

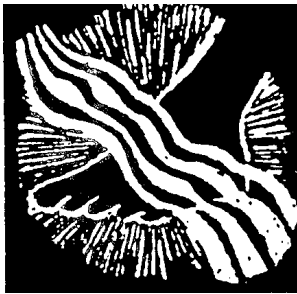
# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2014

## Were you there?

As we approach the Sacred Triduum, the celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter, the old spiritual asks us a very pertinent question: Were you there? The question



is important because, if we don't recognize that we were there in some sense, it's hard to see how the saving actions of Jesus touch our lives.

One way that we could be there is by celebrating the liturgies of these days with the Christian community. During these liturgies we do as Jesus did, breaking bread, washing feet, praying, suffering, carrying the cross. When we do these things, we're not staging a reenactment. We are commemorating. Literally we are remembering together the actions of Jesus.

Another way we could be there is in our imaginations. There's a way of reading the Scriptures that encourages us to put ourselves in the story, to recall a biblical scene and imagine ourselves as being present. We might, for example, remember the Last Supper and imagine our-



selves as John, Peter, Judas, another disciple, a servant, or an onlooker. We can watch and listen to Jesus or ask questions of him and the others who are present.

Most important of all, we were there in the mind of Jesus. When he said, "This is my body, which is for you," he was speaking to you personally, directly. When he hung on the cross for our sins, he had in mind you, personally, knowing your need to be reconciled with God.

When he rose from the dead, part of his joy was knowing that he had made it possible for you to rise like him and to be with him forever. Yes, he did these things for others as well, but he did them for you, as one he loves deeply as an individual, and you receive the blessings of his actions every day

of your life.

So yes, you were there. It is good to return to these days every year to experience them more deeply. Our community will gather at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and at 7:30 p.m. on Holy Saturday. Will you be there?



## RCIA: Journey in Faith

If you were baptized as an infant and raised in the Catholic faith, you might find it hard to imagine the thoughts of an adult who hears the call of God and comes to the faith, seeking baptism or full communion with the Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the journey through which adults come to learn about the Catholic faith and discern if God is calling them to life in the Church. As in the early days of the Church, seekers (inquirers) begin to learn about the God, Scripture, Mary, and the saints and are immersed in prayer. At St. Patrick's this process begins in the fall, with weekly classes and an overnight retreat that lead the inquirers to the Catechumenate. During this time, the seekers reflect on God's call and their desire to answer.

With the new year, the classes turn to Church teachings on social justice and a deeper understanding of the sacraments. During Lent, the Catechumens (unbaptized) and Candidates (those who are baptized and are seeking full communion with the Church) become the Elect, "elected" by God for the Church, and we pray



see **RCIA** on page 3

# Ladies of the parish enjoy a wonderful Knight Out

Once again, the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus showed that they know how to treat a

candles and vases. Knights serving as waiters offered wine and other beverages.



The women relaxed and chatted over appetizers. Dinner followed with fresh rolls, salad, and a main course featuring either steak and baked potato or chicken and wild rice. As always, there was delicious cheesecake for dessert. Throughout, the Knights were solicitous, looking after diners' every need.



McDonald, John Minor, Gary Bosley, Chris Stack, Gary Wszalek, Joseph Youakim, Dave Madden, Terry Bosley, and Fr. Joe Hogan. Their fabulous back-up band was made up of Casey Dierlam (the only woman in the show) on piano, Anthony DeCerbo on drums, and Sam Reese on bass guitar, with other members

lady—or rather, many ladies—when they hosted their Ladies Knight Out dinner and show in the parish center's main hall on March 5. This annual event is the way the Knights show their appreciation for everything the women of the parish do. And did they show it!

