

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

November 2017

What Do You Value?

If you give a young child a choice between a shiny quarter and a ratty old dollar bill, she'll probably take the quarter because it looks prettier and it feels more substantial in the hand.

As we grow up, we learn the value of things. We learn which things have monetary value. We learn to value relationships with God and family and friends. We learn to value character traits like honesty and hard work. We learn to value things for their beauty or usefulness or permanence. Indeed, one of the most important jobs of parents and teachers is to teach young people what to value. As we grow older, our faith community continues to remind us to seek things of value.

What do you value? Most people would include family, faith, and honesty, among other things. But are these the values that you live? The next time you find yourself short-changing your family



time, ask yourself what you are valuing more than family. Or the next time you skip Sunday Mass or daily prayer, ask yourself what you are valuing more than your faith. If you don't like the answers, don't despair. This isn't about beating yourself up. This is about learning to understand the conflicts that pull us away from the things we want to value. We all have them. Even Jesus said to his Father, "Let this cup pass me by; but let not my will, but yours, be done." He was acknowledging a conflict between his natural fear of suffering and death, and the value he placed on doing his Father's will. And as he acknowledged it, he asked his Father for help: "Let not my will, but yours, be done."

If you ever wonder whether Jesus can really understand you, remember that he came into the world to live with us and to show us how to live. While he was among us, he experienced all the temptations, conflicting values, and tensions that we experience. He showed us how to live with them and make good choices. He showed us that God wants to help us. And he assured us that God never gives up on us, no matter how often we fail.

God understands us even better than we understand ourselves. God loves us better than we love ourselves. God is faithful and will

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Women of St. Patrick Offer Advent Retreat

The Women of St. Patrick will offer an overnight Advent retreat experience for women the weekend of December 8-9 at the Chiara Center in Springfield. The retreat will begin with dinner on Friday and end in the late afternoon on Saturday, with ample time for exploring the Center and the adjacent grounds. The overnight stay will be in the comfortable guest rooms at the Center.



The retreat director will be Sr. Anna Phiri, OSF, and the theme for the retreat will be "Cultivating the Spirit of Prayer in Daily Life." Sr. Anna is a Hospital Sister of St. Francis; she serves in Pastoral Care at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, at OASIS Day Center for the Homeless, and offers spirituality programs in the Decatur area. She holds a master's degree from the

Advent Retreat continued on page 8

From Farm Boy to Priest

Occasionally we may wonder about the faith journey of some Catholics who take that “road less travelled by” straight to the priesthood. If those in religious life have heard and responded to a special call, how exactly did that happen? Did they grow up differently from the rest of us?

In the meeting of the St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Group that was held over the lunch hour on Wednesday, Oct. 11, some of those questions were answered as Fr. Luke shared what it was like for him.

As some were finishing their Subway sandwich lunches in Trinity Hall, Fr. Luke turned on the projection screen. With that wide grin on his face and clicker in hand, he walked us through his life in photos. His sister had surprised him at his ordination almost fifteen years ago with this video scrapbook of his journey from farmhouse to rectory.

Photos included many of his family growing up – mom, dad, Luke (the oldest), and one brother and one sister. His father was Catholic, but his mother was not when they initially met. All three children attended Catholic grade school. As Father Luke told it, there was only one rule in the house as they were growing up – everyone had to attend Sunday Mass on time.

During those elementary-school years he mentioned two glimpses into the possibility of a religious vocation later in life. One day in first grade all the students were making objects from clay. Each student made a Pac-Man except for little Luke, who made a cross. That cross was featured in one of the scrapbook photos on the screen. That same year his teacher mentioned that surely he was destined to become a priest because he actually liked fish sticks on Fridays!



Otherwise Luke proceeded through school with all normal ways. There were photos of his baseball and basketball teams, his dates to the school proms, his Confirmation class of six with Archbishop Myers, along with many photos of family members. Perhaps not a direct line to a vocation, but certainly the work ethic of farm life, the closeness of family, and the injection of humor into daily life confirmed values and fostered growth.

