

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

October 2016

Seasons of faith

The change of seasons always seems so noticeable in the spring and fall. We're experiencing the change from summer to winter and back, of course. There's also the change from leisure to the more regular duties of school and work. At St. Patrick, many groups are going through a change of season, from sabbatical to gearing up for their full, active ministries.

For many of us, the change of seasons is comforting in its regularity and refreshing because it keeps every day of the year from being just like every other day. But the change of seasons can also bring on anxiety, especially if



we are not sure we will like the transition.

There are many other seasons in our lives. There's the change from health to sickness and back. There's the change from pre-kids to kids to empty nesting. There's the change from easy, joyful prayer, to hard, boring prayer and back. There are seasons of worry and relief, solitude

and companionship, fear and comfort. The familiar hymn "How Firm a Foundation" has a stanza that reflects on this:

*"In every condition,—in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be."*

God is with us in every season. Our Creator knows us and knows our strengths and deepest desires better than we know ourselves. The Spirit is with us, with strength and inspiration to help us deal with changes. Jesus walks with us every day, as always.

*"The soul that on Jesus hath lean'd for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."*

The most important thing about this hymn is the quotation marks, reminding us that these are words that God addresses to us, in this season, in every season.

Come to the Health Fair!

Please visit the St. Patrick's Health Fair on Sunday, October 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the main hall of the parish center. This annual event, sponsored by the Parish Nurses, will have multiple booths available to increase awareness of health status and community resources in the following areas:

- Flu shots
- Cholesterol and blood sugar testing
- Demonstration of Automatic External Defibrillator
- Blood pressure screening
- Cancer awareness education
- Questions for the pharmacist – a registered pharmacist will be available to answer questions and provide information regarding medications.
- Blood drive
- Healthy smiles
- Champaign County Health Care Consumer (CCHCC) information
- Hearing testing
- English language acquisition at Urbana Adult Education

—and much more! We hope to see you there!



A banner for our patron Saint Patrick?

Many people admiring the saints' banners in our Meditation Chapel have asked, "Wasn't there also a St. Patrick banner?" Yes, there was, and it now has a home on the wall above the stairs leading down to Trinity Hall. If you enter or exit the church through the south door, you'll find it above the stairs to the lower level!

The banner of St. Patrick was the prototype for the banners of the saints now in the Meditation Chapel. You may remember that it was displayed in the Time and Talent tent last year as Pat Mayer photographed parishioners' hands and talked to people about lending items to be photographed for the making of the other banners. In all, over 300 items were photographed: baptismal gowns, wedding dresses, rosaries, family Bibles, cloth from all over the world, vestments, shoes, jewelry, and many items of personal, historical, or sacred significance to the people of our parish.

How were the more than 1300 photographs taken of these items transformed into the beautiful banners now hanging in our church?

To begin with, Pat had to draw the faces. She researched known images of the saints who had been chosen. For the more modern saints, she was able to consult photographs but for the rest, she based her conception of them on written descriptions and images from art.

All of the work was done on computer, mostly using the program Photoshop. With this, Pat was able to manipulate the photographed images to create the clothing and accessories of the saints. Thus a small square of fabric could become an entire habit, with realistic-looking folds and shadows made using the program's airbrushing feature. Colors could be added or removed, lightened or darkened, and textures could be highlighted or diminished. Some were made transparent so one could be laid over another. Once the entire picture of the saint was complete, it was printed out on cloth.

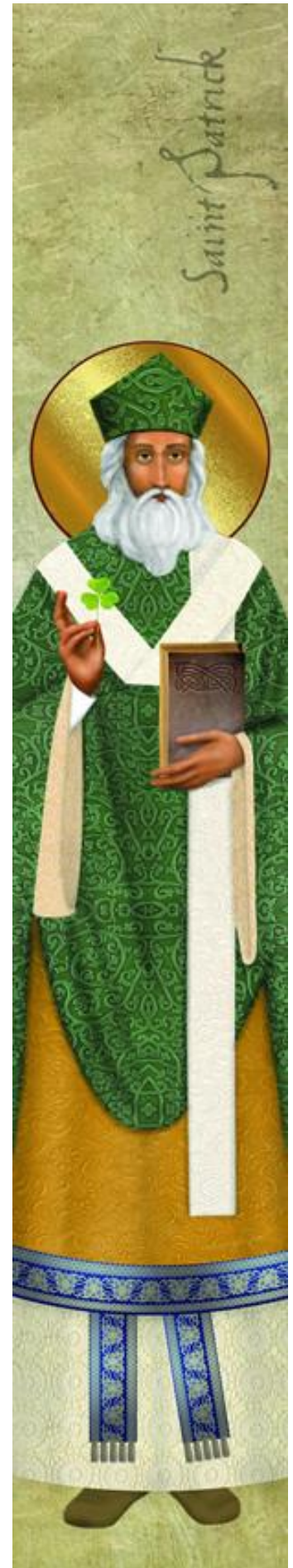
In order to incorporate as many items as possible, Pat combined images. So if something of yours was photographed, you may have a challenge in finding it on a banner—however, rest assured it's there somewhere! For example, the dress worn by the child St. Therese is made up of parts of at least six different gowns or dresses: a collar from one, buttons from another, sleeves from a third, and so on. A rosary held by a saint might contain beads from one rosary, the crucifix from another, and a medal from another.

