

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2011

## You are a member of the Communion of Saints!

Through baptism we become part of a family much larger than our biological family. It is a family of people we call saints. And you, by reason of your baptism, are a member of that family. There's just no way of getting around that fact.

Although we tend to think of saints as pious and picture them with halos, true saints are much more like us; they live ordinary lives and struggle with ordinary problems. Their lives, at least some of them, may look quite different, but most of them are remarkably similar to our own.

We belong to that great throng of the Communion of Saints, which we profess our belief in when we recite the Creed at Sunday Mass. The Communion of Saints includes not only all those in heaven with God, but also all of us believers still here on earth as well as those who have died but are not yet united with our Creator.

When you look at the photos elsewhere in this issue, you will recognize many parishioners who have died,

yet also many who are with us still. All—*all*—are members of the Communion of Saints. This means you too, of course!

The Communion of Saints means that all the good of Christians in some way belongs to all and is shared with all. Not all of us can be a Dr. Susan Nagele witnessing to the love of Jesus in a faraway land, any more than Susan can be a Dorothy Day to the homeless here in Champaign-Urbana, or than Dorothy Day could have washed the hands and feet of the homeless in India with Blessed Mother Teresa. Yet the good done by each of us is shared with all of us in the Communion of Saints.

This communion also enables us to experience still the love of those who have gone before us into eternal life, to pray with confidence for and with them, to ask for their help in time of need.

This great company gives glory to God in the lives of each one of us. Take a deep breath and let it out in a song of thanksgiving!



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

Through the prayerful and generous support of St. Patrick's parishioners, the parish is growing closer toward our campaign goal of \$4 million for expansion and renovation of St. Patrick's church. To date, we have received 490 gifts in pledges and cash, totaling \$3,402,517. All cash donations to the current campaign are being held in a building fund until the construction project is begun.

The parish launched the *Honoring Our Past - Building Our Future* campaign in February 2011. Last spring more than 60 volunteers worked diligently to personally contact nearly 600 parishioners, seeking gifts in support of this project. A parish-wide pledge commitment weekend took place on June 4-5. In recent months, new pledges and gifts have continued to come in.

This fall, parishioners who have not yet made a pledge or gift to the campaign will be contacted to ensure that they have an opportunity to be part of this historic endeavor. There also will be a special effort to contact former parishioners as well as friends of St. Patrick's Parish, asking them to support the campaign. We want to make certain that everyone who has felt the deep sense of community at St. Patrick's Parish learns about our church expansion plan and has the opportunity to participate in the campaign.

When will the church expansion

See **Building** on page 8

## Breaking bread together

There were babies and there were elderly people. There were young children and teenagers, young adults and middle aged ones. Some came on their own, some came as families. Some people were energetic, some lively and talkative, some tired, some quiet and reserved. All were guests at the second Friends of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Dinner on Sept. 28 in the Main Hall of St. Patrick's parish center.

"They come from all sorts of backgrounds and circumstances. But by the grace of God, any one of us could be in the need of what SVDP offers. It makes me even more appreciative of what I have," said Kathy Sarnecki, who volunteered as a table host for the dinner.

Those sentiments are echoed by others who helped with the dinner, which grew out of suggestions made at a Peace and Justice Ministry meeting a couple years ago. When Chris Whippo, then on the board of the Women of St. Patrick, asked Food Pantry coordinator Ellen Abell what the WSP could do to help the food pantry, Ellen mentioned the idea and she says Chris took it and ran with it.

"As volunteers we see the same faces, but there is never time to chat or have a deep conversation because the pantry is always busy getting the

food to our Friends," Chris said. She told Fr. Joe about the idea for the parish to host a dinner for the food pantry's clients. "He loved the idea. He told me about a wonderful picture he had of a parish in the Trastevere section of Rome that hosted a lovely dinner for the poor right in the gorgeous sanctuary of their church itself." The beauty of that image inspired organizers to use tablecloths and real dishes, flatware, and glasses for dinner, instead of paper and plastic.

Ellen, Chris, WSP president Kathy McKenzie, and pastoral associate Mary Long formed the core planning group, reaching out directly to parishioners for help. The parish came through. Sixty-five people (including 4-5 food pantry clients) volunteered to help with preparation, making phone calls, greeting, hosting tables, serving food, and cleaning up. Parishioners also came through generously with delicious food, bringing in 25 hot vegetable dishes and casseroles, 25 salad, fruit, and Jello dishes, 15 pies, and 15 cakes, brownies, or batches of cookies. Parish ministries provided 5 hams and 400 pieces of chicken, as well as rolls.

Guests were greeted, given name tags, and helped to find tables. When everyone was seated, Fr. Joe welcomed the guests and said a prayer. Ultimately 250 guests enjoyed

dinner that evening.

Each table had at least one host actually breaking bread with the guests, making sure they had what they needed, and helping conversation along. At some tables this was easy. "I think I've made some new friends," one host exclaimed after the dinner, talking about the lively group at her table.

Some hosts easily found some common ground. Jeannelle Murphy hosted a table with her husband and baby daughter. "I talked about parenting challenges and joys with a woman at my table. Parenting is hard enough; I can't imagine how difficult it is when you're not sure you have enough food to feed all your children."

