

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

December 2012

Another year cycles 'round

The Advent wreath reminds us of the circle of the liturgical year. Every year, we make the round from prophecy to Jesus' birth, to his teaching and healing, to his death and resurrection, to his glory in heaven. Repetition is good for us. It's how we learn. Year by year the message and example of Jesus take deeper root in our lives, and the words of the scriptures shape us.

But we are not the same this year as we were last year or the year before. Year by year we change, growing in some areas, regressing in others. The experiences of our lives change us, changing what we are able to hear in the scriptures, changing what we need to hear in the scriptures. The cycle of the Church year gives us a series of fixed points of comparison against which to see how we are changing. What used to be important to you, but isn't any more? What is catching your imagination with fresh urgency? What change do you need to turn away from? What change can you thank God for?

The Church year changes in a regular cycle. Our lives change too, often in spurts and bumps, but through it all God is with us, with unshakeable love, steady guidance, and patient understanding.



Our own Susan Nagele, M.D., to tell of her lay mission in Africa

"Yes, it's somewhat like M*A*S*H, but not so slick" is an answer Dr. Susan Nagele gave some time ago when asked about her work's resemblance to the popular TV program. On Nov. 28 parishioners can enjoy a chili supper and then hear Susan talk about her current work treating the sick as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner.



Susan, the daughter of Dr. Tom and Lenore Nagele, grew up in St. Patrick's Parish. Like many parishioners at the time, she attended St. Mary's school and graduated from Urbana High School. She chose pre-med at the University of Illinois, even then planning a life of service to others. It may have been during her college years that she was the first woman (or perhaps the first

Pilgrimage to Spain and France, Part 2

St. Patrick's pilgrims were surprised how arid the countryside between Madrid was in the center of Spain and in Barcelona on the Mediterranean coast. Except for a lack of tumbleweeds, it looked much like our Old West—a desert with mesas rising in the distance. One area was all red sandstone as found in southern Utah. No wonder the Italian film industry shot their “spaghetti” Westerns in Spain! As Barcelona drew near, there were more green corridors of agriculture, especially along the rivers.

Our first destination in Barcelona was a winding drive up Montjuic on the coast. We viewed many of the 1992 Olympic sites and the 1929 International Fair palaces and fountains. The bus stopped at an overlook, and all of Barcelona with its port, full of cruise ships, was unveiled beneath our feet. The next stop, Antonio Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia, rose higher than all the other buildings toward the west.

La Sagrada Familia, or the Holy Family Church, is the biggest tourist attraction in Barcelona. While the tour manager, Cristina, purchased tickets to enter (the cost of the tickets was 14.30 Euros, which helps pay for the remaining construction), we waited outside Gaudi's Nativity façade, admiring his designs and their symbolism. We were totally unprepared for the glory inside. The white, inclined columns on each side of the nave rise heavenward, then split into branches to support a distant ceiling festooned with huge, white flowers whose centers are skylights. The large, modern, stained-glass windows add to one's sense of reverence. The rainbow of colors and light flowing over the inside of the church speaks of the majesty of God. One needed to sit and revel in God's grandeur—but time was limited.

The next morning we drove out of Barcelona to the Benedictine Abbey on Montserrat. This serrated mountain juts high into the sky. The Shrine of the Black Madonna is located inside the abbey at 2,379 feet up the mountainside. The Black Madonna is a small, wooden statue of Mary and the Child Jesus. It is said to have been



Photos from top: A steep climb to Montserrat; Mass at Montserrat; A little rest for weary feet; Pilgrims with the Church of Our Lady of the Guard (Marseilles) in the background.

carved by St. Luke and brought here in 50 A.D. by St. Peter. It is set behind the altar and protected in a plastic case. A wooden orb, held by Mary, protrudes from this case and pilgrims line up for hours to walk by and touch it. The lovely chapel, in which Father Joe said Mass, was directly behind the main altar and the Black Madonna. One could view the back of the Black Madonna through a window above the chapel's altar, and see the tops of peoples' heads as they continually passed her. It was Saturday and the shrine and environs were jammed with families. In fact, all the churches of Spain seemed to have many worshippers of all ages.

