

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

January 2016

Our gift, wrapped

Some people are artists when it comes to gift wrap. They make sure that the paper, the ribbon, and the envelope on the card match. They wrap a baseball mitt in baseball paper and use a tape measure as the ribbon on a gift for a sewing enthusiast. They use an odd-shaped box to make it harder for the recipient to guess what's in it. Is this all a little silly? After all, isn't the gift the important thing? Yes, the gift is the important thing, but the wrapping has value too. It gives beauty. It provides joy and maybe a little mystery. And, mainly, it shows a great deal of loving care.

At St. Patrick's church this month, we've opened a wonderful gift, and what a job the wrappers have done! Hundreds of parishioners and workers have contributed ideas and funds all through the planning process. Hundreds of people have brought their prayers and their skills to the work. Some have contributed tears, sleepless nights, and a few gray hairs to the process. And behind it all is God's work, giving strength, creativity, vision, and patience.

How does it make you feel? Perhaps you are grateful to God for

all the work that has come to fruition with his help. Perhaps you are relieved that the work is almost over.



Perhaps you are a bit disappointed about a change that didn't go as you hoped. Perhaps you are proud of your parish community that has accomplished such a huge task. Perhaps you are a little wistful about a change in a place that has meant a great deal to you and your family. Perhaps you are looking forward to showing the

church to someone who hasn't been to church in a long time. Perhaps

you are looking forward to seeing future generations receive the blessing of what we have accomplished.

But the church itself isn't the gift, it's the wrapping of the gift. Like marvelous gift wrap, it provides beauty, joy, mystery, and shows a great deal of God's loving care. Like all gifts, it comes from God. And the gift that we are unwrapping is God's son. Jesus, born into human history and living among us. Jesus, born into a family. Jesus, come to teach us the love of God, our Father. Jesus, reconciling us to one another and to our Father. Jesus, living on in his body, the Church, and wherever people gather. Jesus, teaching us still in the scriptures. Jesus, feeding us still in the Eucharist.

If the gift wrap fills us with so many emotions, just imagine what will happen when we encounter Jesus, the gift!



Parishioners celebrate rededication

On a warm December afternoon, parishioners were lined up outside the new church entrance as early as 3:30 p.m. for the 5:00 p.m. Rededi-



cation Mass. Everyone was excited but patiently waited for the doors to open at 4:00 p.m. When Father Joe Hogan opened the doors, he stayed to welcome everybody and shake their hands. The parishioners walked in wide-eyed with great expectation and were delighted by all they saw.

The choirs, directed by Laura Theby, led the congregation in singing. The sound was so full and rich that one imagined thousands of voices rising in a huge cathedral. The rededication ceremony was as impressive as Father Joe predicted. It was inspiring to watch Bishop Jenky pour holy oil on the new altar and spread it around with his hands. A group of parishioners then cleaned it off and put on the altar cloth. Others brought flowers and candles. Altar servers lit candles around the church while the priests were anointing the walls. The smell of incense and the sprinkling of holy water engaged our senses.

After the ceremony concluded, the joyful crowd spilled out of the church and down the steps, or took the elevator, to the new Trinity Hall in the lower level. Michael's Catering had set up two long buffet tables and two bars. There was also a serving table and bar in the old

parish hall where overflow parishioners had watched the Mass on a large screen. Finger foods included steamed vegetable dumplings with five different sauces, artichoke and spinach rangoons with marinara sauce, and zoo animal chicken nuggets. There were fresh fruits and vegetables, assorted cheeses and crackers, and cookies. The bars served soda, beer, and wines.

Another surprise of this evening was the new round tables and chairs. The Women of St. Patrick donated \$18,670 from their treasury to purchase 30 round tables and 250 sturdy chairs. This money came from Cellar to Garret and Christmas Cookie and Basket sales. So pat yourself on the back, all of you who contributed or bought items at these sales, because you have personally furnished Trinity Hall.

Many parishioners were drawn back to the church to get a closer look at their new home. Especially beautiful are the wooden altar,

ambo, and chairs made by Tom Skaggs. Parishioners were also drawn to the meditation chapel, located in the former sanctuary. The hangings there were created by Pat Mayer, using patterns and



images from our parish, including photographs of parishioners' hands, sacramental clothing, family Bibles, and other items of meaning and significance. Mary is in the center, surrounded by St. Francis of Assisi, St. Josephine Bakhita, Blessed Oscar Romero, St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Saints Louis, Zelie and Thérèse.

