

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2015

Seasons of change

The tulips and daffodils are gone already and the summer flowers are beginning to appear. Soon enough, we know, there will be pumpkins everywhere and trees decked in their autumn colors. And then the sparkle of snow. And then spring again.

The Church Year goes in a similar cycle. We're at the end of the Lent and Easter seasons and about to settle down to hear Jesus' preaching during Ordinary Time. And then Advent and Christmas. And then more days of Ordinary Time. Then Lent and Easter, and back again.

Each season has its own character, its own blessings, its own tasks. For some, summer is a season to

for us.

The change of seasons give us a chance to ponder the changes in our lives – anytime, not just on January 1. What has changed for you in the past year? Have there been births or deaths, graduations or change of jobs, new responsibilities taken on or former responsibilities set aside? Has our Sabbath Renewal had an effect on your faith, your relationship with God, or the ways that you want to serve others?

These changes in your life, what has been good about them, drawing you closer to God and other people? What has been not so good, causing you to drift away from these important relationships? Are there opportu-



slow down, to take a vacation, or to spend more time outdoors. For others, it's the busy season, time to tend crops and gardens. But for all of us, the cycle of time gives measure and meaning to our lives. The civic holidays give us a chance to reflect on our place in society, just as our church holy days invite us to enter more deeply into the love of God and the awareness of all that God does

nities you missed that you could still pursue if you want to? Ponder these questions in prayer and welcome God's loving guidance. God can help you see the role that he has played in your life in the past year. God can help you see new opportunities or offer you a new focus in your life.

As the seasons change and as our lives change, God can help our perspective to change.

You can still be included in our parish photo directory!

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped out with the portraits for the St. Patrick's photo directory! About 300 families had their portraits taken by Lifetouch, and there are really lovely photos to include in the directory. Lorraine Kim and her team are now in the process of entering all the information and photos into the computer. If you would like to help with this, please call Lorraine Kim (531-7004). She would be really grateful for the help!



If you have not yet submitted a photo of yourself or your family to the directory and would like to do so, you have several options. You can email a photo to lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org, and Lorraine will send you back a release form to fill out. If you would prefer, you can drop off a photo at the parish office and fill out the release form there, and Lorraine will take a digital photo of you.

If you would like to have a professional photo taken, a parishioner who is a family photographer would be happy to schedule a sitting. Your photo for the directory will be free but you may purchase other poses as

see **Photo Directory** on page 6

Dear Graduates

This month, commencement speakers across the country will attempt to inspire, instruct, and entertain tens of thousands of graduating seniors as they move along on their life journeys—just as Jesus did. He brought a touch of realism to his final words to his disciples.

The road ahead would be long and arduous, he warned, and they should expect to encounter stiff resistance, even violence, from some who oppose the message they would bring by their words and their life-

style. What he promised, however, is that their Teacher, the Holy Spirit, would be right there with them at every step of the way, empowering them to find creative solutions to obstacles and giving meaning to their suffering for the sake of the Gospel.

With every breath, the same Holy Spirit will be there for you too. With every step, the Word will be a lamp at your feet, lighting your way. No matter what happens, remember Jesus' promise and your way will be blessed. God be with you!

High school graduates: Emma Asklund, Celia Faux, Morgan Graham, Alexandro Griffin, Natalie Hittmaier, Sean Kelly, Keith Lee, Jonathan Nengo, Braxton Parisi, George Pennacchi, Laura Pennacchi, Sally Pennacchi, Megan Porter, Matthew Raab, Michael Rodriguez, Anthony Scarboro, Abbi Simpson, Molly Smith, Piotr Swiech, Chris Tate, Neil Walsh-Hendricks

Grade school graduates: Mary Agor, Josiah Freedman, Johnson Nguyen, Hannah Niccum, Jessica Rodriguez, Jacob Welbes



*Entire class of 2015 of the High School of St. Thomas More
(photo provided by Inter-State Studio)*

How can you find a Catholic church when traveling on vacation or a business trip? Go to <http://masstimes.org>, or call 1/734/794-2100 and enter a zip code to find nearby churches.



