

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpatuurbana.org

February 2016

Have a Mercy-Full Lent

Pope Francis has announced a Holy Year of Mercy this year, and what better time to reflect on mercy than in the season of Lent?

Are you in need of God's mercy? Well, sure, we all are! We are all in need of Jesus as our savior. He came to pave a path home to our merciful God and to encourage us to take that path. He gave us the sacraments to set us on our way and tend us as we go. In particular, he gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to help us when we get lost and want to turn again to God.

God's mercy is also seen in the way he helps us to deal with the bad attitudes that we can't seem to change on our own. Is there someone that you find hard to love? Ask Jesus for help. Are you finding it difficult to forgive yourself for sins of the past? Just ask him.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs." Is there someone who needs your mercy? Perhaps there is someone who needs your forgiveness. Be merciful, and offer forgiveness. Perhaps there is someone with whom you've had a misunderstanding. Be merciful, and try to clear the air. Perhaps there is someone from whom you've just drifted apart. Be merciful, and put some fresh time and energy into the relationship.

Think about the people you know who have slipped away from the Church, or maybe stomped out the door in anger and pain. Can you reach out to them to let them know that our merciful God would love to have them back? You might simply let your own faith show, telling them that your relationship to God and the Church are important to you. You might invite them to see our beautiful new church, and pray that they remember the faith and fellowship that they once had.

Our Lenten practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving have their roots in mercy. The word "alms" comes from a Greek word meaning "mercy." When we meet the material needs of others, we are acting in mercy. When we fast from something that we may have wanted and offer it to others, we are acting



in mercy. When we pray for the needs of ourselves and others, especially the needs that are too big or too deep for us to solve on our own, we are acting in mercy.

Mercy is a stream running through everything that God does for us. God's loving care washes over us always. As we learn from God how to live better lives, we learn to be merciful.

Blessed are the merciful!

Receive the Gift of Healing



Twice each year, in Advent and again during Lent, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered to the people of St. Patrick's. Prior to Vatican II this sacrament was called Extreme Unction, usually referred to as the Last Rites, and was given to Catholics at the end of life. Following Vatican II, the focus of this sacrament is rather on being a source of grace, strength, and healing for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit at any age or time of life.

The Catholic Answers website offers the following explanation: "The anointing of the sick conveys several graces and imparts gifts of strengthening in the Holy Spirit against anxiety or discouragement, and conveys peace and fortitude. These gifts flow from the atoning death of Jesus Christ, for this was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'"

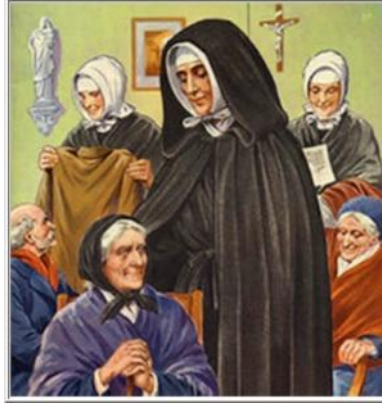
On Tuesday, February 23, the anointing of the sick will be offered during a Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the church. The liturgy will include scripture readings and music provided by instrumentalists, cantor, and choir.

Gift of Healing continued on page 3.

Senior Group Adopts a New Name—And Patron Saint

The renewal of St. Patrick's Seniors group began in August 2014 as part of the general renewal of the charism of parish ministries. The name the group adopted as a transitional title was New Horizons Seniors. During that time, the seniors group became very active.

Some of the monthly presentations included a talks by several different speakers. Anne Marie Brummer of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at St. John Newman Center spoke about the group's mission. Father Joseph Baker spoke about his experience at the seminary in Maryland. The seniors made a successful road trip to the Cathedral and the Franciscan Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois. Father Sauppe of St. Mary in Westville addressed the issue of light pollution. And yes, they enjoyed a Christmas get-together.



During the editing of the parish's ministry booklet, the question of the group's name was considered. After much prayer, discernment, and invoking the Holy Spirit, a new name has been decided upon: the St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Group.

St. Jeanne Jugan is the patroness of the elderly, a special saint for us gray- and white-haired folks, who was canonized by Pope Benedict

XVI on October 11, 2009. In about 1846 she founded a community to care for the elderly poor. It has now spread across the world, known as the Little Sisters of the Poor. A quick Google search will reveal a great deal about this community of religious sisters.

