

www.stpaturbana.org

# Do you belong to St. Patrick's Parish?

You probably wouldn't hesitate to answer "Yes!" to this question. But what does it mean to belong? Like most things in life, the answer begins with God's action.

St. Patrick's is God's gift to you. This is a place where you can come to hear the Word of God, and to hear it applied to daily life. This is a place where

you can come to receive God's gifts in the sacraments. This is a community that helps you to hold on to your faith, even at times when you might be negligent or angry. This is a community that challenges you to grow in your faith by putting it into

action. These are people who can help you find ways to use your talents. These are people who know you and care about you.

You are also God's gift to St. Patrick's. You are one who helps us to praise and worship God, which is something that we can do better when we are together than when we are alone. You are one who enables us to reach out to the poor, the lonely, the oppressed, the grieving, and the sick. You are one who carries our faith out the church door and into all the other parts of your life, to your workplace, your school, your gym, your coffee klatch, your extended family. You are one who shares your life with us. A precious gift indeed!

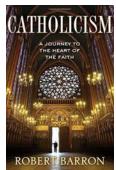
Now take a wider look and see St. Patrick's in its place in the diocese and the universal

Church. Everything that we've said about belonging to the parish is true on the broader stage as well. For most of us, the relationships are less personal, but still, we are God's gift to the Church, and the Church is God's gift to us.

Of course, there are always rough spots in community life. There are people who rub us the wrong way, or have different views, or have bad days when they are not as loving and open as we expect. Look in the mirror, and you'll see one of them. Still, at a very basic level of our lives we need community, and God has, for now, given us St. Patrick's.

# The Year of Faith begins Oct. 11

Early this year Pope Benedict XVI announced that he would launch a Year of Faith to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, to deepen our relationship with God, and to



strengthen our commitment to sharing faith with others.

The Year of Faith is set to begin Oct. 11, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and will end Nov. 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King.

This is not the first time the Church has been called to celebrate a Year of Faith. Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope Paul VI, announced one in 1967 to commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul.

Pope Benedict did well to begin this Year of Faith on the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II to "provide a good opportunity to help people understand that the texts bequeathed by the Council fathers have lost nothing of their value or brilliance."

"What the world is in particular need of today," he wrote, "is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life



October 2012

### Everybody loves a party—and so did we!



Reinvigorating the Parish Party Ministry, formerly named the Social Committee, Jeff and Angela Kneer accepted the challenge of assembling a team only a few weeks before the first event: the St. Patrick's Fall Festival and the Blessed Mother Mary's Birthday Party, on Saturday, Sept. 8. It was a huge success! An estimated 250 parishioners from St. Patrick's and St. Mary's made it the largest parish-wide event in recent years.

To accommodate people of all ages, the party featured outdoor activities that included two inflatable bounce houses, a dunk tank, a balloon artist, face painting, and yard games like volleyball, badminton, a beanbag toss, ladder ball, and even giant lawn tennis. On the other hand, many favored indoor diversions such as bingo, board games, and card games.

A potluck dinner with special-recipe grilled burgers and hot dogs was served after Mass, with a special birthday cake and ice cream—it was Mary's birthday, after all, and what's a birthday party without cake and ice cream? Everyone present waited with bated breath for the raffle drawing for dinner at the rectory with Fr. Joe, Fr. Dennis, and Fr. Joel—won by a rather startled youngster, Irene Kim. The evening ended with a trivia competition that ended in a tie.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for running the grill, to the Women of St. Patrick for the Ice Cream Social, and to the cooks and bakers for the countless number of favorite side dishes and the delicious cupcakes, cookies, and cakes. The Parish Party Ministry team, whose members were mostly strangers just a few weeks ago, deserves our thanks for their ideas, coordination, and help in running the show. It could not have been done without each one's efforts.

The Parish Party Ministry is always looking for new members to help organize future events, like the St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17. If you are interested in helping organize future parish parties, or simply have ideas you'd like to share, please contact Jeff and Angela Kneer.







