

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2017

## Getting started

On the Sundays between Christmas and Ash Wednesday, the Church reads the gospel story of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. This year, we're reading from the gospel of Matthew, from chapter 4, verse 12, through the end of chapter 6. It's good to see how Jesus got started and to learn from him.

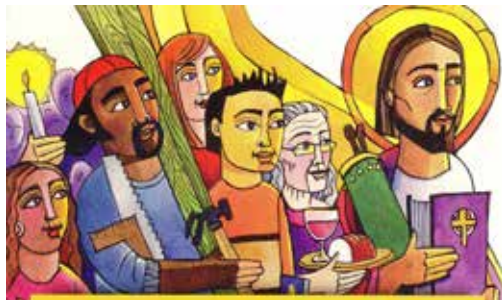
Are you starting anything right now? Perhaps you are trying to follow through on a new year's resolution, or exploring a new way to serve others, or perhaps your family is starting a project. Maybe something that you're doing is in need of a course correction. We can learn a lot from pondering how Jesus got started.

The ministry of Jesus began with his baptism. The Father named Jesus as his son and spoke of his love for him. The Spirit descended on him. These are the things that we were given in our own baptism: we were claimed by God, gifted with the Spirit, and invited to live in God's love. It's good to remember that everything we do is made possible by the life we receive from God and fueled by the constant love of God.

Then Jesus went to the desert to pray. Asking for God's help is a good way to begin any task; it reminds us that we depend on God for everything. But prayer also invites God to influence our choices. As we discern how we're going to begin, as we

seek God's help in our decisions, we give God a chance to shape our efforts.

The message of Jesus, at first, was the same as the message of John the Baptist, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Even Jesus didn't start from scratch, he accept-



ed the wisdom of a good person who came before him. But very soon Jesus began to do something that John had never done: he began to heal others, and his fame as a healer drew many people to him. There's a balance between doing things the way they've always been done and doing something new with our unique gifts. Sometimes we find our unique calling only after we're well launched on a project.

Jesus gathered coworkers around him. They didn't always agree with him, nor did they always understand him. But they helped as they were able, and Jesus valued them as friends. How alone he would have been without them!

Matthew's gospel includes the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, with many things that are good to remember as we begin something new. Who is blessed? Those who understand that they are utterly dependent on God, look to God constantly, and try to live out of

see **Getting Started** on page 6

## Women of St. Patrick sponsor women's Lenten retreat

The Women of St. Patrick invite you to participate in the Women's Lent Retreat 2017 on Saturday, March 4. Our retreat facilitator will be Sr. Ann Sullivan, SP, a Sister of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods. Sister Ann has spent many years on the faculty of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College teaching theology, psychology, and gerontology. She holds a Doctor of Ministry in pastoral counseling. With a background as educator, therapist, and pastoral counselor, she has worked as both presenter and consultant in these fields. She has given retreats and programs in Ireland, Canada, and the United States.



Sr. Ann's theme for the day is "Women's Spirituality in a New Time," based on the book *Dance of the Spirit: The Seven Steps of Women's Spirituality*, by Maria Harris. Since she will not be able to cover the whole book in our brief time together, participants can continue

see **Lenten retreat** on page 6

## WSP's Christmas cookie and basket sale makes a welcome return

On Sunday, December 11, the east end of the main hall became a holiday wonderland. Tables lined the walls, filled with everything needed for a festive occasion. On the north wall three tables were filled to capacity with cookies, candies, breads, and other baked goods. The south wall was a sea of beautiful gift baskets, over 100 in all.

The scene was completed with several gift items for silent auction bidders and a cheerily decorated Christmas tree. One lucky bidder took home an adorable wooden child's sled, complete with a moose dressed in holiday attire riding along!