We returned to Barcelona in the afternoon. Cristina led the pilgrims on a walking tour of Old Town where we visited three old Gothic cathedrals, many plazas, the Jewish Quarter, and the ancient city walls. Cristina then led us through the most spectacular food market in Europe, La Boqueria. Everyone was startled by the lambs' eyes bulging from skinned heads and live, fin-flipping fish. Finally, we reached La Rambla, Barcelona's famous pedestrian walk, and headed to its western terminus in Plaza Catalunya, where many collapsed onto a park bench.

Near the Plaza Catalunya was the Catalonian restaurant where we enjoyed our going-away dinner. It was a joyous and delicious meal of dozens of tapas (appetizers), with red and white wines. The tapas included bruschetta, salad with tuna, salamis, cooked mushrooms with fried eggs on top, mussels, octopus, and dessert of fresh fruit served on a pool of chocolate. Refreshed, we pilgrims were a happy, nay, rowdy group as Father Joe walked the length of the tables, topping off the glasses of wine.

On Sunday morning we said adios to Spain, dipping our feet in the Mediterranean Sea at a Barcelona beach. The bus took us through the Pyrenees Mountains and followed the sea to Marseille, France.

Many of the churches in Spain are

Pilgrimage from page 2

on the tops of hills or mountains. France was no different. Father Joe was scheduled to celebrate evening Mass at Notre Dame de la Garde, located on the highest point of the city. Not only were the narrow, congested streets difficult for the bus to navigate, but there were over 200 steps for pilgrims to climb to reach the church. The view of Marseille and the sea was spectacular. The inside of the church was covered with colorful mosaics and ship models hung from the vaulted ceiling. Since Father celebrated Mass at the main altar, some local French joined us.

The French lived up to their culinary reputation. Across the street from our hotel was a garage door that was closed during the day, but at night it opened to reveal a charming courtyard set with tables. We ate under the stars in the balmy Mediterranean evening. A slight breeze wafted the scent of the wood-burning oven, whetting our appetites. The salads, succulent roasted chicken, and paella were delicious.

The last full day of the pilgrimage dawned rainy. The bus took us to the tiny French town of Saint Maximin, where the Basilica of Mary Magdalene is located. In the crypt of this church are her relics: under a glass dome behind an iron grate is a piece of uncorrupted skin from her forehead, where Jesus is said to have touched her.

Father Joe celebrated the last Mass of our pilgrimage here. During the Mass Father included a special healing ceremony. Each of us approached Father in front of the altar where he was waiting to bless us and forgive our sins. He marked our foreheads and palms with holy oil, and then blessed us. The flow of God's love through Father Joe was overwhelming. (Father also blessed a local teenage girl on crutches, whose family brought her up.)

It was fitting that our pilgrimage culminated in this ceremony, so filled with meaning. Our memories of these ten days will be a lasting blessing for all of us.

'Tis the season for Christmas treats and special gifts

Looking for unique Christmas gifts? In need of treats for a holiday gathering? Or just hungry for some really tasty homemade Christmas cookies? Then be sure to stop in the main hall of St. Patrick's parish center after all Masses on Sunday, Dec. 9, for the annual Christmas Cookie and Basket Sale, sponsored by the Women of St. Patrick's (WSP).

As always, there will be a wide variety of homemade cookies and other treats available for sale, individually, by the dozen, or in festive tins suitable for gift-giving. WSP volunteers have worked hard to assemble more than 30 unique gift baskets, which range in price from \$7 to \$50. Also for sale will be several special items, including a Nativity set, a beautiful set of Christmas dishes, and Christmas ornaments.

Last year, a special feature of the sale was the vast assortment of lovely aprons sewn by longtime parishioner, Sophia Zeigler. Before Sophia

moved to Pennsylvania last spring, she gave the unsold aprons to the WSP to include in this year's sale. If you missed buying one of Sophia's beautiful aprons last year, you have another chance!