Q: Why do we celebrate Masses or otherwise pray for the dead?

A: "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead," or so we've been taught. God is not bound by our limitations of time—past, present, and future are all "now" to God—so even someone who has died several years ago may benefit from our prayers today.

But why do we pray for our deceased loved ones anyway? If they were good and loving and caring people while living, are they not now at peace in the arms of our loving Father? Our prayers and good works can help make satisfaction due for any sins they may have committed while alive. How this works out in God's providence we naturally don't know, but it is still a valid and solid Catholic belief.

Prayer for the deceased is really a two-way street. Those we loved who have died are still united with us in the Communion of Saints and are well able to pray for us and to benefit from our prayers. They know our travails and are ready to help us, loving us still. So we may ask our departed friends and loved ones to pray for us, just as we ask our living friends for the help of their prayers.

This consoling teaching of the Church, one that we are reminded of in our annual observance of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, is reassuringly supported by all the Fathers of the Church.

Finally, our Masses and prayers can express our thanks and praise to God for the life of a person we have loved and still love. Many who firmly believe their loved ones are in heaven and who may even pray to them as among the saints of God, still have Masses offered for them. These Masses are expressions of faith and hope, a part of their remembering and of their joy over the eternal happiness of someone they love.

* * *

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

**“Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own.”**



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

St. Patrick's celebrated a noteworthy milestone on May 24. On that day, we gathered for Sunday Mass in our church for the last time before major renovation work began. Newly ordained Father Alex Millar presided at the last Mass of the day, his first. It was a joy to welcome him home to celebrate his first Mass, his Mass of Thanksgiving, here at St. Patrick's church. It was 114 years ago, on May 24, 1903, that our ancestors in faith celebrated the dedication of St. Patrick's church. How fitting that on this same date in spring 2015, we marked a new turning point in our parish history. Together, we gave thanks for the gifts we have shared within these four sacred walls.

Construction on the church expansion began in early March with the demolition of the multipurpose room in the parish center to create space for the new entry plaza that will lead into the church addition. In subsequent weeks,

bulldozers made quick work of the ground excavation, and fittings for the new lower level began to appear. The foundation and walls for the new addition continue to take shape day by day. Renovations to the existing church will soon begin.

We are adapting well to being “under construction,” both in terms of physical preparations, such as vacating the church and preparing for Sunday liturgies in the parish hall, but also in terms of parish life as parish staff and many volunteers work hard to ensure that we retain a strong sense of community during this time of transition.

Let us pray that we join together gracefully in the months ahead and renew ourselves as a parish family. May we continue to celebrate our Sunday Eucharist with deep joy, may we grow in our knowledge and love of God, and may we discover new ways to be the Body of Christ.

St. Patrick's Church Building Milestones

June 30, 1901: Founding of St. Patrick's Parish in Urbana, Illinois

July 7, 1901: Dedication of the temporary wooden church

May 24, 1903: Dedication of the permanent church

1960-1961: Church enhancements (new pews, floor tile)

1970s: Renovations in observance of Vatican II principles

2002: Refurbishment of the church interior, marking St. Patrick's Parish Centennial

June 8, 2003: Rededication of the church

2011: Capital campaign launched to raise funds for major church expansion

March 2015: Construction begun

May 24, 2015: Last Mass in the church prior to renovation and expansion

Envisioning what is to come

Our church expansion is the culmination of a carefully thought-out plan, developed to enhance our worship and draw us together more closely as a faith community. In the months ahead, though it might feel overwhelming to see all of the changes being made, picture all the good things to come:

- Walking from the parking lot, you come upon an attractive new plaza and the new main entrance to our parish complex.
- Entering the doors of the new gathering space, you find a pleasant, bright area where parishioners can greet one another before and after Mass, or anytime – rain or shine!
- To the right as you enter the gathering space, there is a staircase leading to the new lower level where you will find excellent meeting space – designed to be flexible for large or small groups.
- To the left, you walk into the parish center office area.
- Looking straight ahead, you see the staircase leading up to the narthex (the area outside the new main

doors of the church).