There were so many guests that once some finished and left, tables had to be quickly bussed and set for new guests. Bridget McGill describes how she broke the ice with her first group of guests by asking which dishes were their favorites. (Top answers: ham and dessert.) Her second group of diners was a three-generation family who appeared too hungry for conversation. She respected their silence as they ate. "I reflected how in order to feed a soul you first need to feed the body. I reflected on the Christ-light each carried within. I rejoiced in the smiles that came as they finished

See **Bbread** on page 3



*Gathering for last-minute instructions and encouragement from Chris Whippo*



*Tables groaning under desserts a-plenty*

## Bread from page 2

their meal.”

Indeed there were many smiles that night. The guests left well fed. (And speaking of feeding souls, one guest left with a St. Patrick welcome packet and the intention to return for Mass.) The food pantry stayed open that evening and almost 140 bags of groceries were distributed to clients during and after the dinner.

“Thank you” and “God bless you” were the words heard from guests as they took their leave. Many volunteers said the same to the guests. “It’s a very warm, and humbling, feeling to be able to ‘share the bread’ with the SVDP guests,” Kathy Sarnecki said, and other volunteers echoed how blessed they feel to be able to serve in this way.

Chris Whippo remarked, “Seeing fellow parishioners getting involved in the dinner makes me proud to be a part of this parish. We have very generous parishioners who are happy to serve God in this way.”

According to Ellen Abell, the consensus among guests was that “The food was really good,” as one gentleman said as he came into the pantry a week after the dinner, patting his stomach. She relates the story of a gentleman who had very much looked forward to the dinner but had to miss it because he had an opportunity to work—bad news, yet good news.

Bridget McGill summed up the experience this way: “I had broken bread with those who represent ‘Christ with skin on,’ I had been blessed with good company, good food, and a better understanding of poverty in our local community.” One might add that our parish had also been blessed with an opportunity to live our faith.

*Chris and Ellen wish to thank all of the volunteers and the parishioners who helped provide food, all of whom made the dinner possible. Ellen would also like to thank Sharon Lawhead especially for packing most of those 140 bags of groceries!*

## Remembering our deceased loved ones

It is fitting that on Nov. 2, All Souls Day, we remember and pray for our loved ones who have died. The Ministry of Consolation team, with Fr. Joe and Fr. Luong, will gather that evening for the Fall Evening of Remembrance to share the stories of our family and friends who have died from April through September of 2011. We will be remembering the lives of

**JEFFREY KEELER  
PATRICIA DOEBEL  
LUCILLE PEARSON  
ROSEMARY MATHY  
LUCIUS D’URSO  
ROBERT KIRCHNER  
JAMES VAN MATRE  
JOHN TRUMMER  
JOHN MCCORD  
IRENE SMITH  
JACK SCHUMACHER  
EMMA LYNCH**

**MERLE FIELDS  
CHARLOTTE OAKES  
ALICE DUDMAN  
HELEN LESKOSKY  
DONG NGUYEN  
GEORGE PORTER  
MARGARET HANDAL  
EUGENE OSMOND  
WILLIAM FIERKE  
CARL SCHERER  
EILEEN SCOTT  
ROSA HUANCA**

If there is someone we have missed, please accept our apology. If there is someone you would like to remember, we encourage you to join us; feel free to bring a picture or memento of the person. Should you wish to have more information about the Evening of Remembrance, please contact Nancy Olson (359-6424) or Mary Long (367-2665).

At the Spring Evening of Remembrance the lives of deceased friends and loved ones were remembered and the lives of those of us left to mourn them were touched in many ways. One of the participants that evening, Kathy Mengarelli, shares her thoughts about the experience with our parish family:

On May 11, 2011, at St. Patrick’s the Consolation group and Fathers Joe and Tran led us through grief and peace through the loss of a loved one so dear. We got to share our thoughts and feelings of our particular loved ones lost to us as recently as two weeks before and years before. We shared our thoughts and prayers with each other. Some of us were more outspoken than others. The pain is deep for all who were there. You could feel the hurt and grief through all.

We prayed for each other and cried with one another and shared our stories. Some even brought photos. The evening was very healing and spiritual for me. I definitely will come again to share my love and compassion with others when we meet again in November.

My prayers are with all of those grieving now and always. Thank you, Consolation team, and Fr. Joe and Fr. Tran.





## Who are the Knights, and what do they do?

Nearly 130 years ago, the venerable Fr. Michael McGivney (then an assistant pastor) and a small group of parishioners at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., founded a group to help Catholic men remain firm in their faith through mutual encouragement, to promote fraternity among them, and to set up a system of insurance so that the widows and children of deceased members would not become impoverished.

Today, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization, named in honor of famed explorer Christopher Columbus in order to bring attention to his Catholic faith. The term "Knights" signifies its members as being dedicated to the knightly ideals of spirituality and service to church, country, and fellow man.

Since its founding March 29, 1882, the organization has spread throughout the United States. The 1899 charter included four statements of purpose, including "to promote such social and intellectual intercourse among its members as shall be desirable and proper, and by such lawful means as to them shall seem best." The new charter showed members' desire to grow the organization beyond a simple mutual benefit insurance society.