All proceeds will help to fund the many ways the WSP contribute to the life of our parish, including providing funeral dinners, sponsoring events, and even purchasing badly needed items, such as the ice machine in the parish center kitchen.

Take care of some of your holiday shopping and entertaining needs and help the Women of St. Patrick help our parish at the same time.



Anointing of the sick will take place during the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 2. If you can help provide transportation for a shut-in, call the parish office (367-2665).

"I am the Immaculate Conception"

In 1958 Mary, mother of Jesus, is thought to have appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, identifying herself to the young Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Five years later, but following twelve centuries of devotion to Mary Immaculate, conceived without sin, the Church established a feast in honor of this singular grace and privilege.

In declaring this feast, the Church acknowledged

that Mary, like every other human being, was in need of the redemptive work of Christ, but in anticipation of what God did for all humanity in Christ, Mary alone was preserved from original sin "from the first moment of her conception."

Dec. 8 was set as the date for this feast, nine months before the celebration of Mary's birthday, observed Sept. 8.

Ave, Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis!



Diocesan honors awarded to two at St. Patrick's

Two St. Patrick's parishioners received special recognition at the diocesan Conferal of Ecclesiastical Honors at the cathedral on Nov. 18. Carolyn McElrath received the



Carolyn McElrath

Archbishop Schlarman Award, and Mary Lou Menches received the Pere Marquette Award. Both awards recognize exceptional service to parishes of the diocese carried out over many years.

Carolyn has been part of our parish staff since 1982. Early on, she served as a Coordinator and Director of Religious Education, and coordinator of the RCIA program. She also served on the diocesan Commission on Education. Her personal investment in this ministry led her to study for a Ph.D. in theology at Loyola. Around 2004, her focus turned more toward peace and justice ministry. She brought JustFaith and its companion programs to St. Patrick's. The Schlarman Award recognizes the exceptional work of parish or diocesan staff. It is named for Joseph Henry Leo Schlarman, the third bishop of Peoria.



Mary Lou Menches

Those of us who work on *In Focus* know that Mary Lou provides the energy that keeps us on track and makes each issue come out like clockwork. She has been a member of the Communications Committee since 1982. She serves in many areas related to liturgy, as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Lector, Mass setup coordinator, and (formerly) as a member of the Liturgy Committee. She also works with Centering Prayer and Returning Catholics. The Pere Marquette Award is given to those who "heroically advance the mission of our parishes and apostolate." It is named for Pere Jacques Marquette, the missionary who first brought Christianity to our area.

Nominations for these awards can be made by anyone in the diocese; forms are on the diocesan website. They are reviewed by a selection committee and forwarded to Bishop Jenky with the committee's suggestions. The bishop makes the final determination of awards.

It's good to recognize our local heroes! Congratulations, Mary Lou and Carolyn!

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woman student, she is not sure which) to serve on our Parish Council.

Susan won her medical degree at Southern Illinois University in 1981. She spent three years as a resident doctor at Carbondale Memorial Hospital, and then...came a call from far away. In August 1984 she joined Maryknoll in a program that was to become Maryknoll Lay Missioners, separate from Maryknoll priests and sisters doing similar work around the world.

She has renewed her commitment to this service every three years since then, each time after a required home visit for several months. In her presentation she will try to tell why she will do so again, even though she has had her share of war, bombing, and illness.

The Women of St. Patrick will host a free chili supper and dessert, for parishioners only, at 6 p.m. in the parish center. The general public is invited to Susan's presentation, which will begin at about 7 p.m.

Come to hear of the courage and generosity offered to the sick in a faraway continent by a member of St. Patrick's Parish.

Vocation Prayer

If we belong to God, whatever our vocation, God will shine through us.

Dear Creator, I pray that I may be of service to you and your people. I surrender to you my notions of who I think I should be or can be. I trust in your plan. Lead me safely on this journey so that I may be your instrument.

