

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

December 2015

## Advent watchfulness

Advent is a season that asks us to reflect on the future and the past. As we hear Jesus and the prophets telling us to be watchful and ready, we think ahead to the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. As Christmas nears and the Scriptures remind us of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, we think back on his first coming. What unifies the season is not the future or the past, but the presence of Jesus and all that he does for our good. Additionally, our watchfulness helps us to be attentive to Jesus.

It would be easy to imagine a god that would sit back and watch people struggling to reach him. But Jesus is a God who comes among us, to teach us, to show us how to live in God's ways. His death shows us how to give ourselves completely to God. His resurrection shows us that God has far more in store for us than the things we can see and touch. Our Advent watchfulness gives us a chance to reflect on how deeply we needed the presence of Jesus to show us how to live.

Having taught us by word and example how to live in God's ways, Jesus could step back and wait to

see who will get with the program and follow him, but that's not how he does things. Jesus lives among us still, guiding and teaching, giving strength and inspiration. He gives us the teaching of the Church to keep his words fresh in our minds. He gives us one another so that we may be inspired by the efforts of others to follow him, and that others may be inspired by us in turn. Our Advent watchfulness helps us to be alert to Jesus' action, to the help and guidance that he gives us every day of our lives.

With all the daily help that Jesus gives us, can we imagine that he would abandon us when the time comes for God to bring his Kingdom to fulfillment? Of course not! We expect Jesus to come again to bring God's work to completion. Our Advent watchfulness reminds us to be alert and hopeful for his return.

Watchfulness can be a constant in our lives. As we pray, as we choose how to relate to others, and as we live out our values, watchfulness can keep us tuned in to the teaching and example of Jesus. How good it is that Advent every year offers us a refresher course in watchfulness!



## Very basic Spanish classes to begin in January

A year ago, Father Joe extended an invitation to each of us to join in a study of Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel*. Many of us accepted this invitation. In small groups of fellow



parishioners, in our homes with family, and through individual study, we came to a fuller understanding of what we as the People of God are called to do—continue his work. Love each other, care for those less fortunate than ourselves, care for the earth he gifted to us.

We explored how God has been present with each of us throughout our life's journeys, recognized or not, that we simply need to ask and God is there. Our challenge is to recognize our neighbor's needs and how we can share our gifts with one another. Those shared gifts bring blessings on the giver and the receiver; they strengthen our community.

Our group felt called to find a small way to build a bridge between St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. We would like to be able to commu-

see **Spanish Classes** on page 8

## St. Patrick Parish to celebrate church rededication on December 9

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122)*

Nearly 115 years after the first cornerstone for St. Patrick Church was laid, our parish will mark the rededication of our newly expanded worship space on December 9 at 5 p.m. Bishop Daniel Jenky will preside at the Rededication Mass, joined by Father Joe Hogan, Father Patrick priests, and other the Diocese of Peoria.

Following the Rededication d'oeuvres reception in the for this gala reception, pa-by phone (217-531-7020) or spaturbana.org).

St. Patrick's parishioners this milestone day when we our beautifully redesigned church. As we prepare for this historic celebration, we look back with gratitude to our ancestors in faith who built St. Patrick Church. We remember all the faithful who have gathered and prayed within this sacred space. We shall be united with them as a Communion of Saints as we celebrate this moment in time.



Joseph Baker, former St. concelebrating priests from

Mass, there will be an hors new lower level. To help plan rishioners are asked to RSVP by email (rededication@

and friends eagerly anticipate will celebrate Eucharist in

## St. Patrick Church – historic timeline

**1901** Bishop Spaulding of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria purchased land in Urbana for St. Patrick Church and sent Father John Cannon to serve as pastor.

**June 30, 1901** Father Cannon celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Church in Champaign (the oldest parish in the county) and announced that the cornerstone of a



new parish would be laid the next day; after 37 hours of continuous work, the temporary wood frame building was finished.

**July 7, 1901** The temporary wood building was dedicated as St. Patrick



Church; it was estimated that 40-45 families made up the new parish.

**July 17, 1901** The first funeral was held.

**October 9, 1901** The first wedding was celebrated.

**October 27, 1901** The cornerstone for the permanent church was laid; the architect was George P. Stauduhar of Rock Island, who designed over 200 churches in the Upper Mississippi Valley.