The annual Women of St. Patrick's basket and bake sale came back from its year hiatus in full array. The ever popular "cookies by the dozen" disappeared quickly when the children came to shop after religious education classes. With their hands encased in plastic gloves, they chose their favorite cookies from the many tempting options. Fudge, nut breads, yeast breads, baklava, and cake pops didn't last long either! The bakers of St. Patrick's outdid themselves with wonderful treats of every sort.

Gorgeous gift baskets filled with a delightful array of items caught the eye of buyers looking for just the right gift for that special someone on their list. Food themes, relaxation and spa items, holiday magic, wine lovers, baskets big and small found a place on the tables and quickly disappeared. Thanks go to Leslie Risatti and Ceil Weir for hours of hard work that resulted in these beautiful creations!

Everyone was glad to see the return of this traditional sale. The Board of the Women of St. Patrick wish to thank everyone who made the event a great success: those who helped plan, set up, bake, prepare, sell, and clean up—and everyone who made a purchase. Proceeds from the sale, which exceeded \$2,200, will be used by the Women of St. Patrick for various parish projects and purchases throughout the year.

*May the Bakerwoman God bless you. May God "yeast" in you a sense of your own goodness and an awareness of God's power in your life. May you be leaven for those to whom and with whom you minister and may your yield of peace, justice, and love be "many-fold." May the Bakerwoman God be with you!*



## Celebrating more than bricks and mortar

It is hard to realize that one year has gone by since we celebrated the completion of the expansion of St. Patrick Church, the “bricks and



mortar” as it were. On that evening, December 9, 2015, our bishop, pastor, priests, deacons, and parishioners joined with former pastors and others gathered around our beautiful new altar to celebrate the first Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the new sanctuary.

Those gathered in the expanded church watched, in candlelight, as Bishop Jenky blessed the old and new walls of our church and lovingly anointed the beautiful new altar in a reverent blessing. Much of the same liturgy was repeated at the Rededication Anniversary Mass on December 9, 2016, but this time the walls of the conjoined church and the congregation were blessed by former pastors Msgr. Doug Hennessy and Fr. George Remm.

In the homily of the Anniversary Mass, Fr. Joe Hogan reminded us that our Catholic Church is calling us to gather, to share our story, and to break bread together. “As we gather here tonight something larger and sacred is going on,” he said. Often Father Joe has expressed his belief that we are called to be stewards of all we have been given and reflected on the canopy of stars over our tabernacle that represent the trust and work of our parish’s 42 founding

families. They had the vision, over a hundred years ago, to build St. Patrick Church. By their faith, sacrifice, the work of their hands, and loving stewardship they willed us a beautiful building filled with a faith on which to grow. As Father Joe said in the homily of the Rededication Mass, “We continue in their faith and grow upon this Holy Ground.”

The expansion of our church brought us more space where we can enjoy music, song, celebration, fellowship, quiet prayer, and meditation. The Festival of Lessons & Carols at the beginning of Advent was one example of how the expanded sanctuary offered our parishioners, who come from diverse lands, the new space to delight us with scripture and song in their native languages.

At the reception following the Anniversary Mass, many expressed wonder that the melding of the two spaces into one was completed in less than a year, preserving a good many architectural features of the original church, including the stained-glass windows. Some few admitted being annoyed at inconveniences and the disruption of parish life, but all agreed that the expansion was certainly worth it. Margaret Erlandson remarked, “I love the new sanctuary and the way it draws people into the Sacrifice of the Mass. And the



new choir area makes the organ, the choirs, and Bell Choir easier to hear and enjoy.”

Another area of our expanded church, the Meditation Chapel, invites parishioners to quiet prayer and meditation. This place, the former sanctuary, is hung with breathtakingly beautiful banners depicting a pregnant Mother of God surrounded by six saints whose lives have had a spiritual and material impact on our parishioners. Pat and Ted Hund, who recently moved here from LaGrange, Illinois, remarked on how warm and welcoming the church is. Pat was drawn to the Meditation Chapel: “I especially loved the banners of the saints, hung in a semi-circular fashion—I felt they were hugging me.”