Today there are more than 15,000 councils around the world, and the



Knights of Columbus is a multibillion-dollar non-profit charitable organization. Knights distribute Tootsie Rolls to raise funds to fight developmental disabilities, volunteer for the Special Olympics and other charitable organizations, work in the pro-life move-

ment, conduct blood drives and raise funds for disaster victims, and assist at special Masses in their ceremonial attire.

Membership is open to Catholic men 18 and older who are in union with the Holy Father. Candidates join local councils, most of which are based in one Catholic parish or in the community at large. Candidates take part in four initiation degrees that explain the Knights' principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. A candidate is considered a "Knight" after taking his First Degree, but he is encouraged to advance through the Second and Third Degrees and on to the Fourth Degree, whose members promote the virtue of patriotism by serving in honor guards and color corps and promoting respect for country and flag.

St. Patrick's Council 5752 was chartered on Sept. 26, 1965, and currently has 119 members. Current officers are Ed Clancy, Grand Knight; Jerry Walsh, Deputy Grand Knight; Steve Beckett, Recorder; Joseph Youakim, Treasurer; and Chris Stohr, Financial Secretary.

The Urbana Council provides sup-

port to charitable endeavors throughout the parish and local community through a variety of fundraisers:

- Tootsie Roll sales – This fundraiser recently supported the Developmental Service Center in Champaign; Urbana School District Special Education; Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative; State 0% interest group homes; and state-wide programs for the intellectually disabled.

- Lenten Pasta and Fish Dinners – This project supported 13 Father Charles Martell Scholarships in 2011 to St. Patrick's high school seniors going to college.

- Ladies Knight Out – A dinner with musical entertainment is prepared annually for approximately 150 women of the parish and their guests.

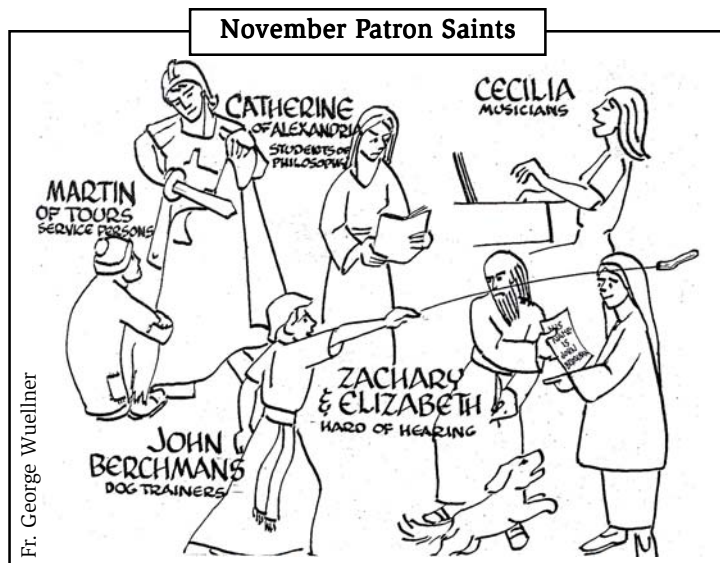
- Pancake and Sausage Breakfast – These fundraisers occur on the fifth Sunday of the month.

- Super Bowl Breakfast – This special event raises money for the Council's general fund.

- General Fund Projects for 2010 / 2011 included the Father Cyr Youth Program in Spain; Dr. Susan Nagele; Empty Tomb Maintenance Projects, clothing distribution and furniture deliveries; Diocese of Peoria Seminarians; Vocations; PACE (Persons Assuming Control of their Environment); parishioners in need of monetary support; Respect for Life Memorial Service; and Will Justice's Eagle Scout Project.

The KC Council also helps as needed with the All-Parish Barbeque; Fall Fest; Catholic Connect; Christmas Bazaar; Cellar-to-Garret sale; the parish's spring and fall cleanup; Building and Grounds; the Liturgical Arts Team; and Peace and Justice Ministries.

Men who meet the criteria and are interested in providing support for the parish, the local community, children with disabilities, and the mentally disabled may want to consider joining the Knights of Columbus. For more information, contact Grand Knight Ed Clancy (367-9266).

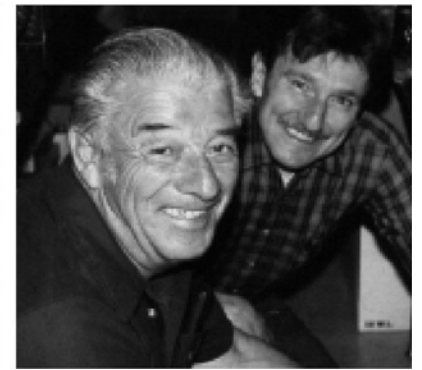
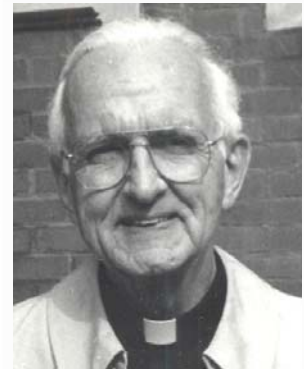
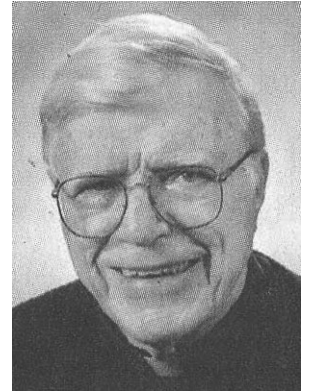


# All saints, all sorts

You don't have to search far for heroes and saints. They are in our midst. Some have been canonized, many haven't, many may never be. What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, and a willingness to sacrifice self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing God's love among us are easily discovered—just look around you!