Did we mention the door prizes? There were gift certificates of varying amounts for appetizers, dinners, hair products, facials, and other items

As each guest arrived, she received a lovely rose, then took a seat at



from businesses such as Texas Roadhouse, Longhorn Steakhouse, Applebee's, Chili's, Body and Sole, and Fuad's Salon. Among those envied was the winner of a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Timpone's.

of the cast adding their own instrumental skills on various songs. Tony Schutz took care of technical matters.

The Catholic Boys were up next. "The Catholic Boys 2014: Vatican Correspondents" involved many songs (too many to name here) and just as many costume changes. The multi-talented cast included Jim Mayer, Chris

This show found the Catholic Boys deciding to supply our parish newsletter, In Focus, with stories about Pope Francis's first year as pope. A screen above the stage displayed actual photos and news videos from the events and issues as the Boys "reported on" them in song. Once the Boys had consulted Fr. Joe (in a non-singing cameo role) about directions, they were off to Rome.

one of the long tables covered with maroon cloths and decorated with

see **Ladies Knight Out** on page 4

## It's still Lent, but ... chocolates!

The Divine Chocolates offered for sale on March 30 are a fundraiser for CREW's next Mission Trip. Why "Divine"? Well, yes, they do taste divine—as one chocoholic commented recently, once you've acquired a taste for Divine Chocolates, you won't be satisfied by any other kind!

Divine is the only Fair Trade chocolate company that is owned by



its cocoa farmers. This "Fair Trade" chocolate, much like Fair Trade coffees, ensures that farmers receive a better deal for their cocoa and additional income to invest in their community. Company ownership gives farmers a share of Divine's profits and a

stronger voice in the cocoa industry.

So how many bars of Divine Chocolates did you say you wanted?

Loving Father,  
you are the creative origin of all we are  
and of all we are called to be.

We call upon your kindness and mercy to sustain us day by day  
as we ever so slowly surrender our will to yours.

As we pray throughout the season of Lent,  
make us stronger in faith and radiant with your love.

As we face daily struggles and temptations, help us  
to place our trust in your plan for us.

Keep our lives rooted in the light of the Gospel  
and our eyes fixed on the joy of the Resurrection.

With your steadfast grace, we can accomplish all these things  
through the Spirit, whom you sent to lead and guide us.

Amen.



## Can you help?

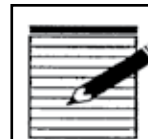
There is a real and present need for a parishioner to **set up for the 7:30 a.m. Mass** once a month. If you've ever wanted a very special way to serve your parish priests and people, this is it! *Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu*

## RCIA

### from page 1

for them weekly at Mass. You may notice the Book of the Elect in the sanctuary, as a reminder to all of us to pray for them as they prepare to receive the sacraments. They are eager, nervous, excited as they look forward to receiving the sacraments at the Easter vigil (or after).

A team of adults from the parish works with the RCIA program, organizing classes and offering hospitality and prayer for these seekers. This year, in the spirit of cooperation between St. Mary's and St. Patrick's, participants in both RCIA programs have come together as a single group. It is a diverse group, including Latinos and Koreans, that gathers on Tuesday nights to grow in faith and share cultural traditions. The varying languages have offered blessings and challenges as each person discerns God's call. Our Easter Vigil will incorporate all these languages as we welcome new members (neophytes) into the Church. It is a large group, and we expect St. Patrick's to be full of people and the Holy Spirit on that joyous evening.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **March 30**.

## Ladies Knight Out from page 2

Many stories awaited our intrepid reporters. There was Pope Francis's move to simplify the papal garments and trappings ("I've Got Plenty of Nothing") and his controversial washing of women's feet on Holy Thursday ("She Ain't Heavy, She's My Sister"); his choice of an aged Renault as the papal vehicle ("Beep-Beep") and his donning a clown nose along with a newlywed couple ("Everybody Loves a Clown"). Also coming in for comment were problems such as the "Bishop of Bling" ("Send in the Clowns") and the Vatican Bank ("The Gambler").