Father George Remm recalled that while he was pastor of St. Patrick’s



(1986-2004) there was discussion about expanding the church. “It didn’t happen then, but it has certainly happened now, and it’s awesome to behold how all the elements of worship have come together so beautifully.” He added that he loves to come back to St. Patrick’s to assist, that “it always feels like home; the parishioners know me and welcome me and make me

feel that I haven’t missed a beat since I left.”

The Rededication Anniversary Mass seemed to underscore the great gift that the Lord has given us. Pray that we cherish this gift and use it wisely, that we be good stewards for the generations to come.



**Q: What is the Parish Council and what does it do?**

**A:** The Parish Council is a group made up of ten parishioners who serve three-year terms on a rotating basis, in addition to the pastor and the two parish trustees. Three or four members who rotate off the Council at the conclusion of their terms each

year are succeeded by new members whose names are selected at random from those of parishioners who have indicated an interest in serving the parish in this way. This gives the Council continuity from year to year, as well as the benefit of new insights and personalities.

It is a dynamic group of parishioners from different backgrounds but with one very important thing in common: love for the parish and a desire to see it flourish and grow.

Each Council member has a specific role. Seven members serve as a liaison between the Council and one of the six ministry clusters, with

Faith Development having two. They report back to the Parish Council on the ministries' activities, needs, or concerns, particularly any items requiring Council attention.

The other three members serve on the Executive Committee as secretary, vice-president, and president. Each year Fr. Joe appoints one of the new Council members to serve as secretary, and each year thereafter that member assumes the role of vice-president and

then president. The Executive Committee meets with the parish trustees and Fr. Joe a week or so before the Council meeting to consult on various matters and to set the Council meeting agenda.

Parish Council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except for July and December. Before the meeting, members gather at 6:30 p.m. in the church for prayer, led by a different member each month. After, all move to the parish center to conduct business. Meetings are open to the parish—all parishioners are welcome to attend. The Council president pre-

sides at the meetings, which generally conclude by 8:00 p.m.

Members welcome and value parishioners' input, suggestions, and ideas. If there is a topic you'd like to have discussed at an upcoming Council meeting, present it to the president at least two weeks before the next Council meeting in time for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Not all is business, however! In August, Council members participate in an off-site pot-luck retreat, which allows them time to get to know one another better and to share in some delicious food, while also setting the tone and focus of the Council for the year ahead. In December, they celebrate Christmas-to-be with a pot-luck get-together in the rectory.

Council members have appreciated the opportunity to serve the parish in this way and they find that it helps them to grow in understanding of what it means to be parish. If you find this a ministry of interest, put your name forward for this year's selection of new members by contacting the president, Joe Hinchliff (jjhinch@sbcglobal.net), the vice-president, Kathy Cimasky (fcimakasky@aol.com), or the secretary, Jack Parisi (marketing4u@comcast.net). They can give you a first-hand account of what it means to be a member of St. Patrick's Parish Council, what it is, what it does, how it nourishes their faith.



Patron Saints for February

Fr. George Wuellner

### Vocation Prayer

I am yours, Father, ready to do whatever you will, to go wherever you send me, to be for others whatever you've chosen for me. I promise to listen for your guidance, to follow wherever you lead, because I love you.

## Vocation: A calling from God

By Ellen Abell

God works in mysterious ways. I was attracted to the Catholic Church when I was about twelve years of age. Marrying a cradle Catholic made it easier for me to become Catholic and easier for my family to accept. That attraction to the Church was a calling from God.

Who knew that in 2007 I would be at a retreat for the Affiliates of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, where a Brother from the Newman Center talked about the seven themes of Catholic social teaching: our call, our tradition.

During this retreat we were given pictures of hungry children (poverty) and asked to reflect on the pictures in meditation. What do we see? What do we notice? What stirrings do we have in our mind and in our heart? How does God see the situation of the hungry children? What is God doing about their situation? How do we see God present in this situation? What challenges are posed to each of us as Christians and to all?

