

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

May 2014

Blossoming

It's the time of year for spring flowers. Tulips, daffodils, phlox, and many others wake up after their winter sleep and burst into bloom. Our young people, too, seem to burst into bloom at this time of year – because they've been busy all winter, not because they've been asleep!

Our First Communion class has been learning and praying all winter. They received the gift of Reconciliation in November, and on May 3 they will receive their Lord in Communion for the first time.

Our high school juniors and seniors will be confirmed on May 13. Many months of study, prayer, and service have made them ready for this step in their lives of faith. The presence of the Holy Spirit will be their strength all through their lives. It will bear fruit in love, faith, giving, and serving. It will allow them to plant seeds of faith in their own children one day.

Just as they grow in faith, our young people grow in knowledge. Many are preparing for graduation, blossoming after many years of study. Sometimes those studies were difficult, sometimes easy. Some have received awards and scholarships. But all of them can be proud of the blossoming of talent and skill. It will bear fruit as they make their way in the world.

To all our young people: Congratulations on the blossoming of faith and knowledge in your life. We celebrate your achievements, and we celebrate you, the unique, gifted person that you are, who is loved deeply by God.

To the parents, godparents, teachers, family, and friends of our young people: Thank you for what you do to nurture and challenge them, to help them to grow as people of faith and integrity, making good use of their talents.

To God: Thank you for renewing life in our community and helping us all to grow closer to you!



First Communion is a family affair!

By Teri and Jason McKean

Parenting a second-grader is full of fun and surprises. They learn so much at school, at home, and from friends! Importantly, they also learn from the Church and its community. With both Reconciliation and the Eucharist as focal points this year, our daughter Rhianna has been busy and thoroughly engaged. She loves going to Sunday School and is always disappointed when there is a week off!

Rhianna is actually our second child to prepare for First Communion at St. Patrick's. As with her older sister, she is very excited to finally get to receive Communion instead of a blessing! She recognizes how important the sacrament is and how much of a milestone this is in her life as a Catholic. She is excited to have her family join her to celebrate this event. We are excited as well, but also grateful that both sides of our family are practicing Catholics who can share in her enthusiasm and can support her. Our family – an extension of our church family – is crucial in the faith formation process.

While we were making our First Communion Family Banner, Rhianna told us about the prayers she has learned and what she has learned about the sacrament. She admitted that the whole “transubstantiation thing” was

See **Family affair** on page 2

Have you heard them singing?

If you have been lucky enough to hear St. Patrick's Children's Choir, you know what beautiful music they make. The Children's Choir sings at the 5 p.m. or noon Mass about once a month during the school year, and at the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.



The choir is a closely knit group with a core of five or six regular choristers, led by our Music Director, Laura Theby. This year's Children's Choir is a lively bunch of youngsters of different ages, who are known to us only as Sophia, Jasmine, Noelle, Mary, Hallee, Maggie, and Cici.

In just a few months they have learned to sing in parts and to ring the handbells, how to serve as cantor, and how to use a microphone. Even more important, they have learned that they can share the gift of music while giving praise to God.

The group also has a ton of fun. There's often a game of freeze tag or musical chairs during rehearsal, and lately they've been using the last minute of rehearsal for lively, free-wheeling dancing. And as any of St. Patrick's musicians can attest, Laura is a great baker who often brings treats to share. At the end of the year, there's a pizza and ice cream party. *Yum!*

The Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesdays during the school year from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Boys and girls in grades 1-7 are welcome to share their gifts and join in the fun.



Family affair from page 1

confusing, but summed up her faith in this miracle pretty simply: "It's just what Jesus wants us to do."

We are thankful and blessed that she has a foundation of innocent and child-like faith on which she can build higher understanding and connections. We enjoyed making our Family Banner and figuring out ways to incorporate signs of the sacrament with her name (and, of course, color-coordinating it).



When we celebrate her First Communion on May 3, with our family and church family present, we will be filled with pride and love: pride in our child who is celebrating another sacrament, and family love that reflects the Trinity's love for us.