While attending the University of Illinois, Luke followed “an interesting girl that I wanted to meet” to daily Mass and to class, sitting a little closer to her each day. He thought he would marry and have a family. He studied landscape architecture. Several of his drawings appeared on the screen, and he was obviously proud of his free-hand sketches. But his dream of marrying and starting his own family did not hold the satisfaction he thought it would. He knew he had to make that unexpected turn leading to the seminary.

His succession of roommates in the seminary did not stay as long as he did. Along with revealing that he lost his wavy hair in his second year there, he admitted to us that his favorite book was *The Diary of a Country Priest*.

Each life story is told differently, but Fr. Luke’s sharing of his own life story rang true and was followed intently by this audience of St. Patrick’s seniors. Father said he anticipated that he would find serving God’s people very rewarding as a priest and as a pastor, but he never thought his priestly vocation would be so joyful – and so much fun. So said the farm boy from Central Illinois.

Loving Father,

For the rain that seeps into the pores of the earth and the crevices of our being, we give thanks to you,

For the sun that coaxes forth the potential of our beings, we give thanks to you,

For the stars that beckon us into the depths of your mystery, we give thanks to you,

For the song that whispers from the trees to caress our spirits, we give thanks to you,

For the laughter of children, the guffaws of old men, and all the ways you disrupt the creases forming across our brows, we give thanks to you,

For the tenderness of hands that hold broken hearts, and the arms that embrace us when sorrow seeps from our souls, we give thanks to you,

For the thoughtful counsel and the provocative point of view, the different opinion and the comment that stops us in our tracks, we give thanks to you,

For the glitter of joy, the sadness born of love, and all the ways you remind us of your presence, we give thanks to you.

We give thanks, we give thanks, we give thanks!

Christ the King: Alpha and Omega

Christ the King Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Church Year and gives us an opportunity to honor and reflect on Christ's role in our lives before we head into the Advent season. The feast day was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and was originally celebrated on the last Sunday in October, but after Pope Paul VI's reform of the Roman calendar, the feast was moved to the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. This year it falls on November 26.

Father Luke says the date of the feast in the Church calendar gives us a chance to recognize that Christ is the beginning and the end. "As we end a Church year and begin a new one, it is a great time to recall that Christ is there with us all the time, just as he has been there this past year, so once again in the coming year he will be there: leading, guiding, protecting, strengthening, loving."

The readings for this year's feast of Christ the King focus on Christ as a shepherd. Instead of taking away from the image of Jesus as our king, Father Luke says it shows us the kind of king Jesus is. "He [Jesus] isn't a king seated on a throne and being served, he is a king who walks and sleeps among his people, who goes after each lost sheep, who personally stands watch over the sheep, leads to nourishment and rest. He is gentle and loving. He gives his life for the good of his sheep."

A great reminder, as we head into a time of waiting and hope, of why God sent Jesus to be the King of creation.



Parishioners Walk to Raise Money for Our SVDP Food Pantry

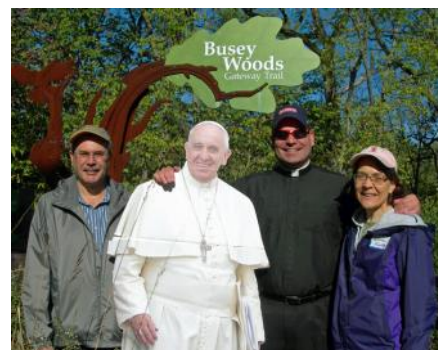
It couldn't have been a more beautiful morning on Saturday, September 30, as people gathered at the Anita Purves Nature Center in Urbana for the St. Patrick/St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk. The day was sunny but cool—perfect for walking. More than 40 people took part.

At 10 a.m. Father Luke led a prayer and then he and the walkers headed into Busey Woods. People made as many circuits of the boardwalk as they were willing or able to complete. When they finished, they gathered for snacks of granola bars, cookies, and fruit, with some additional fellowship. The event ended with the entire group joining in with the Gospel Call, written by Mary Armbrust:

*Let us go to the poor,
be a friend of the poor.
Let us raise the voice of the poor
with the Gospel as our guide.
Let us show with our lives
that in love, we will go to the poor.
Where there is hunger,
we'll share food.
Where there is thirst,
we'll act with justice.
For wherever we care
for the least in our midst,
Jesus will show us his face.*

The Friends of the Poor Walk is a national program of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). Local SVDP conferences hold their own walks, with donations and

sponsorships of walkers raising money for their own local projects. The funds raised from the St. Patrick's walk will help support our parish's SVDP Food Pantry.