When Pat was drawing the hands of St. Patrick on that first banner, she used a photograph of actual hands as a guide. It seemed to her that the underlying image gave life to the drawn one, and she began thinking of how our hands are continuing the work of the saints, and of how, as St. Teresa of Avila wrote, our hands are now Christ's hands on earth. Thus came the idea to use photographs of many parishioners' hands blended together to be the hands of the saints.

If you didn't lend an item or have your hands photographed, you are still a part of these saints' images. Items from the church that you have seen and perhaps touched over the years are among the images used. As we look at the banners in the Meditation Chapel, we can see in a material way the connections between us and our history and these saints, helping us to recognize and feel more strongly our spiritual connections.

VOCATION PRAYER

Mary, our Mother, you whole-heartedly accepted the call to bear God's son to a waiting world. Hear my prayer for those God has called to serve his people in a life consecrated to him as priests and religious, but also for me and all who are listening for God's call. We wait in hope for some help in knowing how best to give our own whole-hearted response to the joys and the challenges of bringing Christ to the world today.



St. Thomas More News

The first month of school has really flown by as we get into the 2016-2017 school year! Students and staff were so eager for teaching, learning, growing, and leading that they soaked up all of the wisdom and knowledge that was being shared around the school. Even though the school year started off on a sprint, it is definitely a marathon now as we get into assessing student learning through all of the various quizzes, tests, homework checks, reviews, projects, speeches, etc. These are all opportunities for the students and staff to #ShineMORE!

With our theme of #ShineMORE, we are reminded that the mission of the High School of St. Thomas More is to assist our parents in forming their students intellectually, morally, spiritually, and physically. The 2015-2016 school year had a theme to #LiveMORE, which refers to the call to the full and joyous life Christ promises to all who hunger and thirst, for they *will* be satisfied. As human beings, we have a longing for this “MORE” that we try to fill ourselves with and yet there is only one thing that can give us this more—Christ himself. Once we have been filled, we share that grace and “Light of Christ” with others through our daily virtuous living, various talents, skills, abilities, and especially the love of God and neighbor. We are filled and can now #ShineMore!”

One way in forming our students physically and allowing them to shine is through our athletic programs. Our students are truly able to shine on the field, court, turf, diamond, pool, etc. In using the talents, skills, and abilities that they have been blessed with by God, they grow in virtue, sportsmanship, and teamwork, all while living for the greater glory of God.



Some of the Saint Patrick parishioners in the STM Rosary Garden

SportsLeader is a sports ministry program based on virtue, ceremony, mentoring, and Catholic identity for young men and women involved in sports programs. Because our mission at STM is to assist our parents, SportsLeader is powerful in helping our families to grow in virtue, love, and faith through the various ceremonies. Without giving the “spoiler” away, we can say that the first Father/Son Ceremony with the soccer team was a “GOAL!” We are truly excited to be offering and working with SportsLeader at the High School of St. Thomas More to help students truly be a light in the

world that is full of darkness. We know that the light that our students shine will not be overcome, because it is the light of Christ that we strive to shine forth and to be a witness to the world of that light in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Make sure to see the fall play “The Hamlet Thrill-Ma-Geddon” by Don Zolidis, about a high school drama club that changes Hamlet into a post-apocalyptic zombie battle to sell more tickets. Show dates are October 20-22. The next week, on October 28, students will showcase their talents in the Fall Follies.

At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, which belongs entirely to God and from which God disposes of our lives. This truth is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the machinations of our own will. This little point of nothingness is the pure glory of God in us. It is like a pure diamond, blazing as with the invisible light of heaven.

— Thomas Merton

We welcome new Vivo coordinators Kristen Allen and Paul Wood

The Vivo ministry for junior high school youth has new co-leaders, Kristen Allen and Paul Wood.