During Bishop Jenky's homily, he said he especially enjoyed churches like St. Patrick, where you could hear babies and see children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly all together. It is the people who make the church. Father Hogan's most fervent desire came true. St. Patrick's parishioners have grown in faith, even as the church has grown in size.



A day and place of beauty

The Rededication Mass on December 9 was an event filled with beauty: the beauty of our community, the beauty of our church, and the beauty of the rites that we used to dedicate it to God.

Bishop Daniel Jenky presided. With the bishop in the sanctuary were Fr. Joe Hogan and two previous pastors of St. Patrick, Fr. George Remm and Fr. Doug Hennessy. Also present were our current parochial vicar, Fr. Joseph Baker; our previous parochial vicar, Fr. Joel Phelps; former parishioner, Fr. Alexander Millar; and our two deacons, Cliff Maduzia and David Zola. Many other priests and deacons from the vicariate attended as well.

About 900 people were present, filling the 600 seats in the church and overflowing to the parish hall, where they were able to participate in the Mass via a live video feed. Some of the rites were carried all the way to the hall, such as the lighting of candles, the blessing with holy water, and the incense. Those in the hall were also escorted to the church to receive Holy Communion.

The church seemed to come alive as we gathered for Mass, with

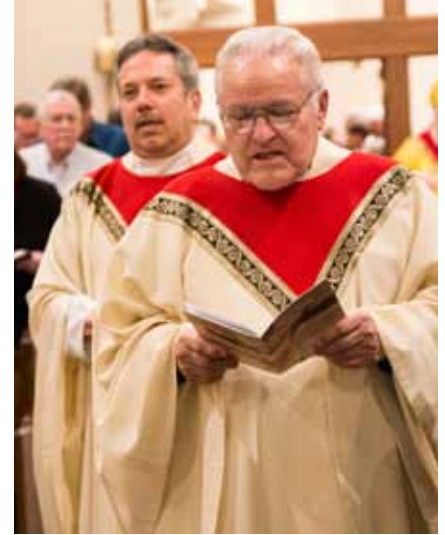


sounds of excited people and music. A team of Greeters directed those with special needs and roles to appropriate seating and made everyone welcome.

Music Director Laura Theyby led a choir of 40 singers along with cantors, trumpets, and flute. The new organ, completed the day before the rededication, was heard for the first time.

The primary symbols of a dedication are light, oil, and incense.

The lighting of candles reminds us of the presence of Christ



the Jubilee Year of Mercy, begun just the day before. The bishop urged us all to be receivers of God's mercy



our light. The altar and the walls of the church are anointed with oil to set them apart for sacred use. The incense is sign of our prayers rising to God, and of the presence of God, as much a part of us as our breath. The celebration of the Mass itself is also central to the rite, as we hear the Word of God proclaimed and celebrate the Eucharist, putting the church to the use for which it was dedicated.

Bishop Jenky, in his homily, spoke of the joy and meaning of the day. He also addressed the beginning of

and to extend that mercy to others. Pope Francis was with us in spirit with a special blessing for our parish on this day.

In the months to come, we will continue to explore and experience our new space. We will find many pockets of unexpected beauty. We will learn to use the sound system, organ, lighting, and other resources to best advantage. And we will continue to find reasons to be grateful to God for the good work that he does in our parish community!

St. Patrick's SVDP food pantry helps feed our hungry neighbors

In their paper "For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food" the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us: "Every person has a right to life and to the material and spiritual support required to live a truly human existence. The right to a truly human life logically leads to the right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity." (Paragraph 1)

What does hunger look like in Champaign County? St. Vincent de Paul food pantry volunteers will tell you that the face of hunger is old and it is young. It is multiracial and multiethnic. It is a family struggling to make ends meet while the breadwinner makes minimum wage. It is a single person out of work. It is a grandmother caring for her grandchildren. It is the face of Christ,



From October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015, the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry served 6,077 total households. In that total the pantry served 22,550 individuals and of those, 9,881 were children 18 years of age and younger. This work of mercy could not be done except

for the generous monetary support from members of our parish community.