Some song choices were obviously easy. How else to celebrate the papal visit to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro but with a rollicking "I Go to Rio," featuring a dance number complete with grass skirts and a conga line? And the Pope's appearance "On the Cover of the Rolling Stone"? All the Catholic Boys had to do was find enough hair and tie-dye.

There were serious moments too. The Pope's admonition that the Church ought to appreciate women more inspired the poignant "A Daisy a Day." Likewise, a bout of homesickness during their travel caused the Boys to think longingly of "America the Beautiful."

In the end, the Boys lamented that none of their articles had yet appeared in *In Focus* (no doubt we ran out of space). Still, they declared "We'll Sing in the Sunshine" as they danced and handed out a few more flowers.

After a spirited sing-along of "This Little Light of Mine," the audience gave the Catholic Boys and the Knights a standing ovation. Clutching their roses, the ladies laughed and chatted as they said goodbye. Thank you once again, Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Boys, for a wonderful Knight Out!



## in our parish library

For children, Easter is a joyous time—one of its delights is waking on Easter Sunday to hunt for colorful eggs filled with sweet treats, delivered by the Easter Bunny. The legend of the Easter Bunny dates back to 1682 and is believed to be created by George Franck Von Frankenu. The hare is often associated with the Virgin Mary, the blessed mother of Jesus. The eggs symbolize the fertility of new life in the springtime. Together, these two symbols represent the commercialized holiday we have come to know today.

Beyond the "superficial" symbols of the Easter Bunny and eggs filled with sweet treats, there is another more miraculous event, the resurrection of Jesus after having died on the cross to save us from our sins.

Here are a few books that present and discuss some of the many aspects of the Easter season:

- **The Church: Communion, Sacrament, Communication**, by Robert Kress. The author shows the connection between the one true God and his "un-Godly" followers. Kress emphasizes the need for the Church in order for God to communicate his love and truths to us effectively. 231 Kre
- **I Remember Your Name in the Night**, by Donagh O'Shea. Death is the one experience no human being can avoid. However the author portrays death, correctly, as a natural and normal progression we move toward all our lives. As Jesus would have, O'Shea offers a view of death as simply the next stage in God's plan for us. 236 Osh
- **What Are They Saying about Paul and the End of Time**, by Joseph Plevnik. This book presents Paul's thought and scholarly debate on Christ's death, resurrection, transformation, and interim existence. 236 Ple
- **On the Theology of Death**, by Karl Rahner. Rahner considers death as an event concerning man as a whole, death as the consequence of sin, death as a dying with Christ, and death as martyrdom. 236 Rah
- **7 Convincing Miracles**, by Erwin Lutzer. Exploring the seven miracles recorded in the Gospel of John, pastor and author Erwin Lutzer describes the wonders that characterized Jesus' life on earth. Each chapter offers special teaching on current issues relating to miracles and faith, such as signs and wonders, divine healing, and angels. This book is a good fit for skeptics and believers alike, encouraging readers to test everything against the Word of God. 211 Lut

Easter is a joyous time in which we gather with family and friends to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and rejoice in its significance for us today. It is a time to remember Jesus' suffering, death on the cross, and his resurrection—without this miraculous event, Christianity as we know it would not exist.

\* \* \*

*As always, if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Megan (raab4198@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. 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.*

Jesus told his disciples that he longed to celebrate the Passover with them before he died. What does this reference from the Gospel of Luke have to say to us? I want to see us together at the table of the spotless Lamb, who is food, table, and also waiter. The fruits on this table are the true solid virtues. No other table bears fruit, but this one does, and its fruit is splendid and life-giving because this table is Life. Those of us who eat at this table and become like the food we eat begin to love as God does.

—Catherine of Siena

## Learning the joy of giving

# St. Patrick's youth help build for our future

Through our parish religious education program, our children and teens are learning a new kind of stewardship these days. They are working together to support St. Patrick's Honoring Our Past – Building Our Future campaign. Between now and the end of 2016, they hope to raise \$10,000 in order to make a commemorative gift on behalf of St. Patrick's youth. As their commemorative gift item, they have chosen the Twelfth Station of the Cross – Jesus Dies on the Cross.