From our Parish Nurses

Understanding diabetes

November is American Diabetes Month, with the focus on increasing awareness of the issues



surrounding diabetes and the many people who are impacted by this disease. With diabetes, the body does not properly process food for energy, and blood sugar levels become elevated. When blood sugar levels are not controlled properly, there is an increased risk for many health issues, including heart disease, kidney failure, blindness, and nerve damage.

- Nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes.
- Another 79 million Americans have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing Type 2 diabetes.
- The American Diabetes Association estimates that the national cost of care for diagnosed diabetes in the United States is \$174 billion.

Recent estimates project that as many as one in three American adults will have diabetes in 2050, but there is good news: diabetes complications can be prevented or delayed by properly managing blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels. Eating healthy, being physically active and quitting smoking also can help lower the risk of diabetes complications.

Our parish nurses encourage all parishioners to have a discussion with their health practitioner about their personal risk for diabetes and, if diabetic, to follow faithfully their prescribed diet and medical treatment.

Council to follow an Apostolic tradition

Tired of campaigns and elections? Wondering if there's another way to get good people to serve? The Parish Council has been pondering that question in regard to bringing new members onto the Council. Due to challenges in finding candidates willing to stand for election, the Council recently passed a by-law about the method of selecting new Council members.



Parishioners may nominate another eligible parishioner or self-nominate. Current Council members will contact the nominees to confirm their interest and willingness to serve the parish in this way (membership on the Parish Council is a three-year commitment). The pastor will draw lots from the names of those nominated to select the number of new members required.

Drawing lots was the method used by the Apostles to add to their numbers after Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:26), and our Council will

continue that tradition, relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Each year three, sometimes four, new members are needed to fill vacancies as members complete their three-year term

and rotate off the Council. Membership provides a special opportunity to learn about the people and ministries of St. Patrick's and to help guide the parish in its continued journey along God's path.

The date for drawing lots to fill the three vacancies expected next spring has not yet been set, but will probably take place in late February or early March to allow for the orientation of the new members, who will take up their new responsibilities in May. So don't delay! Take time now for giving prayerful consideration to serving or to nominating a parishioner to serve on the Parish Council. Watch the bulletin for more information, or call Amy Fahey (398-2421), outgoing Council president.



On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 The High School of St. Thomas More will hold its seventh annual Madrigal Dinner. Journey back in time to visit the Royal Court for a special holiday dinner, with musical and dramatic entertainments.

This popular event will be held on Friday and Saturday only, at 7 p.m.; seating begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person for King's Table seating, \$25 per person for Nobility seating.

You may make reservations through Nov. 28 by telephone (217/819-5721) or e-mail (stmadrigals@gmail.com). Enjoy this holiday tradition of feast and song presented by STM Music and Drama.



St. Patrick's Capital Campaign

We're getting closer!

Pledged so far: \$3,606,314
Cash in hand: \$1,582,203

What's needed before we can break ground:
Pledged: \$4.0M
Cash in hand: \$3.2M

SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner...

A lesson in expecting the unexpected

Many times in life we set out with certain expectations and they are not met. This was the case with the third annual St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Friends Dinner that was held Nov. 1 in St. Patrick's parish center. Organizers and volunteers had spent weeks preparing to serve the 400 people, clients of the SVDP Food Pantry and their family members, who had said they would come to the dinner. Not long after the doors opened at 4:30 p.m. though, greeters and then other volunteers began to ask, "Where is everybody?" Some remained optimistic that guests were just planning to arrive later, but the finally tally at 6:00 p.m. revealed that only 110 of the expected 400 had come for dinner.



Still, the volunteers can and should be proud of all they accomplished. The 110 guests who attended were treated to the sort of wonderful meal we at St. Patrick's tend to take for granted. Kathy McKenzie and her kitchen volunteers did an expert job of serving the wide variety of tasty food contributed by dozens of generous parishioners. Wal-Mart donated 100 of the 600 pieces of fried chicken, while Sam's Club donated \$25 worth of the 5 hams. Tim McMillan and Noreen Sugrue contributed an additional ham. Pat Sheehan prepared several huge—and delicious—homemade dishes. Guests and volunteers alike raved about the delectable food and, in fact, about the only complaint heard among

guests was, "I wish I could eat more but I'm too full!"