Food comes into the pantry from the donation baskets at the doors of the church but that, clearly, is not enough to serve the number of people who come in need of food assistance. Food is purchased weekly from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank and once a month Midwest Food Bank comes with free food for the pantry. Local businesses such as Panera Bread donate their surplus. St. Patrick's parish garden plot and local farmers share the fruits of the field in season. Combined, the loaves and fishes stretch to feed the multitude.

All of this is possible because of the loving hearts, willing hands, and dedication to the gospel of St. Patrick's faith community and the generosity of so many others. Thanks be to God!

To donate to the SVDP Food Pantry, put a check (made out to SVDP) or cash in an envelope clearly marked for SVDP Food Pantry and place it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass or bring it to the parish office. You can also make a donation on-line by credit card. Go to the parish website (stpatsurbana.org) and click on the "On-Line Giving" box. There you will find instructions for setting up an account or making a one-time donation. SVDP is in the drop-down menu as one of the options for giving.



Q: In what ways could we observe the Year of Mercy, other than by visiting a designated church?

A: The Year of Mercy (Jubilee) is not meant to be an abstract idea but a concrete practice of love, centering on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

As individuals, families, and parishes, what would it take for us



to forgive debts or to lend to one another without interest? The forgiveness of debt speaks also to the sins we commit, as we learn in praying the Our Father at every Mass.

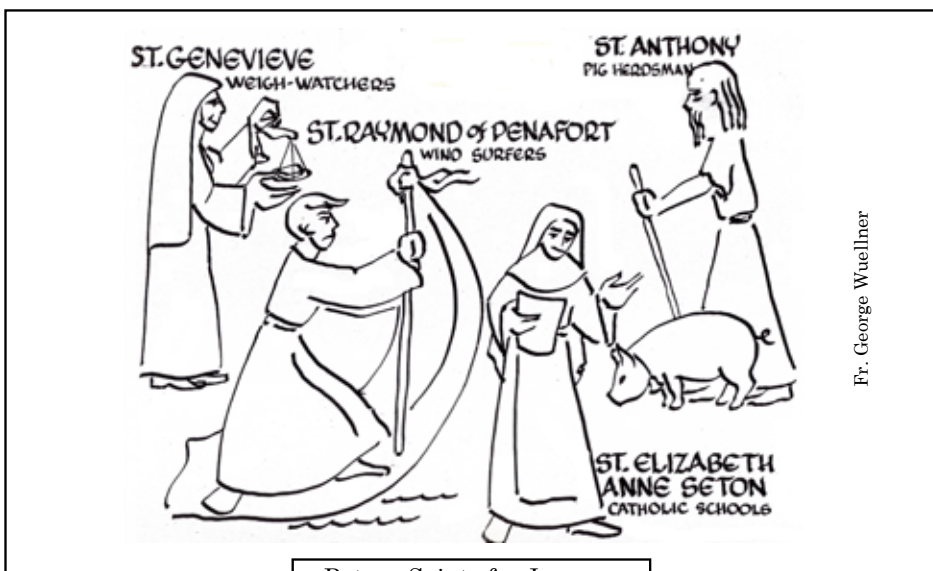
The practice of jubilee is an opportunity for us to cease sinning, to accept forgiveness and to forgive one another as we have been forgiven by God. Who are those against whom we have harbored resentments? The Year of Mercy can become an opportunity to forgive 70 times seven times.

This is a time to renew our commitment to Christian community, deepening our ties to fellow disciples. It is a time for us, as individuals and as communities, to begin discerning areas in our lives in which we need conversion. In what ways do you see an opportunity to observe the Year of Mercy?

In so many ways, the Year of Mercy presents us with a joyful opportunity to practice mercy, a sure sign that we are God's children.

* * *

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



Fr. George Wuellner

Patron Saints for January

Box 84425-80100
Mombasa, Kenya
nagelesusan@gmail.com
<http://healthministryinkenya.blogspot.com/>

December 2015

To all the good people of St. Patrick's,

Greetings from Mombasa, Kenya, where the seasons are opposite from Illinois and we are melting with the heat! I hear the first snow has fallen in Urbana and winter has arrived. May you appreciate the coolness of your season when you think of our plight!