As part of our deepening spiritual life, we ought to study the lives of saints and take up what we learn about them. The name St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Group may not slip easily off the tongue, but it does provide seniors with an active and compassionate patroness as they pray for a deepening spirituality with an emphasis on our Catholic faith at St. Patrick's.

As the mission of the SJJSG continues to unfold, members look forward to continued camaraderie and fellowship.

St. Jeanne Jugan, pray for us!

Food, Fun, and Fellowship: K of C Events for Spring

On Sunday, February 7, the Knights of Columbus will serve their annual "Super Bowl Breakfast" in the parish center after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses. The cost will be a "free will offering" or donation. Come to support your favorite league championship team by choosing your entrée. Will team Omelets win again or is it the turn of team Pancakes?

On Fridays from February 12 to March 18, the Knights, joined by St. Mary's parishioners, will prepare Lenten dinners, which will be served in St. Patrick's parish center. Come to enjoy a meal from 6 to 8 p.m. Details on menu and cost will be announced in the weekly bulletins.

Finally, on Saturday, April 30, the Knights will present their annual dinner and entertainment for the women of St. Patrick's, "Ladies Knight Out," in the parish center. Come to share in laughter, a good dinner, and friendship.



Refugees Live in Hope



Charles Dickens' classic *A Tale of Two Cities* begins with the words that describe every age: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Newspaper columnists on the first day of the New Year offered their projections for 2016 in the same fashion, many of them heavy on dire assessments of the political scene and global threats coming to a head.

The birth of Jesus offered a quiet yet decisive affirmation of hope in what, even for the evangelists, might have seemed the worst of times. A fearful, violent world in lockdown under Roman rule, mockingly proclaimed as *Pax Romana* by the conquerors, gave little reason for optimism. Survival was the norm for occupied Palestine, caught in the overlapping surveillance and control of Rome, King Herod, and the corrupt Temple establishment.

Into this vortex, a poor couple welcomed their child into the world in a stable on the outskirts of tiny Bethlehem. Not long after, they fled to Egypt seeking safe haven from Herod's threat of death to their son and the security to build a new life in a different country. In their flight they model today's refugees, who seek no more than this. But for all their fears and daily concerns, Jesus is among us now; his life, death, and resurrection affirm that God holds us all in the heart of divine mercy.

Quick Answers About the Expanded Church

Who are the saints in the three new windows above the meditation chapel?

St. Agnes, St. John and Jesus at the Last Supper, and St. John Vianney



Who are the saints in the new meditation chapel? St. Francis of Assisi, St. Josephine Bakhita, Bl. Oscar Romero, the Virgin Mary, St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Therese of Lisieux with her parents, Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin. They are from different times and different continents.

I can't get up the step to the meditation chapel. Is there another way?

Yes! There's a ramp off to the right, just past the first pillar.

Tell me again the significance of the stars above the crucifix?

There are 42 stars, one for each of the families that founded our parish.

Can I get a copy of the new hymnal so I can pray the hymns and readings at home?

It's called *Gather*, Third Edition, and it's available at giamusic.com. The pew edition comes with or without the Sunday readings. The choir edition includes the vocal parts, but not the accompaniment.

How do you get from the church to the parish center without going outside?

The buildings are connected now. From the church, at the bottom of the stairs go through the door to your right, and you'll find yourself in the lobby of the parish center. From the parish center, head for the staff offices and take the hallway to the right just before you reach them.

What are the names of the two big meeting spaces? The main hall in the parish center is still called the main hall—or sometimes the social hall. The new room below the church has been named Trinity Hall.

Got more questions about the new church? Send them to info-cusstpats@gmail.com, and we'll try to answer them in future issues of *In Focus*.

Vietnamese Community Welcomes the Year of the Monkey

The Vietnamese Association in Champaign-Urbana will host a Vietnamese New Year celebration in the main hall of St. Patrick's parish center on Saturday, February 13. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m., with a program of entertainment to follow.

The children will have the opportunity to pay respect to the elders. They will also receive the traditional Li Xi (Lucky Money).

Happy New Year!



Gift of Healing

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Ushers will be available to assist as needed. Participants will be seated in every other pew so that our priests can confer the sacrament where each person is seated. Ministers of Holy Communion will also go to each individual in the pews. In this way, people with mobility issues may remain where they are comfortable, with ministers coming to them.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the Mass and to receive the sacrament of anointing, which is made available to those with current or chronic physical or emotional illness, impending surgery, chronic pain, infirmities of age, or simply in need of emotional healing.