What I came away with from that retreat is that God has given the world everything that we need. The problem is that some of us have more than enough while others not enough. God expects those who have more to share with those who have less.

Each Affiliate member in attendance at that retreat made a pledge for charity, justice, and peace. That pledge included learning more about Catholic social teaching and serving those who are poor and vulnerable; sharing more time and talent. That pledge was the reason I signed up for the first JustFaith program at St. Patrick's. This, I believe, was another calling. During that thirty-week program we studied the scriptures, the call of the Gospel, the testimony of the saints, and the vision of Catholic social teaching.

Following that program, it was natural to sign up for the next JustFaith program, JustSkills, which included studying leadership and advocacy skills related to parish social

ministry and the spirituality related to compassion for the poor.

These programs changed me. I knew I was supposed to put what I had learned into practice, and after praying about it, I felt I was called to direct service rather than to advocacy. Shortly thereafter, Father Joe asked me about the possibility of taking over for Sophia Ziegler at St. Patrick's St. Vincent de Paul food pantry because Sophia was retiring from those duties. I asked Father for time to think (pray) about it. Another calling. I felt in my heart that this was where God was calling me to be, to serve in this ministry. It was something that I felt I was being formed to do for some time.

In 2007 I had no idea that I would

end up in July 2008 serving those in need in our community and surrounding areas. Of course, this is not something I do by myself. What's the saying? "It takes a village."

Lots of volunteers have answered the call to serve in the food pantry. I am so grateful for their sharing in this ministry—to serve our Lord by serving others—because it cannot be done by one person alone. I am grateful for those who help financially. I am grateful that my husband supports me and helps out in the pantry as well. I am most grateful for being able to hear our Lord's call and that I was and am willing to serve. God has given me great joy in serving and, in fact, I receive ever so much more than I give. Who knew!



It is important to realize that our vocation is hidden in who we are and where we are. We are unique human beings, each with a call to realize in life what no one else can, and to realize it in the concrete context of the here and now. We will never find our vocation by trying to figure out whether we are more or less capable than others. We are good enough to do what we are called to do!

—Henri Nouwen

## Super Bowl Breakfast has a new menu

Sunday, February 5, is the date of the much-anticipated Knights of Columbus Super Bowl breakfast. Serving will begin after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and continue until 10:00 a.m. Starting this year, the breakfast will be buffet-style, offering a larger variety of choices. There will be pancakes and waffles, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, fruit, and coffee, juice, and milk.

The Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick have been serving Super Bowl breakfasts for 17 years, starting in 2000 when Tom Kacich was the Grand Knight and Jim Risatti and Steve Beckett were team captains. Throughout the 17 years there have been many main cooks: Jack Parisi, Chris Stohr, Joseph Youakim, Steve Beckett, Tom Costello, and Tom Kacich.

All profits from the Super Bowl breakfasts and all other Knight activities (except the Tootsie Roll Drive) go to the Father Charles Martell scholarships. The other Knight activities are Ladies Knight Out, Lenten dinners, and fifth-Sunday pancakes-and-sausage breakfasts. If you have attended any of these ac-

tivities, you have seen how hard the Knights work to please their guests.

The Father Charles Martell scholarships are available to graduating high-school seniors who will attend a college, university, trade school, or other institution. The student must be a parishioner of St. Patrick or St. Mary, must have

a Confirmation certificate, and must have worked on a Knights of Columbus project. The student also needs two reference letters and a statement of financial need. Applications may be picked up at St. Patrick's parish office and are due back on Friday, May 5.

Early on February 5, at 6:30 a.m., the Knights will be working in St. Patrick's parish kitchen, prepping food and setting up for the Super Bowl breakfast. Starting on Friday, March 3, the Knights will be preparing and serving their delicious Lenten dinners. The next fifth-Sunday pancakes-and-sausage breakfast will be on July 30. Please support these events; not only will you be having a fun time while enjoying delicious food, but you will be helping the youth of our parish get a college education!