- On the left of the narthex, you see the new vesting room and also the new family room (for parents with young children).
- On the right of the narthex, you see an elevator that provides easy access to the church, gathering space, or new lower level.
- Also on the right, you see a room where liturgical ministers can prepare for Mass.
- Straight ahead are the main doors of the church, where you enter our newly enlarged St. Patrick's church, with twice the seating capacity, increased from 300 to 600.
- The church is beautiful and filled with light. It has the same architectural style, the same sacred look and feel, as the former church. It is our new spiritual home, where God will gather us in and make us his own!

In future issues of In Focus we will describe the interior design of the church to help you envision our new worship space.

Celebrating Mass in the parish hall: *What will it be like?*

Church has been packed up and moved to the parish center. Why? Because of construction. When? As of May 25, the first day after both Pentecost and the anniversary of St. Patrick's dedication on May 24, 1903. Starting with daily Mass on May 25, just follow the map printed in several Sunday bulletins these past weeks.

Many of us have experienced celebrating Mass in the main hall twice before during church renovations. If such a change is the first for you, we promise you will look back with the same fond memories of an adventure.

We will all need to use common sense when unexpected dilemmas arise. For instance, where does a parent take a child who is upset and crying loud? Probably to the hallway past the nearest exit or to the most convenient restroom.

It will help to be aware of directions: looking from inside the main hall, the south door leads to Main Street; the north door leads to the classrooms and the parking lot. The walkway at the southwest corner of the hall leads to the southwest door, near the front office.

There, near the front office, is the lounge, set up as the temporary Rec-

onciliation Room, with your choice of speaking to the priest from behind a screen or face to face.

Those of us with disabilities are directed to appropriate seating, so all can participate at Mass with convenience and comfort. If needed, the defibrillator can be found near the north door. The parish phone is available in the kitchen.

Some good news is that "we can't help singing" because both the blue Gather and the red Worship hymnals will be on all seats in the hall! So let's go forward with good cheer, expecting that we will make happy memories on this journey and enjoy our new church at the end.



Celebrating Mass in the parish hall: *Accessibility*

Now that Mass is being celebrated in the Parish Hall, here is some information for those who have difficulty getting around.

Parking The handicapped parking spaces in the old lot and on the west side of the church will still be there. The handicapped spots in the new lot will be moved to the east end of the lot to make them more convenient. Two new spots will be added on Main St. close to the entrance. There will also be a ramp over the curb.

Doors Three doors to the parish center will be open for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. They include the southwest door near the office, facing the church,

the south door facing Main St., and the north door at the top of the stairs from the old parking lot. (Please note that health regulations will not allow people to cut through the kitchen. Use the hallway beside the lounge to go into the hall.)

Seating The altar will be at the east end of the parish hall. A few rows from the front, there will be an aisle lined up with the Main St. door. The first row of chairs after the aisle will be for use by the infirm or disabled. Eucharistic ministers will bring Communion to the people in those seats first, before they serve the rest of the assembly.

Routes If you can manage a few stairs and want to minimize walk-

ing, you may want to park in the old lot and come in the north door. Otherwise, you can park on Main St. and enter by the south door. You could park in either the old or the new lot and enter by the north door at the top of the stairs or by the south door, facing Main St. Or, finally, you could park on the west side of the church and enter either by the southwest door near the office, or by the Main St. door.

The door by the kitchen will be blocked off at some point during construction, so it will not be open for use. We'll be fine-tuning arrangements as we gain experience—please be flexible! And please continue to pray with your parish community!

Celebrating Mass in the parish hall: *Location changes for rites and events*

This spring brings major changes to St. Patrick, both sad and exciting, as the expansion of our church has finally begun. We have prepared our spirits to grow with the church as we studied the words of Pope Francis in Sabbath Renewal. Some temporary physical changes will occur as the construction proceeds.