This special giving project was launched in Fall 2011, with the goal of raising \$10,000 over a five-year period – \$2,000 per year. To date, our children and teens have raised \$4,300 for the Building Fund by inviting parishioners to donate to their cause throughout the year, tagging in with special events and projects. For example, last February the religious education program sponsored a Monical's Pizza Night fundraiser. Parishioners have also donated to this project in conjunction with the Family Stations of the Cross during Lent.

At our parish picnic in May, the program will once again sponsor a raffle offering prizes geared for the summer such as swimming pool passes. On a Sunday in June, watch for another lemonade stand after

all the Masses. In October, as part of the Trunk or Treat event, families will once again share treats and a bit of treasure by giving to the Building Fund.

At any Sunday morning Coffee Shop, parishioners are invited to drop their loose change and extra dollars into a Building Fund collection jar. Our young people also take home small Building Fund collection cans and find ways to raise money on their own.

All of the funds raised through these activities go toward the Twelfth Station commemorative gift, representing our young people's collective efforts to support St. Patrick's historic church expansion project. No doubt, this special giving project will have a lasting impact at St. Patrick's.

In this and many other ways, St. Patrick's religious education program teaches our young people the value of giving, how sharing our treasure is God's love in action. Through weekly collection envelopes, participation in St. Vincent de Paul's Thanksgiving dinners project and its Christmas Giveaway, through Lenten

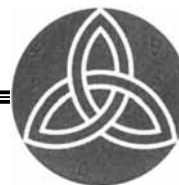
programs like Operation Rice Bowl, CREW mission trip fundraisers, and through the Twelfth Station project, our children and teens

are making a difference in the parish and the larger community.

Thank you to all who generously support our young people's fundraising efforts. This spring, please consider making a special donation to the Building Fund, directing it toward the Twelfth Station commemorative gift. Every gift matters, whether large or small. Together, may we all experience the joy of giving!



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



### Capital Campaign Update

*When Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves and fishes, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity.*

(Henri J. M. Nouwen)

The continued success of St. Patrick's campaign is living proof of what we can accomplish when we work together on a shared vision and mission. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.:

Pledged to date: \$4,030,605  
 Number of donors: 774\*  
 Cash received: \$2,741,003

*\*Number of parishioners and friends (by household) who have made a gift or pledge to the campaign or given a memorial gift to the building fund.*



Cheerful givers (from the left): Catherine Cimino, Patrick Sweeney, Armando Rodriguez, and Amy Gutierrez



**Q:** When we venerate the cross on Good Friday, is kissing the only option?

**A:** Our custom of venerating the cross on Good Friday dates back to the fourth century in Jerusalem, when the cross was presented to the faithful to kiss and venerate. Until very recent times the presider and servers, without shoes, approached the cross with a series of genuflections before kissing it. So you see that kissing the cross carries the weight of centuries, but with added marks of veneration—approaching barefoot and genuflecting.

Today the slow procession of the faithful to kiss a cross held by ministers remains a moving aspect of the Good Friday service. Veneration of the cross takes many forms. Some do, indeed, approach the cross as barefoot penitents, some bow and kneel briefly before the cross, some genuflect quickly and reach out to touch the wood of the cross with reverence, and some bow and kiss the cross with reverence. The common ingredient of all these forms of veneration is loving regard for the means by which Jesus brought about our redemption—we are commemorating, remembering together, the saving actions of Jesus.

So is kissing the only option? No indeed.

\* \* \*

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

## How do others observe Lent?

Hearing a Protestant friend mention Lent, an In Focus correspondent was led to ask some hesitant “sorry to sound so ignorant” questions about how Lent is observed in other congregations. The information gathered is admittedly incomplete—only a few main-line Protestants and a Buddhist shared on this—but their comments were revealing.