Papa Fransiska, as the Pope is affectionately known here, has just completed his visit to Kenya. He declined a state dinner with the authorities but made sure that he met with the residents of one of the biggest informal settlements (slums) in the capital city. He met with leaders of different faith communities including Muslims, Hindus, and Protestant Christians. He challenged Catholic religious leaders by telling them "if they came to religious life through the window instead of the front door, then they should exit and go get married."

The last day, youth filled the national stadium and a young man and woman identified corruption and tribalism as their



Susan giving a presentation on sexual assault to community health workers in Mombasa Kenya

biggest problems. He replied to the former by saying, "It's sweet like sugar. We like it and then we end up in a poor way. So much sugar we become diabetic. When we put a bribe in our pocket we destroy ourselves. Don't develop a taste for the sugar called corruption."

Regarding tribalism he said, "If you don't discuss with each other you're going to have divisions like dust, like the worms." Then he asked them to stand and hold each other's hands. "Fighting tribalism isn't just raising our hands. We must carry out work against this. Your ears are to listen as you

open your hearts."

According to him, the worst sin of all is **indifference**, and God will vomit out the lukewarm (Revelations). "Start now yourself because if you don't start, the next person won't start."

It has been a good year for us in the Archdiocese. We received a new archbishop on February 21st, Martin Kivuva, a priest from this diocese. I have continued my schedule of visiting various clinics and giving medical education presentations to update the staff. I have more requests than I am able to manage, and the traffic jams have become horrendous. One day I waited five hours to cross the ferry after doing a clinic only be 30 minutes from where I live. I didn't get home until after 9 p.m. In the coming year I will need to rearrange the schedule and hire a driver to continue with these supervisory visits.

From July to September I was back in the U.S. for my long leave before beginning another three-year contract. In August I gave the keynote address in New York at the celebration of 40 years of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. It was a wonderful celebration and I met many people that I hadn't seen for years, given our dispersal throughout the world for ministries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. President Obama visited Kenya in July, and many young people were encouraged by his advice and enthusiasm that we each should be the change we want to see.

Kenya has welcomed two famous people this year. The question is whether their visits will make any difference in the lives of the needy. In a few weeks' time we will welcome the newborn Christ child into our hearts once again. Will we remain lukewarm and indifferent, or will we use our ears and listen as we open our hearts? There are many babies crying in this world, and answering their cries will bring a calmer world and maybe even true peace and joy for ourselves.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Coralie Salvador, Judy Walter, Susan Nagele, Teresa Villaruz – Maryknoll Lay Missioners Mombasa, Kenya, Thanksgiving 2015



2015 World AIDS Day at Bamba Dispensary – Sr. Susan Gatuko, Dr. Susan Nagele, and patients

Susan

We are grateful for your prayers and financial support. If you would like to know more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, log onto our website, www.mklm.org, or call toll free 1-800-867-2980.

Helping hands, hungry hearts, and 260 food baskets

Early Tuesday morning November 24, more than 30 volunteers gathered at St. Patrick's in the parish hall to prepare food baskets for needy families. By 8:15 a.m., a line of people were unloading boxes and plastic crates of cooked hams, rolls, margarine, pies, and eggs, continuing the work that had begun days before.

On the preceding Sunday, the religious education students had generously distributed canned fruit and vegetables and dry foods into 260 food baskets. (The "baskets" were actually cardboard boxes with convenient handles built in.) Other workers had picked up food from grocery stores, put the boxes together, and donated funds to buy supplies. Volunteers also had moved chairs, set up tables, and arranged a working space on Sunday.

After a prayer for the day's work, many hands pitched in to finish setting up the food tables. Then dozens of vol-

loaded the food baskets for final delivery by car or van. Eager hands also moved the chairs back and put away tables



unteers formed a circular line to carry the boxes from one station to another, adding meat, bread, eggs, pumpkin or apple pie, and other supplies.

Meanwhile, those delivering the boxes to families checked in and received their assignments. When enough boxes were ready, the delivery volunteers and others



used during the basket assembly. The majority of work was done by 9:30 a.m.

Sally Czapar and her able team organized the many volunteers: parishioners, staff, and friends of the parish and the St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry. A dozen teens from the Cunningham Children's Home generously helped as well. Local service agencies, schools, and parishioners referred the 260 households who would receive the food baskets.