**May 24, 1903** The permanent church was dedicated; the total cost of the church and rectory was



\$56,000; on the day of the dedication, only \$12,000 of that indebtedness still remained.

**1960** The floor was retiled, the walls painted, and new pews were installed.

**June 1, 1961** A small electrical fire damaged one of the sacristies and repairs were made.

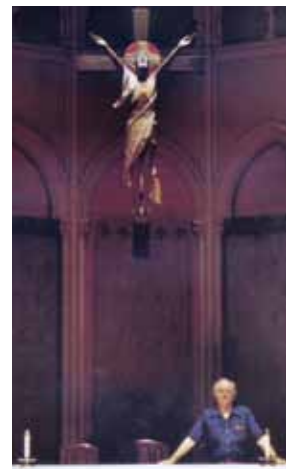
**Mid 1970s** A renovation was undertaken as part of Vatican II changes;

the sanctuary was expanded; the altar rail was removed; the cry room/



vestibule was glassed in; the front entrance was made accessible to the handicapped; a new altar, ambo, and baptismal font were installed.

**April 19, 1981** The Rising Christ was unveiled on Easter Sunday—a sculpture designed by parishioner Nicholas Britsky, Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of Illinois.



see **Timeline** on next page

## Timeline from page 2

**December 8, 1991** New artwork created by Nicholas Britsky was installed: a Marian shrine, the Baptism of Jesus



relief sculpture, and the Holy Spirit relief sculpture.

**May 23, 2001** St. Patrick Parish began a three-year celebration to mark the founding of the parish in 1901 and the dedication of the church in 1903.

**2002** A church refurbishment took place (painting, carpeting, cleaning, and resealing of stained glass windows).



**June 8, 2003** The church was rededicated in observance of the centennial. Inspired by the centennial celebration, the parish began visioning for its second century and ways to build for the future.

## Church expansion facts

- Project cost: \$5.7 million
- Seating capacity of newly expanded church: 600 (doubling former seating capacity)
- Square footage of old church: 6,000 sq. ft.
- Square footage of new church addition: 6,900 sq. ft.
- Square footage of new lower level: 6,700 sq. ft.
- Architect: Stauder Architecture, St. Louis, Missouri
- General Contractor: Broeren Russo Builders, Inc., Champaign, Illinois



**2004** A generous bequest made it possible for St. Patrick Parish to purchase a number of properties to the north which led to the parish eventually owning the entire square block where the church and parish center stand. This opened the door to long-range planning for parish facilities.

**2005 – 2010** The parish conducted several phases of master planning and developed the design for a major church expansion.

**February 2011** The Honoring Our Past – Building Our Future campaign was launched to raise funds for the church expansion.

**September 2013** A building committee and two advisory committees were established to finalize building plans and manage the church expansion project.

**November 16, 2014** The parish celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony.



**March 2, 2015** Construction began on the church expansion.

**December 9, 2015** Rededication of the newly expanded church.

Today, the St. Patrick Parish family includes more than 1,200 households.





**Q:** Why do priests wear purple during Advent? Aren't purple vestments usually worn during Lent?

**A:** Priests wear violet or purple vestments during both Advent and Lent. The color purple is chosen during both of these seasons to symbolize penance, sacrifice, and preparation.

You may look upon Advent as a time of preparation, a time of prayerful waiting for the coming of the Christ Child, but wonder about the call for penance and sacrifice. Why is the Son of God taking on human nature to begin with? Yes, of course, to redeem us for the Father, to save us from sin, to open heaven to us.

In this sense, then, it seems entirely appropriate for us to prepare for Christ's coming by fasting instead of feasting, by almsgiving, and by acts of kindness. You may have noticed that the Gospels for the weeks approaching Advent contain references to Christ's coming suffering and death, to sin and repentance and forgiveness. Why? To help set the stage, as it were, to provide some context for the coming of our Redeemer.

Yet even in the midst of this "purple season," the Church relents to give us the opportunity to savor the wonder, our coming joy, at the advent of the Son of God and son of Mary into our world. On the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are called to do just that—rejoice and be glad, for the Christ, our Redeemer, comes!