### Do you observe Lent?

“Yes, perhaps more now than before. And the more liturgical the congregation, the fuller the observance.”

### Do practices vary from one denomination to another?

“Somewhat, but these vary more from one congregation to another.”

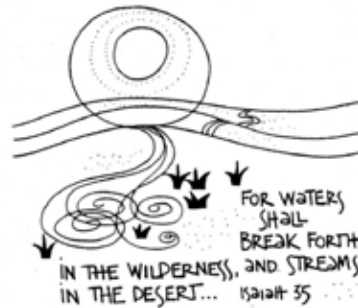
### What are you doing this Lent?

“We hold more communion services each week.” “We’re starting a new Bible study. Once a week we study the readings for next Sunday’s service. We use the same Lectionary [book of readings at Mass] that you Catholics use, with the same three-year cycle.” “I see in our church bulletin that we will have a weekly meeting called Faith Exploration.” “We like to have a small sacrificial meal once a week, and give the money saved to charity.” “We repent and reflect on the sufferings of

Christ to prepare for Easter.” [This response came from several Protestant friends, giving it as their view of the purpose of Lent.]

### Do you plan any special services during the week before Easter?

“Some of our congregations hold Tenebrae services, some have a seder.” “We will use palms, perhaps near the altar, perhaps in a procession, on Palm Sunday.” “We have a special communion service on Maundy [Holy] Thursday.” “Several congregations gather at one place to hold a three-hour service. Sermons may treat of Our Lord’s seven last words from the cross. It is a quiet, prayerful time, and people may stay as long as they wish.” “We are not obliged to fast, but some do this as an aid to prayer or to promote good health.”

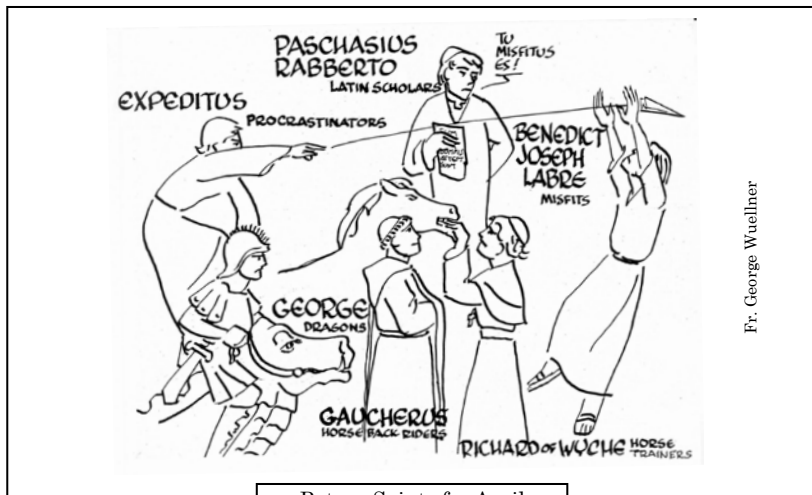


**From the lone Buddhist** we learned that in Thailand, during the rainy season (mid-July to mid-October), the monks who ordinarily travel to spread the teachings of Buddha are constrained by the weather to stay in one place. This has come to be a time of retreat called the Lent, or Rains Residence, Retreat, during which time religious activities increase for both monks and laity. Meditation and self-denial to practice a desired virtue are widespread, popular observances.

Maybe we’re not all so very different after all!