The Friends dinner was originally envisioned by Chris Whippo and SVDP Food Pantry Coordinator Ellen Abell as a way for parishioners to get to know the people served by the parish's SVDP Food Pantry, so table hosts serve an important role. Bridget McGill has served as a table host in the past but this year was leaving early to celebrate her 28th wedding anniversary. After she had helped give instructions to new table hosts, she chatted for a while with some guests. "They congratulated me when they learned why I couldn't stay to eat with them," she says.

First-time table host Donna Reed was joined by a family that she knew as well as by several strangers. Some of her guests had attended the Friends Dinner last year. "They were quick to say how much they enjoyed the meal, and appreciated St. Pat's for having it," she says.

"I think I got paired up with the perfect family," Rachael McMillan remarks. Her guests were a mother and two children who "were about eight years apart in age so I got to ask the mom about the ups and downs of that kind of age gap between kids"—something Rachael will soon experience personally. Rachael also discovered that the mother was a volunteer at her favorite thrift store. "I fully expect to run into her again, and I look forward to it!"



"We cherished the beautiful baby at our table," says Kathy Jobin. An adventurous (and unsteady) toddler charmed several other volunteers.

One volunteer held a sleeping preschooler on her lap so his mother could relax and eat. A table host was able to connect a mother looking for a specialized tutor for her child with a teacher-volunteer who had some helpful suggestions. Another volunteer caught up on news of the new school year from a child she knew from past school volunteering.

One couple quietly admitted to their table host that the dinner was their first meal in several days: a reminder of why the SVDP Food Pantry is so important to our community. As Donna Reed watched her guests eat, she says, "I realized how much I take for granted with every meal I set before myself daily. It was a gift from the Holy Spirit to see how being fed from kindness differs from being fed from hunger."

Donna Reed's guests told her they



attended the dinner last year and promised to return next year. Kathy Jobin declares, "It was a wonderful night!" Her guests, as did others, left saying "Thank you and God bless." As one guest prepared to leave, exchanging mutual good wishes with her table host and a volunteer, she suddenly exclaimed, "I've got to hug!" and gave each woman a warm, friendly hug.

Will there be a fourth SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner? Chris says "we have learned that hosting the Friends Dinner is a work in progress." Elizabeth agrees: "This was only the third Friends Dinner. With each one we've learned something new: Don't schedule the

Dinner from page 8

dinner in the winter. Do plan for more guests than expected so you don't run out of food." Rachael McMillan's opinion of the dinner is, "If it's a nice experience for even a few families, I say it's worthwhile!" In coming weeks organizers will meet to talk about what factors affected turnout; at the moment, date conflicts and parking problems are high on the list of possibilities.



The Friends Dinner was undeniably a good experience for the guests who did come for dinner; it also sent unexpected blessings out to others. Volunteers packed up large boxes of leftover food and delivered it to local charities, whose own volunteers were grateful to receive so much good food to feed the people they serve. Sometimes things don't work out as expected, but instead in ways we didn't imagine.

Chris and Elizabeth want to thank again the many volunteers who helped make the Friends dinner possible, through their work in helping in the kitchen, setting up, serving drinks, greeting, hosting tables, cleaning up, washing dishes, and providing so much good food!

Why should I worry?
It's not my business to think of myself.
My business is to think of God.
It's God's business to think of me.

—Simone Weil

Introducing Jon McCoy

Children's Program Coordinator

Jon McCoy recently took over the position of St. Patrick's Children's Program Coordinator. To Jon, the offer to serve in this way was more of a complete surprise than the result of following a specific career path. However, he's finding this opportunity a good match with his background and talents, and a great way to balance work and family life.



What drew you to your current position Children's Program Coordinator?

I accepted this position in August of this year. A chance to serve the parish in a greater capacity is what drew me to the job. It came about at just the right time in my life. My youngest child was starting kindergarten at Holy Cross, and I began wondering what the next phase of my life would be like. So one day Fr. Joe called me into his office and offered the position, which caught me completely off guard. But after thinking about it for a while, the position seemed like a great opportunity.