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

Youth Orchestra opens its second season

The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra opened its second season on March 16 with a concert entitled "A Time of Reflection." The program fit the title splendidly. Musical selections included Solvig's Song, 3 Gymnopedies, and Amazing Grace. Also included was Londonderry Air (Danny Boy) in honor of St. Patrick, selections from "Jesus Christ Superstar," and Triduum Medley.

The program was designed not only for the season of Lent with an emphasis on reflecting on our own lives, but also to commemorate the orchestra's very first concert in April of last year. That concert featured religious hymns arranged for orchestra. Orchestra founders wanted to begin with hymns in recognition of our faith.

This second season's opening concert, "A Time of Reflection," was a part of the parish's St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and the first time the orchestra played in the church. The church's ambiance created a prayerful mood and the church's acoustics allowed for a full, rich sound.

The orchestra has grown exponentially since its first concert a year ago, when it opened with 20 members. It now enjoys approximately 50 members. Matching the orchestra's growth is that of the audience. At the Halloween concert, the last of its first season, the audience overflowed the Main Hall.

Students from Centennial, Central, St. Thomas More, and University high schools, and Holy Cross, St. Matthew, Judah Christian, and Franklin middle schools compose the orchestra, which is mentored by local music educators. These include Mr. Rick Murphy, director of music at University

Laboratory High School, Mr. Phil Coleman, band/choral teacher at Holy Cross School, and Ms. Stacey Peterik, band director at Centennial High School.

Another significant aspect of the orchestra is how involved students are in the entire process. For this concert, the orchestra played a piece entitled Triduum Medley, an arrangement of five Holy Week

hymns, including "Were You There" and "Jesus Remember Me." The piece was arranged by orchestra flautist Matthew Reeder, a freshman at University High School.

The orchestra plans to perform its next concert this summer, featuring an evening of classical music. Any student in grades 7-12 is welcome to join. For more information contact stpatsyouthorchestra@gmail.com.



Did you know?

- Plans for the expansion of our church include a new rose window. What is a rose window? Take a look at the one above the choir loft, honoring St. Cecilia!
- Fr. Joe Hogan arrived to take up his newly assigned responsibilities as pastor of St. Patrick's ten years ago in June 2004. (This advance notice is intended to give you time to decide how best to congratulate Father in June!)
- The open book, with a votive candle before it, in the baptistry is the RCIA Book of the Elect. In it are the signatures of the men and women who have accepted God's "election," or invitation, to Roman Catholicism. It is a reminder to us to surround them with prayer during this time of preparation for such a big step in their faith journey.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **May 11**.

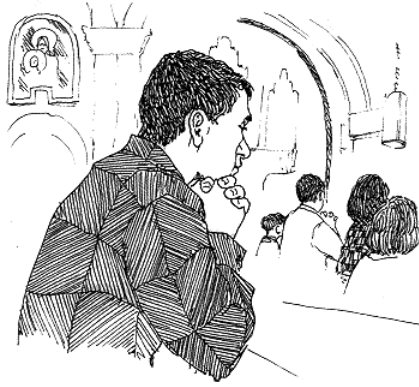
Praying for others: St. Patrick's Prayer Chain

"What can I do?" you ask. "I don't have time to teach religious education or take Communion to shut-ins, and I don't think I read well enough to be a lector or sing well enough to join one of our choirs."

Well, can you pray? St. Patrick's offers a wonderful resource called the Prayer Chain. Anyone at all can be a part of it, either as one who prays for others or as one who requests the prayers of others.

Praying is something that can be done at any time and at any place, even in the car on your way to work or while you are running errands. And any kind of prayer suffices—it can be as simple as lifting others in prayer to God for the help they've requested, or praying a Hail Mary or an Our Father or the Rosary for their intentions. Your prayer can be as short or as long as you like.

Participating in the Prayer Chain



is rewarding in special ways. Praying for others, many of whom we don't know, helps our faith to grow, brings us closer to Christ, and helps to deepen our sense of being a part of St. Patrick's faith community.