*“There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.”*

—Thomas Merton





## A typical Monday is a busy day at St. Patrick's!

Mondays begins at St. Patrick's a little before 6:00 a.m., when men arrive at the parish center to participate in the program That Man Is You! Parishioner Joseph Youakim commented that at the first meeting in September over 150 men participated and were enthusiastic about their experience. The program's fall session emphasizes the four leadership roles of men.

At 7:00 a.m., people have gathered for Mass in the church. Afterward the 7 Alive group moves to the parish hall for fellowship, coffee, and a bit of sweet roll. According to long-time participant Sophia Zeigler, the custom began more than 30 years ago. The name "7 Alive" was chosen "because we go to 7:00 a.m. Mass and are glad to be alive!"

At about 8:00 a.m. some of the men and women leave the "7 Alive" group to count the weekend Mass collection. Toni D'Urso, who has 21 years' experience, pointed out that former pastor Fr. George Remm initiated the practice of having two teams of counters that rotate on alternate months. The counting always takes more time on the third weekend due to the second collection that week.

Also at 8:00 a.m. 3-4 women from the "7 Alive" group get started wiping down a few tables in the hall for sorting and bagging loaves of bread, bagels, and pastries donated by Panera for our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Other volunteers get busy in the church to put all in order after a weekend that may have seen 1100 or

more people worshipping together. Extraneous papers are removed from the pews, worship aids are put back in place, the supply of hosts and wine for Mass is replenished, left-behind items are taken to the parish office in the hope that owners will call for them, altar linens are replaced or refreshed, glass votive candle holders are cleaned and votive candles put out for use, vestments and robes are examined for wear, floral displays are watered or rearranged—and more.

In the morning Eucharistic ministers take Communion to Catholic patients at Carle Hospital. The visits mean a lot to the patients: sometimes they are moved to tears, or the experience leads them to renew their relationship with God. Volunteer Peg Huson remarked that "some people want to hold my hand or visit for a while. I really enjoy that part of this ministry." Members of other parishes have expressed their appreciation of our parish's ministry at Carle.

At 1:00 p.m. the Monday Bible Study group meets in the St. Luke room. Most members of this group, formerly part of the Community Bible Study Fellowship, have been meeting since about 2005. To prepare for each session, the leader attends an ecumenical Leader's Group at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The study for the current 8-week session is "Heaven: Finding Our True Home" from the LifeGuide Bible Study series. The topic for spring is "Angels."

At 4:30 p.m. the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry opens for business. Volunteers offer a paper bag and a plastic bag filled with groceries to each of their clients, who line up outside waiting for their turn. Coordinator Ellen Abell said, "We serve about 700 people each month, or about 2400 individuals. During one month 816 families were served."

Longtime volunteer Mike Catanzaro added, "I love to see the smiles on people's faces (especially the children) when they receive their food. But I am saddened by the large number of hungry people in our community."

Throughout the morning and afternoon the staff are busy answering telephones, greeting people who come with requests of several kinds, and getting on with the week's usual tasks as time permits.

Now it's evening, and people continue to use the parish facilities.

At 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month The Women of St. Patrick's hold their Craft Night in the multipurpose room. The group generally averages about 8-10 women who work on such crafts as scrapbooking, knitting, quilting, and sewing, and who enjoy visiting with others as they work. "Some meetings I don't have a particular project, but I enjoy visiting with everyone and seeing what they're doing," said Kathy McKenzie, an active participant. The group is currently interested in learning how to make jewelry; any parishioner with this skill would be very welcome!

On a different Monday evening, members of the Respect Life Committee meet in the parish center to review videos, discuss potential issues for involvement, and plan future activities.

At 6:45 p.m. lights go on in the church for people who come for Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer. They gather in a half-circle behind the altar, and after a few minutes spent catching up with events of the week just past, they settle in for sharing on a passage of Scripture, followed by a period of silent centering prayer.

At 8:15 p.m. the church lights go out and quiet descends on the parish facilities—except on Craft Night, when the parish center lights burn a little later!





## in our parish library

November is the month of saints and holy souls. Following are some resources that may be of interest. The parish library has many books about saints, including individual saints that are not represented below. Look for the call number area of 920-921 in both the children's and regular collection to browse for other books of interest.

### Web Pages

- Saint of the Day calendar from *Catholic Online*: . Links for the saint for each day lead to biographical information about the saint. Also see for broader information about saints.
- Saints from *Catholic Pages*: . Includes saints, angels, recommended books, church documents, multimedia, articles, and Web sites related to saints.

