

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2018

Bursting with life

The symbols of Eastertime are bursting with life. An egg looks really dead, but then it breaks open and new life emerges. No wonder eggs and chicks are part of Easter! Tulips, lilies, and other springtime flowers grow from bulbs. When the earth still seems to be too dark and cold for anything to grow, new life suddenly appears. And you know what they say about rabbits: they breed like rabbits! They are a sign of abundant, exuberant life.

The life that Jesus gained for us by his life, death, and resurrection is abundant and exuberant. The span of our years in this world isn't enough for him. He gives us life that overflows and gushes out into eternity. He gives us some of his love and creativity, and the freedom to choose how to use them. The good that he enables in us bubbles up when we try to make our families and communities into places that are more just and peaceful. And when we make mistakes, he gives us a way to return so that we can again be part of him.

The lamb is an Easter symbol that tells us a great deal about Jesus. A lamb is humble: not a powerful ram, not the trusted matriarch of the herd, just a lamb. And so Jesus is for us. He came as an infant, making himself vulnerable to pain and rejection at the hands of his people.

In ancient Israel, the lamb was an animal of sacrifice, a way of giving honor and thanks to God. Jesus does the same for us, helping us to know the goodness of God and to turn to him in prayer. A lamb might be sacrificed in atonement for sins.



Jesus sacrificed himself, showing us that nothing can overwhelm the love of God. A lamb is food. Jesus gives us his flesh to nourish us, so that we can live the life that he wants for us.

Life can be very hard, but it is easier and much richer when we know that Jesus is with us.

The noise of the world around us can make us forget how much he loves us. We can help one another remember God's love. The kindness, compassion, and fidelity that we show one another speaks volumes. Our faithfulness in gathering Sunday after Sunday to share the Word of God and the Body of Jesus helps us to remember that we belong to God and are deeply loved by God. When we remember that love and the gift of abundant, exuberant life that he has given us, we have every reason to sing Alleluia!

Are you ready for the future?

There comes a time in everyone's life when death must be faced.

It may come suddenly or with a time for preparation. Those who believe in life everlasting know that it is not to be feared, but sometimes amid the pain of loss there can also be the stress of not knowing how to handle all the issues that arise around death. Having a plan can ease some of the many concerns that accompany this difficult time.

The Parish Nurses and the Consolation ministry team have prepared a series called "Planning for the Future for Your Family and You." This three-session series promises to be informative and helpful for people of all ages in preparing for the inevitability of final illness and death. Offered on three Sunday afternoons in April, the program will feature speakers on a diversity of topics dealing with end-of-life decisions. The sessions are designed to be independent of one another so that you may attend one, two, or all of the sessions depending on the information you will find most helpful. All sessions will be held in Trinity Hall.



Are you ready? Continued on page 7

St. Patrick's enjoys an evening of prayer and music!

March 11 was a rich night of prayer and music at St. Patrick's, with Solemn Vespers at 6:30 p.m. and a St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra concert at 7:30 p.m. Vespers began with the University Laboratory High School Madrigal Singers (who were also featured in the SPYO concert), who sang Haydn's "Tenebrae Factae Sunt." Frank Gallo was the cantor and led the psalms and hymns for the service.

Those who stayed after Vespers awaiting the SPYO concert were rewarded by a special treat: a musical performance by our pastor. Accompanying himself on guitar, Father Luke sang songs including "Uncloudy Day" by Willie Nelson and "Stay" by Taylor Swift, concluding with a sing-along of "Froggie Went-a-Courting."

We might also mention that our



music director, Frank Gallo, had an even busier day. Between his Sunday morning Mass schedule and his duties at Vespers, Frank was at Parkland College for a concert of the Parkland College Chamber Singers, a group composed of Parkland Students, community members, and St. Patrick's parishioners that he directs.

Is there any doubt we are a parish that loves music?

St. Patrick's hosts a rare performance

St. Patrick's parishioners who were unable to attend the musical performance on Saturday, March 3, of "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross" by Cesar Franck – a piece that has never been performed locally – were the poorer for having missed a musical feast.



The evening's program began with Stephanie Rayl, singing the stirring Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck. Stephanie was deftly accompanied by Dr. Frank Gallo on organ. This was followed by Ricardo Herrera, bass-baritone cantor, in a powerful performance of The Lord's Prayer by Albert Malotte and accompanied by the orchestra. Both pieces were performed with careful attention to shaping of the musical line in following the composers' intent.