Prayer requests for the Prayer Chain can be presented by anyone in need of prayer. No need is too small or insignificant. You can be assured that the request will be kept in confidence by all on the Prayer Chain—prayer requests are given only to those on the Prayer Chain and are never discussed with anyone else.

For more information about the Prayer Chain or to join the list of pray-ers, contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). To request prayers for your intention, call any member of the Prayer Chain, Mary Lou, or the parish office (367-2665).

People often say, "All I can do is pray." Well, the most important thing you *can* do is pray!

Vocation Prayer

Dear Lord, guide my steps as I try to follow you. Guide my eyes and ears that I may not be so busy with my priorities that I miss the priority of seeing and ministering for you. Help me to know how I can best serve you in others. Help me to be your hands and arms, your feet, your heart in caring for your loved ones, today and always.

Prayer at a Funeral

O God who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion,
and grace to let go into new life.



Announcing preparation classes for new parish nurses

The Community Parish Nurse program in this area was initiated by The Carle Foundation in 1997 to draw a closer link between churches and healthcare communities. Parish nurses are registered nurses with at least two years nursing experience who have completed a Parish Nurse preparation class.



Carle Foundation sponsors the Parish Nurse preparation classes in this area; since 1997, 465 nurses have completed the course from 228 congregations in 31 counties. These nurses in turn offer their gifts as a health advocate and health educator in their faith community.

The Fall 2013 class was hosted by St. Patrick's. The next Parish Nurse preparation class, in the Fall of 2014, will be held in Champaign County; the hosting church is still to be announced.

- Class sessions will be held on
- Friday, Sept. 12, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 26, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 11, 12-5 p.m.

If you are a nurse and interested in serving as a Parish Nurse, please contact Beverly Talbott (217/326-2583 or beverly.talbott@carle.com) to request a registration form for the Fall 2014 class. St. Patrick's Parish Nurses are always happy to welcome others to this ministry!

What a celebration!

St. Patrick himself stopped by our parish St. Patrick's Day celebration. (Too bad Fr. Phelps had stepped out of the room just then!) About 260 people of all ages gathered for the fun. It was a great day for all things Irish: dancing, crafts, and trivia. There were lots of games too, including a cake walk, find-a-snake, and coins in a top hat. And food! A feast of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and Irish soda bread. For the little people, Lucky Charms, PBJs, and macaroni and cheese were available. The evening wrapped up with a wonderful concert in the church by the St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra.

Thank you to the Youth Orchestra members and their roadies, to organizers Jeff and Angela Kneer, and to all the volunteers who helped make it a joyful event!



Going . . . going . . . gone!

Demolition of the buildings on the north side of St. Patrick's began on St. Patrick's Day! All the appliances that were worth keeping had been removed ahead of time, and several fire departments used the buildings to practice fire-fighting skills, such as breaking windows and cutting vents in the roofs. Then, from west to east, the buildings came tumbling down one at a time. It really changes our view, doesn't it?

Once the last of the rubble has been removed and the area leveled, concrete for the new parking lot will be poured.



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*

Holy Cross Happenings

Each year, the sixth-graders at Holy Cross School study the Medieval Era. This year they spent January through March researching medieval job roles, the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages, how the people lived, and the food they ate.

Each student applies for a role they'd like to know more about, and then focuses on that role or person. Roles range from lord of the manor, jesters, minstrels, priests, friars, carpenters, farmers, and archers.

In March, at the end of the study section, the class holds a Medieval Fair. Students portray their characters and the entire school and parish community are invited into the medieval world. As people wander through the "medieval town," the students are in-character and wearing costumes. Guests ask the students questions about the characters represented, what they are doing, and how they live.

This annual event is an interesting learning experience for students, and a fascinating time for the entire school community.



Carpenter Justin Smith



Archer Luke Herzog



Milkmaid Abby Goad

Our Lady and the children of Fatima

Our Lady would appear to them a year later, but in the spring and summer of 1916 three shepherd children needed a way to get through their prayers faster. In the noonday heat at the field called Cova da Iria near Fatima in Portugal, Lucia Santos, 9, and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, 8 and 7, ate their packed lunches and looked forward to naps in the shade, but first they had to get their rosaries said. Their families' sheep could be relied on to stay close by while they slept.