### Did you know?

\* A few copies of the stunning and informative **Guide to Art and Architecture** of St. Patrick's expanded church are still available. You can find them under the votive candle stands in the Meditation Chapel, on the round table in the gathering space at the top of the stairs, and on top of the bookcase at the Main Street entrance.

\* **Where to park** for a funeral at St. Patrick's? Not only have the parking spaces on the west side of the church been saved for you, but all the parking spaces in the expanded parking lot on the north side of the church! This is true also for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

\* **How safe is it?** Eucharistic ministers use hand sanitizer before approaching the altar to serve Communion to the assembly. In addition, the communion cups are carefully washed with soap and water before every Mass. Members of the assembly who are suffering from the remains of a cold or otherwise are not feeling as well as they might are advised to refrain from drinking from the communion cup.

## Getting started from page 1

that experience. How do we live as God wants? Not just by our external actions, but by attending to the heart of the matter, whatever we are doing. If you're ever frazzled by many tasks or unsure how to proceed, these teachings may help.

The words and example of Jesus, the love of the Father, and the inspiration of the Spirit are always with us, surrounding us, available to us. God invites us to act on our faith, but God also lavishes on us everything that we need and more. Are you ready to get started?

## Lenten retreat from page 1

the study of the steps of women's spirituality throughout the remaining days of Lent.

A limited number of copies of the book *Dance of the Spirit* will be available for \$10. The book is also available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) as well as [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). WSP will facilitate small group formation for those who want to work through the book with others. It is also suitable to be used individually. If you are unable to attend the retreat day but would like to join a small group book study, please contact the Women of St. Patrick and indicate your interest.

The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with continental breakfast and end at about 3:00 p.m. Participants may choose to attend the regular 8:00 Saturday Mass before beginning the retreat. The \$10 fee for the day will include a continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks. There will be time and space set aside during the day for quiet reflection, reading, creating art, and individual prayer.

If you would like to attend, please register by sending an email to [womenofstpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:womenofstpatrick@gmail.com). Or you may call Nancy Olson (217-359-6424). Please indicate your preference for a lunch sandwich (turkey, ham, beef, or vegetarian) and indicate whether you'd like to have a copy of the book reserved for you. Scholarships are available.

## "And the quilt goes to . . .!"

Ellen Amberg's name was drawn on December 11 as the winner in the quilt raffle. She was in Madison, Wisc., when she received the phone call telling her that she was the lucky winner. Ellen said that it



*Lucky winner Ellen Amberg displays her new quilt.*

would replace a cover in one of the bedrooms where their children stay during visits to Urbana.

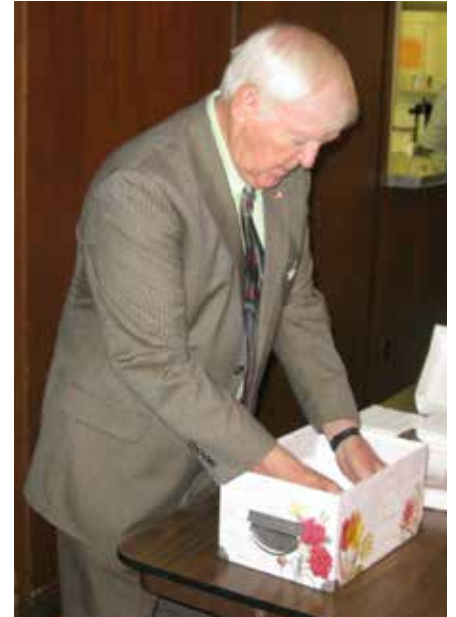
The nearly finished quilt top was found in the Women of St. Patrick's closet before the church remodeling and was donated to St. Patrick's Quilters to finish. Research revealed that the design name was "Daisy Gingham." Raffle tickets were sold after Masses at St. Patrick's, at Sew Sassy in Lincoln Square, and to groups where Quilters were members.

