

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

January 2012

How the God-Child gives us hope

Sometimes we think of hope as flimsy, as the last straw we cling to when there's nothing better. However, the Bible disagrees, speaking of hope as a powerful force. For example, St. Paul writes, "There are three things, in the end, that last: faith, hope, and love."

During Israel's darkest days, the Babylonian exile, God's people found themselves impoverished, politically powerless, and cut off from their homeland, where they believed that God lived. That's when the prophets began to speak a message of hope—hope that they would be able to return home in peace, and hope that God would make things right for them.

At Christmas we remember what God did, for them and for us. God came to live among us in the most intimate way possible, in the person of Jesus. God's son could have come to us as an adult, charismatic and powerful. Instead, he came as an infant, with all the weakness, dependence, and ignorance of a newborn. How better could he show us that he values our lives? How better could he show us how to live? How better could he show his love for us?



Where is your life right now? Are you literally exiled or estranged from family? Are you struggling with illness, addiction, unemployment, or poverty? Are you weighed down by many cares, or are you seeking a deeper meaning in life? Do you feel as though you've made a mess of your life? Look to the God-child: see that God values your life, that God will show you how to live, and that God loves you deeply.

In Babylon, Israel would have been happy if God sent a warrior to free them. They would have been delighted if he sent a king to help them rebuild their lives. But they would have been overwhelmed, had they known how far God would surpass their hopes: that God *himself*, in the person of Jesus, would come. Jesus didn't make their enemies and their troubles vanish; instead, he showed them how to live a blessed and holy life wherever they found themselves. Jesus brought the message of his Father's love. He brought forgiveness of sins and the chance to be one with him now and forever.

What do you hope for? Look to the God-child.

Not your New Year's resolution, but God's

"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success." – Proverbs 3:6



January 1st: what a wonderfully clean blank slate of a date that is. It's traditionally the day (give or take) that we redouble our efforts at self-improvement. Those improvements could take many forms, although health and fitness seem to be the focus of many a New Year's resolution.

Now, whether or not those resolutions are typically still followed come January 14th (or 7th, or 2nd) is another matter completely.

A way to ensure that New Year's Resolutions have a little more power to them is simple, so simple that many of us forget to do it: inviting God to help us as we set our goals for the New Year.

When asking God to get in on your New Year's plans, you might want to think about the order of the asking. Although it's good to set a fitness goal and then seek God's help in following it, it's even better to ask God to show you the areas God would like to see some im-

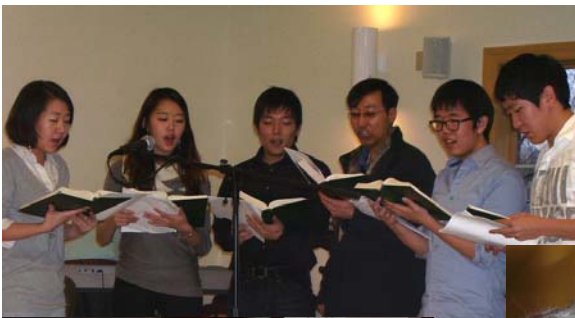
Lively open house at renovated rectory

Pastor Fr. Joe Hogan, with Fr. Luong Tran, hosted the open house at St. Mary's on Dec. 4. Fr. Joe's family was in attendance as well, helping to show off aspects of the fine old house that was renovated last summer for its new occupants. In addition to more modest changes, the kitchen underwent a complete renovation, and a new bathroom was added on the second floor.

The rectory was lovely, dressed for the holidays, with spectacular windows from the former school on display. Many works of art add warmth and interest in every room.

The parish center was lively, resounding to holiday music and a *cappella* singing. Youngsters "skated" on their knees across the open space while others chased their friends or practiced cartwheels and handstands. A variety of foods, served up by inviting St. Mary's parishioners, tempted even those who had already lunched at home. Parishioners from St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes mixed in small groups, making tentative efforts at getting to know one another.

All in all, the event was a great success in bringing our parishes together in holiday spirit!



Clothing shipment is on its way to Congo!

Last summer parishioners responded to the call for clothing for the Congolese in Africa, hard-hit by civil wars and volcanic eruptions. Many had to flee their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

The Congolese of St. Patrick's, a vibrant French-speaking community, initiated the project with Fr. Joe's approval and were gratified to see the boxes and bags of summer-weight and warmer clothing, blankets, and comforters accumulate in the parish's garage. Local churches also responded when acquainted with the project, until available storage spaces overflowed. The Congolese repacked donated items into standard cartons to be loaded into a cargo container.