Assembling and delivering food baskets was a wonderful way to welcome Thanksgiving and the Advent season. As the hymn "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" says, "the bread of life to eat" comes from our Lord and can be found through faith and works like feeding the hungry. If you are interested in helping with the St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry, contact Sally Czapar (217/638-5178 or svdp-thanksgiving@gmail.com).



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.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **January 17**.

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

The New Horizons seniors group honored Tyra Quinones

On December 2, the St. Patrick New Horizons seniors group met at Ryan's Steakhouse to celebrate the coming of Christmas and to honor the retirement of Tyra Quinones from serving as parish secretary. More than 20 members of the seniors group gathered in a party room of the restaurant. They mingled merrily, wrote Christmas cards to other seniors of the parish who were unable to join in the event,



Tyra with her husband Manny

and were led in the Angelus Prayer, delivered by group coordinator Dan Richards in honor of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception on Decem-

ber 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

The seniors then settled down for a bounteous luncheon from Ryan's buffet. Following the meal, Shirley Splittstoesser gave a testimonial to Tyra and asked the group for some of their own remembrances of her. Then a specially written poem to the guest of honor was presented, along with a timely retirement gift. Tyra responded with a very gracious tribute to the group. The organizers had planned a Christmas Bingo game, which was met with much enthusiasm. The game continued until everyone present had won at least



Tyra and her gift

one prize. As the game ended, Dan reminded the group that there would be no event in January 2016, but he encouraged members to come to the subsequent events throughout the coming year and to bring other seniors (especially husbands).

Holy Cross happenings

The second quarter at Holy Cross School started right before Halloween and so much has happened since then. The students gave a rousing tribute to our veterans on Veterans Day. Eighth grader Lisa Altaner was part of the District 3 choir for the Illinois Music Education Association concert the weekend before Thanksgiving. The students celebrated their grandparents with a Mass on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, followed by refreshments and tours of the school and classrooms. The students from the preschool through the 8th grade rehearsed and rehearsed for the Christmas concerts the week of December 7th. School is out for two weeks for Christmas and New Years. When students return they will finish the second quarter, which ends on January 15th.

Catholic Schools Week will kick off with a Spaghetti Dinner to be held in the St Patrick parish center on January 30 at 6:00 p.m. For \$5 a person, you will get baked pasta, bread, salad, and a non-alcoholic drink. Wine and desserts can be had for a free-will offering. Hope to see you there! The students' annual talent show will take place after lunch on the last day of Catholic Schools Week, January 5. All are welcome to attend. There will be a series of Open Houses in January for parents of prospective students. Check the St. Patrick weekly bulletin for those dates. You may arrange for a tour of Holy Cross School at any time by calling the school office at 217-356-9521. And be sure to check out the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/holycrosselemschool>).

Correction to last month's Holy Cross Happenings: Lisa Altaner should have been included on the High Honors List.



Carter Logsdon and Aidan Beckett perform in the 5th grade band.



Ian Peters, Katherine McMillan, and Joshua Loftus sing in the 4th grade choir.

Lord Jesus,
 Master of both the light and the darkness,
 Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
 We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
 We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
 We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
 We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
 We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
 To you we cry, "Come Lord Jesus!"

—Henri Nouwen



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 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.

Editorial board: Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elihen@att.net); Mary Lou Menches, 344-11253 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); Patsy Schmitt, 607-1594 (patsy.schmitt@gmail.com); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

Associates: Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Camille Goudeseune, Margery 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 Sally Czapar, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Lou Menches, Thang Nguyen, Nancy Olson, Dan Richards, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Mary Twigg, Linda Weber, and Peggy Whelan. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Margy Palmisano

Cranberry Pie Pudding

8 T butter or margarine
 3/4 c sugar
 1 egg
 1/2 c flour
 1 c fresh cranberries, washed and dried
 1/4 c chopped walnuts



Grease (or spray) 8-inch pie pan. Cream butter and sugar; add egg and beat until fluffy. Add flour gradually and mix until blended. Stir in cranberries and nuts. Spread in pie pan. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes, until firm and golden. Cool on wire rack. Cut into wedges and serve (warm or cold) 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!

Did you know?

The many photographs of St. Patrick's church, in all its stages of expansion, were provided by parishioner Mary Twigg, a professional photographer who shared her time and talent so generously with all of us. Our thanks to Mary and to all other parishioners who have provided photos for *In Focus*.