here at St. Patrick's. The Holy Spirit is truly alive in this parish, and I am blessed to be a part of it."

He's not alone in this regard. Susan Fowler, elected in 2009, serves as liaison with the Faith Development ministries. She says that "being on the Council has expanded my awareness of and appreciation for the extraordinary support that the St. Patrick's staff and community provide. It's inspiring and amazing to think of the thousands of volunteer hours our parishioners give, from coffee shop to religious ed, from creating beauty that enhances liturgy to helping so many in our town. I know now, from serving on the Council, how interconnected many people at St. Patrick's are and how readily they give of their time and gifts. I'm humbled to be a part of our community."

Elected last April, Judy Altaner (who serves as liaison with Worship ministries) remarks that "being a part of the Parish Council has helped me feel even more connected to St. Patrick's Parish and to the Church. I have gotten to know more people and have learned more about our community. I enjoy seeing how our parish functions and trying to help in any way that I can."

Pray for our Council members. Let them know how much you appreciate their service to our faith community and to our pastor. Read the Council minutes, posted in the church vestibule, and communicate to the members your concerns and interests in matters under consideration. Help them to be true liaisons for the Council with members of our parish. But mostly, pray for them.

Holy Cross Happenings

Congratulations to George Pennacchi, the winner of the school's 2010-2011 Geography Bee. He has qualified to take the written test to advance to the National Geography Bee competition. This is the fourth year in a row that George has taken first place!

Even through blizzard-like conditions, Holy Cross celebrated Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, in many fun ways—a Catholic Trivia Bee, board game, and cookie day, two all-school Masses, vocational visits from priests and nuns in the local community, and the annual talent show showcasing the many talented children at the school, as well as a surprise performance featuring Fr. Willard and nearly all the teachers in a rousing rendition of Michael Jackson's "Thriller!"

Save the Date for the "Tale as Old as Time." This year's musical is "Beauty and the Beast," featuring a 100+ member cast of students in grades K through 8. Performances will be Mar. 31, Apr. 1, and Apr. 2 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Apr. 3, at 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Tickets will be available only at the door.



Hannah Niccum (grade four) plays piano.



Jack Reeder plays the bagpipes at the all-school talent show.

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Mar. 27. This will be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to be anointed to do so in the presence of our parish community. Like all sacraments, this is an occasion of grace and should be celebrated by anyone needing healing from physical, emotional, or spiritual distress, as well as those suffering from the infirmities of age or a chronic illness.

Celebration of this sacrament at Mass provides a wonderful opportunity for those who do not approach the priest for anointing to spend time in prayer for those who do. We unite our prayers with those of the priest and those of the anointed. This is perhaps the best gift we can give to one another as a parish family—to pray for one another.

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

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

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Nancy Olson

Baked Crab Rangoon

1 can (6 oz) white crabmeat, drained and flaked
4 oz Neufchatel cheese, or low-fat cream cheese, softened
1/4 c thinly sliced green onions
1/4 c reduced-fat mayonnaise
12 wonton wrappers

Mix crabmeat, cheese, onions, and mayo. Spray 12 muffin (or mini-muffin) cups with cooking spray. Gently place one wonton wrapper in each cup, allowing edges to extend above the sides of the cup. Fill evenly with crab



mixture. Bake at 350° for 18-20 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and filling is heated through. Garnish with chopped green onions. Serve warm.

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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!



in our parish library

The parish library has many books for both children and adults that may prove helpful companions on your Lenten journey.

Children's Books. The children's books have call numbers with a "C" on the top and are located on the right side of the library.

- *Arts & Crafts for Lent*, by Jeanne Heibert. Call Number: C HEI 1997.

- *Easter Is Coming! (Lenten Celebrations for the Family)*, by Mary Herb-Montgomery. Call Number: C MON 1973.

- *The Easter Story*, by Carol Heyer. Call Number: C HEY 1990.

- *The Jesus Garden (an Easter Legend)*, by Antoinette Bosco. Call Number: C BOS 2004.

- *Lent for Children*, by Alison Berger. Call Number: C BER 2000.

Adult Books for Lent and Easter.