Greetings from Sister Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga

Dearest friends in Christ,

Praised be Jesus! Greetings from Chicago. A lot has happened over the past year!

In July 2017, I was blessed to renew my vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for one more year. I am currently in my fifth year of temporary vows. Our initial formation takes about nine years: two years postulancy, two years novitiate, and five or six years of temporary vows. Then preparation for perpetual profession begins.

The time of preparation takes place in Italy, where the Daughters of St. Paul was founded, and lasts about one year. This is an exciting time to deepen our learning of our Pauline life and constitutions along with other Daughters of St Paul from around the world. By the grace of God, I am getting really close to making my preparations for my perpetual profession of vows. I count on your prayers!

In August I was blessed to visit my family in Kenya. It was and continues to be a tumultuous time for all Kenyans due to the still pending presidential elections. Nonetheless, I had a beautiful time with family and friends. One of my amazing discoveries was the roots of my vocation as my paternal grandma describes it: As a young woman my grandma wanted to become a religious sister. In those days, it happened that as the only daughter of her father, she could not become a sister. The logic: perhaps, who would take care of her parents? Little did she know that God would never forget to answer her prayer. As she would say, "that religious vocation would come not to any of my children but rather to my grandchild....70 years later!" Fast forward to our time as I come sauntering in my merry little way of life. Little did I ever have a clue what God had in store that discerning and saying yes to my vocation would be answering a prayer made by my grandma before I was born!



Sr. Jackie and her grandmother



Sr. Jackie and her mom, with the catechists who prepared her mom for RCIA 44 years ago

Another discovery: My mom had decided to become Catholic when she was about to get married. I was pleasantly surprised to meet the couple who had journeyed with her in her faith journey. It had been 44 years since they and my mom had seen each other - what a blessing!

On a sad note, it was my first time back home since my maternal grandma (Millicent Maringa) passed away in January this year. May she rest in peace. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with my maternal grandpa, whose health is now also failing, and spend some quality time with him. Please pray for my grandpa's health as well.

Our missionary work in and around the Chicago area has had us bringing our books and media to many parishes and conferences as well as providing JClub Catholic bookfairs to schools. We have been as far as Ohio and Michigan. One of my growing areas of spiritual development has been giving talks on various media, vocation, and faith formation talks or retreats.

I am currently pursuing a Masters of Theology online. In addition, I have grown in frequently using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share our Catholic faith. It has been an exciting journey and I trust in God's providence to help me continue to offer my yes to him in the many ways he makes this invitation throughout the day. I love this prayer: "Grant us the courage to know what is right and the courage to do it..."

May the Lord who has allowed our paths to cross as being members of His Body continue to lead you to an even closer encounter with Christ.

I look forward to seeing you all on the weekend of November 25-26. Know that you remain ever in my heart and prayers as I give thanks to God for you! God bless you!

Love and prayers,

Sr. Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP
www.daughtersofstpaul.org/chicago
www.pauline.org

Sr. Jackie and Sr. Bethany in October at a parish display with Fr. Karol at St. John's in Glenwood, IL



We Are All Members of the Communion of Saints!

Belief in the communion of saints is confessed in the Apostles Creed in connection with other beliefs that support it: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.”

The early Christians thought of themselves as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ, filled with his Spirit, gathered around his table, following his Way. Because of this, they were called saints. They were all touched by the holiness of God. St. Paul begins almost all of his letters in some way, addressing “all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia,” “all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,” “all God’s beloved in Rome who are called to be saints.” The communion of saints was the vital community of people who, despite their troubles and their sinfulness, were redeemed by Christ and sealed with the one Spirit.

