

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

May 2015

Led by the Shepherd

When you think of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, do you ever wonder where he is leading you? Psalm 23 tells us that the Shepherd wants only what is good for us: green pastures, quiet waters, safety, and comfort. When we are tired, he revives us. When we are in danger, he defends us. The Shepherd is always with us.

But the Psalm also warns that we may have to follow him through dark valleys to reach a good place. When life is difficult, it doesn't mean that the Shepherd has left us alone. He is with us nonetheless, and we can trust in his care for us. When life is scary, we can remember that he is standing with us to defend us.

The next few months will be exciting as we move our worship to the parish hall while the church building is expanded. There will be other emotions too. There may be sadness as we say goodbye to a place that has been constant and familiar, for some of us all through our lives. There may be confusion and irritation as we adapt to different surroundings. There may be hope that the new space will be beautiful and meet the needs of our parish for years to come. If this time is a dark valley for you, don't be afraid.

The Shepherd is still with us, leading us, protecting us.



One sign that the Shepherd is with us is the banquet that he prepares for us. It's the banquet that he spreads for us every Sunday, the Bread of Life, the Cup of Salvation. He gives us the best of food, the richest, the most nourishing, not green pastures, but his Body and Blood. He is our food for the journey. He is our guide and protector. He is our destination.

Update from Susan Nagele

In response to parishioners' concerns about her safety, Susan sends this reassurance:

"If you've heard the news about the massacre of 150 students in Garissa, Kenya, know that we are



fine. But it is a horrible tragedy and it will be hard to rejoice very much this Easter. Garissa is 300 miles north of Mombasa and the only town in that county to have a university. It will surely close and set the area back very far in access to education. That is the aim of the terrorists. Muslims are suffering as well as Christians; this is not a religious war but the work of fanatics. Unemployment is 70% and there are so many young people desperate to make some money; when they are handed a large amount of cash they will do almost anything."

Please note this important information about contributions to Susan's ministry:

"Beginning January 1, 2015, all contributions made to my ministry account will be deposited in two accounts. 50% will be deposited to my ministry account to be used at my discretion for health care work in Kenya. I will continue to give an annual report on this account. The remaining 50% will be deposited in

See **Nagele** on page 5

Joy of the Gospel study winds up, but renewal continues

Rain did not dampen the spirits of the parishioners who assembled to celebrate the Sabbath Renewal Closing event on March 19. After all, they had trudged through snow and ice all winter to faithfully attend their small Sabbath Renewal groups.

The closing event began at 7 p.m. in the parish center with Laura Theby, our music director, leading a hundred parishioners in a spirited rendition of "We Are Called." Then The Catholic boys entertained with two new songs written to old tunes. The first was "Bishop Jenky" to the tune of "Mr. Sandman." On "Y'all Come," the players of mandolin, banjo, guitars, piano, drums, and brown jug were joined by Fr. Joe playing his unique instrument, wooden tongs banging on a frying pan!

Next we watched a slide show of ten quotations from Pope Francis's *The Joy of the Gospel*. Fr. Joe described these quotations: the Gospels are all about contagious joy, like the joy of our First Communion. He said that Pope Francis has missionary discipleship in his bones, and that the Pope has caught the world's imagination.

The energy and faith of those gathered became apparent when they were asked what they got out of their small groups. Hands were raised by people eager to describe their experiences. Many said that their small groups would continue to meet weekly after finishing *The Joy of the Gospel*. Many more were inspired to help the poor with money and with their time. One commented that evangelizing is not selling but sharing. And another said that Pope Francis has been ordained by God to serve at this time. Most would like our parish to become even more welcoming to new people and for all of us to strive to become more Christlike.

Fr. Joe told us that the parish will re-evaluate its groups and organizations. Soon we will survey the congregation to learn its needs and wants and then to look at ways to challenge ourselves. When the church construction finishes in January, we can implement our new ideas for a proactive congregation.

Fr. Phelps led the closing prayer with John 15:8, "By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." By the end of the evening, it was clear that the process of renewing ourselves as we renew our church building is off to a good start!