What Are You *Not* Doing for Lent?

As Ash Wednesday rolls around, it's inevitable that in a conversation about



Lent a fellow Catholic will ask, "And what are *you* doing for Lent?" You may mumble, "Hmm, I guess I'll give up chocolate, or maybe eating between meals, or beer, or something like that." Why do we go through this ritual

every year? Is it because Catholic practice suggests that by giving up or depriving ourselves of these enjoyable pursuits we are nurturing our spiritual life, learning to be self-sacrificing as Jesus taught us by his death? We do know this to be true.

But many of us will admit that our good intentions for Lent fall by the wayside by the second week or sooner, and many of us who do faithfully stick by our good intentions may not feel any more improved spiritually by Easter Sunday. (This is not to say that those of us who do make it a Lenten practice to attend weekday Mass, make the Stations of the Cross, go to Confession, or visit the Blessed Sacrament don't receive immediate spiritual benefits!)

Another way to approach Lenten sacrifices may be to take an inward look and reflect on the bad habits or behaviors that we continue to let be a part of our persona. Maybe it's time for a little personal pruning on our part. If we make our minds to do this, we may be pleasantly surprised at the new buds of growth we will see on our pruned "tree" on Easter morning.

Immediately following the Mass, all are invited to enjoy a soup luncheon in the parish hall. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs. Anyone needing transportation to the event should notify the parish office (367-2665) so arrangements can be made.

So, Where's the Restroom?

St. Patrick's church is bigger and better than ever, yet it remains warm and welcoming. Do you know where everything you might need is located? If you haven't searched its nooks and crannies, here are some important locations.

There are three restrooms located at various places in the church. One is just inside the south (Main St.) entrance to the church. Two others are located inside the new east entrance. There is yet another in the servers' sacristy, but that one has not yet been readied for use.

Paper cups have been placed in all of the restrooms, and there are drinking fountains for adults and children beside the restrooms inside the new east entrance, at the foot of the stairs.

Because the shrine has a step up, there is a ramp through a corridor to the right of the shrine.

Mobility impaired parishioners may be seated in the first pew in each of the four sections of pews. There are also cutouts for wheelchairs behind each of the side sections and along and behind the main seating areas.

There are two handicap parking spaces on the west side of the church, near the south entrance, and many handicap spaces in the new lot. If you use the new east doors to the church, there is a spacious elevator at the bottom of the stairs in a nook on the right; it will safely deliver you up to the church or down to the new Trinity Hall.

The defibrillator is on the wall near the south entrance.

The crock of holy water, with a spigot used to fill personal containers, is now located in the new gathering space at the top of the east stairs, outside the doors leading into the

church. Also there are the baskets for the weekly bulletin and the monthly issues of *In Focus*; just now you can also find there the 2016 calendars, memento cards of the church rededication, etc. Across the gathering space is a door to the family room with a large window providing a view of the Mass for anyone who would find it useful to have separate seating. The door beside the family room leads to the vesting sacristy, where priests robe for Mass.

Our beautiful baptismal font is located just inside the inner doors to the church. On the east wall, above



the baptismal font, our beloved *Rising Christ* has been mounted. A room for spiritual direction and for receiving the sacrament of reconciliation is beside the font, in the north corner.

Have you noticed the beautiful wall sconces holding candles on either side of the east and south doors inside the church? These are Dedication Candles, which will be lit for

Christmas and Easter. The wall candles in the meditation chapel on either side of Mary, our mother, will remain lit.

Take time to walk around to view and appreciate the creation of such a thing of beauty to glorify our Lord, and the time, talent, and treasure of so many people that made it possible!

Please remember our young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on February 2.

Almighty God,
you are the Father of us all.
You created the human family
to live forever with you
and to praise your glory.
Open our ears
to hear your voice
so that we may return to you
with sincere repentance
for our sins.
Teach us to see in you
our loving Father,
full of compassion for all
who call to you for help.
Restore your gift of salvation,
which alone brings us
true happiness,
so that we may all return
to our Father's house
and share your table,
now and forever.
Amen!



in our parish library

Due to the relocation of materials and offices necessitated by construction, the parish library is now unavailable to users. Soon 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's Participates in Interfaith Alliance



Ecumenical relations always begin with friendship. The IACC is an organization that fosters collaboration and communion among its members and with the community at large.