Led by Dr. Frank Gallo, Director of Music and Liturgy, the St. Patrick's Festival Choir, consisting of our own choir members as well as members from the community and area churches, did a superb job presenting this Latin setting for the seven last words of Christ, written by the Belgium-born Franck in 1859..

The Soli Dei Gloria Orchestra was composed of professional musicians from the community and included accomplished faculty members from the UI School of Music, many with extensive performance repertoire. The orchestra played with impeccable sensitivity and artistic musicianship, careful not to overpower the soloists and choir.

The soloists, all master's-degree students in vocal performance at the UI School of Music, included Jessica Ragsdale, soprano, Ryan Bryce Johnson, tenor, and Alan Saldana-Silva, bass-baritone. The soloists were polished and musically sensitive, beginning with the Prologue's soprano solo, O Vos Omnes, qui transitis per viam. (Translation: Is it nothing to you, all ye who pass by?)

The tenor-bass duet in the piece begins with Hodie mecum eris in paradiso. (Translation: Today, you shall be with me in paradise.) The tenor was particularly fine with a wide range and was crystal clear in his upper register. The bass-baritone was warm and full, contrasting nicely with the tenor in this duet. While there is not enough room here to elaborate on every highlight of the evening, these are only a few.



St. Patrick's parishioners are grateful for the treasure of music, both liturgical and in performance, provided under the leadership of Frank Gallo.

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, you must have been with Jesus as he suffered and died and then rose again. Help me to understand what this means for me today, how it affects how I am to live, what my responsibilities are to others. Give me the courage to follow Jesus, to walk with Jesus in my everyday life, to serve others to the best of my ability and in the way you've set before me.

Evening of Remembrance a time to share

*Praise to you, God of all consolation.
Give us comfort and hope at the death of your faithful ones.*

*In you, O God, life is not ended, but transformed.
Death is swallowed up in victory.*

—From *Intercessions of Mercy*

St. Patrick's Ministry of Consolation invites everyone to an Evening of Remembrance to honor the memories and pray for parishioners and family members who have died in the past year. It is a time to gather family and friends to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have died, to share memories of them, and to pray for them and for those who grieve for them. Everyone is welcome to come to remember those who have died and give prayerful support to their loved ones. If there is anyone you would like remembered that evening you are encouraged to attend.

The Evening of Remembrance will take place on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in Trinity Hall. For more information, contact Nancy Olson (359-6424 evenings or nancybolson@gmail.com).

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

—John 11:26



**The light of Christ surrounds us,
The love of Christ enfolds us,
The power of Christ protects us,
The presence of Christ watches over us.**



Don't miss CREW's Service Auction!

CREW's annual Service Auction will take place in the main hall of the parish center at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 8. This is the last fundraiser for their mission trip to Pennsylvania this summer, so be sure to come and bid generously!

Holy Cross Happenings

This month, Holy Cross School presents its spring musical, "The Music Man, Jr." Shows will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22.



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

Seniors get to know Music Director Frank Gallo

The St. Jeanne Jugan seniors group enjoyed a luncheon meeting at Biaggi's on February 8, highlighted by a presentation by St. Patrick's music director, Frank Gallo. Frank was born in Pittsburgh and showed musical talent at an early age. He began learning the piano at age 5 and was "volunteered" by his dad to play the organ in their church at age 9. He graduated from Duquesne University with a major in voice and has had extensive musical education and experiences in the U.S. and Europe, eventually concentrating in choral conducting.



Frank outlined his ministry vision and goals for St. Patrick's music. He aims to increase congregational participation in the music of the Mass, while observing how blessed and unique St. Patrick's is in congregational participation. His other goals include:

- Using diverse hymn selections at services
- Using visual aids and providing a welcoming environment for visitors
- Presenting major music concerts, such as those held in March
- Holding prayer services, such as the Vespers service, also held in March
- Introducing and implementing sung propers to the Lenten Sunday liturgies

Get to know Frank Gallo continued on page 7

Dear good people of St. Patrick's,

The name of our region has now been changed to the Kenya/South Sudan region with the arrival of Gabe Hurrish. So once again I am changing our picture! Gabe is teaching in Yambio South Sudan, and he passed by Mombasa in January to meet the rest of us. We are thrilled that he has come to join our region and will support him in every way possible.