Experiencing the Stations of the Cross and Lenten Supper at St. Mary's

It's always pleasant to visit family around the holidays. With that in mind, three St. Patrick's parishioners decided to visit our older sister church, St. Mary's in Champaign, for the Stations of the Cross followed by the Lenten Dinner in the Bishop Oscar Romero Family Center. St. Mary's is truly our older sister, established in 1888, 127 years ago. (St. Patrick's Church is merely 114 years old!)



cial altar of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and their prayers to their *Virgen María* echoed throughout the church.

Fr. Joel presided at the Stations of the Cross, accompanied by parishioners who led the prayers of many of the Stations in their native languages. It reminds us of how universal the Catholic Faith really is as we followed

the ancient prayers in English, Spanish, Mayan, and Vietnamese languages. The beautiful music of Nicholas Juan accompanied the parish group *Coro El Rosario*.

After the service it was a pleasant walk past the rectory and a marker in a little garden area that memorialized the St.

The church has aged well and has a very peaceful aura within. Dedications on the lovely stained glass windows recount the names of the Irish and German immigrants who built the church. The architecture is very similar to that of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross.

While we waited for the liturgy to begin, many families arrived. The festively dressed children joyfully ran up the aisles to visit at the spe-

Mary's School. Our destination was the Bishop Oscar Romero Parish Center, where the Lenten Dinner was well underway. Many workers, under the direction of Gregorio Garcia, were busy preparing tilapia *al homo* and *frito* (baked and fried tilapia), *sopa de verduras y pescado* (soup of vegetables and fish), *tostadas con frijoles* (bean tostadas), *lechuga y queso*, *quesadillas*, *judías verdes/ejotes* (green beans), *arroz* (rice), and *macarrones con queso* (mac and cheese). All this was followed by homemade desserts. There was no standing in line to get your dinner because uniformed Navy Sea Cadets of the Justin O. Penrod Division, led by Mike Palumbo, were serving diners' orders as part of their community service.

When we reluctantly left after dinner, it looked as though the party was just beginning!



Talking to Mary at home: The Litany of Loreto

The prayer entreating Mary under some of her most beautiful titles is named the Litany of Loreto after the place where she is said to have lived her last years on earth. In other words, it talks to Mary at home. We can recall some of the titles given to her: Mother of Christ, Virgin Most Pure, Most Prudent, Most Faithful, Cause of our Joy. There are many others as well. They all ask Mary to pray for us.



Have you ever considered using these traditional titles but making up your own prayers so that you may "talk to Mary at home" in your own words? Here are a few examples to inspire you.

Mirror of justice, help us to look

at ourselves with understanding and acceptance.

Seat of wisdom, oh, please, some more, quickly!

Mystical rose, help me to bloom where I'm planted.

Tower of ivory, help us when we are immersed in the world's

marketplaces.

House of gold, keep us grateful for shelter, but not house-proud.

Ark of the covenant, help us keep our baptismal promises.

You get the idea. Go on with *Gate of heaven* (welcome the dying whom we love), *Morning star*, *Refuge of sinners*, and so on. The complete litany is found at #2012 in the red *Worship* hymnal. You can also find it online.

Looking for a way to put your faith into action?

Consider joining the Communications Committee, which produces the parish newsletter, *In Focus*, 11 times a 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.

Finding the faith

A central part of our Holy Saturday service is the welcoming of our new Catholics into our church family through the sacraments of Baptism and/or Eucharist and Confirmation. These neophytes (literally “new plants” or “newly planted”) have been studying our faith since last October in the Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Most of them received these sacraments on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil.

When asked how they decided to become Catholics, **Carol Curtis**

shared, “I have considered this on and off for more than 50 years.

Recently, I have been participating in a three year program at the Christine Center in Willard, Wisconsin, called

‘Spiritual Deepening for Global Transformation.’ The witness of the Sisters there, combined with the refreshing leadership of Pope Francis, has given me the final nudge I needed. The warmth and inclusiveness of both the St. Patrick and St. Mary parishes attracted me.” Carol’s family moved here in 1970, where her three children and four grandchildren grew up.