### Children's Books

- *Book of Saints*, by Amy Welborn (author) and Ansgar Holmberg (illustrator). Includes inspiring stories, real-life applications, and information about sixty saints from around the world and across time. It is written in a storybook style for children eight to twelve and explains how saints become saints, why we honor them, and how they help us even today. Call Number: C920 WEL
- *Saints and Heroes for Kids*, by Ethel Pochocki. Call Number: C920 POC
- *Sister Wendy's Book of Saints*, by Sister Wendy Beckett. Call Number: C920 BEC 1998

### Selected Non-Fiction Adult Book

- *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, & Witnesses for Our Time*, by Robert Ellsberg. Includes 365 short biographies of men and women of moral strength and spiritual vision, irrespective of their faith. Call Number: 920 ELL



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

- *The Avenel Dictionary of Saints*, by Donald Attwater. Call Number: 920 AVE
- *Be Mindful of Us: Prayers to the Saints*, by Anthony Chiffolo. Call Number: 242.7 CHI 2000
- *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (5 volumes). In these authoritative entries readers can find a wealth of knowledge on the lives and deeds of the saints, as well as their ecclesiastical and historical importance since canonization. Call Number: 920 BUT
- *Francis: A Saint's Way*, by James Cowin. Call Number: 921 FRA 2001
- *Saint of the Day: Lives, Lessons and Feasts*, by Leonard Foley, O.F.M.; Revised by Pat McCloskey, O.F.M. A well-written collection of brief essays concerning saints and feast days. Call Number: 920 SAI
- *Saint Paul*, by Pope Benedict XVI. Call Number: 225.9 BEN 2009
- § *The Young People's Book of Saints: Sixty-Three Saints of the Western Church from the First to the Twentieth Century*, by Hugh Ross Williamson. Call Number: 920 WIL

*If you need help locating materials in the library, call Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator. 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.*

## Periodicals in the parish library

The parish library has a great collection of books for adults and children on a wide variety of interesting and informative topics, waiting for your perusal and check-out. The library is housed in the St. John room, at the end of the classroom wing of the parish center. Helpful instructions for checking out books are available on the small table under the windows.

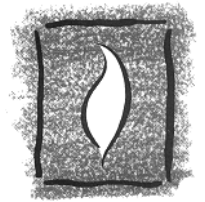
On a magazine rack there are Catholic periodicals free for the taking. You can help yourself to the copies you find there; no checkout is required. They include *America Magazine*, *The Tablet*, *Commonweal*,

## Parish Nurses offer office hours

Beginning Nov. 2, our parish nurses will hold office hours from 9 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday in the St. Matthew room, in the classroom wing of St. Patrick's parish center. One of the parish nurses will be available to meet privately with you to check your blood pressure, answer questions, or discuss any health issues you may be experiencing. No appointment is necessary.

You may also leave a message for the parish nurses by calling 367-2665, ext. 13. A parish nurse will check for messages every Wednesday and return your call.

The parish nurses are not meant to take the place of health care you are already receiving, but rather to complement it. The mission of parish nursing is integration of the practice of faith with the practice of nursing to promote wellness in body, mind, and spirit.



*U.S. Catholic*, *Weavings*, *Alive Now*, *Spiritual Life*, *Journey and the Joy*, *National Catholic Reporter*, and more. When you're finished reading, return the periodical for others to enjoy, or simply keep it.

The library is available to parishioners during working hours; ask at the parish office for a key. (The library has been kept locked since the library computer was stolen last year.) The library is also open for parishioners on fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, when the room is not in use as a classroom for religious education.

## Building from page 1

work actually begin? Based on guidelines established by the Diocese of Peoria, once St. Patrick's has \$3.2 million *in cash* in the building fund and has secured an additional \$800,000 in pledges, the parish can seek approval from the diocese to begin construction. Once the project is approved, the estimated time for completion is 1.5-2 years. While parishioners are able to fulfill their pledges over a five-year period, many have escalated their payments to ensure that our cash-in-hand will be realized sooner rather than later. To date, approximately \$700,000 in cash has been received.

Each and every gift has been important and leads us closer to the day when our expanded worship space will become a reality.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

*Information about St. Patrick's building plan and campaign is available at the parish center and also on the parish Web site at [www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org). If you have questions, please call the parish office (367-2665); a campaign volunteer will be happy to follow up with you.*



We praise you for your goodness and thank you for your gifts, O God. Help us to see our vocation as a journey toward you. Strengthen us to live in love and service to others after the example of your Son, Jesus. Call many men and women to a consecrated life of service as priests and religious. Make us all faithful signs of your presence in our midst. Amen.



**Q:** What's all this talk about a "new Mass" coming in Advent?

**A:** The Mass as we will experience it beginning in

Advent this year is not a "new Mass." It is the same Mass, but with some changes to the wording that we will use and hear.

Our liturgical books were prepared first in Latin and then translated to the languages used by Catholics around the world. If you were to compare the new English edition of the book of prayers the priest uses at Mass (the Roman Missal) with the previous edition, you would find many additions. Pope John Paul II canonized a large number of saints, and the new Roman Missal has special prayers for each of them that will be used when their feast days fall on a weekday. It also includes new prayers that the American bishops requested, particularly for liturgies for wedding anniversaries and funerals.