Left: Susan, Gabe, Heidi, Coralie

I have some very important news as well. After prayer and reflection for some time, I have decided to go home to live with my mother in Urbana. We are both getting older, and I can feel the Spirit beckoning – I know this is the right decision. I will continue as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner and will be working in Mission Education and Mission Advancement, mainly in the Midwest. This decision was just made with the recent visit to Mombasa of Marj Humphrey, Director of Missions, and Ted Miles, Executive Director. I am gradually saying my goodbyes and preparing to return to the U.S. on July 1. I have been so blessed to have come to Tanzania in 1985 and then served in what is now South Sudan and finally Kenya!



Left: Marj, Ted, Susan

Susan continued on page 7

Women's retreat offered a deep look into the Beatitudes

"You are the blessing" is how Sr. Barbara Leonard began the Lenten Retreat, sponsored by the Women of St. Patrick's, on March 10. She explained that when people leaving a presentation are asked what they are taking away with them, the answer is generally not what the speaker has said, but what they have heard from each other. In the case of Sr. Barbara's program on the Beatitudes, there was plenty of inspiration to take away, both from her presentation and her personal stories, which showed vividly the joy and rewards of living in the world with deep compassion, and from what the participants shared with one another.



As a way to frame the Beatitudes, each participant was given a sheet of paper printed with boxes made to resemble a picture surrounded with a series of mats. The Beatitudes were the picture in the middle. On the innermost mat, each woman wrote down something that had changed in her family life in the past couple of years. The next mat was designated for changes in parish life in the same period of time, and finally changes to the wider world during that time. All of these represented perspectives that influence how one might read the Beatitudes.

Sr. Barbara also pointed out that language can wake up meaning. She talked about the Beatitudes ...

Women's retreat continued on page 7

Vivo mixes fun with learning

Kneeling on the ground? Hands raised? No, it's not a prayer meeting: it's indoor game time with Vivo!

Each week, seventh- and eighth-graders play a couple games, enjoy a snack, and then settle down for some learning and reflection. Recent discussions have focused on the history of the popes, relics of saints, and how to read the Bible. All Vivo members received a Bible for their very own!

Many thanks to our dedicated leadership team for their continued planning and efforts to keep youngsters thinking and learning while building faith and friendships.



Seder Meal connects us with our origins.

As part of our parish's preparation for Holy Week, St. Patrick's held its annual Seder Meal on March 1. RCIA candidates and First Communicants with their families made up most of those who attended.

The Passover Seder is a Jewish ritual meal that involves a retelling of the story from the Book of Exodus about the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Why does a Catholic parish hold a Seder Meal? It is believed that the Last Supper may have been a Passover Seder; taking part in such a meal connects us both with the ancient roots of our faith and the origin of the Eucharist.



Pew Ponderings



Could the church doors facing north be ADA accessible? It would be much easier for drop-off and pick-up for parishioners with accessibility needs.

Great question. This is a good example of how difficult it is to design a building and the need to make adjustments. We've asked the Building and Grounds Committee to look into some options. We certainly want to be welcoming to all people, especially those with physical challenges.

When is it appropriate to sit down after Communion?

There is actually no specific instruction for this; we are encouraged to choose the posture that enables us to continue in prayer, while being cognizant of those around us. During the Eucharistic prayer and Communion, we kneel in adoration of the real presence of Christ. After Communion, we may continue to kneel as the hosts are returned to the tabernacle and during the purification of the sacred vessels. Following that, we may continue to give thanks for the graces of Communion and to pray for our special intentions.

Even though Christmas was nearly 3 months ago, I was surprised that the church lights were so bright for the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Oversight or new practice?

Definitely an oversight! Our dedicated Mass set-up folks did not have any specific lighting instructions. We'll continue to work on improving our holiday and holy day procedures.

Does St. Patrick's participate in special Lenten missions?

A Lenten parish mission is something that can be considered in the future. Past such missions have certainly been well attended. The First Friday talks that Fr. Luke offers is a good opportunity for learning and growth with different topics and spirituality.

Fr. Luke, how do you stay so positive in the midst of budget crunches, excessive work, and diverse parishioner requests?

Without question, I attribute any of my good habits or skills to my dad and mom – both are great at seeing the good in a situation, even in the midst of difficulties and frustrations. God has been good to me and blessed me with many wonderful people along the journey; when I think of them I can't help but be joyful and excited.

Whenever I see people growing, or even just trying to grow, it makes me incredibly joyful. I'm uplifted by people being at Mass; I love seeing children learning about our Faith. I'm edified by our parishioners who

continue striving to be present, even in the midst of health troubles.