Can you tell us a little bit about your family?

Dawn and I have been married for 12 years. We currently live in Champaign with our eight-year-old daughter Maddy, our five-year-old son Michael, and our 11-year-old dog Sadie. Maddy is a third-grader at Holy Cross; Michael is in kindergarten.

What has been a "favorite moment" in your job so far?

I'm not sure if I've had a favorite moment. The thing I like most about my job is interacting with the parents and children in our parish. It's been great meeting so many members of our parish that I have not had the opportunity to know in the past. Also, it's a lot of fun talking to the kids as they go to and from class each week.

The parish staff has been another great perk of the job. From the first moment, they've been very welcoming and helpful and made me feel a part of the group. Life seems very good.

Are you the rare Champaign/Urbana resident who was born and raised here, or are you a transplant? Either way, can you tell us a little bit about your background (family, schooling)?

I am definitely a transplant of sorts. I grew up in Sikeston, Missouri, which is about four hours down I-57. If you've ever been to Lambert's (Home of the Throed Rolls), you've probably been to my hometown.

My wife, Dawn, is the main reason we currently reside in Champaign, she grew up in Decatur. We met at St. Louis University, where I got a B.A. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in English. After graduating, I taught one year of high school English and one year of middle school English in the St. Louis area.

After Dawn finished school, we moved to Springfield, where she began a three-year residency. During that time, I coached soccer at Athens High School and taught middle school English at Elkhart Grade School. After her residency, we moved to Urbana, and I became a stay-at-home dad. I've been a stay-at-home dad now for eight years.

How long have you been a parishioner at St. Pat's?

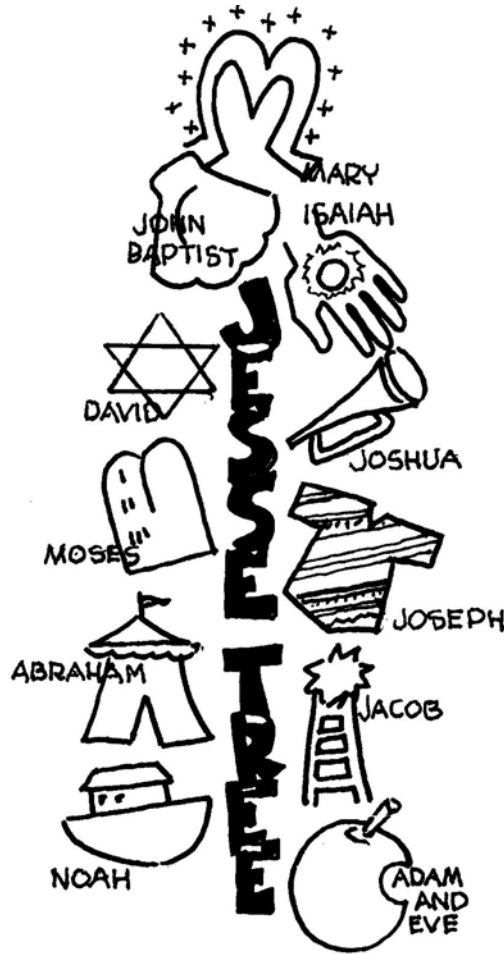
I have been a parishioner here for a little over eight years. My wife and I began attending St. Pat's in June 2004, when we moved to the Champaign-Urbana area. I actually started attending RCIA in September 2004 and was confirmed into the Church at the Easter Vigil in April 2005.

 **in our parish library**

You can make a Jesse Tree part of your family's Advent tradition. The Jesse Tree recalls the family tree of Jesus through the stories that are part of Jesus' heritage. Two books in our parish library that can give you ideas for creating your own Jesse Tree are:

- *The Jesse Tree*, by Marlene Konrady
 - *Advent Begins at Home*, compiled by David Polek and Rita Anderhub
- You'll find these and other Advent-related materials in the call-number area 263.1

The parish library is available on weekdays during office hours; ask for a key at the parish office. It is also open on fourth and fifth Sundays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. If you need help, our Parish Librarian, Megan Raab (), will be happy to assist you. Scanning the shelves and looking for subject labels may also prove fruitful in finding something you'd enjoy reading.