After months of negotiations, final arrangements for the shipment were made and a cargo container was brought to the parish grounds on Saturday, Dec. 3. Volunteers gathered to help move the cartons into the cargo container, happy to see the donated items on their way to Congo—items from Champaign-Urbana helping the people of Congo, an international "alliance" for sure!

Photos give an idea of the activity—Fr. Joe and others helped move cartons from their temporary storage places. Fr. Zephyrin Nsimba (he's known as Fr. Zephy), visiting from the Congolese Archdiocese of Kinshasa, will receive the shipment on its arrival. Ken Enright, a local businessman, purchased the cargo container and helped to finance the shipment from America to Congo—he grew up in Congo and spent many years there.

Thanks to all who gave and gave, to all who packed and repacked items, and to all the movers and shakers who brought this project to its happy conclusion!



Take a Great Adventure journey through the Bible

The Great Adventure ten-week study of the Book of Revelation ended in the first week of Advent. Over sixty people studied this mysterious, symbolic book, many with timidity and trepidation. Most, however, found it a book filled with hope for eternal life with Christ in the New Jerusalem.

Many also learned to appreciate the Eucharist more deeply—the celebration of the Mass as a fore-



taste of the heavenly liturgy that we will experience one day with God.

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 3, another ten-week Great Adventure Bible study will begin at St. Patrick. This one explores Exodus, the treasured second book of the Old Testament. The Exodus event is the high point in all

of history for the people of Israel, and for Christians it has even deeper meaning. It is about God's love for

us, and a foretaste of the true liberation and new exodus brought about by Christ. Participants will enhance their understanding of the Lamb of God as they study the origins of the Passover Lamb, and will celebrate a Passover Seder meal together.

This ten-session study group will meet every Tuesday from Jan. 3 to Mar. 6. You may choose either the 1-3 p.m. session or the 7-9 p.m. session. To register, contact Mary Long or Carolyn McElrath (367-2665 or). The materials cost \$21, but scholarships are available or a study set may be borrowed.

Vocations. What can we do?

The Catholic Church in America will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week Jan. 9-14. Many of us are already settled into our life's vocation, or calling. However, many are still seeking what "speaks" to them as a way of life or a life's work.

When we look around us, we see people dedicated, consecrated, to service of God's people: priests and religious men and women. We see married couples of all ages, some new to that life, some settled in for their lifetimes together. We see single men and women focused on making the world more habitable for others—the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized.

If you now find yourself settled in a way of life, you may well have found your vocation. If you're somehow dissatisfied or uncomfortable with your choice, it may be time to stop and listen for that "still,



small voice" of God trying to tell you about other choices—or perhaps that all-important one choice—that will help you become the person God made you to be.

If you know others who seem somewhat un-

settled, or young enough to not yet to have explored what God may be calling them to, pray that they stop and listen for God's input. Suggest that they find a confidant who may be able to help them hear God's call. Invite them to consider all their options: not just a state of life, but ways that a state of life may enable them to serve God's people. Explain to them the importance of silent prayer, of taking time to listen to God's voice in their hearts. How long has it been since you broached the idea of the priesthood or religious life with a young person?

Most of all, pray.

Telling the Good News

She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity, convinced that every word was revelation.

She said, "They were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat, and they went a long way from home without getting lost. The lady rode a donkey, the man walked, and the baby was inside the lady.

"They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee), but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lit the roof. Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.



"Then the baby was born. And do you know who he was?" Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars. "The baby was God!"

And she jumped in the air, whirled around, dived into the sofa, and buried her head under the cushion, which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

—From *The Hour of the Unexpected*, by John Shea
Used with permission

January Patron Saints



Did you know . . . ?

- A defibrillator is located in the southeast corner of the church, near the Marian shrine. A telephone for emergencies is inside the vesting sacristy (beside the shrine).
- Our church organ was donated in March 1907 and has been carefully maintained ever since. Most of our parish's music directors have hoped and prayed that another generous donor would recognize and answer the need for a new one!
- The St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed by men of the parish in 1935. At weekly meetings members prayed the rosary and discussed how best to respond to the needs of people who came for help, whether for food, gas, bus fare, or overnight lodging. Today's SVDP no longer holds weekly meetings, but its food pantry now serves several hundred hungry families per week.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We all know who Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was. We know that he fought for racial equality and freedom, and to make this world a better and more harmonious place for all. We also know that we



celebrate and remember his accomplishments the third week of January every year. Some of us even have time off from work and our children the day off from classes to honor Dr. King's life.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, **"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"** Each year Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. Throughout his years of social leadership, Dr. King encouraged all people to address pressing social ills through citizen service. King Day is a time

for realizing that each of us has the power to help alleviate poverty, build community, and foster peace through nonviolence, if we have the courage and commitment to work for it.