The core of our Mass is very old. Many of the prayers are influenced by the language of the Psalms which, of course, predate Jesus himself. Most of the prayers that we

know came from the experience of Christians in the earliest centuries of the Church. While there have been changes over time, they have come about gradually and carefully, in a way that respects our tradition.

If you are old enough to remember the changes brought about by Vatican II, you may recall it as a time of great change in the Mass that took some getting used to. However, the core of the Mass in the Latin books saw relatively few changes. The main reason the changes were so dramatic for us was that we were making the transition from Latin to English—and also because it was a time of rapid change both in the Church and in society. But the "Glory to God," "Holy, Holy," and "Lamb of God," for example, didn't change with Vatican II and are not changing now—only the *translation* has been changed.

The changes will take some getting used to, but we've certainly done it before and can do it again!

+ + +

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

## Fall "spring cleaning" day coming in November

If you are like most folks, cleaning your own house is a boring, repetitive chore. Cleaning someone else's house can be fun, simply because it's not your own. What if you could clean *God's* house—how exciting and rewarding *that* would be!

You will have that opportunity on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon (or before). Wait a minute, you say, didn't we do this last spring? Yes, we did, but now we're giving both the church and the parish center a twice-a-year cleaning, hoping to keep ahead of the dirt, dust, and clutter that accumulate after a few months of constant use by our growing parish family.

This all-parish event is sponsored

by the Women of St. Patrick, who hope for a good turnout of both men and women—men and teens are especially needed for ladder work. If you can't plan to help from start to finish, then drop in for an hour or so to lend a hand. Donuts, juice, and coffee will keep you fired up.

Look for Kathy McKenzie in the parish center for jobs on offer there, or for Mary Ann Luedtke in the church to find out what needs to be dusted, polished, or washed.

No reservations needed!



## Holy Cross Happenings



**Hot Dog Day**—This annual gathering of students, family, alumni, and friends was moved this year to

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast Week, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross School. Holy Cross invited students and staff from St. Matthew's, St. Thomas of Philo, and St. Thomas More to join in the festivities. Msgr. Hallin, Msgr. Merdian, Fr. Willard, Fr. Lampitt, and our own Fr. Joe served hot dogs fresh off the grill to over 500 guests. It was an amazing event of family, friends, and fellowship!

**Food for Families**—Holy Cross students filled boxes of food as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Food for Families drive in October, sponsored by the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. The Eastern Illinois Foodbank serves 220 agencies and programs that serve over 100,000 different people annually. Approximately a third of these are children. Students filled the boxes all month long, and a large donation was made to the Foodbank.

### Save the date:

- **Tuesday Nov. 1:** All Saints Day Mass (8:15 a.m.). Fourth-graders will process into church dressed as their chosen saints. All are invited. On Nov. 6 at St. Patrick's, the saints will join the procession into the 10:30 a.m.



Fr. Willard and Fr. Joe keep 'em coming.



Msgr. Hallin joins Fr. Joe to serve hot dogs.

Children's Liturgy.

- **Friday, Nov. 11:** Veterans Day. Join the students and staff in the gym for a patriotic concert celebrating all veterans, who have honored our country with their service. All are welcome; call the office (356-9521) to confirm time.



**Welcome Back!** The High School of St. Thomas More is pleased to welcome 33 young adults from St. Patrick to another school year. Students can look forward to a busy year that includes many extracurricular activities such as sports, music, drama, art, academic clubs, and spiritual organizations and retreats. With "Saber Stories," we try to keep parishioners informed of the many academic and extra-curricular achievements of our kids. Parents, please feel free to contact Mary Welle with the latest news (m.welle@comcast.net).

**Academic Letter Awards** The awards ceremony was hosted by the school's administration and the National Honor Society on Oct. 12. Academic Letters are presented to Juniors and Seniors who maintain a cumulative GPA above 3 or 3.5 (depending on years in school). Recipients included 9 St. Patrick's parishioners: Ian Niccum, Matthew Tate, Michael Wagner, Patrick Wagner, Sarah Johnson, Madeline Kangas, Matthew Ramaly, Theresa Welle, and Chase Kangas. *Congratulations!*

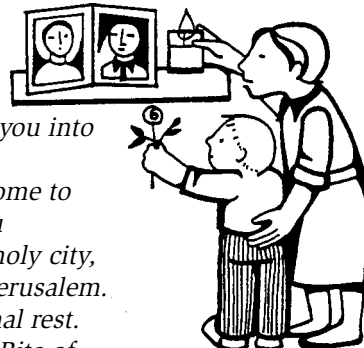
### Coming Attractions

- ABO Dinner – Nov. 4
- Annual Madrigal Dinner – Dec. 2 and 3
- Music Department Christmas Concert – Dec. 9
- Christmas Break Begins – Dec. 16
- Preview Night (for prospective students) – Jan. 25

## St. Patrick's Honor Roll in Heaven

Thirty-seven members of St. Patrick's faith community entered into eternal life in the past year! They have joined the countless others from our parish family who have preceded them, all beloved still, and still loving those left behind! You will find their names on the Scroll of the Dead in the church sanctuary. Please pray for them, and for their families.