Last year, St. Patrick's participated in the organizing process of the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County (IACC); it was formally founded in October 2015.

Its by-laws state that it is "a coalition of leadership of the religious communities of Champaign County." Its mission statement asserts that the IACC exists to "seek the welfare of the city (Jeremiah 29:7) [that recognizes] the common spiritual ground of its members while celebrating the diversity of their traditions." Its purpose includes "the development of a voice to speak to the community out of the common religious commitment to justice, peace, and mercy."

The values of the organization are as follows:

- ◆ Fostering mutual understanding and respect
- ◆ Including all religious perspectives
- ◆ Exercising stewardship through communication and the coordination of our resources
- ◆ Encouraging dialogue in order to appreciate the unique contributions of various perspectives

A broad variety of religious and social justice organizations participate: Daily Bread, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Mennonites, Methodist, Presbyterian, YMCA (U of I), and many others.

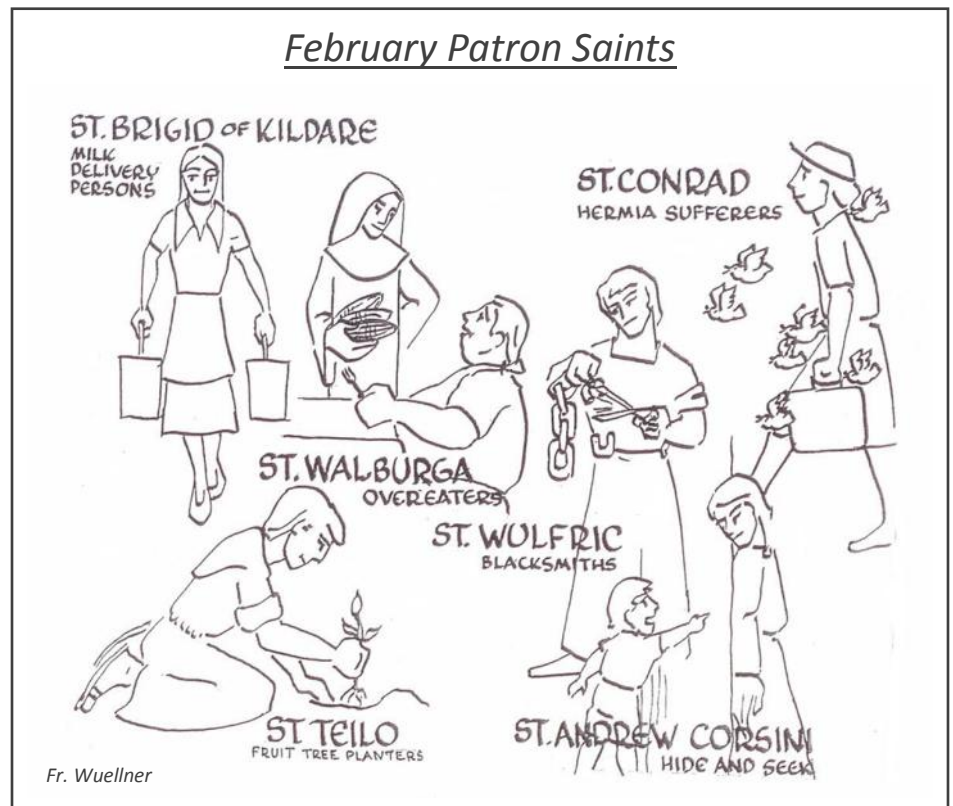
The elected Council is composed of representatives from the Baha'i, Faith in Place, Metanoia Centers for Innovation, New Covenant Fellowship, Sinai Temple, and St. Patrick Catholic Church, Urbana.

The religious community of our county is consciously involved in many of the social justice projects in the county: food insecurity (47 projects in our area), environment, community relations, gun violence (116 shootings in 2015), drug addiction (15 deaths in 2015), immigration, school dropout, immigration, homeless, housing, and much more.

In 2015 St. Patrick's was honored and blessed by visits and partic-

ipation in some Masses by members of CIMIC (local Mosque) and the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana in 2015. On January 17, we welcomed 20 youths and adults from the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of St. Joseph. Now we are planning for an upcoming visit by a group from the Baha'i Center in Urbana. We hope to visit those congregations in return, along with other religious communities.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org) or Luis Cuza (luis@cuza.us).