## Faith from page 1

without end."

In a parish-wide observance of the Year of Faith, St. Patrick's will undertake a study of Robert Barron's fascinating video, *Catholicism*. Sessions are available Tuesday afternoon (1-3 p.m.) or Tuesday evening (7-9 p.m.) on the following dates: Oct. 9, 16, 23; Nov. 6, 13, 20; Jan. 8, 15; and Feb. 12, 19. After each video presentation, Fr. Joe will share the biblical connections, followed by small-group discussion.

To register, call the parish office (367-2665) and indicate your preference for afternoon or evening sessions. There is no charge for materials; simply bring an open heart and a Bible.

Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding and appreciation of our Catholic faith.

## **Holy Cross Happenings**

The annual and ever-popular Hot Dog Day took place at Holy Cross School on Sept. 14. This year's Hot Dog Day, however,

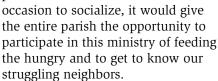


also commemorated the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross Parish and School and was part of the parish feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. More than 1,000 hot dogs were served to students and family members of Holv Cross School by Fr. Joel Phelps, Fr. Dennis Spohrer, Fr. Steve Willard, Holy Cross School Principal Rose Costello, the High School of St Thomas More Principal Ryan Bustle, and the High School of St Thomas More Assistant Principal Tracy Neitzel. The St. Thomas More Pep Band provided entertainment for the lunch.

In other news, the school held an Open House the evening of Sept. 4 so that parents could meet and introduce themselves to their students' teachers. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills were conducted Sept. 10-21. And school picture day was September 11.

## Sharing food and fellowship with our neighbors

Several years ago when then-WSP board member Chris Whippo asked Ellen Abell, coordinator of the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry, what the Women of St. Patrick could do to help the food pantry, Ellen suggested putting on a dinner for the food pantry clients. Not only would this be an opportunity for the people served by the food pantry to enjoy a pleasant meal and an



Chris went to Fr. Joe with the idea. Not only did he wholeheartedly approve the idea, he showed Chris a picture he had of the annual Christmas Lunch held in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome. Each year since 1982 the Community of Sant'Egidio has invited the local poor and homeless people in Rome to sit down with them and feast on Christmas Day. The photograph depicts hundreds of people being served at long, formally set tables in the vast and beautiful basilica itself.

Two Friends of the SVDP Food Pantry dinners have been held at St. Patrick's since Ellen and Chris first talked over the idea. The dinners here are necessarily a bit humbler than those held in the Basilica of Santa Maria. However, we also use tablecloths and china dishes and



silverware to create a more formal dining experience. Thanks to the many talented and generous cooks and bakers of our parish, the ham and chicken provided by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Women of St. Patrick is supplemented by many delicious hot and cold dishes, as well as an array of tasty desserts, just as we all enjoy at regular parish events.

The first two Friends

Dinners received rave reviews from both guests and volunteers. The guests loved both the great meal and the opportunity to get out and socialize. Volunteers have also said it was a wonderful experience.

This year's Friends Dinner will be held on Thursday, Nov. 1. Organizers Elizabeth Hendricks and Chris Whippo are hoping for parish-wide participation. There are tasks for almost every talent and ability. Those who are unable to help with setup, serving, and cleanup may be able to make reminder phone calls to guests several days before the dinner. Plenty of food will be needed. Those who enjoy socializing will be much appreciated as table hosts and greeters. There are many ways to serve!

Volunteer signups will begin in mid-October. Watch the bulletin and ministry e-mails for more information. If you have questions, contact Elizabeth Hendricks (elihen@att.net) or Chris Whippo (352-7263).

### Can you be a C-U One-to-One Mentor

Mentors are caring adults who spend one hour per week with an elementary school student, during school hours and on school grounds. All you have to do is be a friend to a student who needs a friend.

The next training session is Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Champaign Public Library, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact parishioner Paula Partin to find out more.