Once you locate a book by the call number, you should find other books about Easter and Lent close by.

- *The Ascent of the Mountain of God: Daily Reflections for the Journey of Lent*, by Edward Hays. Call Number: 263 Hay.

- *Ashes to Easter: Lenten Meditations*, by Robert Morneau. Call Number: 242.3 MOR 1997.



Dear God, you call me to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you. Help me to know how to bring justice and love to a world desperately in need of you. Strengthen us all with the courage to respond to your invitation to serve. Give us faithful servants, ordained and lay, who will teach, inspire, and lead us.

- *Biblical Meditations for Lent*, by Carroll Stuhlmueller. Call Number: 263 Stu.
- *Days of Dust & Ashes: Hope-Filled Lenten Reflections*, by Pamela Smith. Call Number: 263 SMI.
- *A Feast for Lent: Readings & Prayer*, by Delia Smith. Call Number: 263.2 SMI.
- *Lent for Families: A Time to Grow*, by Mary Carol Kendzia. Call Number: 263.2 KEN 2000.
- *The Lenten Pharmacy: Daily Healing Therapies*, by Edward Hays. 263.2 HAY 2006.
- *Living in the Light: Daily Reflections, Prayers & Practices for Lent*, by Rev. Warren J. Savage, Call Number: 263.2 SAV 1998.
- *Of Fast & Festival: Celebrating Lent & Easter*, by Barbara O'Dea. Call Number: 263.92 ODE.
- *Parish Path through Lent & Eastertime*, by Liturgy Training Publications. Call Number: 263.2 SIP.
- *Re-Treat Your Family to Lent*, by Sandra DeGidio. Call Number 248.4 DEG.

If you need help locating materials in the library, call 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.

Great news from Bukoba!

The Kwauso school is to open at the end of February! Fr. Stan, who has traveled uncounted miles and dedicated untold days and nights to this end, is doubtless very happy!



David Kraft, who has kept in touch with Fr. Stan and promised to help raise funds to make the school a reality, says that he hears about progress on the school now primarily from the Bukoba Catholic Diocese. All students as well as the teachers will live in the four buildings so painstakingly erected by members of the community. "The enrollment will be less this year, with hopes of growing the mustard seed as time goes on," he says. "I gather they have sufficient furnishings to open the school. Someone has donated 200 bunk beds and 100 used computers."

They still need help, David added, but "it was a matter of opening the school now or waiting until January 2012, so now it is." (Donations are still very much needed. If you choose to help, send your check, payable to St. Mary's Parish with "For Kwauso School" on the memo line, to St. Mary Parish, 79 Third St., El Paso, IL 61738.)

Many parishioners who remember Fr. Stan (the priest whose Tanzanian surname means "man who is not lazy") for his great energy and sense of humor, and for his humble service during his time among us, will be especially pleased to hear such good news. To those who have helped with prayers and donations to support the building project, know that you will be blessed for your generosity; your help is very much appreciated!



Preparing seating for one of the classrooms at Kwauso School

Vietnamese community celebrates Tet

Is it the Year of the Rabbit or the Year of the Cat? Well, both are correct. The Chinese celebrate the Year of the Rabbit, and the Vietnamese the Year of the Cat.

Those born in the Year of the Rabbit / Cat are gentle and emotional. They present a well-groomed appearance and are well-mannered. They also like to play and have fun.

On Feb. 15 over 200 Vietnamese (among them 79 children) gathered at St. Patrick's to celebrate the Year of the Cat with singing, dancing, and dining. The evening's festivities included the first C-U Miss "Aó Da?" (Vietnamese gown) pageant. The three runners-up were chosen from among 14 lovely participants. The owner of the Xinh Xinh Café sponsored the event.

Traditional Vietnamese foods were served (the delicious fragrance permeated the parish center during the all-day cooking preparation!), followed by an evening of entertainment and music. Raffle prizes were also distributed.

Everyone present looked forward to next year's event!



Lent is not so much about us and our pious practices as it is about Christ and our relationship to God and to other persons. The most important task of the Lenten season is to link up with Jesus and with the saving significance of his death and resurrection.

~Daniel J. Harrington

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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