During the December Cookie and Basket sale, John Hummel stirred and shook the tickets in a box and invited a child to draw the winning ticket. And the winning ticket holder was—Ellen Amberg!

Proceeds from the raffle were given to Fr. Joe to welcome him back and in appreciation for all he does for

St. Patrick's. The gift was unrestricted, with a note that it could be used as he wished (which could include buying a ticket to see the Cubs win the next World Series).

St. Patrick's Quilters thank all who purchased tickets. For all those who didn't hold a winning ticket this year, know that the Quilters have a new quilt in progress to be raffled off in the future.



*John Hummel makes sure that raffle tickets are well mixed.*

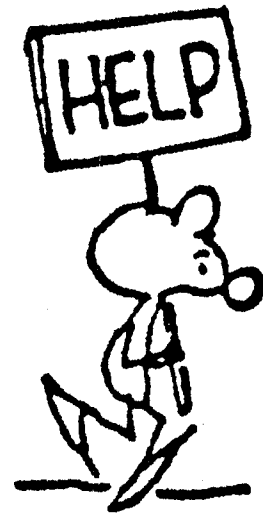
### *In Focus* needs your help!

The future of our parish newsletter, *In Focus*, is in your hands. Two of our generous volunteer parishioners have had to resign, one from laying out pages for printing and another from editing.

**Page layout.** With the January issue Jim Urban completed his years of preparing page layout for *In Focus*, leaving only two volunteers to prepare the newsletter for printing. They really need help from one or two parishioners to page a couple of issues a year. Templates, guidelines, schedules—all would be provided.

**Editing.** Margery Kane, who joined our all-volunteer staff over a year ago, has moved away, leaving only two volunteers to edit *In Focus* to prepare it for page layout. They need help from one or two volunteers to edit a couple of issues a year. We can provide a short list of editing guidelines, schedules, and interesting articles for editing on your PC.

**Can you help?** We can put you to work right away—and probably give you your choice of issues to work on! Please contact Denise Green (dgree1@gmail.com). And thank you!





Have you been inspired by the banners of the saints in the church? The saints witness God's love to us. They give us the example of their faithful lives and support us by their prayers. Pat Mayer's beautiful work and the contributions of many parishioners have made something truly unique to St. Patrick's. The images from the banners have now been made into a set of bookmarks. They are available from the parish office for \$2 each or \$15 for the set of 8. All proceeds will go toward St. Patrick's Capital Campaign.

**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 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); and Peggy Whelan, 367-3668 (margaretwhelan@att.net).

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

**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Ellen Abell, Ed Clancy, Anna Connor, Francoise de l'Eprevier, Judy Fierke, Elizabeth Hendricks, Pat Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Thang Nguyen, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, and Shirley Splittstoesser. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by John Colombo.

## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

### Francoise de l'Eprevier

#### French Yogurt Cake

- 1/2 c plain yogurt
- 1 c vegetable oil
- 1-1/2 c sugar
- 2 c cake flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 T baking powder
- 1 t flavoring of choice (vanilla, lemon, rum, etc.)



Grease and flour 9-inch springform pan. Combine all ingredients and mix well. Pour into prepared pan and bake at 350 for 45 minutes, or until knife inserted comes out clean. May be served with berry glaze or light sprinkling of powdered sugar. Also delicious with butter cream frosting.

\* \* \*

*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 be easy and quick to prepare!*



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **February 12**.

*In the morning when I began to wake  
it happened again,  
that feeling that you, Beloved,  
my sweet Lord,  
had stood over me all night long  
keeping watch...  
...that feeling that as soon as I began to wake,  
you put your lips to my forehead  
and lit a holy lamp  
inside my heart.*

—Hafiz