There are endless opportunities locally to serve. You can find opportunities by calling a school in your area for suggestions, by donating time at a senior center or nursing home, or perhaps by helping out at our parish's food pantry or the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. You may find other ideas by using your computer to access information; some Web sites for charities in our area: www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com, and www.cuvolunteer.org.

How will you observe Dr. Martin Luther King Day? How will you further his vision of freedom and equality for all people?

"In His Hand Is Life": Respect Life Vigil, Jan. 22

Every year for the last twenty-odd years, an ecumenical Memorial Prayer Vigil has been held at one of the churches in the Champaign-Urbana area on Jan. 22. This date is the anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion in the United States.



various churches, short addresses by persons who have been touched by abortion in some way, and a commemorative procession in which the entire assembly participates. In this way, it seeks to foster greater resolve among participants to affirm

the culture of life.

As the name of the vigil suggests, its aim is to bring together people of different faiths to honor the memory of the more than 53 million unborn infants aborted in the United States as a result of this decision. The event has several local sponsoring churches, of which St. Patrick's Parish is one.

The vigil service includes readings from scripture, communal prayers led by pastors representing

The upcoming vigil, the theme of which is "In His Hand Is Life," will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the Twin City Bible Church, 806 W. Michigan Ave. (corner of Lincoln and Michigan), Urbana. Parking is available across the street in the parking lot of the McKinley Health Center. Following the service will be a reception at which refreshments will be served.



Looking for a good time?

So you think there's no fun out there for young Catholic adults? Well, think again! Bao Bui, who coordinates the Catholic Young Adults Group for singles, told of their recent adventures.

One destination they enjoyed this fall was Warren Dunes State Park on the southern shore of Lake Michigan. They hiked the dunes and enjoyed Mother Nature. They plan to revisit it early next summer to enjoy swimming along the endless beaches. One nearby destination is Allerton Park, which they visit at least twice each spring and summer. It is one of their favorite places to hike and have barbecues.

This year the Young Adults Group had a Halloween party for members and friends. Over thirty people showed up. Everyone wore a costume and spent the evening singing karaoke and dancing salsa.

Another part of a young adult's life is eating—frequently! The St. Patrick's group gathers each Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass for coffee and doughnuts. They also meet for

dinner at a member's house in Urbana nearly every Monday evening. Bao reports, "It's quite a lot of fun to eat dinner on the porch (weather permitting) and say hi to neighbors walking by." If the weather is too hot or too cold, they meet indoors at a member's home.

Bao hosted a Thanksgiving dinner at his house this year. Fourteen grad students, parishioners, and friends attended the nine-hour dinner. Instead of traditional turkey, they prepared roast lamb and chicken braised in red wine. Of course, there were many pies, including homemade apple pie and pumpkin pie.

This group dishes out food just as well as it eats. On Sundays, several members volun-

teer for the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. They help distribute bag lunches from the kitchen-on-wheels in the parking lot of Habitat for Humanity / ReStore.

The young adults go as a group to many events at St. Patrick's. In addition to dinners, they attend Taizé services, Christmas sing-alongs, Lenten activities, and other volunteer events. If you'd like to join in the fun, e-mail Bao Bui (longbui2@illinois.edu).



Thanksgiving chez Bao

Ron Eagan joins Parish Council mid-year

Following established procedures, as runner-up in the most recent election of new members to the Parish Council, Ron Eagan was invited to complete Barb Thomas's three-year term as a Council member. Barb, elected to the Council last February, became unable to complete her term.

As a candidate for the election last February, Ron introduced himself to parishioners as relatively new to Catholicism but "looking



forward to serving our church community with the same energy that I service my Cursillo community." You may recognize him as an usher at the 9:00 Mass on Sundays and as one of those who set up for morning Mass on weekdays.

The term that Ron fills as runner-up will expire in 2014. He will then be eligible to stand for election to a full term of his own.