To be holy, it is not necessary to be bishops, priests, or religious. ... We are all called to be holy! ... It is by living life and offering one's own Christian witness in our everyday occupations that we are called to become holy, each person in the condition and in the state of life in which he finds himself. ... Every state of life leads to sanctity, if lived in communion with the Lord and in the service of one's brethren.

— Pope Francis, Nov. 19, 2014

Why Catholic Schools Week?

Where can our children go to learn more about their faith, serve others in their community, and receive an excellent education? Each year, during Catholic Schools Week (January 30 through February 7), we are reminded that this place is our local Catholic schools.

At our local Catholic schools, students learn about their faith on a daily basis through classroom instruction, morning prayers, and weekly Masses. Catholic school students serve their community by donating to local soup kitchens, visiting the elderly in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, and helping those who are less fortunate. Finally, Catholic schools give our students an education that prepares them for high school, college, and beyond.



To kick off this year's Catholic Schools Week, St. Patrick's will host a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30. Tickets are just \$5 each, and the proceeds will go to support the technology fund at Holy Cross School. Later that week, everyone is invited to attend an open house at Holy Cross School on Wednesday, February 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The open



house is intended for anyone that is interested in learning more about Holy Cross School. Finally, if you would like to see the amazing talent that our Catholic students have to offer, head over to Holy Cross on Friday, February 5, for the annual talent show. The show starts at 12:45 p.m. and will conclude with the always entertaining dance routine by the Holy Cross teachers.

At the High School of Saint Thomas More, each day of Catholic Schools Week will focus on gratitude and celebration of STM students, their parents, the faculty and staff of STM, as well as alumni and benefactors. The week will kick off with an all-school adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On Thursday, the senior class of STM will receive a special blessing at the all-school Mass and then head out to serve in the community.



As you can see, Catholic Schools Week is filled with many reminders of what makes our Catholic schools communities of faith, knowledge, and service. If you are a parent looking for a school for your child, or if you would like to see what is happening at our schools, I invite you to call Holy Cross (217/356-9521) or any of the other local Catholic schools and schedule a tour.

SPECIAL WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Father Joe has asked to have seven Eucharistic ministers at all Masses to facilitate Communion of the faithful. At present, Diane Wilhelm says she is short two people for each of the noon Masses. If you can help, please contact Diane (cell: 630/292-3028 or wilhelmd@earthlink.net).
- Some parishioners are setting up for more than one weekend Mass a month. Two new volunteers are hoped for, one to set up once a month for the 5:00 Mass and another for the noon Mass. Interested? Contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu). If you can set up for one 7:00 a.m. Mass every week, please do contact Mary Lou!
- Daily Mass can get your day off to a good start. Helping to distribute Communion to those who come would make it even better. If you can serve as a Eucharistic minister at Mass even one day a week, please contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu).

Our Bookkeeper Friend, Diane Gordon, Is Moving On

Dianne Husby-Gordon joined the staff at St. Patrick's as bookkeeper in October 2008. In some ways that seems like only yesterday, but the seamlessness with which she blended into the life of our parish also makes it seem much longer. As she prepares to leave her current position in order to spend more time with her children, In Focus caught up with her to get some thoughts about her time here. We hope and pray for an amazing future for Dianne and her beautiful family!

For those who haven't gotten a chance to know you over the years, can you give us a little background information about yourself?

I went to high school in the suburbs and came to the U of I for college. I got my degree in Engineering and then went back to Chicago to work for IBM's educational division. From there I took a job with a company called NovaNET (which was later purchased by Pearson Education), which also designed and sold educational software to schools. That's how I ended up in C-U.

I never expected to stay in the area; I took six-month leases on apartments for almost 10 years before I finally admitted I was a townie. I met my husband during that time. Rather than move with Pearson to Arizona when they closed shop in Champaign, I chose to stay near my husband's family and find another career path.

What brought you to us?

I was in a craft club with Suzanne D'Andria, a parishioner and former religious ed coordinator. One night she mentioned that St. Pat's was looking for someone, and I submitted my résumé the next day. I really didn't expect to get a call for an interview, as my background was pretty far from working in a religious setting. But I am so thankful that I did!

How did your expectations compare with the reality of working here when you accepted the position?

I really had no idea what to expect working at a church after working



for big corporations for so long. One of the first things I remember was going to a staff meeting the second or third day I was on staff. There was a short prayer service to get started, and I thought, "Oh no! What have I gotten into!" But over the years I have really come to appreciate those moments of quiet and reflection before staff meetings as we come together to plan our ministries at St. Pat's.