## Funerals: It takes a parish...

There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child. In the same way, it takes a parish to

accompany the family of a deceased parishioner as they attend to the details of the funeral of a loved one. When you attend a funeral Mass, it may seem that there isn't much going on, but in truth over 200 people have been involved in ways big and small along the way.

When a loved one dies, family members meet with Fr. Joe or one of the pastoral associates to begin planning the funeral liturgy and discussing other ways that the parish family can be with the family of the deceased at this difficult time.

Once these arrangements have been made, a host of things begin to happen. The music director, Laura Theby, contacts the 22 members of the funeral schola to alert them to the upcoming funeral Mass. The Ministry of Consolation team of seven is contacted to determine which of them will be able to attend and assist with hospitality and altar ministries as needed. Parish secretary Tyra Quinones sends a message to the six parishioners who are part of the funeral prayer ministry so that they can attend the funeral Mass to



pray for the deceased and their family members. She also calls to arrange for two of the nine

funeral altar servers to assist Fr. Joe during the funeral Mass.

If the family has requested that a luncheon be served following the funeral, the Women of St. Patrick's leadership will alert the 145 people who are signed up to provide food for the luncheons along with the crew of 25 women and 10 men who set up, prepare the food, and clean up following the luncheon. Those who are able to provide food and help with the physical aspects of the luncheon spring into action.

Of course, none of this would come to pass without Fr. Joe or one of the assisting priests to preside at the funeral Mass and assist the family with the spiritual needs that arise at the difficult time of the death of a family member.

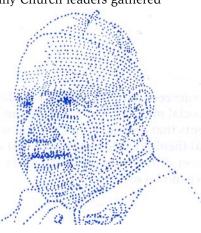
If you are someone who assists at the time of a funeral in one of these ways, your service is an important one and is greatly appreciated. If you would like to join in one of these ministries, all are welcome. If you are able, pray for our deceased parishioners and loved ones and their families. It does take a parish.

## Do you remember Vatican II?

Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council 50 years ago this month, on Oct. 11, 1962. Unless you're in your mid-fifties or older, you probably don't remember those days. It was grand to see so many Church leaders gathered

together. It was a surprise for some when the priest turned around to preside at Mass, and it took an adjustment to participate in the Mass in our own language. Changes didn't all happen at once, of course; some of them were in the air before the Council, and some took years afterward to implement.

To celebrate this anniversary, ask someone what they remember about the Council and how it changed their lives, or tell your own stories about it.



### Knights are on a roll!

The Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus has started the fall with two events in September. Late in the



month they held their annual Tootsie Roll drive to raise money for people with intellectual disabilities. If you missed it, never fear. The Knights will have extra Tootsie Rolls available – just ask!

Their first pancake breakfast of the season will be served on Sunday, Sept. 30. If you were unlucky and missed it, you'll have to wait until Dec. 30, the next time the Knights will be cooking their tasty pancakes.

After the New Year is when the Knights really get busy. The date for their very popular Ladies Knight Out event has not been decided, yet but there's no doubt their winning Super Bowl Breakfast will take place on Super Bowl Sunday! Likewise, it's easy to mark the calendar for their Lenten suppers: save those Friday dates if you enjoy good food and good fellowship.

Want to help out at these events? If you're a Catholic male 18 years of age or older and interested in the Knights of Columbus, talk to any Knight about volunteering. It's a good way to get to know the Knights and learn about their organization.

#### Vocation Prayer

Our call to service is not a call to submissiveness. It is a call to thunderous faith, born of deep passion that compels us to offer our entire selves for the sake of the world. —Nick Wagner

Lord, help me to see how best to use the gifts I've received from you, to hear your voice in the depths of my heart, to discern your call and to respond with a generous spirit.