Holy Mary, help those in need, strengthen the weak, and comfort the sorrowful. Pray for God's people. May all who seek your help experience your unending protection. Intercede for our religious men and women, and assist our priests, who give their lives to help us come to know and love your son, Jesus, and to walk in his way. Join your pleas with ours, that the Father of us all may call more men and women to dedicate their lives to his service.



in our parish library

This month's highlighted resources are on the theme of refreshing your soul. The following books are representative of materials that can be found in the parish library. Once you locate the call number on the shelf, scan nearby for other similar books.

Care of the Soul (A Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life), by Thomas Moore. By nurturing the soul in everyday life, we cultivate dignity, peace, and depth of character. It's about finding ritual and sacredness in our everyday routines. It deals with subjects ranging from family relationships, jealousy, and earning a living, to depression, aging, and dying. Call Number: 158 Moo

Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work: 101 Stories, by et al. This special collection of inspiring tales shares the daily courage, compassion, and creativity that take place in workplaces. This book gives new options, new ways to succeed and, above all, a new love and appreciation for yourself, your job, and those around you. Call Number: 331.25 CAN 1996

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2: Stories of Faith, Hope, and Healing, by Jack Canfield. These stories are reminders of the daily miracles that can be discovered when you've welcomed Christ into your life. The stories may move you to deepen your compassion for others, to be inspired to greater acts of charity, and to remember to forgive others and yourself. Call Number: 242 CAN

Life Everlasting and the Imminence of the Soul, by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P. The first section of this treatise deals with the immensity of the soul. Later sections cover death and judgment, hell, purgatory, and heaven. Each aspect

is explained clearly and in great depth. Call Number: 236 GAR

No Wrinkles on the Soul: A Book of Readings for Older Adults, by Richard L. Morgan. Each of the 62 meditations in this book presents a suggested scripture reading, a printed Bible verse, and a reading for reflection. These meditations relate honestly to the variety of situations in which older adults may find themselves living—in their own home, in a retirement center, in a nursing home, or in the home of a relative. Call Number: 242.6 Morgan

Soulwork: Clearing the Mind, Opening the Heart, Replenishing the Spirit, by Betty Claire Moffat. Moffat encourages readers to explore a spiritual path and connect with the richness of the inner self. This book is a blend of prose and practicality that humorously examines memory, generational differences, and the importance of centering and balance to accomplish inner peace. Call Number: 291 MOF

Spiritual Fitness: Everyday Exercises for the Body and Soul, by Doris Donnelly. This book provides concrete ways for listening, praising, and forgiving, and examples of how we can put our faith and values into day-to-day practice. Call Number: 248 DON

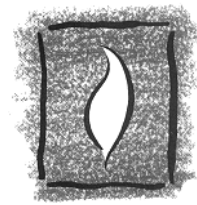
Take Your Soul to Work: Transform Your Life and Work, by Tanis Helliwell. Helliwell shows readers how to probe their physical, "etheric" (a kind of superego), emotional, mental, and spiritual states, and how to identify and evaluate their life goals. Included are exercises to help readers recognize and learn how to satisfy the needs of the soul, which determines one's life purpose and personality. Call Number: 248 HELLI

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.

From our Parish Nurses:

We make house calls!

Do you have a loved one who is living at home, and could benefit from a visit from a Parish Nurse? Perhaps they are recovering from an illness or surgery and you would like someone to check in on them. Please call the parish office (367-2665, ext. 130) and leave a message for the Parish Nurses; one of them will contact you.



Volunteers needed

- You "sing along with Mitch" while traveling and sing in the shower. How about 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 and easy to prepare. Share those special recipes that have made you the envy of family and friends!



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.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of In Focus is January 15.

Resolutions from page 1

provement in *before* setting goals.

The Holy Spirit is an expert at pointing out the places in our lives in which we could be doing better. This is a good place to start. If, for example, you feel a pull in your heart to get in touch with an old friend, spend more quality “face time” with your children, tackle a particular item on your to-do list, or—and, this really is a worthwhile goal—get healthier, you should pay attention to those little tugs, and then lift them up to God. Ask God to help you prioritize this spiritual personal to-do list, and to guide you as you try to accomplish your goals.

There is no guarantee that prayer will be the magic bullet that sees you, a year from now, thin, stress free, and completely fulfilled. The guarantee is that God will “crown your efforts with success” in some way—a much better assurance than you can get *without* God’s help in trying to meet your resolutions.