Today Advent has to some extent been supplanted by the Christmas shopping season. Perhaps instead of greeting our friends with "Merry Christmas" before Christmas Eve, we might wish them a "Blessed Advent." It might help us all to understand that the Christmas season starts, not ends, with Christmas, and that Advent is a period of prayerful preparation, of watchfulness for Christ's coming.

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*Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office—or just ask one of us!*

## "I have the immense joy of being a man": Thomas Merton, American contemplative

Thomas Merton is one of the four Americans Pope Francis named in his speech to the U.S. Congress on September 24, 2015. The Pope called him a relevant model of virtue for Americans because of Merton's faith, "... which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style." Pope Francis cited Merton as a model for Congress: "Dialogue is the only way to handle the pressure and fulfill the call to serve the common good, promoting a culture of hope and healing, of peace and justice."

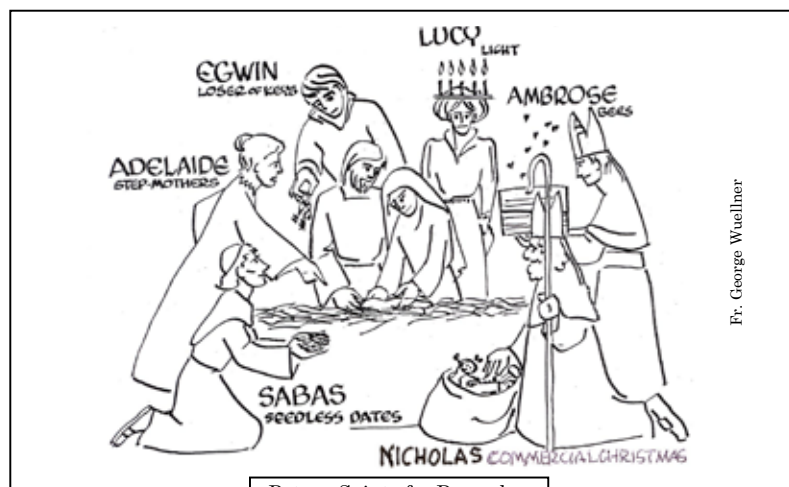
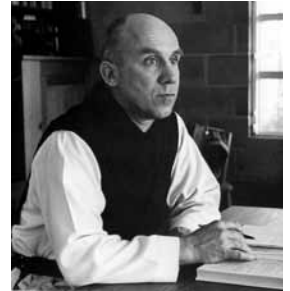
This year is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton. He was born on January 31, 1915, in Prades, France. His Australian father and American mother were both artists who met at an art school in Paris. As a restless, agnostic youth, Thomas moved from America, where he lived with his parents during World War I, back to France, then England, and Rome, before finally returning to America. To learn the details of Merton's circuitous route to finding God, read his very accessible autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, which has sold millions of copies.

Merton's mind opened to Catholicism in 1938 after reading a biography of Gerard Manley Hopkins. In April 1941, Merton went on a retreat at the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, near Bardstown, Kentucky. He was accepted as a novice monk in March 1942, and on March 19, 1947, he took his solemn vows as Father Louis Merton, O.C.S.O., and made his commitment to live out his life at the monastery.

During his years at Gethsemani, he became a contemplative writer and poet. He wrote 60 other books after his popular autobiography and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolence, and the nuclear arms race. He was well known for his dialogues with people of other faiths, including Zen Buddhism.

At the end of 1968, the new abbot of Gethsemani allowed Merton the freedom to undertake a tour of Asia. He met the Dalai Lama, who praised him for having a more profound understanding of Buddhism than any other Christian he had known. In December, he attended an interfaith conference between Catholic and non-Christian monks in Bangkok, Thailand. On December 10, 1968, Thomas Merton died when he was accidentally electrocuted by an electric fan while stepping out of his bath.

One day Thomas Merton had an epiphany on a crowded street corner in Louisville, Kentucky. He realized he loved all these busy strangers. He wrote, "I have the immense joy of being a man, a member of the race in which God himself became incarnate. . . . There is no way of telling people that they are walking around shining like the sun." Another time he wrote, "Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance, order, rhythm, and harmony."



Fr. George Wuellner

Patron Saints for December

## We have a St. Patrick Church Photo Directory!

Having a Parish Photo Directory makes it easier for us to get to know one another. For newcomers to our church, with such a large membership, this is an especially useful tool.