Remberto Ramirez and his wife, **Irene Vasquez**, live in Rantoul with their two sons, Christopher, 12, and Christian, almost 2. After two years attending the church of St. Mary, they are *my contento* to practice their faith there.



Edith Keppy was attracted to St.



Patrick’s parish by the “steadfastness of my sponsor, Michael Kutzko, who attended church every Sunday. And by the warmth and welcoming of Father Joe

anytime I visited, though he knew I was not Catholic.”

Edith is the proud parent of two daughters, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. After working at De Vry University for twenty years, Edith is now retired.

Kristi Piper has been attending Mass for the past three years.

“Since I got divorced I was praying for a church home, as I had left my husband’s church.” Then Kristi attended Loyola University and started taking classes in Catholic moral theology and Catholic tradition. “I realized that this was the church I wanted to belong to. I was seeing Sister Charlene for spiritual direction and she recommended that I start attending St. Patrick’s.” Kristi had been attending St. Matthew’s for a year. “I felt at home at St. Patrick’s and I love Father Joe!”

Kristi is a native of Champaign-Urbana. She has three sons, aged 18, 21, and 24. “My vocation is a holistic practitioner (hands-on healing) and spiritual director.” This May she will receive her Master’s degree in “Spiritual Direction and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius” from Loyola.



Sandy Shannon and her husband, **Mike**, are parishioners at St. Mary’s, where they teach the Confirmation class.



Amanda Meyer shares, “When my husband and I married, we

made the decision together to have religion in our household. We wanted our children and ourselves to have a church family to grow within.

When I found that I was pregnant with our first son, I finally found the courage to make that leap and join the Church, not only for myself, but for our family. I value tradition and a strong community love within a church and I found both within St. Patrick’s; that is so comforting.”

Originally from Arcola, Amanda grew up in this area. She is an R.N. at Presence Covenant Hospital, currently working in Behavioral Health. “I am a wife and the new mother of a beautiful baby boy. My husband and I are so grateful for him coming into our lives!”

A stay-at-home father of 4, **Anthony Specht** had been



interested in the Catholic Church for quite a while and finally decided, “This is the time.”



Finding the faith, continued

Jana Pedemonte's husband, Mauricio, is from Argentina. They had both begun exploring his Catholic roots, and Jana joined RCIA this year. Since Mauricio has taken a new position in northern Illinois, the couple will be moving when this semester ends.



An Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, **Min Koo** is married and has a young son.



Our new Catholics also include University of Illinois students **Yongjun Kim, Gina Shin, and John Choi.**



Kim



Shin



Choi

Micky Cornelius and his wife, **Melissa**, have been married for 22 years and have a daughter, Andrea, 20. In 2004, Micky retired from the Illinois National Guard after 20 years of service. He has worked for Jen-Weld of Rantoul for 29 years. In February 2013 Melissa had a medical emergency and was treated at Presence Hospital. "It was a challenging time, but everything turned out all right, but I think there was a divine presence also. Later that year at Christmas, we decided to do something different. For Christmas Eve, after family gatherings, we noticed that the times for the services would allow us to attend. We attended the 6:30 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick's and were very impressed and moved by the whole experience. We have kept attending and that has brought us to this special time and place."



Nagele from page 1

the 'Missioner Sustenance Fund,' which is used to support me in mission; it provides for my salary, benefits, and other needs such as orientation, language training, and renewals. In order for donations to be placed in my ministry account they must be clearly designated 'ministry account Susan Nagele.'

"Any donations made without this designation, or any donations made 'in tribute to Susan Nagele' will be placed entirely in the Missioner Sustenance Fund. The report on these donations will be made by Maryknoll Lay Missioners."

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Vocation Prayer

Come, follow me.

Please, God,
help me
to know
my vocation
and
give me
the
grace
and
strength
to
follow it.

We often see only after the fact just how deep and widespread are the effects of a single faithful disciple. It may be only at the death of such a person that the community realizes just how deeply rooted in faith that person was and how far the branches of his or her life reached beyond them into an expanding network of relationships that are now bearing fruit in abundance and sowing seed far into the future.