Yes, we have financial challenges, but I see a passion and investment here at St. Patrick that I have not encountered anywhere else. No doubt, the days are long, but the progress I see us making and the potential for our long-term growth here is very invigorating (ask me sometime about a dream for a future youth center)!

Yes, there can be difficult conversations, but I know the investment of time and energy will be worthwhile if in our parish family unity can grow.

I'm joyful because I believe in God's love. I'm joyful because I believe in the goodness of people. I'm joyful because I believe that growing in faith together we are closer to Heaven.



in our parish library

Beyond the superficial symbols of the Easter Bunny and eggs filled with sweet treats, there is another more miraculous event, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Here are a few books featuring some of the many aspects of the Easter season.

The Church: Communion, Sacrament, Communication, by Robert Kress, shows the connection between the one true God and his "un-Godly" followers. It emphasizes the need for the Church in order for God to communicate his love and truths to us. 231 Kre.

I Remember Your Name in the Night, by Donagh O'Shea. The author portrays death as a natural and normal progression that we move toward all our lives. Donagh views death as simply the next stage in God's plan for us. 236 Osh.

What Are They Saying about Paul and the End of Time, by Joseph Plevnik. This book presents Paul's writings on Christ's death and resurrection, and the transformation and interim existence after the resurrection. 236 Ple.

On the Theology of Death, by Karl Rahner. Rahner considers death as an event concerning mortals as a whole, death as the consequence of sin, death as a dying with Christ, and martyrdom. 236 Rah.

7 Convincing Miracles, by Erwin Lutzer. Exploring the seven miracles recorded in the book of John, Lutzer describes the wonders that characterized Jesus' life on earth. Each chapter includes teaching on current issues related to miracles and faith, such as signs and wonders, divine healing, and angels. 211 Lut.

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If you have questions, contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. You can get a key to the parish library from the parish office; come and browse to your heart's content!



Q: What is the paschal candle, and how is it used?

A: The paschal candle is the very tall candle mounted on a tall stand, most often seen near the baptismal font. What makes it different from all other candles is its symbolism and its uses. If you recognize the paschal candle as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World, its uses are easy to understand.

At the very beginning of the Easter Vigil a new fire is started, its primary purpose to light the paschal candle, which has been marked with a cross into which five grains of incense are inserted, representing the wounds of Christ. It is carried into the darkened church among the assembled parishioners as “The Light of Christ” is acclaimed and then shared with all present.

The paschal candle, the Light of Christ, is fittingly present at every baptism, at every funeral. At baptism the light of Christ is passed to the person baptized. At funerals it is a reminder that the sacrament of baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

This Light of Christ is thus present with us at the beginning and the conclusion of our journey through life with him.

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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

At their February Parish Council meeting members discussed the results of the survey parishioners completed in December and the results from Council members’ interviews with the 80+ ministries at St. Patrick’s.

First, the purposes of the interviews with the ministries were to learn which ministries were active, and if so, to understand their role within the parish and their view of St.

Patrick’s mission. Most ministries commented that it was St. Patrick’s mission to behave like Christ and spread the Gospel.

During their March meeting, Council members will articulate their own thoughts about St. Patrick’s mission. In April, they will begin drafting a mission statement using the ideas expressed by the parish’s ministries and Council members. Once the mission statement is drafted, the next job will be to define how St. Patrick’s can implement the mission throughout the parish and ministries.

The second discussion item focused on survey results. More than 400 families completed the survey, which was a good response. Thanks to all who completed the survey! Some things the survey revealed about our parish:

- Most households are composed of one or two members only.
- While we have parishioners of all ages, around half of them are more than 55 years old.
- We are a predominantly European-American parish, but we have several ethnicities, the largest of which are Congolese and Hispanic.
- Among households with children, 37% have children attending religious education classes at St. Patrick’s.
- 39% of those who completed the survey have been members for more than 20 years.
- 95% attend Mass regularly.
- 37% are not members of any of our 80+ ministries. (Pay attention when the next Time and Talent registration occurs!)
- The most popular Mass time is 10 a.m. and the least popular is the noon Mass.
- The top factors people consider for deciding the frequency and times of Mass are the convenience of Mass times and concern for the pastor’s long-term well-being.
- The main reason people join and stay in our parish is the priest.

(Thanks to Jesus Sarol and Joe Hinchliffe for data entry and analysis.)

Parish Council members conducted both the ministry interviews and survey to find out who we are as a parish. St. Patrick’s is a diverse parish with many ministries. Finding the answer to who we are is critical to understanding our parish mission, and how we can live it each day as a family of faith!