The logic of faith led the early Christians to see that even death was not strong enough to break their bond with Christ. Paul is eloquent on this: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

Since those who died were still joined with Christ, they still belong to the community of saints. The community began to include both those living on earth and, as the Eucharistic Prayer states, “those who have died and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.”

The community of saints in

heaven is an enormously inclusive group, made up of persons both known and unknown. In addition to the martyrs, the Christian roll call includes persons whose lives are known from the biblical text, such as Mary the mother of Jesus, Peter and Paul, and Mary Magdalene. Other persons whose lives have a special significance for the community because of their outstanding love, learning, pastoral ministry, or spirituality are also recognized as saints.

The community of holy ones, however, is much broader than this. Even if canonization were to disappear, the communion of saints would still flourish, for this includes all holy men and women who have died and are alive in God—in a vivid communion of life with the pilgrim church still on its journey through history.

Communion of Saints continued on p. 11

VOCATION PRAYER

Loving God, we rely on you
to inspire us, men and
women everywhere
and from all walks of life,
to respond generously
to your call to embrace
the gift of vocation in our
individual circumstances.
Bless us all with the joy
that comes
through loving service.
We pray in union with the
great communion of saints
in the name of Jesus,
your son.



Q: I’ve been away from the Church for a long time because when I was divorced and remarried a friend told me that I couldn’t come to church anymore. Why is that?

A: Well, your friend misled you. You can always come to church, to Mass—I hope you do, in fact! If your former spouse is still living, you can explore the possibility of filing for an annulment by speaking with our pastor or with a St. Patrick parishioner, trained as a Notary-Auditor to deal with such matters. Some situations are complicated to resolve, but others are relatively easy, and there is everything to be gained by simply inquiring.

Even when there is a marriage issue needing to be resolved, there is good reason to come to church, to Mass. While you may not receive the Eucharist, you can come forward in the Communion procession to be blessed, which in itself is a great thing! By your presence you join the praying community in praising and worshiping God and asking for God’s help for others as well as for yourself. You develop relationships with others who come to pray, relationships that may become a “comfort” base for you. You can participate in one or more of the parish ministries, such as the parish food pantry or Meals on Wheels, where you are in a position to help others—even as you yourself are helped by your participation.

So yes, do come to church!

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

Parish Council News

The Parish Council's September meeting focused on how the Council can best represent the parish. Although we have initiated opportunities for parishioners to ask questions and make comments (a suggestion box and after-Mass listening sessions), we determined that we needed to know who our parishioners are. Therefore, in the next couple of months parishioners will be asked to complete a survey.

The meeting also addressed your comments and questions from September's after-Mass listening sessions:

Q: I remember hearing about a scholarship that was set up by a generous parishioner who passed away last year. Any updates?

A: St. Patrick's is very grateful for a substantial bequest provided from the estate of Vincent Greene. Our parish, the diocese, and the estate lawyer have been working diligently to realize the dream of providing scholarships to St. Patrick's youth who are planning to attend college. However, the specific language of the will has created unintended consequences and implementation of the scholarship funding has been delayed. We have a group working on the eligibility requirements for the scholarship, which will be shared with the parish later this fall. The lawyers are making progress, and we hope to have the scholarship available for the 2018-19 school year.

Q: Can we come up with a better offertory basket system? I get mixed up on second-collection Sundays. I see families with small children and some of our elderly parishioners struggling with the baskets.

A: The ushers are continually reviewing the practice of basket passing, how to differentiate between the two baskets, and how to assist those in need. We welcome suggestions on how to provide a more efficient plan.

Q: I am new to the parish and want to get involved. What resources are available to help me learn more about the different activities at St. Pat's?

A: The Ministry booklet is available at all the entrances of the church, in the Family Room, at the Welcome Desk, or from the ushers. This wonderful resource lists all the ministries at St. Patrick's and contact information for each.

Q: We used to hold hands across the aisle during the Our Father. Why has that practice changed?

A: The simple answer is our new center aisle is wider than our arms are long! When Fr. Luke was asked how many other parishes hold hands during the Our Father, his response was "zero." We are unique to this area and many parishioners are proud of this fact. For those of you who remember, Frs. Doug Hennessy, George Remm, and Gene Kane had a hand in implementing the practice. After the remodeling of the church, many people have found the center aisle too wide to comfortably span the divide. Suggestions were made to encourage Council members and the ushers to model the across-the-aisle practice and see if it catches on.