All celebrations of the Mass and other rites will be held in the parish hall. As you enter the parish hall the first thing you will notice is that

all the tables have been removed and 300 folding chairs are in their place. Then you will see the altar on the stage at the east end of the hall. Since the folding chairs do not have kneelers, you may either sit or stand instead of kneeling during appropriate parts of the Mass.

The locations of special rites have been also temporarily changed. The Rite of Reconciliation will be held at the normal times, but in the lounge. Baptisms will be held in the parish

hall or at St. Mary. Marriages may take place (by arrangement) in any of several locations: St. Patrick's parish hall, St. Mary, Holy Cross, St. Matthew, or St. John. Funerals may be held in our parish hall or St. Mary's Church. Funeral dinners will be held only in St. Mary's parish hall. (Yes, you may schedule a funeral in our parish hall and the dinner in St. Mary's parish hall.)

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry will continue operation in the parish hall and have the same hours. The parish library is temporarily off limits; it is being used for storage and as an office for Jon McCoy. Activities such as the Fall Festival and Halloween will be omitted this autumn; instead, we will have the International Fair with St. Mary on June 13 at the Champaign County Fairgrounds. (Please check the parish bulletin or website for details. Do check out our new website and let Lorraine Kim know how you like it!) Parish ministries that continue to hold meetings will hold them elsewhere. There are plans for another Bible study this fall, to be held in parishioners' homes.

"You can't make an omelet without cracking a few eggs." The inconveniences we experience during the expansion and connection of our church and parish center will be minor and temporary, but the reward will be great!



Vocation Prayer

Father, we have seen your son, Jesus, as a loving companion, constant teacher, consoler of the bereaved, healer of spirit, friend of the poor... For love of him, I would be like him. Teach me how to be like him as I go about my duties today. And make clear to me how best I may serve him in others in my chosen way of life.

The first martyrs of the Church of Rome

On June 30, the Church commemorates all those who were martyred during the persecution of Nero, who reigned during the years 54–68. Peter and Paul also died during this persecution, and this feast follows immediately upon theirs (June 29).

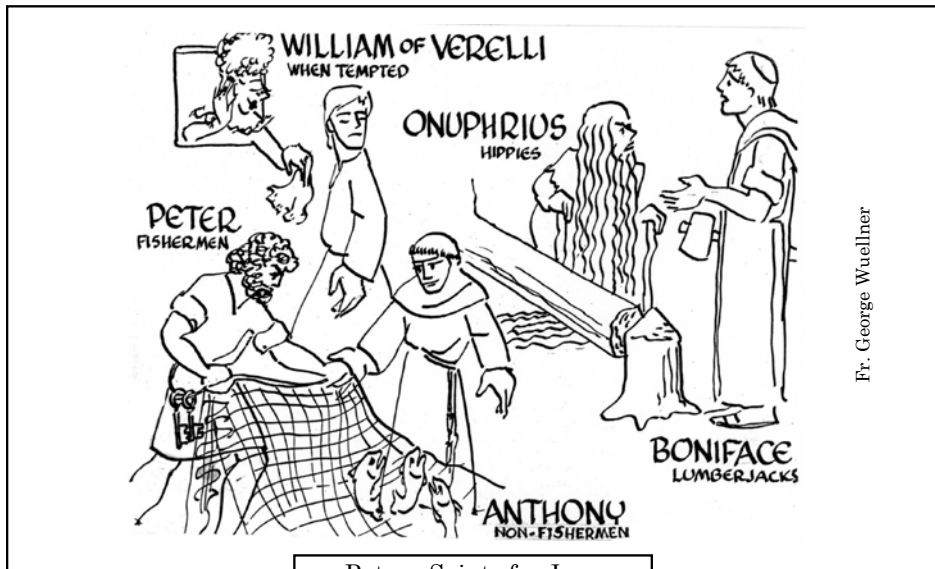
The Roman historian Tacitus records that on July 19, in the year 64, a great fire broke out in Rome, beginning near the Circus Maximus, in a district full of shops and booths filled with inflammable goods. It spread rapidly in the summer heat and raged for over a week, destroying palaces, temples, and other public monuments. By the time it was completely over, two-thirds of the city lay in ruins. Nero announced that Christians had been responsible and ordered their arrest and execution.