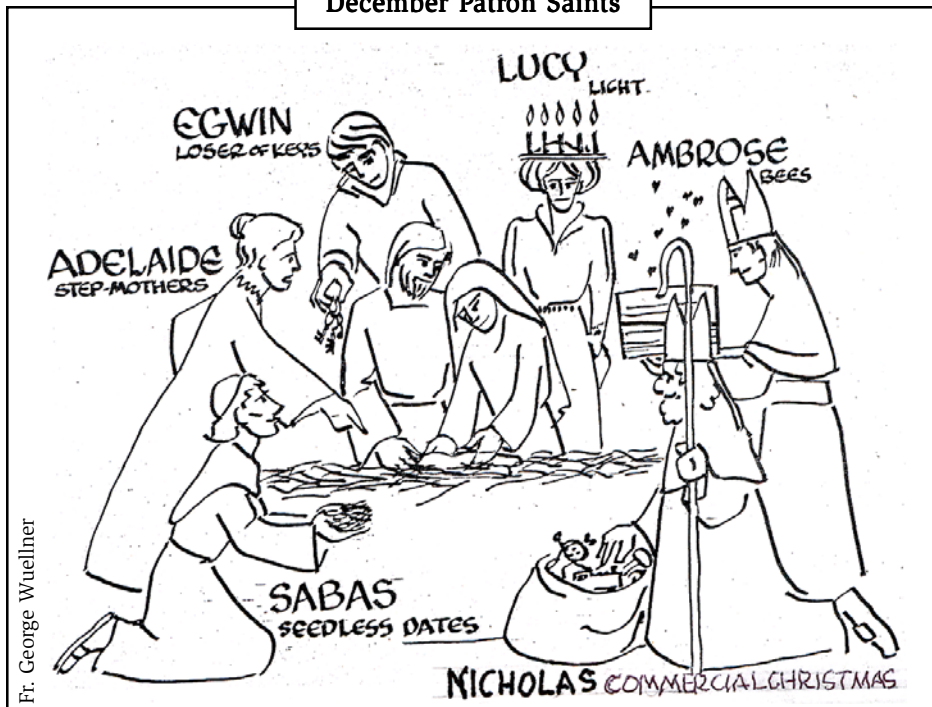


Did you know . . . ?

In 1977 parishioner **Rodger Adams** was ordained a permanent deacon for service at St. Patrick's Parish, our very first. He was followed by parishioner **Bill McClellan**, ordained a permanent deacon in 1992, and by Deacon **Dan Murphy** (Dan moved to our diocese in 1997 and was assigned to service of St. Patrick's). Before he moved on, Deacon Dan was joined by parishioner **Cliff Maduzia**, who was ordained a permanent deacon in 2002.

In May 2012 Deacon Cliff was joined by newly ordained parishioner Deacon **David Zola**. We have certainly been blessed to have a succession of deacons devoted to service in our parish, each finding his way as God reveals it! Deo gratias!

December Patron Saints



Shown with Fr. Willard, the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, and Bishop Daniel Jenky are the Holy Cross eighth-graders from St. Patrick who were confirmed in September: Elie Nyembo, Hans Herzog, Grace Whittington, Shelby Turner, Kyle Rasmussen, and Meghan Kelly.

Fr. George Wuellner



Q: Why do we pray for the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel at Mass?

A: Michael the Archangel is named in Scripture in the book of Daniel (10:13, 10:21, 12:1) and Revelation (12:7) as a great warrior, defending the just from evil. If you remember the Mass before the reforms of Vatican II, you probably recall that the following prayer to Michael was said at the end of every Mass:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.