### What are our CREW teens up to?

If you think *you* have a busy schedule this fall, just look at what our teens are doing! All high school

teens are welcome to participate in the Teen Mass and Dinner scheduled throughout the school year. Mass begins at 5:00 p.m. in the church with our ever-popular CREW Praise Band leading us in worship. We're on the lookout for more bass players and drummers this year! Because an offertory collection is taken up during the Teen Mass, teens are encouraged to bring a dollar or two to give to the church. After Mass teens have dinner together in the parish hall. At a CREW class night before a teen Mass, teens vote on what will be served. The Sept. 23 dinner was Taco Night, with chips and salsa, Mexican rice, and desserts. Teens are asked to donate \$5 to help offset the cost of the dinner.

The first **Catholic Teen Connection** of the year was held on Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Koeberlein's Farm near St. Mary's Church in Pesotum, 4:00-7:00 p.m. This fun social event



Sara Hoke won the quilt in the first quilt raffle at St. Patrick's. The raffle was conducted by the crew of the "Better Room" during the Cellarto-Garret sale. In the accompanying photo, Sara is shown on the right holding the quilt with her grandmother, Margaret Stewart, a St. Patrick's parishioner. Sara is from Schaumburg, Ill., and a freshman in engineering at Harper Community College; she plans to transfer to the University of Illinois for her junior and senior years. She was ecstatic about winning the beautiful quilt!

The "Better Room" crew is already hard at work on the second quilt to be raffled off when finished. This quilt will have a hand-stitched top, donated by Irma Wait (who got it from her long-time friend, Betty



for our Catholic youth featured a scarecrow building contest, a bonfire, hot dogs roasted over the fire, a guest

talk from newly ordained Deacon Don Koeberlein, and hay rack rides.

A **paintball trip** to CPX Sports in Joliet, Ill., has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14. After attending 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's, teens will leave for Joliet to go paintballing all day. CPX Sports is a professional paintball company, with many different fields to play on. Costs and permission slips can be obtained by contacting Peggy Loftus (367-2665). This event is open to all CREW teens and their friends.

The first fundraiser of the year for next summer's CREW Mission Trip (to Memphis, Tenn.) begins in the final weeks of October and the first week in November: collecting orders for **holiday evergreens**. Sherwood Forest Farms, which sells ultra-highquality evergreens, will once again provide the evergreens. Sherwood Forest Farms has added new items to their product line, so stop by the table outside the church after Mass

or at coffee shop to order your holiday evergreens! The evergreens will arrive the week after Thanksgiving and will be distributed on Sunday, Dec. 2. There will be fewer "extra" evergreens for sale this year, so make sure to place your order in good time during the pre-sales. CREW can also take orders for gift shipments of evergreens. Have an aunt in Minnesota or a grandma in Ohio? You can purchase an evergreen through the CREW sale and it will be shipped directly to your loved one the week after Thanksgiving.

CREW will also be selling a **new St. Patrick's Christmas Ornament** after Thanksgiving and during the month of December. There are only a small number of ornaments left from last year's sale—last year's ornament depicted St. Patrick's church. This year's ornament will depict "The Rising Christ." Only a limited number will be offered for sale, so make sure to pick yours up from the parish office, at coffee shop, or (depending on the weather) in front of church after Sunday Mass during the month of December.

Martin, of Tuscola). Betty handstitched every one of the squares and triangles in the design; she loves to do the hand-stitching, but does not like to do the finishing touches. Irma is not a quilter, but she recognized quality work when she saw it and said she just knew it had to go to a church, to someone who would appreciate and enjoy it.



The quilters who meet at Shirley Splittstoesser's home include Norma Kite, Susan Reese, Judy Hummel, Janet Althauser, Jan Callahan, Elaine Grimes, and Becky Billman. They welcome quilters who would like to join in the fun. (Irma and Betty also donated two more quilt tops, so the quilters will be busy finishing them for future raffles.) If you would like to help with this project, please phone Shirley (367-3330).

#### in our parish library

Hi everyone, I want to take a minute to introduce myself. My name is Megan Raab. I am the new parish librarian. If you have questions for me regarding the library, do not hesitate to e-mail me ().