*May the angels lead you into Paradise,  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.  
May you have eternal rest.  
—Commendation, Rite of Funerals*



## Dr. Susan Nagele visits the Women of St. Patrick

On Monday, Oct. 10, the Women of St. Patrick hosted a rosary and luncheon. The special guest for the event was Dr. Susan Nagele, a parishioner who has spent the last 26 years as a Maryknoll lay missionary serving in the mission fields of Africa. It is the privilege of the Women of St. Patrick and the entire St. Patrick community to support Dr. Susan both financially and spiritually in her important work.

At the present time Susan is working in the Diocese of Mombasa and oversees the 16 dispensaries and health centers around the diocese, which is about one-fourth the size of the state of Illinois. The clinics and dispensaries are staffed by nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and some physician assistants—but no doctors. Susan visits regularly to instruct the healthcare workers on site, help with upgrading facilities, and see patients, helping to diagnose and treat those whose ailments are beyond the scope of what the regular staff members can handle.

Susan shared photos of some of her co-workers, dispensaries, and

patients. To our western eyes the health centers seem to be very primitive facilities, but she assures us that good work is done in these meager circumstances. Her focus and that of her fellow healthcare workers is on treating children and providing prenatal care and safe childbirth conditions for mothers. While a high percentage of the population is HIV positive, antiretroviral drugs are available at no cost and can make a life-changing difference for those who take them. Pregnant women who are diagnosed and treated early have a much lower chance of passing the virus on to their children.

The dispensaries run by the diocese charge a small amount—50 cents per child and \$1.00 per adult—for services. However, care is given to all regardless of their ability to pay. The Kenyan government provides a box of commonly used drugs to each dispensary on a monthly basis, but other needs must be provided for in whatever ways possible. Often Susan must use the account set up for her (our parish donations and other donations

designated for her use) to purchase needed supplies or help with the cost of necessary treatments. At present there is a need for maternity beds, which are not available through the government. While politics does play a part in the healthcare system, there is common ground in the desire for all children to be healthy.

She shared stories, both happy and sad, of her time in Kenya. It is clear that the richness of the work lies in relationships with other missionaries, lay and religious, as well as patients and healthcare workers that she has met through the years.

After a period of questions and answers, Susan was presented with a check for \$2,000 from the Women of St. Patrick. She asked those gathered if she could use this donation to purchase much needed maternity beds for one of the dispensaries, and the answer was a resounding yes! In this way the women of St. Patrick Parish in Urbana, Illinois, will touch the lives of women in the Diocese of Mombasa, Kenya, through one of our own, Dr. Susan Nagele.

## “Rebuild My Church!”

On Sept. 17, members of St. Patrick Parish came together at the parish center for the annual Gathering of Ministries. This year’s theme was “Rebuild My Church,” recalling the words St. Francis of Assisi heard in the church of San Damiano. “How did St. Francis rebuild the Church? He helped bring the Church back to her foundations so that the Church could be rebuilt stone by stone on the foundation of Christ” (Fr Roger Landry).

As Fr. Joe pointed out to those assembled, the idea of “rebuilding the church” has literal meaning for us at St. Patrick’s, where we are working to expand our physical church building. It also relates to the new translation of the Roman Missal and the changes made in the prayers and responses intended to help us

rediscover the beauty of the Mass.

Laura Theby gave a PowerPoint presentation on the changes to the Roman Missal. Afterward, participants regrouped into several smaller groups to discuss what they had learned. Several people remarked that previously they had heard negative comments about the changes and had had concerns that the new wordings were meant to move the Church backward. Now that they had been shown how the new translation was more faithful to the Latin, they felt more positive. Some people said they felt the new wording was more poetic and meaningful than the translation we have been using.

Participants had a chance to look over the variety of pew cards that contain all the new Mass prayers and

responses. These will be available to help us learn the changes.

After the discussion, everyone went off to the meeting of the ministry they were involved in: Faith Development, Parish Community Life, Peace and Justice, Spiritual Enrichment, Stewardship, and Worship. Representatives from each group within those ministries reported on the activities and plans of their groups and talked about ways to develop and support their ministries.

Finally, all reassembled for songs, readings, reflection, and a sending-forth prayer, inspiring participants to go forth with a renewed sense of the possibilities for meeting the challenges of change and growth in our

## Volunteers needed

- Eucharistic ministers are needed for the 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Volunteers are also needed to help with noon Mass setup. Are you called to Eucharistic ministry, ushering, Mass setup? *Mary Karten, 898-0938 or mlkarten@hotmail.com*
- You sing karaoke-style, “sing along with Mitch” while traveling, and sing in the shower. Would you consider singing with the 9:00 choir? *Laura Theby, 367-2665 or laura.theby@stpaturbana.org*
- Recipes! Recipes for *In Focus!* Our readers have asked for low-calorie recipes with few ingredients that are easy to prepare. Share those special recipes that have made you the envy of family and friends! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or*
- The Women of St. Patrick are looking for baskets that can be turned into gift baskets on special themes for their Christmas cookie and basket bonanza in early December. Do you have one to contribute? *Kathy McKenzie, 328-2241 or kamcenz@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](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.