Kristen is a graduate student in Education at the University of Illinois. She hails from the northwest suburbs of Chicago. As you can see in her photograph, she has just graduated—with a B.A. in History and Anthropology. Kristen plans a

career in museum teaching and learning.



Paul is a Junior Civil Engineering student at the University of Illinois. He's a Wooster, Ohio, native and longtime Scout member, Eagle Scout, and leader in camping and sports. He hopes to make a career in structural engineering and

architecture.

Both Paul and Kristen are active in the St. John Newman Center. Kristen leads a Bible study group. She would like coordinating Vivo to be an opportunity to share her faith similar to her youth ministry work at her hometown parish. Paul used to live in the Newman Center residence hall and was active in his high school's youth ministry.

Kristen and Paul both hope parents and others will donate snacks and their time to help with Vivo classes and activities. Volunteers are especially welcome around U of I break time since many Vivo and CREW volunteers are college students. You can contact Paul (ptduganwood@gmail.com) and Kristen (kristenallen993@gmail.com) or through the St. Patrick parish office (367-2665).

Knights of Columbus upcoming events

The Knights of Columbus is a men's organization to promote the betterment of parishioners of St. Patrick's Church and their families, and community members in need. The Urbana Council of the Knights currently has 87 members. Some of the Urbana Council sponsorships are the following:

- Father Charles Martell scholarships for graduating seniors from St. Patrick's and St. Mary's
- Seminarians in the Diocese of Peoria
- Rural Champaign County Special Education
- Developmental Services Center in Champaign
- Camp New Hope in Mattoon for developmentally disabled children
- Empty Tomb projects
- Dr. Susan Nagele, Maryknoll lay missionary
- Vocations
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- St. Patrick's CREW
- Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
- Individuals in need of financial assistance

In September, the Knights held their annual Tootsie Roll fundraiser. This project is devoted to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The funds raised will be divided between Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative, Developmental Services Center, and Camp New Hope.

Coming up on Sunday, October 30, the Knights will hold a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast in the parish center. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 until 11:30 (after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses). The menu will include pancakes, Ivesdale sausage, fresh fruit, and beverages. A free will offering will be collected for the Council's general fund to be used for sponsorships.



Holy Cross Happenings

Before September even started, Holy Cross students already had over two full weeks of school under their belts. As of this writing, fall sports such as soccer and cross country have been in full swing for a while (with ample representation from St. Patrick's parishioners). Suffice it to say, school is off and running—literally!

The second full week of September was also Holy Cross Church's feast week (Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross). To celebrate, the church and school held events such as a Saturday night kickoff party, a pancake breakfast, mouse races wherein attendees bet on which critter would win each heat in races of six mice, a Marian Mass and Girl Scout-led ice cream social, a living rosary featuring middle schoolers, and many more fun and inspirational activities.

Our students have already been hard at work learning, playing, and trying out new activities. There is, however, still a little housekeeping from 2015-2016 to attend to, in the form of one more award to recognize Lisa Altaner, who was given the Holy Cross Outstanding Music Award for Band. Lisa is currently a freshman at Champaign Central High School and earned the first chair position for symphonic band flute (she'll also be playing saxophone in the marching band). Congrats to Lisa!

Blessings to all of our kiddos as they embark on another year of growing in size, talent, and faith.

Interested in having your children attend Holy Cross School? Schedule a tour of the school by calling Principal Chris Ellis at 356-9521. Financial help may be available; contact the St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) for more details.



Which parish group is 110 years old?

If you guessed The Women of St. Patrick, you're right! Well, of course the group had a different name back then. In 1906, it was called the Altar and Rosary Society, and several years later it was renamed St. Patrick's Guild. Today it goes by the name The Women of St. Patrick. And what a rich history it has had!

Although early records of the Altar and Rosary Society could not be found for a history of the parish published in 1978, we do know that the first president of the Society was Mary Dougherty, and that its stated purpose was "to make the altar and sanctuary a fit and becoming habitation for Our Lord" and to "practice devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary." Through the years, the Society (the Guild and now the WSP) has continued to take care of the altar and sanctuary. Mary Ann Luedtke currently exercises this responsibility as parish Sacristan.

During the depression years of the 30s, members met in one another's homes and small funds were donated to cover the expense of laundry for the altar linens. Bazaars, where handmade items sold as quickly then as now, were a popular means of fundraising. Fre-



Every year the members gathered to enjoy a formal tea. Here, in 1977, are Mrs. Jerry Callahan (seated), Mrs. Charles Shay, Mrs. Steffensen, Mrs. Ed Broghamer, and Rev. Charles H. Martell.