Sleepy from the heat and lunch, they decided to say only the first words of each prayer: the two words "Hail Mary" ten times, the two words "Our Father" ten times, and a long pause before starting another "decade" the same way. It brought nap time closer and would serve for summertime prayers—it was so hot...

One day that spring a great light appeared in the field near them, and in it a being who said he was the Angel of Peace from heaven and told them they were to bend forward and say a prayer of deep adoration to God. In fear and amazement they obeyed and prayed with full hearts. The Angel of Peace visited the children twice again that summer, each time encouraging them to pray, offer sacrifices, and say their rosaries properly. They promised one another not to speak of the angel to anyone and began to keep to themselves when tending sheep, sometimes even when playing.

Lucia was 10 by the following summer. Bright, bursting with gaiety and energy, she was a catechist at church and a leader and organizer of the other children's games. Francisco, 9, had a pleasant nature. He would give away everything rather than argue or fight. He loved to play with lizards and bugs and often brought them into the house to tease his siblings. His sister Jacinta, 8, was dainty but brave and liked to dress in pretty clothes when she could.

There was no public sensation on



Lucia Santos (*left*) with her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, 1917

May 13, 1917, when Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta as they were tending sheep. They saw her appear out of a small cloud and stand on top of a sturdy oak sapling that would bear the impress of her feet after she left. She identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and spoke gently to the children about the need for prayer, sacrifice, and devotion to her immaculate heart, especially in Russia where Communism was a threat at that time. She promised to return on the 13th day of each month for six months. The children asked her who would go to heaven, and who would be cured of illnesses, and many other questions. Our Lady assured them that they would go to heaven and answered their other questions.

She also spoke of three secrets, some to be revealed later. The first was a vision of hell, full of suffering sinners. The second and third, revealed later by the Church, were about prayer, sacrifice, and devotion that would be necessary to avoid hell, and about a plan to assassinate the pope. (This latter has been understood to be the attempt to kill

Pope John Paul II in 1981.) The children promised Our Lady and one another not to tell anyone about the secrets, but Jacinta could not hold back from telling her family. When the word "secret" got out all over Aljustrel, the children suffered much from administrators who demanded to be told all. But they would not disobey Our Lady's wishes again.

Our Lady had promised a miracle for her last visit, October 13, so that all would come to believe. By that date the crowds, which had been growing all summer at the Cova de Iria field, numbered 70,000. They witnessed the sun "dance," turn different colors, and approach closer to the Earth. There was no meteorological explanation for these phenomena.

What became of the children? Jacinta and Francisco were both victims of the Great Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-20; they were beatified by Pope John Paul in 2000. In 1928 Lucia joined the Sisters of St. Dorothy, and in 1947 left to become a Discalced Carmelite nun. Until her death in 2005, at the age of 97, she had many private visions of Mary, who frequently gave her messages for the Pope.

In 1930, with the knowledge and consent of Pope Pius XI, Bishop da Silva of Leiria (the diocese in which Fatima is contained) declared that the visions of the shepherd children were worthy of belief and permitted the cult of Our Lady of Fatima. Pope Pius XII, who became known as "the Pope of Fatima," did much to encourage devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Pope John Paul II visited Fatima three times; during his 2000 visit he declared the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima a feast of the universal Church.

Many miraculous cures have taken place at Fatima, where a basilica has been built, with a chapel at the place where the oak sapling bore Our Lady's footprints.



in our parish library

OMary and our earthly mothers are very influential women who foster in us some of the core values and beliefs of our faith. There is a whole subcategory of Catholicism referred to as Marian devotion, so to discuss only five out of the many, many resources devoted to Mary does not do her nearly enough justice. However, in recognition of the limits of this article, here at least are five of them.