## Can you help?

How is it that new **votive candles** magically appear in clean glass holders? Well, it isn’t magic! A volunteer removes leftover candle wax, wipes the glass holders clean, and inserts new votive candles. The volunteer who does this hasn’t been able to help lately. Can you? *Mary Ann Luedtke, 328-1143*



Fr. George Wuellner

Patron Saints for April

## ***In celebration of Earth Day 2014: For our furry, feathery, scaly, or wart-covered companions***

God of all creation,  
at the beginning of time  
you gave us all the creatures of the earth to be our helpers.  
And in your wisdom, these animals,  
like all good things from you, became more than that.  
They became our friends.  
After our long hours away from home, working or wandering,  
in their barks and wagging tails,  
we see the joy that you, our Creator, must have  
when one of your own returns to you.  
In our times of sadness and loneliness,  
when human relationships become strained and broken,  
in their gentle caress and quiet purring,  
we see the faithfulness that you, our Companion,  
offer to all your people.  
And when we have become numbed by stress,  
worry, or boredom,  
in their natural wonder and untamed majesty  
we see the awesome creativity that you, our Maker,  
inspire us with that we may revel in the mystery of life.  
We ask you then to bless these, our animal-friends,  
that they may have a long and joyful life.  
Keep them safe when we cannot be with them,  
protect them from sickness and harm,  
and heal their wounds.  
When the end of their life comes,  
grant them a peaceful death free of pain and suffering.  
And bless us, too, their human-companions,  
with your Holy Spirit  
that we may care for them well  
and be wise and gentle stewards of all your creatures.  
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus,  
who is Lord of all, for ever and ever. Amen.



### ***Vocation Prayer***

When I stand before God at the end of my life,  
I would hope  
that I'd not have a single bit of talent left  
and could say, "I used everything you gave me."  
(Erma Bombeck)

Loving Father, I thank you for the gifts I have received from you, gifts I know are meant to be shared, not jealously guarded as if given for myself alone. Help me to see how best to use these gifts in my life's journey with you, whether in ordained or consecrated life, married or single, alone or in community. I listen eagerly for your word of guidance, look for the path you want me to follow. I place my hand in yours, asking only that I may walk this path with you.

## **Helping people find employment**

### **By Donna Rinkenberger**

You may have seen notices in the bulletin for the Employment Network and Support Group. I have been involved in the group for several years now. As a human resource professional, I know how hard it can be to find a job, how hard it is to be unemployed or underemployed, how hard even just to know how to start the process of a job search.

This group can help by offering an opportunity to learn what services are available in the community to assist people who are unemployed. We as-



sess people's needs and give honest evaluations and recommendations about the best strategy for finding work. But the most important thing we can do is to listen and offer hope and suggestions.

Ours is a mobile group; we meet where people can find us. We have had meetings at St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, and St Patrick's, but also at Hardees, the public library, and Lincoln Square.

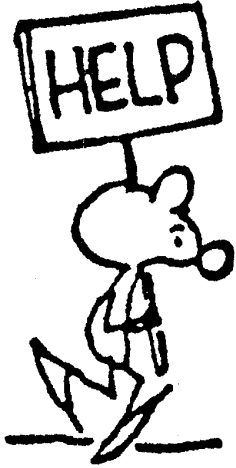
The support team consists of another HR professional, and two work professionals from St. Mary's who can offer Spanish-English translation, as well as Cliff Maduzia who offers community support and serves as the contact person.

In the past we have offered a workshop on how to prepare for job fairs, and we just presented an employment workshop for teens and parents of teens

see **Employment** on page 9

## Let's clean God's house for Easter

A feast is coming! How to get ready? Each of us knows the dusty corners of our church better than any visitor, better even than Bob and Craig, who vacuum the floor and clean the lower windows and doors regularly. So WSP (Women of St. Patrick) have planned a work party for Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a call for as many of us as can spare any amount of time, even a half hour, to come and help with some special tasks.



Men who can carry and climb a very tall and heavy ladder are needed to clean the high glass walls and windows inside the vestibule, and to dust the high stained glass windows. Women of all household talents and teens who want service

hours for their mission trip are welcome. Instructions and supplies will be given out in the main hall at 8:45 a.m. Coffee and hot chocolate will be on hand all morning.