Past presidents were honored at a meeting of the Altar and Rosary Society: Mrs. Mayme Royer, 1926-27; Mrs. Catherine Callahan, 1928-29; Mrs. Lottie Tyrrell, 1927-28 and 1943-44; Mrs. Timothy Riordan, [no dates available]; and Mrs. Grace Whitmore, 1925-26.

quent bake sales were held in downtown stores as another source of revenue.

By 1944, the organization was sponsoring rummage sales, bingo games, card parties, food sales, and an annual parish summer social. Many of us will remember the bingo games! Members also worked with the USO, writing letters to service men and women, assuring them of continued interest and prayer.

The broadening of horizons led to an interest in mission work. All-day sewing parties produced clothing, blankets, and quilts. A medical mission group rolled bandages (remember?), knitted a particular kind of bandage for lepers, and collected simple drugs for mission projects. Other special endeavors included Feed-a-Family, CARE, the Mother Teresa Fund, the Mother Cabrini Home, the Guardian Angel Orphanage, sponsorship of a Korean child, and the national Bishops' Clothing Drive.

The Altar and Rosary Society has long been the chief organization to give financial assistance to the church. Typical fundrais-

ing efforts included the annual Celar-to-Garret Sale (which continues to the present) and a December showing of The Trees of Christmas, a display of 30 trees decorated authentically in the traditions of many countries (discontinued as recently as the 90s).



Altar and Rosary Society officers, 1977-78: seated, Mrs. Natalie Primeaux, President, and Bernie Gast, Secretary; standing, Kathy Beiser, Vice-President, and Angie Prendergast, Treasurer.

The organization has always been concerned to promote spiritual growth among members and parishioners, sponsoring retreats, days of recollection, study clubs, Lenten lectures, and Communion breakfasts.

A continuing relationship with the Champaign-Urbana Nursing

Which parish group continued on page 5

Which parish group from pg. 4

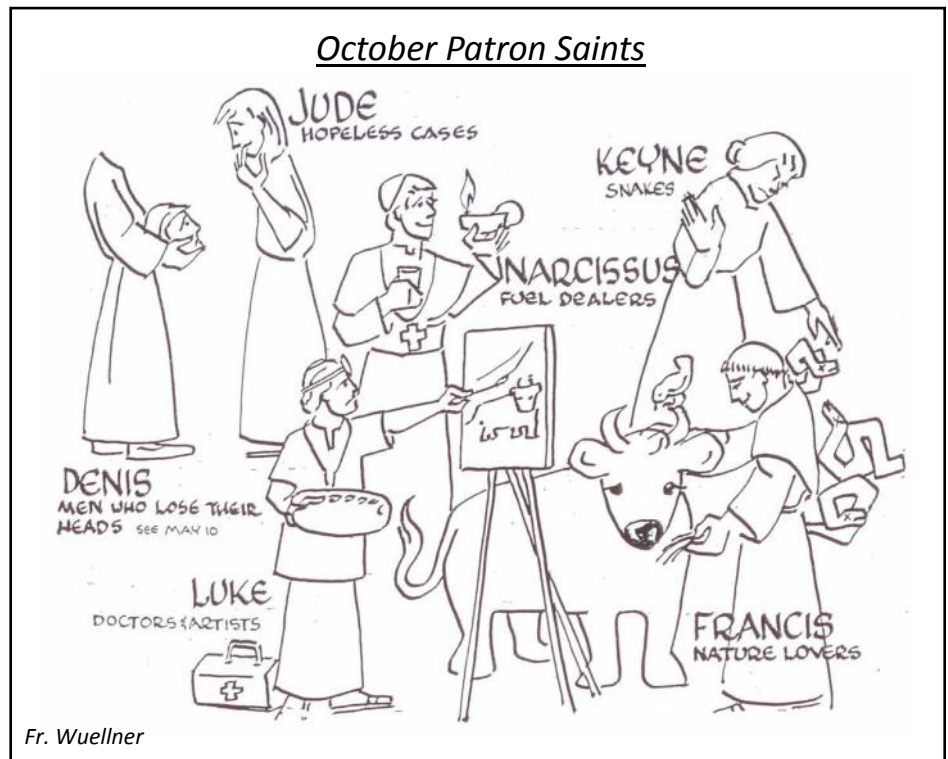
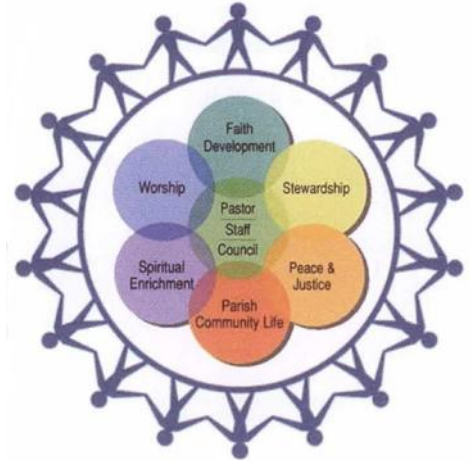
Home goes back to 1959. A small group of members visited the nursing home weekly on Tuesdays to recite the rosary with residents and distributed homemade cookies to everyone. Although this activity was discontinued in the 90s, members still set up for Mass at the nursing home on Fridays, assist Catholic residents to the chapel, and carry Communion to those unable to participate in the Mass. The multipurpose room initially used for the Mass was converted to a chapel for this special use, and furnishings were made possible by action of the members in 1973. Carrying out this function today is a group led by Sandy Anderson.