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Mission Trip Tales

Teens Preparing for Next Summer's Mission Trip

For three Sundays in October, nine mission trip teens and three chaperons helped out in the kitchen and dining room of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, 124 W. White St., Champaign. The teens wrapped silverware, checked people in, served the soup portion of the lunch, cut and put desserts onto plates, served dessert, washed dishes, and cleaned the tables after lunch. Kayley Schacht, a senior at St. Thomas More, stated, "It was really special to see how happy they were. The feeling was contagious." Everyone had a great time serving the community those three

Sundays. Thanks to Theresa Brown, Randy Pankau, and Theresa McDaniel for chaperoning and to Katarina, Justin, Noelle, Kayley, Alyssa, Erinn, Sophie, Aliyah, and Austin for working so hard!

The Christmas wreath mission trip fundraiser will be held after each Mass the weekends of October 22, 29 and November 5. Sales from the wreaths help fund the teens on their mission trip.

If your teen would like to be on next summer's mission trip or if you would like to chaperon, contact missiontrip@stpaturbana.org.



St. Patrick Celebrates the Feast Day of St. Francis with a Pet Blessing

The afternoon of October 4 was dark and cloudy and threatening to rain cats and dogs any moment. We did have 21 dogs and two guinea pigs but no cats or rain, so the blessing of the animals was held on the new plaza outside the main entrance of the church. Even without the sun, it was a joyful occasion that the dogs sensed was special. The dogs were happy and well-behaved as they greeted one another.



There also was a large group of humans this year. The blessing was led by Deacon David Zola, who was assisted by Jim Urban. Deacon Zola said how excited he was to be present for the occasion. He pointed out that St. Francis actually preached to the animals, both tame and wild. St. Francis called them his brothers and sisters because God created them to share this world with us.

For the ceremony Deacon Zola read verses from Genesis about God creating all living creatures. He followed this by reciting Psalm 8 interspersed with our responses. After some intercessions, he prayed to God to bless these animals. Each and every animal was sprinkled with holy water by Deacon Zola or Jim Urban. One cute little Yorkie named Mia really needed the blessing since she was soon to undergo surgery for cancer.



The ceremony ended with all singing the hymn "All Creatures of God and King," led by Frank Gallo, our music director, and Sarah Perdekamp, the conductor of St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra. The entire ceremony lasted twenty minutes and was a happy event. Deacon Zola mentioned that parishioners could bring a picture of their pet to be blessed next year, if they are concerned about bringing the animal or bird.

For more wonderful photos of this event, see The News-Gazette's coverage at <http://www.news-gazette.com/multimedia/photogallery/2017-10-06/st-pats-pet-blessing-2017>.



Local Interfaith Events Are Coming Up in November



If you are interested in helping with work to support local immigrant, asylum-seeking, and refugee families, you might be interested in the "Our Shared Work Meeting," sponsored by the CU Immigration Forum. The meeting will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, at the University YMCA, 1001 S. Wright

St., Champaign. Included will be a panel discussion with representatives of local organizations involved in how groups can work together to help these families. The Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County is sponsoring their 2nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 19, at 3 p.m., at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 South First Street, Champaign. This year's theme is "Tapestry of Faith and Community: Our Lives are Woven Together." The program will include music, storytelling, and a community art project. For more information, you can contact parishioner Luis Cuza (luis@cuza.us or 217-954-1956).

Holy Cross Happenings

By the time All Saints Day rolls around, Holy Cross has already fit enough into the school year to make most parents ready for a long winter's nap. Not the kids, though—they have more energy than ever and are always ready for the next big project, trip, sport, or anything else that sounds amazing and fun!

Holy Cross's feast week (the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) was held from September 10 through September 16. Always a mix of the sacred (see the photo of Ian Peters, Daniel Caughlin, and other junior high kids performing the Living Rosary) and the festive (e.g., our own Aidan Beckett as the mascot for Hot Dog Day), this year's celebration was a perfect commemoration of the feast.