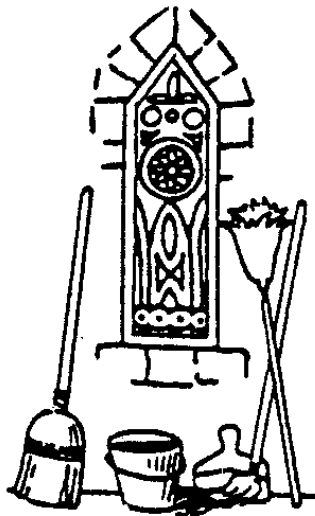
The 60 pews that support our backs and those of our children need to be refreshed to remove marks, scratches, smudges, and that Cheerio hiding from the weekly cleanup. The pews are to be wiped down with a solution of Murphy's Oil Soap (which smells good and doesn't need to be rinsed). The kneelers need to be washed.

Wax has dripped on the votive candle stands. Dust has appeared on the chairs in the sanctuary.

Other tasks can be accomplished if enough of us come. One of those tasks is another whole building, the parish center. That meeting and eating place is waiting for the large number of helpers needed to clean evidence of heavy use from the main hall and the classrooms (not the kitchen this time).

How did we get so dusty, grimy, smeared, and spotted when we thought we were just praying quietly? We know how it happens at home, and we know the remedies. Only if we get busy on March 12 at 9 a.m. will our church and parish center be ready for Easter.

Come clean!



## I Cry to You

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.  
 Help me to pray  
 and to concentrate my thoughts on you:  
 I cannot do this alone.  
 In me there is darkness,  
 but with you there is light;  
 I am lonely, but you do not leave me;  
 I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;  
 I am restless, but with you there is peace.  
 In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience.  
 I do not understand your ways,  
 but you know the way for me.  
 Restore me to liberty,  
 and enable me to live now  
 that I may answer before you and before me.  
 Lord, whatever this day may bring,  
 your name be praised.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



### Did you know?

- Plans for the expansion of our church and its connection to the parish center include a drop-off place at a new entrance from the parking lot.
- If you'd like to contribute last year's palms for next year's Ash Wednesday, watch for the box provided for them in the church vestibule on Palm Sunday and the following few weekends.
- Prayers can be requested for loved ones in stress situations, for making a wise decision, for safe delivery of a child, for someone undergoing surgery—for any situation for which you'd like others to pray. How? Simply call the parish office and place your request, which will be shared in confidence with parishioners like you who have agreed to pray for other parishioners' needs. These pray-ers are part of the parish Prayer Chain. Want to join? Contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu).



## News about area Catholic schools

### From Rose Costello

The math team from The High School of St. Thomas More won the Division 1A Regional against 11 other teams at Parkland College, on Saturday, March 1. In the 10 events, STM received eight first-place awards in the areas of Pre-calculus, Algebra 2, and Geometry. They automatically advance to the state contest at the University of Illinois on May 3.

The STM girls' basketball team won the state championship in 2A on March 1 at the Red Bird Arena of Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, defeating Prophetstown 70-34. The boys' basketball team won their regional and have advanced to sectional play this month. Congratulations to both teams.

The STM Interact Club participated in "One Winter Night" on February 21 to raise awareness of the needs of the homeless in our commu-

nity and funding for programs that help them. As part of this event, the students also donated items such as hats, gloves, blankets, etc., to be given to programs working with the homeless. As a year-long project, the Interact Club has also been raising

money to purchase water filters for people in Honduras.

The STM Art Club held their annual Empty Bowl Supper on Friday, February 21. Students made and sold ceramic bowls to raise money for the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Participants enjoyed a simple meal of soup and bread donated by Culver's Restaurant in Champaign. Students from St. Matthew School, Holy Cross School, and Campus

Middle School for Girls also participated in the event.

St. Thomas More has just successfully completed their performances of "Bye, Bye, Birdie" in March. Holy Cross will present their spring musical "Seussical" on April 11-12. Several students from St. Patrick's Parish are in the cast.