Mary, Mother of the Lord, by Karl Rahner, is a glimpse into Mary's life as it relates to Jesus, including her influences in Jesus' life. Karl Rahner's central theme is that Mary, because of her role in the redemptive work of Christ, is at once Mother of God and mother of all the faithful: as Mother of God she is to be honored above all the saints, as mother of the faithful she is to be loved and cherished by every Christian. 232.93 Rah

Our Lady of Fatima: Prophecies of the Tragedy of Mary, by Antonio

Borelli, recounts the events of the sighting of the Blessed Mother by Correa de Oliviera, according to Sister Lucia. Sister Lucia tells of de Oliviera's miraculous sighting of Mary and includes some of her personal insights of the event. 232.93 Bor

Crises Facing the Church: Catechetics; The ordination of Women; The Papacy; The Role of Mary; Who Was Jesus? by Raymond Brown, contains some of Brown's more famous lectures focusing on catechetics. It also centers on Christology and some of the more influential women in the Catholic Church. 230 Bro.

True Devotion to Mary, by St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Monfort, is considered the greatest single book on Mary ever written. It sums up the entire Christian life and provides the key both to sanctity and salvation. He prophesied that the practice of true devotion to Mary would be the way of life of the great

saints of the latter times, a devotion destined to change the world.

Mary's Message to the World, by Annie Kirkwood, contains a series of "talks" given by Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to a woman in Texas from 1987 to 1991. At Fatima, Lourdes, and more recently Medjugorje, Mary has spoken through miraculous apparitions. She urges us to open our minds and hearts to God, to live more fully conscious of our purpose here on earth, and to prepare ourselves for life after death. Mary's eloquent discussions on love, energy, truth, and prayer, including a special message to families, reveal a compassionate mother of us all. 133.9 Kir

These five books are only some of the many materials devoted to Mary that are available in the parish library. To find others, stop by the parish office to borrow a key to the library and browse to your heart's content.

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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Renee Keller

Banana Breakfast Muffins

1/2 c vegetable oil
 3/4 c maple syrup
 3 tbsp unsweetened applesauce
 2 bananas, mashed
 1 tbsp water
 2 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp baking soda
 2 c all-purpose flour
 dash cinnamon
 1/2 c chopped walnuts (optional)
 3/4 c chocolate chips or raisins

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 12-cup muffin pan. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl, and mix until blended. Spoon batter evenly into muffin cups. Bake 20-25 minutes, and remove from pan immediately; cool on



a wire rack. Notes: I buy small applesauce cups; each holds about 4 tbsp. For flour, I often use 1 cup white and 1 cup whole wheat flour, and maybe add a splash more water. I often combine wet ingredients in one bowl and dry in another, and then combine them.

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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!

If you have questions, contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (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.

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



Q: What is a May Crowning?

A: May is the month Catholics honor two

moms—our earthly one and our spiritual mother, Mary. Over the years since the Second Vatican Council many long-established traditions—novenas, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, litanies—have waned in popularity, and May Crownings, the tradition of crowning a statue of Mary in recognition of her title as queen of heaven and earth, is one of these. Yet, as with other traditions, it seems to be enjoying a renewal as a way of honoring Mary, our mother.

For a May crowning, the church is often adorned with a profusion of flowers. A young girl (typically) is chosen to place a crown of flowers on a statue of Mary. The statue may be carried in a procession around the inside or outside of the church (in some places the procession wends its way around the neighborhood) while participants

sing Marian hymns, and may pray the Rosary.

This year's First Communion class plans a May crowning in St. Patrick's church at a special Mass on May 4. Surely they will sing

“Bring flow'rs of the fairest,
 Bring flow'rs of the rarest,
 From garden and woodland
 And hillside and vale;
 Our full hearts are swelling,
 Our glad voices telling
 The praise of the loveliest
 Rose of the vale.
 O Mary! we crown thee with
 blossoms today,
 Queen of the Angels, Queen of
 the May,
 O Mary! we crown thee with
 blossoms today,
 Queen of the Angels, Queen of
 the May.”



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

St. Patrick Parish
IN FOCUS

St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Ill. 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.