In the past, a photography company took the photos and printed a directory, but typically only 25% to 30% of our parishioners participated. And when the directory was printed, as soon as a new family joined the parish, it was already out of date.

Last spring our parish staff decided to work with a secure provider of an online directory, so that we can keep a constantly updated directory that will include every member of the parish as they join the church. A member of the staff can take a picture of new members or families when they register and upload the information within just a day or two.

Any parishioner is welcome and encouraged to join our Parish Photo Directory! If you have not already done so, please submit your photo to **lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org**. She will send you a form to fill out so you can choose the information you want included with your picture!

If your photo is already in the directory and you have included your email address in your contact information, you can access the directory in any of the following ways:

1. **Order a printed copy** of the directory for the cost of the printing. (We haven't yet made arrangements for this with a printing company.)
2. **Download the directory pdf from the parish website.** The directory will be updated periodically, so you can always download the newest version of it.
3. **Access the directory online.** This version will be constantly updated as new people join the parish.
4. **Download the mobile app** onto your smartphone for a constantly updated directory as new people join the parish.

If you did not include your email in the directory but have a computer, you can access the directory in the first two ways only. To download the Directory, go to the parish website (stpaturbana.org) and look across the top to the tab labeled "Photos." When your mouse hovers over it and a drop-down menu appears, click on "Parish Photo Directory," then on the "Download Pdf" button, and finally on the image of the directory. It is password protected to prevent non-parishioners from accessing it, so you won't be able to open it until you have the password. You can ask for the password at the parish office, or ask one of the parish staff for it.

If you have any comments, suggestions, trouble accessing the directory, or photos to submit for it, please direct these to Lorraine Kim (lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665).

On Monday, November 2, about 43 people from St. Patrick's, St. Matthew's, and Holy Cross parishes gathered in Woodlawn Cemetery in Urbana, where Father Joseph Baker celebrated All Souls Day Mass at the altar by the headstone of Father Charles Martell.



## Start your Advent with reconciliation in the new church


With lowered light for this communal penance service in our brand new church, we won't see as much as we would like of the building and decor. But again this year, our faith offers us a chance in Advent to turn some light on our faults and failings and to confess our sorrow in the Sacrament of Reconciliation if we wish. As our own schedules permit, we can go to any one of the following churches at 7:00 p.m. on the dates listed here for each:

- Monday, December 14, Holy Cross
- Tuesday, December 15, St. Patrick's
- Wednesday, December 16, St. Matthew's
- Thursday, December 17, Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet

At St. Patrick's, after a hymn and a reading from Scripture, there will be time for private prayer. Priests from all four parishes will be on hand if we want to go to confession either anonymously or face to face. We will be directed to places in the church where our confessions will be heard, while quiet music helps us to keep our focus.

Notice the new reconciliation room. At other times, this room may be used for spiritual direction. A second reconciliation room can be made available in the former vesting room near the south entrance (even before that it was the baptistry, remember?).

We'll go home in peace, as Father Joseph Baker said, "to present ourselves before God in a very pure way before Christmas."



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **December 6**.

## Parish nurses helping our community

Caring for the sick and promoting good health are the goals of the St. Patrick's parish nurses. According to parish



nurse Lilia Peters, all 10 nurses have extensive education in their profession as well as 40 hours of parish nurse training from Carle hospital. Some of the parish nurses are also medical educators, nurse practitioners, and midwives.

Parish nurses are often called on by St. Patrick's clergy and staff to assist parishioners. They pass on donations of medical equipment to the needy via the Promise HealthCare clinic at the Francis Nelson center. They organize and assist at parish health fairs and other educational programs. Check out their health promotion bulletin board in the north hallway of the parish center. They change the topic each month.

St. Patrick's is truly blessed with the ministry of our parish nurses. To contact them, call the parish office (367-2665) or visit their blood pressure screening table after Masses on fourth Sundays. We look forward to the return of their Health Fair to St. Patrick's in October 2016.

\* \* \*

Welcome to Jennifer Enoch, new Parish Nurse! Jennifer completed the Parish Nurse training course and

was dedicated as a Parish Nurse this fall. Jennifer graduated from the University of California at San Francisco in 2000 and is a registered nurse and certified nurse-midwife. She has experience in nutrition and maternal-child health. Jennifer lives in Champaign with her husband and young daughter. We are thankful for Jennifer's contribution to our parish community in her new role as a parish nurse.