Some Christians were crucified, some were covered with wax and set afire, some were sewn into animal skins to be devoured by animals. The cruelty and horror of these barbarous acts, presented as public entertainment, appalled those who witnessed them and a wave of uprisings ensued, followed by Nero's suicide four years later.

These Christians (their names were unrecorded by Tacitus) give witness for all who suffer for their faith even today, many whose names are lost to us. *Ora pro nobis!*



According to Tacitus, Nero used Christians as human torches.



Patron Saints for June

Photo Directory from page 1

well. Contact Jennifer Byard Family Photography (621-7562 or jennifer.byard83@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

Once all the photos submitted have been entered into the Online Church Directory system, details will be provided about accessing the photo directory online or obtaining a paper copy.


If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Lorraine Kim (lorraine.kim@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665).

Looking for a way to put your faith into action?

Consider joining the Communications Committee, which produces the parish newsletter, *In Focus*, 11 times per year. We need idea people who can meet monthly on 4th Thursdays to decide on articles for the upcoming issue. We also need writers, photographers, editors, and page layout people who can take an occasional assignment. It's a great way to serve your faith community and to learn about the many people and activities at St. Patrick's.



Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **June 14**.

Growing food for the hungry!

On May 8, a small group gathered at the organic garden plots in Urbana’s Meadowbrook Park for the blessing of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Garden. Father Joe performed the blessing on the beautiful spring morning. The garden provides fresh produce throughout the grow-

ing season for the people who are served by the SVDP Food Pantry. Volunteers are always needed to help weed and do other garden tasks! If you would like to help with this ministry, contact Jim Urban at 367-2665.



St. Patrick’s parishioners find discipleship opportunities at the empty tomb’s Mega Work-a-Thon

One entire Joy of the Gospel study group, as well as members of the Urbana Council of the Knights of Columbus and other St. Patrick’s parishioners, put their faith into action on March 7 by participating in the empty tomb’s Mega Work-a-Thon. The combination fundraiser and work event brought together over 300 volunteers from 50 local churches to work as one body in Christ. As well as raising money for empty tomb’s expenses and salaries, the volunteers assembled 350 food baskets, each containing 10 basic food items. Teams of volunteers then delivered the baskets to needy families.

The Knights of Columbus contributed over \$1000 to purchase food for the baskets and to empty tomb’s emergency fund, and more than 20 St. Patrick’s parishioners made up four teams to assemble and deliver food baskets. Those who had not volunteered at empty tomb before were pleased with how well organized the event was and how smoothly the deliveries went. They also found joy in working with Christians of other denominations, in sharing the good news of Jesus as well serving the poor in our com-

munity. Most plan to volunteer with empty tomb again in the future.

Those who delivered baskets found that the families who received them not only expressed great thanks for the gift but also for the chance to meet with the donors. In his book, Tattoos on the Heart, Father Greg Boyle writes that “The measure of our compassion lies not in our service of those on the margins, but in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them.” The volunteers at this event were grateful for this opportunity as well.





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.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Salika

Baked Rice

3 c chicken broth
1/2 stick butter
1-1/2 c uncooked rice
3/4 c chopped carrots
1/4 c minced parsley
1/2 c chopped green onions



Heat the broth and butter; pour over rice in a casserole dish. Bake uncovered at 350° for 45 minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients, and bake for another 10 minutes.

* * *

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!

The two volunteers who prepare the **page layout for *In Focus*** really need help from at least one more parishioner to prepare the page layout for a couple of issues a year.

Templates, guidelines, schedules—all would be provided. Can you help? *Cathy Salika, 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu*



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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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Ellen Amberg, Judy Fierke, Elizabeth Hendricks, Richard Keane, Lorraine Kim, Mary Lou Menches, Cathy Salika, Peggy Whelan, and Jim Urban. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Margery Kane, page layout by John Colombo.