The prayer was dropped from the Mass because it was not part of the most ancient traditions of our liturgy, so it may be less familiar today. Last February, Bishop Jenky asked parishes in our diocese to add a brief prayer for St. Michael's intercession out of concern that Catholic institutions in the U.S. might be required to provide birth control and abortifacients (drugs or devices used to cause abortion) as part of the medical insurance that they provide.

The Prayers of the Faithful at Mass are addressed to Jesus, our great intercessor with the Father. By calling on Michael, we are inviting him to join us in praying for this intention.

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



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **December 9.**

Special volunteer opportunities

- Who sets out hosts and wine for Sunday Mass—the priest? No! Parishioners just like you do this! Currently there is real need for a parishioner (or a parishioner couple) **to set up for the 7:30 Mass** once or twice a month. If you've ever wanted a very special way to serve your parish priests and people, this is it! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*
- Local bakeries have increased their generous contributions to our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, now sending several cartons of breads, bagels, sweet rolls, and cookies on **four days of the week, Monday-Thursday!** Can you give an hour or so to help **sort and repackage** these for the food bags that are given out daily to the food pantry's clientele? Come for "coffee and" at 7:45 a.m. and stay for the "repackaging party" that begins around 8:00 a.m. Try it—you'll like it!



Teresa Rund and her three young children—Oliver, Gus, and Addie—donned gloves and set to work helping with the day's donated bread supply for the Food Pantry.

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.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Bonnie Kimball

Easy Apple Dumplings

- 1 pkg refrigerated pie crust
- 1 15-oz can apple pie filling
- 1 egg white



Cut each pie crust into 4 pieces. Spread 2 T pie filling in the center of each piece. Bring corners together and seal; pinch the folds closed. Brush the top of each dumpling with egg white, and bake at 400° until browned, about 15 minutes. Serve dumplings with ice cream or top with warm caramel sauce.

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!

Four women who died for love

El Salvador is a small country in Central America. For many years the poor of that country have been oppressed, and many who tried to oppose the rich and the government have been killed.

In late 1980 residents of the seacoast town of La Libertad knew the white minivan driven around the countryside by Ursuline Sr. Dorothy Kazel and Maryknoll lay volunteer Jean Donovan. They were known as the "rescue squad" because they often helped Salvadoran refugees move to places of safety.

On Dec. 2, Jean and Dorothy drove to the airport to pick up Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, who were returning from a meeting in Nicaragua. Maura and Ita



were also on a mission to El Salvador from their homes in the United States.

After they left the airport, they were not seen again. The minivan was found the next morning, a stripped and burned-out shell. Later the bodies of the women were found; they had been shot to death.

Until a few months before they died, the four women felt safe because they were

U.S. citizens. But when their dear friend Archbishop Oscar Romero was shot while celebrating Mass and other friends had been killed or threatened, they realized that their lives were in danger.

The four women also knew, however, that the people depended on them, so they continued to deliver food, lead Bible study and

health classes, and assist those searching for loved ones who had been arrested by the police.

Maura once wrote, "One cries out 'Lord, how long?' And then too what creeps into my mind is the little fear or big, that when it touches me very personally, will I be faithful?"

Knowing how much they were needed, they chose to stay and work, whatever the cost. They were faithful to the end; they stayed, and died, for love.

St. Patrick's Seniors enjoy October luncheon

St. Patrick's Seniors disregarded Hurricane Sandy and met for their Halloween celebration. Irma Wait provided the scary decorations. Mary Jo Thomsen and Walt Splittstoesser were the calling committee.

Fr. Dennis Spohrer gave the blessing and stayed for lunch. He provided some insight into his background, remarking that both his parents were nurses, and we found him quite knowledgeable about Antarctica.

Parish Nurse Roxane Lowry gave a brief presentation on osteoporosis. If you take a drug to prevent bone loss (such as Fosamax or Actonel),



take it for 5 years and then wait a few years before taking it again. One needs to take calcium and Vitamin D along with exercise to maintain bone health.

The group again decided to send Christmas cards to shut-in seniors. The cards will be addressed at the Dec. 13 Seniors gathering.



St. Patrick's 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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