Okay, now that we've gotten the formalities out of the way, let me introduce you to a few books in our parish library:

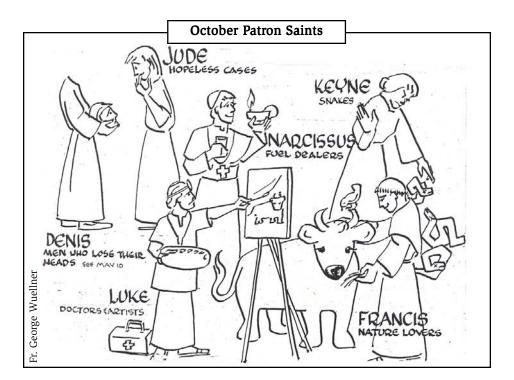
•Ever wish you could go back to the carefree days of childhood? I'm sure everyone does. One new item in the library might help you do that: Escape Childhood: 8 Secrets from Childhood for the Stressed-Out Grown-Up, by Jason Kotecki. Some of you may remember this author, who came to speak at St. Patrick's. The book discusses the secrets of rediscovering the childlike values that come so easily to kids but slowly begin to fade as we grow older. This book is so new that it hasn't been cataloged yet, but I will post the call number as soon as I can!

•Another book I would like to share with you is especially appropriate since we recently celebrated Catechetical Sunday. It is titled *Discerning Disciples: Listening for God's Voice in Christian Initiation,* by Donna Steffen. The Rite of Christian Initiation, better known as RCIA, is a process that requires great contemplation as to where you want your religious journey to lead you. The book discusses the decisionmaking process involved in becoming a Catholic and includes reflections from others who have already been through the process. The call number is 265 Stu.

•Lastly, I suggest *The Byzantines*, by Thomas Caldecot Chubb. This book discusses Catholicism in the Middle Ages, and the Christian ideals in that age. It tells the story of Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire. The call number is 949.5 Chu.

I am pleased to be the new parish librarian, and I hope you'll contact me with suggestions for library acquisitions and questions about our holdings.

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. Directions for using the computer are posted to help you search for specific books by title or author name, or by subject of interest. Scanning the shelves and looking for subject labels may also prove fruitful in finding just exactly what you'd like to read next.



### **Volunteers needed**

• 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!

• 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!



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 October 14.

# **For Grandparents**

For grandmothers and grandfathers,

praise the Lord. For the limitless love they share, for the concern they show, for the prayers they say, for the hope they pass on, praise the Lord. For the lines and wrinkles, for the limps and liver spots, for trifocals and bad knees, for gray hair and bald spots, praise the Lord. For the birthdays they never forget, for the afghans they knit, for the memories they share, for the examples they offer, praise the Lord. For the babies they hold, for the stories they read, for the bragging they do,

for the pictures they show, praise the Lord. For the day, pray God, when we will be grandparents just like them, praise the Lord. —Dolores Curran

St. Patrick's Capital Campaign We're getting closer!

Pledged so far: \$3,604,914 Cash in hand: \$1,486,125

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



**Q:** Why do we use lighted candles at Mass?

**A:** Since time immemorial, light,

particularly a living flame, has signified life, hope, joy, divinity, courage—nearly everything human beings have considered good and beautiful. A living flame was used in funeral ceremonies, before the tombs of deceased Christians, and in front of the image of martyrs and other saints. They symbolized then what they still do for us: Christ our Light, life, hope, resurrection, faith.

Candles have been used at Mass in some way since the seventh century. We use lighted candles to honor the presence of Christ, the Light of the World—Christ's presence in the person of the presider, presence in the proclamation of the Gospel, presence in the consecrated bread and wine, presence in the assembly, presence in the consecrated bread reserved in the tabernacle, presence at funeral ceremonies, presence at the gift of new life in Christ at baptism.

Did you know that the lighted ceremonial candle for Evening Prayer developed into our Paschal candle, lighted anew each year during the Easter vigil? Christ our Light dispells the darkness!