*The most recent Parish Nurse Dedication was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on October 3rd. Jennifer is in the front row, second from the right.*

## Health Fair a helpful resource for Congolese community

The Parish Nurses of St. Patrick's, along with Carle and Walgreens, co-sponsored a Congolese Community Health Fair on October 24 at St. Mary's Oscar Romero Center in Champaign. Two of our Parish Nurses, Lilia Peters and Nancy Roth, were among the many health professionals present to offer information on health and wellness topics. The Health Fair offered information on topics such as hypertension, diabe-

tes, women's health, and more. Flu shots, blood pressure screenings, and cancer risk assessments were offered to attendees.

Also present were representatives from East Central Illinois Refugee Assistance Center, an organization that provides services essential to refugee and immigrant resettlement in East Central Illinois and aids in the exchange and preservation of their respective cultures. The

Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country in Central Africa of approximately 71 million people, with French as its official language. French-speaking interpreters and on-site child care were available at the Health Fair.

The Health Fair was a huge success; thanks to all of those who attended and the health professionals and organizations who made this possible!



## Tyra retires

St. Patrick's parish secretary, Tyra Quinones, retired at the end of September. Since 2009, hers was usually the friendly voice heard on the phone at the parish office. If you've ever stopped by the office, you were probably greeted by her warm smile. Her job included a million tasks that help to keep the parish running smoothly.

Thank you, Tyra!



## St. Patrick's has a new secretary!

Many of us have seen her at noon Mass, have enjoyed brief conversations with her, have grieved with her on the death of her sister. Now it's time to congratulate her—and our pastor, who hired her—on her new position as parish secretary. Welcome, Patricia Fowler!

Jamaican-born, Patricia moved with her family to Chicago in 1982, and then moved to C-U in 1994 to join her sister, Margaret Fowler-Muñoz, and work at her sister's company, Overseas Transport Company. She was involved with international freight forwarding for the next 20 years—until Margaret's illness meant closing the business.

When Patricia came on visits to her sister, Margaret, and Margaret's husband, Alberto Muñoz, she felt welcomed by then-pastor Fr. George Remm. She thought St. Patrick's "a wonderful parish" and "fell in love with the architecture of the church." When she moved here, she really liked the parish's welcoming atmosphere. It didn't take her long to volunteer as a Eucharistic minister and to set up for noon Mass once a month. It was at noon Mass that she met parishioner Jose Schutt-Aine, a long-time usher at the noon Mass, and they were married at St. Patrick's just nine years ago.



Exploring job and career options after the death of her sister, she heard Fr. Joe's announcement of the need for a parish secretary and thought, "I could do that!" She submitted her résumé for the job, was interviewed, and was subsequently hired. She's been on the job since the last week of October, so you may have already found her at her desk in the parish office.

Asked what her secretarial duties are, Patricia mentioned answering the phones, relaying information about parish ministries, preparing the weekly parish bulletin, keeping the sacramental books, updating the electronic records of parish events, reserving rooms for parish groups to meet, welcoming and reg-

istering newcomers to the parish, arranging for Masses to be celebrated for parishioners' intentions ... and "other duties as assigned." So you'll know why she might not be free the instant you approach her, but you're sure to be greeted with a smile.

"I see this job as a blessing, a transition time for me—especially after the death of my sister, growing into a life without her. St. Patrick's is a good fit." She added, "I'm moving from the family business with Margaret to another 'family business' at St. Pat's. I hope to do a good job!"

## New liturgical ministry coordinators — thank you!

St. Patrick's has three new coordinators for the liturgical ministers at Sunday Mass. Christine Hopper (cmhopper@illinois.edu) is coordinating the altar servers; Dianne Wilhelm (wilhelmd@earthlink.net), the Eucharistic ministers, and Frank Modica (fmodica@usd116.org), the lectors. Laura Theby gathers their schedule information and posts the weekly schedule that shows the altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, and lectors for each weekend Mass.

The coordinators have responsibility for training new ministers, for scheduling, and for ongoing development of the liturgical ministries. Think of what Mass might be like without these ministries and you'll understand the importance of the work of the coordinators!