Even before all of that (on the second full day of school) the kids out on the playground had the opportunity to view the solar eclipse. Many thanks to the teachers and staff at Holy Cross School for taking a little extra time out of your summer to plan and prepare for this not-to-be-missed event.

On the sports front, the school's cross country team qualified for the IESA state competition this year. Congrats to the coaches on a successful season and to St. Pat's parishioners Emily Leininger, Jay Saunders, and Cole Saunders for placing at the meet!



Perhaps most important, ongoing service projects such as bringing fresh fruit, milk, and monetary donations to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen are in full swing, as are emergency drives such as the 5th grade's collection of supplies for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Well done, kids! And many thanks to Holy Cross School for striving to cultivate a servant's heart in each of its students.

Please feel free to contact Rachael McMillan (rachmcmill@gmail.com) if there is anything you'd like to see featured in an upcoming installment of Holy Cross Happenings.

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

Advent Retreat from page 1

Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, and has studied at the Ignatius Jesuit Center in Guelph, Ontario. Sister Anna is also a spiritual director at the Chiara Center. Gardening, cooking, reading, sewing, and knitting are among her hobbies.

The fee for the weekend will be \$90 for a single room and \$70 for a shared double room. The fee includes meals and materials as well as a comfortable room with an ensuite bath. Carpooling from St. Patrick's will be arranged for those wishing to travel with others. Scholarships are available. To register for the retreat please send your contact information to: womenofstpatrick@gmail.com or call Nancy Olson (217/359-6424).



All Saints, All Sorts

There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.
—Thomas Merton

You don't have to search far and wide for heroes and saints. They are in our midst. Some have been canonized, many have not; many may never be. What brings them all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, and a willingness to sacrifice self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing God's love among us are easily discovered—just look around you!





in our parish library

November marks the celebration of All Saints Day. As we prepare to celebrate this feast day, I would like to call attention to some of the lighter reads, the fiction books by Louis de Wohl about our Catholic saints.

Lay Siege to Heaven: A Novel about St. Catherine of Siena. The daughter of a prosperous dyer in 14th-century Siena, Catherine never forgot the mystical experience that occurred during her extreme youth. At that time in history the pope was living in Avignon, but Catherine persuaded him to return to Rome. She also helped to bring about peace between the warring city-states of Italy. It is said that St. Catherine truly did lay siege to heaven. Fic Dew.

Dear and Glorious Physician: A Novel about St. Luke of the Cross. This book is indirectly about God. No novel can truly convey the story of his life as well as the Bible does. The story of St. Luke tells the story of every man's pilgrimage through despair and darkness, suffering and anguish, bitterness and sorrow, to the feet and understanding of God. Fic Dew.

The Restless Flame: A Novel about St. Augustine. In this stirring novel de Wohl tells the story of St. Augustine's transformation from a vain, sensual youth to the brilliant, devout writer and theologian who conquered himself as completely as he did the adversaries of the Church. Fic Dew.

The Quiet Light: A Novel about St. Thomas Aquinas. The battles and crusades of the 13th century and ruthlessness of the excommunicated emperor Frederick II play a big part in the story, but it is mainly about St. Thomas Aquinas, a pupil of St. Albert the Great. Through a life of study, writing, prayer, preaching, and contemplation Thomas rose to become an influential figure of his age and was later proclaimed the Angelic Doctor. Fic Dew.

The Joyful Beggar: A Novel about St. Francis of Assisi. In this magnificent and stirring novel, the author turns his narrative skill to the story of the soldier and merchant's son who might have been right-hand man to a king, but who became instead the most beloved of all saints. Set against the tempestuous background of 13th-century Italy and Egypt, here is the magnificent and inspiring story of Francis Bernardone, the brash, pleasure-loving young officer who was to become immortalized as St. Francis of Assisi. Fic Dew.

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If you have questions, contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. The door to the parish library is always open—come and browse to your heart's content!

Help Bring Thanksgiving to Someone in Need

Once again, our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be providing Thanksgiving baskets to our less fortunate neighbors. Each year, with the help and generosity of parishioners, 260 "baskets" that provide all the makings of a family Thanksgiving feast, along with some additional household staples, are given to community members who are referred through local agencies or personal requests.