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

#### Did you know ...?

• In 1968 St. Mary's School closed, leaving the area without a Catholic high school. The classrooms in the parish center were used as a high school on a "time share" basis to fill the gap left by the closing, but the plan ceased after a year.

• The work of parishioner Tom Skaggs will be featured with two other artists Oct. 6-Nov. 17 at the Cinema Art Gallery on Main St. in Urbana. The show will include studio furniture and lighting designed and crafted by Tom. Some pieces will include stained glass work by Tom's wife, Donna. Tom has won international awards for his designs and has been featured in numerous magazines.

• Former long-time parishioner Joan Waller has published a book called Think about It: Walking in the Fullness of Faith, a Spiritual Perspective. A copy has been purchased for the parish library, but after dipping into it you may want to obtain a copy for yourself (WestBow Press is the publisher). Brief essays on a wide-ranging choice of topics offer something for everyone, regardless of where you are on your journey of faith.

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

Ellen Noonan

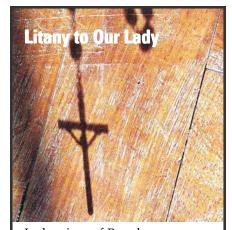
# Pumpkin Pudding (Healthy Version)

15-oz can pumpkin (plain)
1 small pkg Instant Vanilla
Pudding (fat-free or sugar-free)
1 c skim milk
2 t pumpkin spice
8-oz pkg Cool Whip (Lite)

Mix first four ingredients, and fold in the Cool Whip. Chill and serve.



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!



Lady, giver of Bread, Christ-bestowing, give us the Bread of Life! Fallow land for the sowing, darkness over the seed, secrecy for the growing: give us the Living Bread. Empty cup for the wine, white linen, spread without fold for the feast: give us the Bread of Heaven, yeast and leaven, Christ-bestowing: give us to eat. Give us the Bread in the wheat, Lady, giver of Bread. Full grape in the vine, give us the strong Wine poured into the chalice and lifted up. Drained cup, give us the broken Bread; give us the crust of sorrow, hard as rye, Christ-bestowing. Give us the emptiness of the dark furrow, while the great wind of the Spirit is blowing and sowing seed. Lady, giver of Bread, field sown by the wind, snow white on the field, darkness under the snow: vield the Bread of Life! Wheat, leaven and yeast and wine for the feast: give us the Bread of Life, Lady, giver of Bread, Christ-bestowing.

—From *The Flowering Tree*, by Caryll Houselander, British mystic and poet; died 1954

## ValLimar Jansen...here!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Oct. 6. Do not miss this opportunity to be inspired by the religious singing and storytelling of ValLimar Jansen. This will be one of the most rewarding

the most rewarding evenings of your life!

ValLimar Jansen is a highly regarded singer, storyteller, and recording artist. She started singing when just five years old. She trained at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and earned her B.A. from California State in San Bernardino and her M.A. from the University of California

in Santa Barbara, where she is working toward her Ph.D.

ValLimar has a soaring soprano voice, which she uses on spinetingling vocals of Gospel music and jazz. She has presented many workshops across the country and has sung professionally throughout Europe and Japan. She co-authored a one-woman musical based on the life of Ethel Waters, which received a special commendation from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

She is coming to St. Patrick's on Oct. 6. In the morning she will speak to our liturgical ministers and parish ministry representatives. In the afternoon she will work with the teens of our parish from Vivo and CREW.

In the evening everyone will have the chance to experience her inspirational singing and storytelling. The adults of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes are invited to St. Patrick's parish center at 6:00 p.m. for a reception for ValLimar. The Women of St. Patrick will be serving wine, sparkling water, cheese, and crackers to all adults. Then, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., ValLimar will give her presentation. Afterward, dessert and coffee will be served.

If you need any further convincing as to why we are so lucky to have ValLimar here, in person, just Google her name on your computer and watch one of her dynamic performances. You don't need to buy a ticket or make a donation, it is all free! Just come at 6:00 p.m. and be uplifted as she moves your spirit.





**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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