**Got articles for In Focus?  
Got suggestions for articles?  
Got questions?  
Got comments?  
Got quick recipes to share?**

**Use our new email address to reach us!  
infocusstpats@gmail.com**

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

—John Main

## Preparing for Christmas with Simbang Gabi

For the tenth year, the Filipino community of East Central Illinois will be celebrating Simbang Gabi. Simbang Gabi, which literally means “going to Mass in the evening,” is novena of Masses in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. This tradition dates back four centuries to the early years of Christianity in the Philippines. In the beginning, the Masses were held early in the morning before the farmers had to go into the fields, but more recently Masses tend to be held in the evening.



These are the times and locations of the Simbang Gabi Masses:

- Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m., Holy Cross Church, Champaign. Social hour after the Mass.
- Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m., St. John’s Chapel, Champaign
- Friday, December 18, 7:00 p.m., St. Matthew Church, Champaign
- Saturday, December 19, 7:00 p.m., St. Paul’s Catholic Church, Danville
- Sunday, December 20, 10:00 a.m., St Mary Church, Champaign. Social hour after the Mass.
- Monday, December 21, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet
- Tuesday, December 22, 7:00 p.m., Holy Cross Church, Champaign
- Wednesday, December 23, 7:00 p.m., St. Patrick Church, Urbana. Social hour after the Mass.
- Thursday, December 24, 12:00 noon, St. John’s Chapel, Champaign

All Masses will be in English with some Tagalog songs. Everyone is invited to attend.

## “Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing”

On Tuesday, December 8, we will gather for the last time for Mass in our parish hall, in celebration of the solemn feast of Mary’s Immaculate Conception. The very next day we will celebrate Mass and the rededication of St. Patrick’s Church in its expanded form.

The Immaculate Conception is a singular grace, given to Mary only. No stain of original sin touches her who is to become the Art of the Covenant, the Temple in which God comes to dwell, the Mother of God’s Son.

The dogma that Mary was kept free from original sin from the first moment of her conception was solemnly declared by Pope Pius IX

in 1854, but it was by no means a new understanding. The Eastern Church had celebrated this feast from as early as the eighth century, and it has been on the Church’s universal calendar since 1708. The Church rejoices in this celebration of the grace of God at work in the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our own joy is great as well, for the day’s solemnity is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States.



Mary is our model for holiness. By our Baptism we have been washed clean of the stain of original sin to become temples of the Holy Spirit. And we look to Mary for an example of a life open to God’s word, obedient to God’s will.

*Most blest of all women, you heard and believed,  
most blest in the fruit of your womb then conceived.  
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria*

## Spanish Classes

from page 1

nicate more effectively with those whose home language is not English. We want to be able to make them feel welcome and valued and understood, as we hope they would do for us if we had come to their country and their church.

Sometimes this can be as simple as a greeting in Korean, Spanish, French, or Vietnamese. But we would also like to be able to offer to drive someone to the doctor, the grocery store, or to church and converse with them on the drive or help them understand the doctor or what they are looking for at the store. We want to be able to extend our hand for the Sign of Peace during Mass and wish them “Peace” in their home language. When we volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, we want to be able to greet our pantry friends in their home language and make them feel welcome and cared for. Small acts done lovingly day after day build strong bridges.

As a start, since St Mary’s has a large Mayan membership, classes in very basic Spanish will be offered. We are fortunate to have as our instructor Josepha Faustino, a Spanish-speaking parishioner at St. Mary’s. Her husband, who is studying to be a deacon, will join her, so we are doubly blessed.

Each of the five sessions will be self-contained and topical in nature: greetings, grocery shopping/Food Pantry, the doctor’s office, Mass responses, and Stations of the Cross. You are invited to attend any or all of the sessions. If you miss one, it is not a problem—they do not build one on the other.

Sessions will be held at St. Mary’s Romero Center from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays: January 7, 14, 21, 28, and February 4. There is no cost and no need to register. All are welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!



# Holy Cross happenings

At the end of the first quarter, many of the St Patrick's parishioners who are students at Holy Cross School made the honor roll. Highest Honors were awarded to Maddy McCoy, Ellen Loftus, Rachel Loftus, and

Justin Smith. Receiving High Honors were Lukas Perdekamp, Emily Leininger, Jasmine Waite, Kaleb Leininger, and Morgan Saunders. Honors went to Aidan Beckett, Kylie Hopper, Joyson Kakinga, Will Moore, Aus-

tin Ford, Luke Herzog, and Mikala Turner. Congratulations, everyone!