—Pat Marrin



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **May 12.**



Q & A

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 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, asking for their intercession as they might of Saint Joseph or Saint Patrick, 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.

Quick fixin’s from the kitchen of . . .

Shirley Splittstoesser

Orange Seafood Delight

Recipe makes two servings. Prepare in multiples of two for number needed.

1 orange (seedless navel orange recommended)
 1/2 c imitation or real crab meat, chopped
 1 T (rounded) mayonnaise or ranch dressing
 1 scallion, chopped
 1 T (rounded) fresh parsley, chopped
 1 t lemon juice
 1/8 t garlic salt

Cut orange in half. Remove orange flesh by sliding a spoon between orange sections and the white pith of the peel. Be careful not to cut a hole in the orange peel; it will be the “bowl” for the orange-seafood mixture. Slice

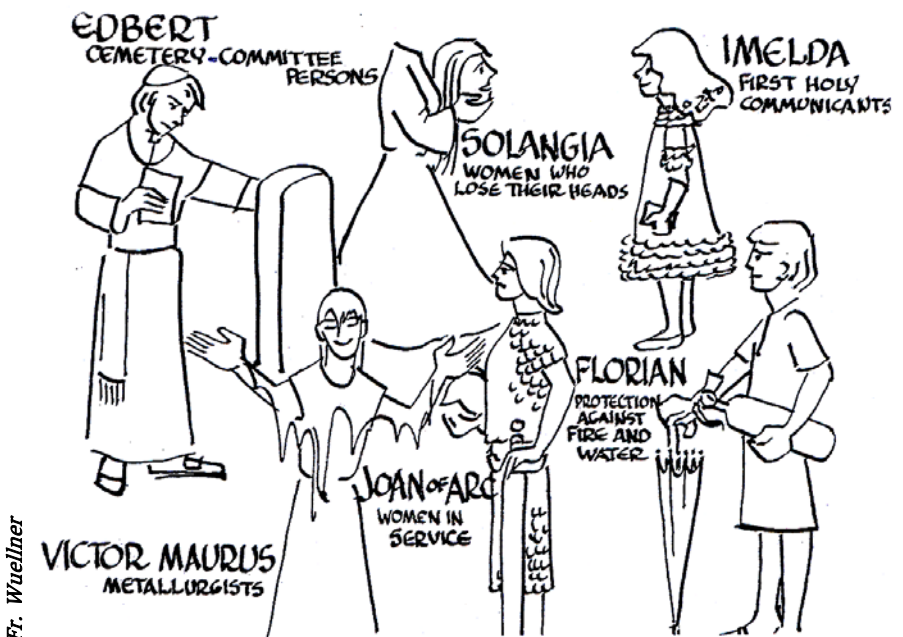


orange sections into bite-sized pieces. Reserve some orange pieces as garnish. To the rest of the orange pieces, add crab meat, mayonnaise, scallion, parsley, lemon juice, and garlic salt; stir. Fill orange-peel bowls with mixture and garnish with reserved orange pieces. (If bowls will not sit upright, carefully slice a thin part off the bottom.)

+ + +

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!

May Patron Saints



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

Holy Cross Happenings

While *In Focus* was on hiatus, our St. Patrick's parishioners enrolled in Holy Cross School were very busy. In February, the school held its annual musical; this year it was "The Little Mermaid, Jr." Justin Smith was Prince Eric, Hannah Niccum was Ursula, Luke Herzog was King Triton, and many other St. Patrick's parishioners rounded out the cast. There were even cameo's by Father Joe, Father Phelps, and Deacon Alex.

In March, the second grade had a Living Wax Museum. During Lent, Holy Cross students made many trips delivering food to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Lent was capped off by the seventh grade, which presented a Living Stations of the Cross.

Easter also saw the end of the third quarter, with many of our students making the three Honors lists at the school. Highest Honors were awarded to Ellen Loftus, Rachel Loftus, Maddy McCoy, Hannah Niccum, and Justin Smith. Receiving High Honors were Lisa Altaner, Austin Ford, Joyson Kakinga, Kaleb Leininger, and A. J. Porter. Receiving Honors were Luke Herzog and Will Moore. Congratulations everyone!