You may be disappointed to find that what seems to matter most to God is not what matters most to you. For instance, you may be hoping that the little tug on your heart would tell you to join a gym, hire a personal trainer, and get nutritional home-delivered meals, but instead feel strongly that God wants to you focus on your marriage or getting your finances in order.

Reprioritizing according to God’s will can be tough, but knowing that God loves us very, very much is reason enough to realize that *God’s* will, not ours, should precede every one of the goals we make for our lives. There is no better time than now—the dawn of fresh year—to seek God’s will and blessing on all our efforts.



Q: I’ve been thinking about coming back to church, but I don’t know how. I feel funny about just “showing up,” although I’ve slipped into church a few times to see what it’s like these days. What can I do? I’m not sure I’m ready to walk up to a priest and say I want to go to confession.

A: There really is no right way—or wrong way—to come back. All that is required of you, in the end, is that you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (yes, go to confession) and return to Mass and Holy Communion. Truly, you can expect that any priest will give you a sympathetic and understanding hearing. Don’t give up if you don’t connect with someone on your first or second try; somewhere there is a priest waiting for you!

Different people have different needs, however. Increasingly, parishes are offering outreach programs to connect with people who have left the Church or are inactive in practicing their faith. The simplest outreach may be just an invitation before Christmas or Easter

to “come home,” with the names and phone numbers of priests or lay persons willing to listen and to help.

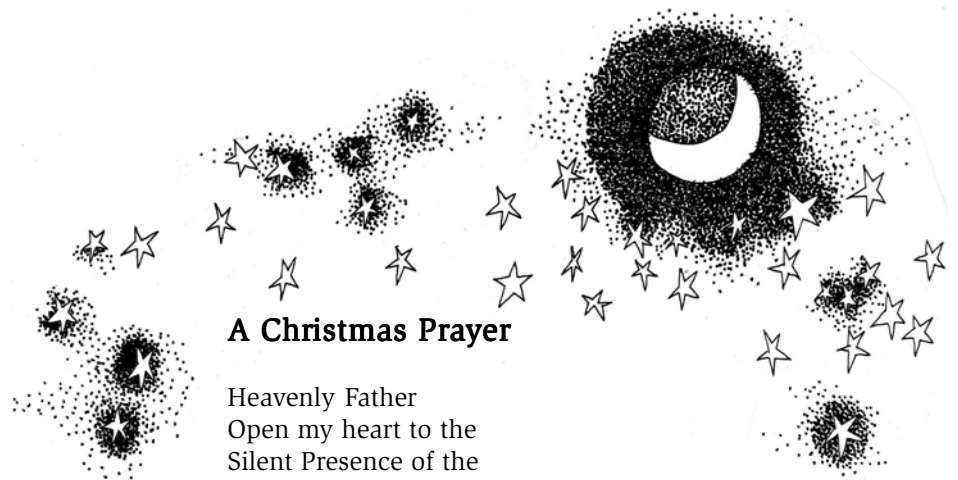
Other parishes offer a series of informational sessions designed to identify needs, answer questions, and acquaint inactive Catholics with today’s Church. Participants return to the Church on their own when they feel ready.

Our own parish outreach program for returning Catholics helps people recognize and understand why they left the Church—what hurt or anger or apathy may have prompted the break—and helps the healing process while preparing them for the Church they will find on their return.

The spiritual longing you feel is God trying to draw you back to himself. Coming back to the Church is not an event so much as a process, which starts when you open yourself to the movement of God in your life.

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



A Christmas Prayer

Heavenly Father
Open my heart to the
Silent Presence of the
Spirit of your Son.
Lead me into that
Mysterious silence
Where your Love is
Revealed to all who call
Come Lord Jesus!

—John Main

Have you seen the ads?

From Dec. 16 through Jan. 9 viewers of prime-time TV will see ads encouraging inactive Catholics to reconnect with their Catholic faith. Catholics Come Home, a national evangelization organization, has launched an ambitious nationwide effort to encourage and support Catholics seeking to rejoin a Catholic community.

You can check the Web site (www.CatholicsComeHome.org/ParishWelcome) to find out how you can help. Tell your friends and family about this initiative, and open dialog with those who have



expressed a desire to return to the practice of their faith or others whose interest in the Catholic Church may have been raised by the ads.

The team for St. Patrick's program Returning Catholics stands ready to meet at any time with inactive Catholics who seek to rejoin a Catholic community; simply leave a message at the parish office

(367-2665) and a team member will return the call. The team also offers a six-week series of sessions for returning Catholics three times a year; the next will be Apr. 18-May 23.