The High School of St. Thomas More's annual spring gala is on Saturday, April 5. "A Night in the Big Easy" will feature dinner and a live and silent auction at the school. Tickets are available online at [www.hs-stm.org](http://www.hs-stm.org). Help support the students and many programs offered at STM by joining in this fun evening.



### Can you help?

The two volunteers who prepare the page layout for *In Focus* would very much like to have a third parishioner to prepare the page layout for two or three issues a year. *Cathy Salika, 367-7861 or [csalika@illinois.edu](mailto:csalika@illinois.edu)*

## Enjoy a Night in the Big Easy



The spring dinner and auction at The High School of St. Thomas More will have a New Orleans theme this year. Come on Saturday, April 5, at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy an evening of live entertainment, dinner, and "Nawlins-style" fun with the STM family.

Mike Namoff will be the auctioneer again this year, so get ready for some fun! A wide assortment of live and silent auction items will be available for bidding, including special items for any Saber fan, wonderful vacation getaways, sports memorabilia, and exclusive items made only for the dinner auction.

Make your reservation today by contacting Marsha Reardon (217/819-5708 or <http://shop.hs-stm.org/>). *Laissez le bon temps rouler!*

## From our Parish Nurses: What do you know about autism?

In March 2012 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a report that concluded that the prevalence of autism had risen to 1 in every 88 births in the United States and almost 1 in 54 boys. The United States government has recognized the month of April as an opportunity to educate the public about autism.



Autism is a "spectrum disorder" that may present in various ways and in varying degrees. Generally presenting in early childhood, autism affects a person's abilities to communicate and interact with others. There may be a lack of or delay in spoken language, minimal eye contact, repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms, or various other signs.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and intervention leads to significantly improved outcomes. For more information on autism and National Autism Awareness month, visit [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org).

## Employment from page 7

about looking for a first-time job. We have helped with how to write a résumé and have provided practice in interviewing.

This is one of the most flexible groups I have worked with because we tailor our meetings and discussions to what people are looking for at the time. We are a non-denominational group, so we have met people from all parts of the community, and the meetings are open to all. I consider it a privilege to have people trust me with their stories and to allow me to try to help them.

If you want more information or find yourself looking for meaningful employment, please contact Cliff Maduzia ([cmaduzia@stpaturbana.org](mailto:cmaduzia@stpaturbana.org)). We will help you if we can.

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



### Holy Cream Puffs

1/2 cup shortening  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1 cup boiling water  
1 cup sifted flour  
4 eggs

Add shortening and salt to boiling water and heat to boiling. Reduce heat, add flour all at once, and stir vigorously until the mixture forms a ball around the spoon, leaving the sides of the pan clean. Remove from heat. Add eggs one at a time, beating thoroughly after each. Continue beating until the mixture is thick and shiny and breaks from the spoon. Shape on an ungreased cookie sheet, using 1 teaspoon or 1 table spoon for one puff, depending on the size desired. (Sophia made 10 puffs from this recipe "because we sell them for \$1.50 at the Fish Fry and 12 puffs were too small.") Bake at 450° for 20 minutes; reduce heat to 350° and bake about 20 minutes longer. (Sophia: "Do not open the oven and peek!") Cool. Make a slit on one side of each puff and fill with cream filling or whipped cream. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired. Makes 10 Sophia-sized puffs or 4 dozen small puffs.

### Cream Filling for Holy Puffs

1-1/2 cups milk  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 egg yolk  
1 tablespoon butter  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Scald 1 cup milk over boiling water. Mix sugar, salt, flour, and remaining milk. Stir into hot milk and cook slowly until thickened, stirring constantly. Cover and cook over boiling water for 5 minutes. Add egg yolk to the mixture and cook 1 minute longer. Add butter and vanilla. Cool. Spoon into puffs.

\* \* \*

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

## 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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