The students are flying through the fourth quarter and can't wait for summer!



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. Submissions are subject to review and editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Associates: Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Camille Goudeseune, Margy Kane, Mary Karten, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Adam and Stephanie Smith, John Towns, and Jim Urban.

Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Judy Fierke, Denise Freidhof, Elizabeth Hendricks, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Adam Smith, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Camille Goudeseune, with page layout by Jim Urban.

Deacon Alex Millar is soon to be called Father!

This is quite the time of transformation: Following our all-parish study of Pope Francis's exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*, we've seen walls torn down and the transition from Lent to Easter. Soon we can add to this list the ordination of a new priest, Deacon Alex Millar. Read on to find out about his thoughts on our new building, and why he is a "State Champ."



Where are you from originally, and what led you to St. Patrick's?

I was born in Urbana and baptized at St. Patrick's by Fr. Remm. Very early on, we moved up to Michigan, where I spent most of my childhood. I returned to attend the U of I and, because I had been baptized at St. Patrick's, went there when I started coming back to the faith.

What are some memorable moments in your journey to the priesthood?

Apart from the amazing experience of my own diaconate ordination, one of the most powerful experiences I had was the first time I served a first Mass for one of our newly ordained priests. Seeing a man suddenly able to consecrate the Eucharist and offer the most holy sacrifice of the Mass drove home the concreteness of the priesthood. There is something powerful in seeing the transformative power of God's grace through ordination, especially when you knew the priest as a seminarian. That priest was Fr. Phelps!

On a lighter side, I recall a class outing. At the St. Joseph's seminarian retreat at the end of each summer, each class is sent out to spend a day together. Three years ago, we had eight in our class and one of my brothers, Deacon Jacob Valle, had a giant twelve-passenger van, so we spent the day riding around the Quad Cities. Because

many people assumed that we were on some sports team, we bought some shoe polish and decorated the van as "State Champs." As we were driving back to Nazareth House, the radiator on the van exploded and we were stuck on the side of I-80 for an hour until Msgr. Brownsey could pick us up in the vocations van. But, nothing bonds a group like difficulty, and we were known as the State Champs from that day on—even by Bishop Jenky!

How about one or two from your time at St. Patrick's?

From spending a summer here to MC'ing the Easter Vigil, I have had many blessings, such as helping to chaperone the CREW mission trip to Memphis five years ago. They were the first group of high school students that I have gotten to watch grow up; they will always hold a special place in my heart.

You will be celebrating our very last Mass in the "old" church shortly after your ordination. Tell us a little bit about the significance of that.

Fr. Phelps noted that this last Mass in the current sanctuary takes place on the anniversary of the dedication of the existing church building. What a poetic linkup of beginnings and endings—my new life as a priest begins just as the building prepares to enter into a new existence!

What are your hopes for our parish community as we transition first to our temporary, and then into our new worship space? Above all, I hope that we will fall ever more in love with our Crucified and Risen Lord. In this Easter Season we have renewed the covenant with our God and received anew the grace of God's love and mercy—both of which are memorialized in the holy sacrifice of the

Mass. Perhaps this will let the parish grow in appreciation for Christ present in the Eucharist, and the great gift we have in participating in the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb as a family. After all, the Eucharist is the manna for our new exodus towards the Promised Land of Heaven.

What are your hopes for the Catholic Church in general?

Naturally, that Holy Mother Church will grow in holiness and convert the world to the God who is love. At this point, 50 years out from the Second Vatican Council, the Church has come to a sufficient self-knowledge to present to the world (1) the hope instilled in us through St. John Paul II; (2) the faith clarified to us through the teaching of Pope Benedict XVI; and (3) the love and mercy so emphasized by Pope Francis. As long as we continually return to the Eucharistic Lord, Jesus will give us the grace to be the Light of the World.

Do you know where you will be assigned, or have any thoughts on your future direction in the priesthood?

Fortunately, the promise of obedience means that I don't need to worry much about this right now!