Many volunteers are needed at each step. On Saturday, Nov. 18, food items need to be picked up from a grocery store and delivered to the parish hall. During Coffee Shop after Mass on Sunday, Nov. 19, the baskets will be assembled. More volunteers will be needed for an assortment of jobs on the morning of Nov. 21: the perishable items need to be picked up from the grocery store and then added to the baskets, after which pairs of volunteers will deliver the baskets to recipients.



This is a great way to begin the holiday season and can be a fun way for families to volunteer together. If you are interested in helping, watch the bulletin and the parish website for a link to a volunteer sign-up, or call Sally (638-5178).

You can also help a great deal by making a donation. In the past, baskets have cost roughly \$25 apiece but like everything else that price keeps going up. Your packet of weekly collection envelopes should contain a special envelope for Thanksgiving Basket donations, or you can simply write "SVDP Thanksgiving

Past volunteers have included families.

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Communion of Saints

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Most of these people are unknown to us by name. They are the ones who were great only in God's eyes, who go unmentioned on the honor rolls of the Church. They form the great cloud of witnesses whose faithful love in ordinary lives throughout the ages has passed the living tradition of the gospel down to us. Others, happily, are known to us, being family or community members or friends whose love and insight shaped us as loving, believing human beings.

The living Church honors the saints by loving these friends of Christ and cherishing their memory when we tell their stories, when we thank God for them, when we take a clue from their example for our own pattern of life, when we call upon them as partners in the struggle. The communion of saints, as the late theologian Karl Rahner so beautifully put it, enables us who are still living to "take refuge in the community of the redeemed."

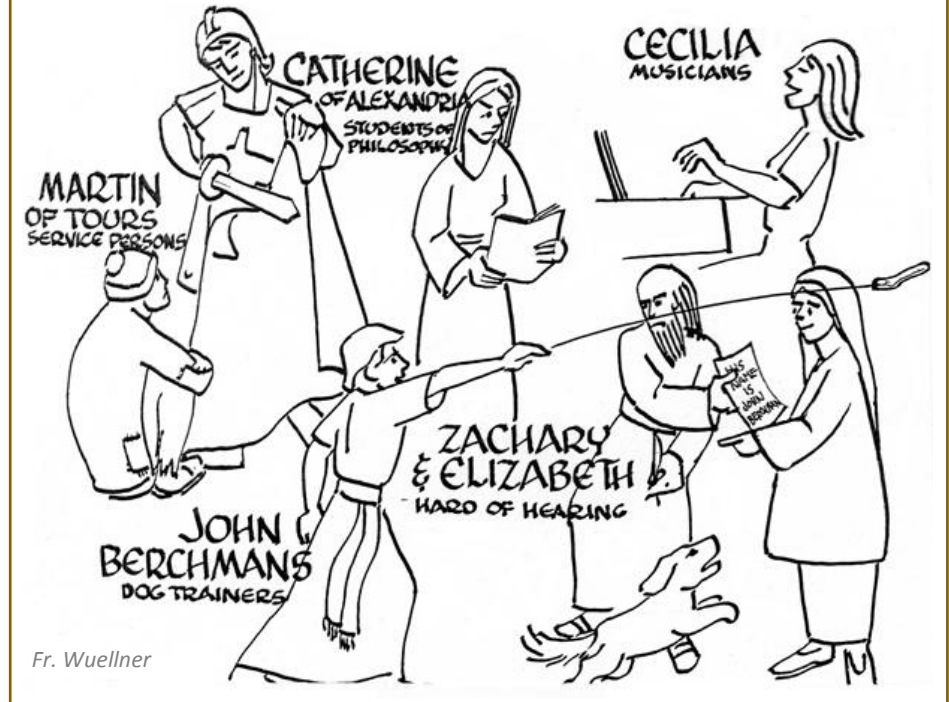
The feast of All Saints honors this ever-widening circle of all good people who have died and are now with God and in living communion with the Church on earth. Someday it will be the feast of those who celebrate it now; future generations will celebrate the fruitfulness of God's grace in us!