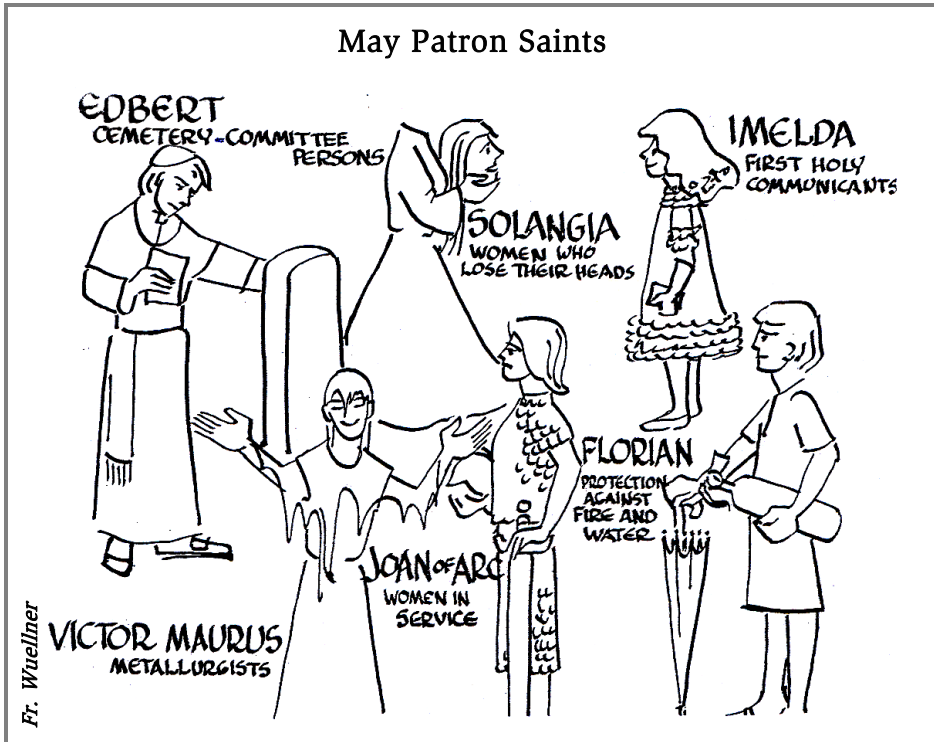
Please send news items to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elihen@att.net); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

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Articles and information for this issue were provided by Mardia Bishop, Carol Bosley, Renee Keller, Teri and Jason McKean, Mary Lou Menches, Ellen Noonan, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Adam Smith, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Jim Urban.

May Patron Saints



Anticipating St. Patrick's new gathering space

Upon entering a church, you find yourself in the narthex, or vestibule, of the church. The current vestibule of St. Patrick's church is incredibly small, but the vestibule of the expanded church will be larger and more functional. It will be a new Gathering Space for our community and spiritual experiences.

Think of this gathering space as a "new and improved" vestibule. It will serve not only as the traditional narthex but also as a reception area between the expanded church and the parish center.

The gathering space will be a

place where you can meet a friend or family member before finding your seating in the church. After Mass, you can linger over conversation without worrying about standing in rain, snow, or the cold. Walking to Coffee Shop or picking your child up after religious education class will not require going outdoors. Tables can be set up in the space allowing for greater ease in conducting needed parish activities: registering your child for religious education class, buying tickets for a parish event, or supporting a CREW fundraiser.

The gathering space will provide a much needed staging area for processions – those for First Communicants and Confirmands, for instance, or the procession with palms on Palm Sunday and the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose following the liturgy on Holy Thursday.

There will be room for wedding parties to gather before the ceremony and for a family receiving line afterward. Funeral processions as will have space to gather with dignity and respect before entering the church.

For visitors and new members of our faith community, the gathering space will provide a gracious and welcoming introduction to our parish. For all of us it will offer the opportunity to grow in fellowship and in holiness.



Honoring Our Past
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN



Night Prayer to Our Lady

Lovely Mother,
help me to relax into the state
of being a child.
Let me rely upon you
for my well-being,
and make me run to you
for comfort.
May I feel my helplessness
and rejoice in your presence,
knowing that you will lift me up
into our Father's joy.