Holy Cross School students did not have the day off for Veterans Day. Instead, the entire student body celebrated with veterans from the parish and the wider community. Students rehearsed patriotic songs in their music classes for two months. The Veterans Day assembly had a Scouts Color Guard, led by Rachel Loftus. There followed songs interspersed with recitations that the 8th-graders, including Luke Herzog and Mikala Turner, had written regarding veterans in their own families. The last song had the students encircling the veterans and singing "One Nation." Veterans were also interviewed by some of the 8th-graders, including Justin Smith. It was quite a moving assembly.

Students will have their Christmas concerts soon: December 8th for the lower grades, and December 10th for the upper grades, both at 7:00 p.m. in the school's gym.

The students, staff, and parents of Holy Cross School wish all of St Patrick's a blessed Advent and a Happy New Year!



### *Vocation Prayer*

Father, by baptism and confirmation you have called all of us to build up your Church. We ask that you choose from among us, your children, many priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters who will love you with their whole heart and gladly spend their entire lives making you known and loved. For those of us not called to consecrated life, give us this grace also, to live for you and to serve you in your family here on earth, to love you in everyone.

## Dedicating a church

We use the word church in two ways. If someone says, "I am going to church," we know they are talking about a place, a building. But we also say, "We are the church of Christ," and in this sense the church is a community. The Rite of the Dedication of a Church says, "The holy people, made one as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, is the church, that is, the temple of God built of living stones, where the Father is worshipped in spirit and in truth." A church building is a sign of the presence of a faith community. It is not just any building, but one that is set aside (dedicated) solely as a place for the people of God.

For many centuries, churches have been dedicated to a single purpose. Even in the Old Testament, the dwelling tent and, later, the temple in Jerusalem were dedicated with special rites. The rites that we use in our day have some familiar elements, but there are also some interesting twists that can help us appreciate our worship more.

One important symbol is light. Recall the Easter Vigil when a lighted candle is brought into the church and shared. Think of a baptism, when the newly baptized "temple

of God" is presented with a lighted candle. A candle reminds us of Christ, the Light of the World. When we light candles during the dedication, we are proclaiming the presence of Christ.



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Incense is another important symbol, rich with meaning. Incense reminds us of the cloud that filled the temple, showing the presence of God. Incense is also a sign of atonement, reminding us that Reconciliation is an essential function of a church building and a faithful

community.

Anointing is a sign of consecration. We are anointed at Baptism and Confirmation to show that we belong to God. A priest is anointed at his ordination for the same reason. And so we anoint the church, its walls and corners, to show that it belongs to God. We anoint the altar in particular as the place where the sacrifice of Jesus is remembered and as the center of our praise and thanksgiving.

Last but not least is the symbol of the community. We gather with our priests and bishop to lead us. Without the community, the building has no purpose. We, the community, are the Church dedicated to God since our Baptism, and we are honored with incense just as the building and the altar are.

The prayer of dedication says in part, "Here may prayer, the Church's banquet, resound through heaven and earth. Here may the poor find justice, the victims of oppression, true freedom. From here may the whole world, clothed in the dignity of the children of God, enter with gladness into your city of peace." Amen!



The Spirit of Jesus moves out ahead of the Church, like the wind that blows where it will, inspiring people inside and outside the lines drawn by orthodox teaching. The Holy Spirit is the God of constant surprises, and only those who are attuned to the Living Voice will recognize the way God's Holy People are being called into the future.

As the Synod on the Family concludes, we pray for Church leaders who must step beyond familiar patterns and comfort zones to find and serve God's people. The Spirit has already gone before them into the world.

—Pat Marrin

## Four parishioners attend Vandalia conference

A lay association of the faithful in Vandalia, Illinois, called Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry (OSMM), held its 18th annual conference October 30-November 1st. The event opened with Mass, celebrated by Father Bill Casey, of the Fathers of Mercy. Afterward Sister Lucinda, of the Apostles of the Interior Life, spoke about meditating on Sacred Scripture.