In September The High School of St. Thomas More welcomed 33 of St. Patrick's teens to another year of studies, as well as to extracurricular activities such as sports, music, drama, art, academic clubs, spiritual organizations, and retreats. "Saber Stories" informs our parishioners of our students' many academic and extracurricular achievements; please contact Mary Welle () with your latest news.

In October, the Academic Letter Awards Ceremony was hosted by the school's administration and the National Honor Society. Academic Letters are presented to juniors and seniors who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or 3.5 (depending on years in school). Recipients included parishioners Ian Niccum, Matthew Tate, Michael Wagner, Patrick Wagner, Sarah Johnson, Madeline Kangas, Matthew Ramaly, Theresa Welle, and Chase Kangas. *Congratulations!*

On Jan. 25 a Preview Night for prospective students is planned. For information, contact the school (352-7210).

Holy Cross Happenings



St. Patrick's students at Holy Cross School must have been studying hard! On the **1st quarter honor roll** Hannah Niccum, Jessica Hood, and Iona Berman received **Highest Honors**. Receiving **High Honors** were Saanbe Some, Van Gunderson, Ethan Smith, Maris Wszalek, Elie Nyembo, Hans Herzog, and Julia Welle. Meghan Kelly and Shelby Turner were awarded **Honors**. *Congratulations to one and all!*

Coming soon: **Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4)**. The school will celebrate Catholic education with music programs, an open house, and tours. More details to follow.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Tracey Johnson

Buckeyes

1-1/2 c creamy peanut butter
1/2 c butter, softened
1 t vanilla
4 c (1 lb) sifted confectioners sugar
6 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 T shortening

Line a baking sheet with wax paper. In a medium bowl, mix peanut butter, butter, vanilla, and confectioners sugar with your hands into a smooth but stiff dough. Shape dough into 2 t balls. Place on the baking sheet and refrigerate. Melt shortening and chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Stir occasionally until smooth;



remove from heat. Remove balls from refrigerator. Insert a wooden toothpick into a ball, and dip it into the melted chocolate. Do not coat the ball completely; leave a small oval of peanut butter dough showing. Return it to the wax paper, chocolate side down, and remove the toothpick. Repeat with each ball. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes to set.

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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!

Veterans honored at luncheon

In recognition of Veterans' Day, the Women of St. Patrick honored military veterans in the parish during their November rosary and lunch. A display board was prepared for posting photographs of veterans, either themselves or their loved ones. Also, a map pinpointed each veteran's place of service. The luncheon began with a prayer service remembering veterans and their families.

After lunch, Chris Whippo and her father, Mike Catanzaro, took the floor to tell about taking an Honor Flight two years ago to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Chris gave some background on the Honor Flight program, which was begun so that WWII veterans who might be prevented from traveling to see the memorial because of financial or physical limitations could have the opportunity to see it. Honor Flights are financed by donations so that veterans can travel free. Each veteran takes along a "guardian," who must pay his or her own expenses.

Mike told of his taking the Honor Flight with Chris two years ago. The Champaign group traveled by bus to St. Louis, picking up other veterans along the way. From St. Louis they flew to Baltimore, where they were met by service people who took them to Washington, D.C. At the memorial they were honored at a ceremony that included such speakers as Senator Dole. Mike's group was able to tour other memo-

rials and sites before returning to the airport to fly back to St. Louis.

This whirlwind trip took 23 hours, and no one got any sleep. Mike said that this reminded him of his WWII experience in invading an island in the Pacific, when only the luckiest slept even two hours. *Chris Whippo with her father, Mike Catanzaro*

After their talk, the microphone was passed on to other veterans. They stated how and where they had served, and shared memories of their service. There were stories from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, as well as stories from those who served between wars. Some veterans told of their own experiences of taking an Honor Flight and others of plans to go on one next year.

Several people spoke of family members and other loved ones who are currently serving or who have recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan, noting that our country is still producing veterans. One veteran spoke of recently visiting a VA hospital and the veterans who are patients there. Many of them are suffering from illnesses and disabilities, and don't have families. He said they'd really appreciate having someone to talk to, and he suggested that making visits there would be a good way to live out our Catholic faith.

This is the second year the Women of St. Patrick have held a Veterans' Day Lunch. They hope to be able to honor the veterans of our parish every year.



Chris Whippo with her father, Mike Catanzaro



Guests share stories of their service

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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