Today's Women of St. Patrick continue their fundraising efforts on behalf of the parish. The annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale is chief among them, augmented by cookie sales, the Christmas Cookie and Basket sale, and the like. Monies raised have been used for such major items as new Mass vestments, servers' robes, and altar linens—as well as an all-new dining service (plates, bowls, flatware), a complete upgrade of the kitchen equipment, an ice maker, a food warmer, furnishings for the lounge and parish offices, and more recently, tables and chairs for the new Trinity Hall. Surely other items belong in this list, so you may consider it incomplete!

So Happy 110th Year, Women of St. Patrick! May you long continue your unique service to the community and to our parish!

It's never too late to offer your time and talent!

St. Patrick's Church is not just a place you attend, it's a family! As with any family, it takes everyone to be positively involved for it to function properly. After last month's Time and Talent weekends, over 400 sign-up forms were returned, with 50% choosing more than one ministry for participation. However, it is never too late to help build upon your church family. You can go online to www.stpaturbana.org and use the "Get Involved" tab to access Time and Talent sign-up forms as well as locate the ministry of your choice and find contact information. You may also sign up to volunteer for an event or committee by calling the parish office (367-2665), or contacting parish secretary Patricia Fowler (patricia.fowler@stpaturbana.org).



Knights of Columbus from page 4

The popular Ladies Knight Out event will be held on Saturday, November 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All ladies of the parish and their friends are invited. The meal will consist of appetizers, beef or chicken, potatoes, salad, vegetables, and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by The Catholic Boys, with a presidential theme. Money raised at this event goes to the Knights' general fund.

If you are a male aged 18 or older and a Catholic in good standing, you are eligible to become a member of the Knights of Columbus. For information about membership, contact Grand Knight Jeff Kneer (janck94@comcast.net) or through the parish office (367-2665).

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

Nancy Steerman

Apple Cake

2 eggs
1/3 c plus 1 T brown sugar
1 c all-purpose flour
2 t baking powder
1/8 t salt
1/2 t ground cinnamon
1/4 c reduced-fat milk
2 medium apples, peeled, cored, thinly sliced

In a large bowl, with an electric mixer, beat eggs and 1/3 cup brown sugar together until creamy. Add flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and milk; mix well. Gently stir in half the



apples until evenly coated. Pour batter into buttered (or sprayed with Pam) 9-inch cake pan and arrange remaining apple slices over batter in a circle. Sprinkle with remaining brown sugar. Bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm, if possible, and top with whipped cream if desired.

* * *

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?

Have you checked out the Parish Library recently? If not, you're in for a surprise. Yes, the parish copier and supplies for it occupy one end of the room, but the rest has been made over with the reader and browser in mind. There are now only three or four tables, with chairs, to allow comfort for browsers. If you pop in with your children in tow and have thought to bring toys or coloring materials for busy hands, you can easily keep track of them at play while you

examine the library offerings. If with a friend, you can confer and chat in comfort as you seek out books on specific themes. And get this—the door is never locked! You can access the parish library any time you're in the parish center, and without having to ask for a key. So take advantage of this great opportunity to browse the interesting variety of our library holdings at your leisure. Visit soon—and often!

The question of what kind of life I am going to undertake is the question of vocation. If it is answered rightly and we take the way that God calls us, we shall be strengthened. There can never be any question of choosing a vocation; the word "vocation" means "calling." Therefore, we do not choose a vocation but seek to do all we can to hear the divine Voice calling us, to make sure of what God is saying—and then to respond. Where vocation is concerned, God speaks, calls; we have not to choose but to listen and respond.

— Charles de Foucauld

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St. Patrick's Parish *In Focus* is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, IL. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to 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 (November) issue of *In Focus* is **October 9**.