On Saturday, after an opening

rosary and Mass, Sister Susan of the Apostles spoke on "the gaze of Jesus" as a focus for meditation. Father Casey gave a conference talk on the breakdown of morality in general. Bishop Paprocki of the Diocese of Springfield spoke on his use of the term "growth" as shorthand for "the new evangelization." He described his efforts in the diocese to improve the liturgy and increase priestly zeal,

observing that priestly vocations in the diocese have improved from an average of 11 to 23 a year.

Father Casey also spoke on Pope Francis and his emphasis on love and mercy, noting that the conflicts in the Islamic world may have already lit the fuse for a World War III and our need to dwell in God's love.

A very special feature of the conference was the performance of music and songs by the choir from Betania in Venezuela. Thirty-seven members of the choir came from Betania (Spanish for Bethany), where Our Lady of Reconciliation appeared to Marie Esperanza (the cause for her canonization has been opened).

Four people from St. Patrick's attended the conference: Mark Schneider, Howard and Margaret Erlandson, and Dan Richards. If you are not familiar with OSMM, you might check out their website ([osmm.org](http://osmm.org)). They have several conferences throughout the year, and it is an easy two-hour drive to Vandalia.



*Margaret and Howard Erlandson, Dan Richards, and Mark Schneider*

## Seniors group hears about light pollution

The New Horizons Senior Group met at Ryan's for lunch on October 14. The guest speaker was Father Timothy Sauppé, the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Westville and St. Isaac Joques Parish in Georgetown. Father Sauppé is leading an effort to create a Vermilion County chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association, which educates people about the effects of light pollution and the heritage of viewing the night sky.

There are many reasons to be concerned about light pollution, according to Father Sauppé. For humans, exposure to artificial light at night can interfere with the production of melatonin, a hormone that helps our bodies to regulate our sleep-wake cycles. Sleep aids are among the most-used medications currently, indicating that many of us are not experiencing good sleep. Light pollution also has negative effects on

plant growth and the lives and life cycles of animals.

The night sky has inspired science, religion, literature, art, and philosophy. Father Sauppé pointed out that light pollution robs us of our ability to see very much of that sky. Even with powerful telescopes, scientists still need areas of true darkness in order to study the stars.

Father Sauppé said that many of the early scientists were Catholic priests. The Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope is part of the Mount Graham International Obser-

vatory in Arizona and is operated in partnership with The University of Arizona and the Vatican Obser-

vatory, located in Italy and one of the oldest astronomical research institutions in the world. The pope's astronomers have advanced mathematics and astronomy degrees and are also Jesuit priests.

To learn more about light pollution and what we can do about it, Father Sauppé recommends going to the website of the International Dark Sky Association, [darksky.org](http://darksky.org).



*The heavens declare the works of the Lord;  
the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.*



## in our parish library

Due to the relocation of materials and offices necessitated by construction, the parish library is now unavailable to users. Next year we hope to resume our parish librarian's recommendations of parish books for children and adults that inform and enliven us on our spiritual journeys together.

## St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

**St. Patrick's Parish In Focus** is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, IL. 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 infocusst-pats@gmail.com. You may also send them 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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**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Pam Donze De Ley, Judy Fierke, Patricia Fowler, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Anna Kasten, Lorraine Kim, Lucille Kocher, Mary Lou Menches, Cheryl Milewski, Lilia Peters, Dan Richards, Nancy Roth, Cathy Salika, Adam Smith, Mary Twigg, Jim Urban, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Margery Kane, page layout by John Colombo.

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

#### Lucille Kocher

##### Holiday Fruit Cake

- 1 c raisins
- 2-3/4 c water
- 2 t baking soda
- 2 T butter
- 2 c sugar
- 1 c chopped dates
- 1 c coconut
- 1 c chopped walnuts
- 3 c flour
- 3 t cinnamon
- 1 t allspice
- 1 t ground cloves
- 1 t nutmeg



Boil water with raisins for 5 minutes, then drain and save the water. In a large bowl, mix 2 cups of the raisin water, baking soda, butter, sugar, dates, coconut, and nuts. Add raisins, flour, cinnamon, allspice, cloves, and nutmeg, mixing thoroughly. Pour into buttered or sprayed angel food cake pan, and bake at 350° for 1 hour. Cool a few minutes before turning the fruit cake out of the pan. It will slice more easily cold than warm, but slices could be warmed in a microwave before serving with whipped cream or ice cream

\* \* \*

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). The only requirement is that it is easy and quick to prepare!*