## The Call

*Several days before the Friends of the SVDP Food Pantry dinner, a half-dozen volunteers made reminder phone calls to food pantry clients who had indicated they planned to come to the dinner. One volunteer, parishioner Chris Zwilling, wrote this reflection on his experience making these calls.*



When I answer a telephone call from a number I do not recognize, I am initially hesitant and cold. As the caller mispronounces my name, I wonder, “What is it that they want from me now?” This attitude has developed from many telephone conversations where a telemarketer who would not take no for an answer tried to persuade me to buy a product I did not want.

For this reason I was a bit hesitant to volunteer to make phone calls to remind the Friends of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry about the dinner being held on Sept. 28. I presumed my calls would be met with doubly hardened reactions because my phone number has a 423 area code. Since 217 is the local area code, any person I dialed who had some form of Caller ID would know they were speaking to a stranger, one likely to want to take something from them.

Sure enough, on my first phone call, the person said “Hello” with coldness and skepticism, her voice hard and tense. I replied with a warm “Hello.” Then I asked if this was Ms. So-and-so. When she replied with a reluctant

“Yes,” I understood in her voice the same attitude and fear that I implicitly hold when I answer a call from a phone number I do not know, who asks to speak with me. I could almost feel the person saying, “What do you want from me now?”

But then I said I was calling on behalf of St. Patrick’s Church. I paused for about two seconds and in that silence I heard a change. Hardness became softness, fear turned to openness, anger transformed into joy. I was no longer a stranger with a 423 area code who wanted something. I had become a messenger of good news that she now wanted to hear.

I went on to say that I was calling to remind her of the dinner we were hosting and to say that we were looking forward to seeing her and her family there. She said, “Oh, yes, I am looking forward to it very much. Thank you for reminding me—I had forgotten. I am bringing all of my kids. I came last year and I look forward to the dinner again this year.”

This pattern was repeated with each phone call I made to the people on my list. Slowly it dawned on me: I was giving a gift. In this phone call, I was not asking for anything. I was inviting people to partake in a gift of love, in the form of a dinner sponsored by the people of St. Patrick, in the form of volunteers serving, and in the form of sharing a meal made by parishioners. I had become a “telegiver” for St. Patrick’s Church.

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

Rosie Krueger

#### Pumpkin Spice Cake

1 spice cake mix  
1-1/4 c water  
1/3 c oil  
3 eggs  
15 oz can 100% pure pumpkin

Blend all together and bake in a greased and floured 13 x 9 inch cake pan at 350° for 29-34 minutes.



+ + +

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



## A time for gratitude, a time for sharing

Over time, I have come to realize that the many blessings I have received during my life are all gifts from a very loving and gracious God. Nothing I have has come totally from my own efforts. This Thanksgiving Day will give us all an opportunity to focus our thoughts on what we have received and on what is important in life. Along with many others, I will be offering prayers of thanksgiving.

I believe another way of offering thanks, and following our Lord's command, is by sharing some of what I have received from God with those who are not as fortunate as I. And there are many in our community who are suffering. There are many who will find it difficult to come up with the means to provide a decent meal to celebrate this special holiday, much less a meal we'd typically consider a "Thanksgiving meal." There are many who find it difficult just to make ends meet and to put a meal on their table every day.

At St. Patrick's we have an opportunity to share our blessings by helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Parishioners are generous in supporting our Food Pantry; they really pitched in recently to provide a dinner for those who make use of our Food Pantry. In addition to these works of mercy, it has been a parish tradition for a number of years to prepare and distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to some of the needy in our community. Last year volunteers distributed about 250 baskets (actually boxes) of food to recipients identified by Community Elements (Champaign County Mental Health), Family Services, and others.

St. Patrick's parishioners have been very generous with both time and funding in

support of this tradition, and we are counting on your continued generosity. We hope to fill the boxes with food that is easily prepared by those who may have difficulty thawing and properly preparing a turkey, along with other items such as a fully cooked ham, canned sweet potatoes and other vegetables, fruit cocktail, eggs, margarine, dinner rolls, and other items, as well as a ready-to-eat pie for dessert.

We anticipate the cost per "basket" to be \$20-\$25. If you are able to donate the cost of one or more "baskets" or even if you can donate something for part of a basket, your help is needed and greatly appreciated. Donations should be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Thanksgiving Baskets" and placed in the Sunday collection or taken to the parish office.

Other help is needed besides financial assistance. A few people are needed to assemble the boxes following the 9 a.m. Mass (during coffee shop) on Sunday, Nov. 20. On that Sunday evening Vivo students will fill the baskets with nonperishable items and cards made by children in the religious education classes. Then on Tuesday, Nov. 22, starting at 8:30 a.m., volunteers will finish filling the baskets with the perishable items. Also needed are volunteer teams of two to deliver the baskets (starting at around 9:30 a.m.).

If you can help in any way, please contact me (367-5648 or ellen.abell@comcast.net). Thank you for your support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and those less fortunate in our community.

—Ellen AbellKarten (898-0938 or mlkarten@hotmail.com) or Carolyn McElrath (367-2665).



### Prayer

Teacher and Healer,  
you brought the gift of yourself  
to those who benefited from  
your work.

You touched them with well-  
springs of love.

Remind me each day to do the  
same.

Consecrate all I do today  
so my service to others brings a  
blessing.

I open the door of my heart to  
you.

I open the door.

—Joyce Rupp



**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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