Thanksgiving continued...

Baskets" on a regular envelope for your gift. Place donations in the collection basket at Mass or bring it to the parish office. You can also donate online---go to the parish website, www.stpaturbana.org, and click on Online Giving.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make this annual tradition a success!

NOVEMBER PATRON SAINTS



Gift Baskets for Fathers

If you do some early Christmas shopping, would you consider buying an extra item or two for a father who might count these among his only gifts this year?

The Women of St. Patrick is collecting small, unwrapped items for men's gift baskets that will be given out during empty tomb's annual Christmas giveaway. On the first Friday of December, this Christian social service agency in Champaign turns into a Christmas shopping boutique. Parents "shop" for gifts for their children, choosing from items that have been donated to empty tomb in pristine condition. (There is no cost to the parent.) The next day, one child from each household gets to choose a basket of gifts for their parent or guardian. These Christmas gifts may be the only ones the adult will receive.

Women's groups from area churches have been asked to create the parents' baskets this year. Because baskets of gifts for parents are harder to come by, the Women of St. Patrick has agreed to donate at least five baskets of items that men would appreciate.

The items will be collected in the gathering space on Nov. 18 and 19, before and after each Mass. A box or basket for donated items will also be set up the following week in the vestibule of the church.

Not sure what to donate? Be creative! Games, tumblers, gloves and scarves, sports gear, home maintenance items, personal grooming products, picnic accessories, office supplies – what do the men in your life like? Items needn't be big or expensive, but they should be new or in like-new condition.

If you'd like more suggestions or have any questions, please email Sue Schreiber (sue@suejohn.com).



Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

Josephine DuBois

Cranberry-Pumpkin Cookies

1/2 c butter, softened
1 c sugar
1 t vanilla
1 egg
1 c pumpkin puree
2-1/4 c flour
2 t baking powder
1 t baking soda
1/2 t salt
1 c cranberries
1 t cinnamon
1 T orange zest
1/2 c chopped walnuts
Cream butter and sugar until light and



fluffy. Beat in vanilla, egg, and pumpkin. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. Stir into pumpkin mixture until well blended. Cut cranberries in half and stir in along with orange zest and walnuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes at 375 degrees.

* * *

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!

St. Patrick Parishioners Now Have Access to Helpful Website

St. Patrick's has a new subscription to www.Formed.org (from the Augustine Institute/Lighthouse Media). At this one website, you and your family can access:



- Religious education, weekly Mass, and Bible Studies videos
 - Lessons to help prepare for the sacraments, including baptism and marriage
 - Movies on lives of saints and other Catholic topics
 - E-books, podcasts, lectures, and music to stream or download
 - Spiritual text and videos aimed at children or teens
 - Content in Spanish or English
- Formed.org is available 24/7, 365 days a year. Access is paid by a grant from the Diocese of Peoria through the Fulton Sheen Endowment to promote religious education and adult faith formation programs.

To view, go to www.formed.org. To register you will need the Parish Access Code. Please contact Jon McCoy (jon.mccoy@staturbana.org or 531-7034) for the code.

Council News from page 6

Q: I find it very distracting to see people coming in late to Mass. Is there anything that can be done to educate or encourage parishioners to arrive on time for Mass and not to leave after Communion?

A: This is an age-old concern and one that Fr. Luke has struggled with in all his parishes. The Parish Council is open to suggestions, but it does fall on the individual to make that decision to participate fully in the Mass, from beginning to end. As a faith community, we want to create a welcoming environment where people long to participate fully and may even stick around to visit over a cup of coffee and a donut (or two)!

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

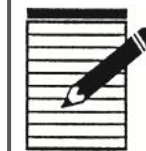
St. Patrick's Parish *In Focus* is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, IL. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

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 (December) issue of *In Focus* is **November 5**.

What Do You Value? from page 1

never stop loving us. God simply loves us, deeply loves us, eternally loves us. God is with us to teach us what to value, to show us how to live out our values, to help us when we need help, and to pick us up when we make mistakes.

God simply loves us. What can have greater value than that?