I've also been surprised at how much of a family the staff and some parishioners have become for me throughout the years. It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to start our family with the support of so many amazing parents and grandparents. The support and love we've encountered has been overwhelming!

What's next for you and your family?

Since coming to St. Pat's, my husband and I have become foster and adoptive parents. We were blessed to have our daughter, Rory, come to our family in 2012 and then became her forever parents in 2014. We have had seven other foster children since then, all of whom were short-term placements. And we have had one foster son, Milan, since August 2014, who will be going home to his birth parents later this summer. We hope to have another long-term placement (and hopefully adoption) in the future.

Rory and Milan have a variety of special needs so I have learned a lot about that world since 2012. A

group of friends that my husband lovingly refers to as "The Mom-fia" started a local 501(c)3 organization called CU Able this past year. Once I leave St. Pat's I look forward to being home and available for my kids and husband and to spend more time with CU Able advocating for local families who have kids with special needs.

If you had asked me if I ever in my life thought I would be a stay-at-home mom, up until 2012 I could have unequivocally said, "NO WAY!" Now I can't wait! I suspect that some additional college courses related to special ed are also in my future.

What will you miss most about working St. Pat's (and do you promise to visit)?

I will miss the camaraderie of the staff and probably just general "adult" time as I move to being a stay-at-home mom. I will also miss all the great parenting advice, life advice, and life stories from parishioners. St. Pat's is a really wonderful parish and there are so many interesting people who go to church here—all with really unique stories and histories. I will miss meeting the new families and talking with the other parishioners.

Do I promise to visit? I think I might arrange a drop-in now and then!

Any final thoughts you'd like to share?

I want to thank all of the people I've met through my work at St. Pat's. It has been my pleasure serving the parishioners here. It is truly a vibrant, healthy, loving parish with so many different types of people, cultures, backgrounds. Learn from each other, embrace each other, and continue to grow this amazing community!

Thank you again, for all of the support you've given us as our family has grown and as I make this career transition to being a full-time mom. I couldn't have asked for a better place to spend the last eight years!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

Elizabeth Hendricks

Crock Pot Curried Cauliflower and Sweet Potato

2 c cubed sweet potato
2 c cauliflower flowerets
1 c chopped onion
1 T curry powder
2 cloves minced garlic
1 T brown sugar
1 t salt
1 14-oz can diced tomatoes
1 can lite coconut milk
1 can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed, or ½ c dry red lentils, rinsed



Combine everything in a crock pot. Cover and set dial to High for 5-6 hours (or Low for longer). When the vegetables are tender, serve over rice (brown rice is especially good), with sautéed tofu cubes or leftover cooked chicken. This dish freezes well.

* * *

*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!*

A Hymn of Our Own

If you were at the Rededication Mass, you may have noticed a hymn that was written for the occasion by our former Music Director, Chris Ángel. Chris commented that it was meaningful to write music when he can still remember the voices that would sing it. He named the hymn tune HOGAN, in honor of Fr. Joe.



For the hymn text, he turned to his friend and collaborator, Adam Tice, a Mennonite hymn writer from northern Indiana. They met at a Hymn Society meeting about 10 years ago and have often written together. When our present Music Director, Laura Theby, commissioned the hymn, she asked them to tailor it to the St. Patrick community, thinking of our commitment to social justice and outreach, music, and prayer. Adam also had in

mind the outline of the Catholic liturgy: word, Eucharist, and sending forth. Here is Adam's text in full:

Your word, O Christ, has shaped your church.
From age to age you make us one.
May we so speak that those who hear will come to know the Word of God.
Your hands, O Christ, have fed your church.
From age to age you make us one.
May we so serve that those in need will come to know the hands of God.
Your heart, O Christ, has held your church.
From age to age you make us one.
May we so love that those we meet will come to know the love of God.
Your way, O Christ, has led your church.
From age to age you make us one.
May we so live that those who see will come to know the way of God.

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 info-cusstpats@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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The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **February 14.**

Vocation Prayer

Lord, I look to you to know how best I may serve you in serving your people. Many options appeal to me, and I am unable to discern which would please you more than any other.

With the young Samuel
I pray,
"Speak, Lord,
your servant is listening."



Happy Valentine's Day
from the Communications Committee!