**I saw water flowing from the Temple,
and all to whom this water came were saved and shall say: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Are you ready... death cont...

Session One will be presented on Sunday, April 8, 2-4 p.m. The topic for the first session is "Now What? Resources, Important Discussions, & Understanding Grief." The session will feature Vera Duncanson, OSF Heart of Mary Spiritual Care Coordinator, speaking on the topics of patient/physician communication, what to expect at the hospital, advance directives, and DNR orders. Parish nurses will present information about hospice and other community resources. And Eileen Mathy, representing LSCW, Mathy House Counseling, will speak about the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of grief.

Session Two will be held on Sunday, April 15, 2-4 p.m. The topic for this session is "Having a Plan: Preplanning Final Arrangements and Funeral Liturgy." Jay Yost, Licensed Funeral Director of Owens Funeral Home, will share information on options for final disposition, preplanning a funeral, and prepaying for a funeral. Father Luke Spannagel will discuss the value of preplanning a funeral liturgy.

The final session, held on Sunday, April 29, 2-4 p.m., will be on the topic of "Putting Your Legal House in Order." Chad Beckett, J.D., Attorney at Law, Beckett and Webber Law Offices, will give attendees vital information about wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advance directives, and guardianships. The first hour of each session will be devoted to the presentations and the second hour will be open for questions from those in attendance. Resource materials will be provided. This adult forum is free and open to all parishioners, families, and friends. The information provided will be of value to those in their golden years, those just starting a family, and everyone in-between.

Being prepared for the end of life is one of the best gifts we can give ourselves and our families.

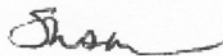
Susan Nagele continued...

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March 2018

I will continue to receive donations to my ministry account until June 30. I would like to pay the remaining nursing school fees for three students we have been supporting. I have plans to pay off charity patients' debts at St. Joseph Shelter of Hope and assist with the nutrition program in St. Patrick's Dispensary in the Bangladesh informal settlement (slum), the largest in Mombasa.

Recently I saw a very sick man with HIV and cancer of the throat. He had been using an antibiotic for pain, given by a traditional doctor. Tears streamed down his face as he struggled to speak. At the end of the appointment he was smiling and invited me to visit his home, a sign of immense gratitude. I feel the same gratitude to all of you at St. Patrick's who have supported us over the past 33 years. Now I look forward to inviting others to come overseas and helping to raise the funds to assist them to do it. I also look forward to being more physically present in the parish!

Wishing each of you a very joyful and blessed Eastertide – all the way up to Pentecost!



Susan Nagele

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

Know Frank Gallo continued...

Frank concluded with a very informative explanation of the Gregorian, or plain chant, style of music introduced in our Lenten Sunday liturgies.

All are welcome to enjoy fellowship and interesting speakers at the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors monthly lunches. See the weekly bulletin for information about the next one coming up.

Women's retreat continued...

... from the perspective of how the Aramaic, the spoken language of Jesus' time, and the Greek and Hebrew roots of the words used could open up the meaning of the Beatitudes in ways that deepen our understanding of them.

For example, a number of women admitted to having difficulty with "Blessed are the meek." Sr. Barbara asked, "How many of you would like to be remembered as meek?" Only two women raised their hands. But after learning that the Aramaic and Greek roots of the word "meek" include such meanings as "gentle," "humble," "tamed, as a wild animal," "softening what is rigid," and "open to learning," many felt differently. Rather than being weak or timid, to be "meek" can enable us to tame our anger, soften our judgment, and realize that we have much yet to learn.

In addition to small-group discussions, there were half-hour sessions of silent reflection during which participants were able to write, pray, walk, or otherwise spend time in contemplation of individual Beatitudes, after which the group would reconvene to share their insights.

In all, four Beatitudes were explored in this way; it would have taken another day to finish with the rest. Most participants left inspired to learn more and to continue to delve more deeply into this important spiritual teaching.

**Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .
(Maybe you? Please let us know!)**



Easy Tiramisu

- 1 pkg frozen pound cake, thawed
- 3/4 c strong brewed coffee, room temperature
- 1 c sugar
- 1/2 c chocolate syrup
- 8 oz pkg cream cheese, softened
- 2 c heavy whipping cream, whipped
- 2 Heath bars, crushed (optional)
- Powdered cocoa (optional alternative)

Cut cake into 9 pieces and arrange in an 11 x 7-inch ungreased baking dish, cutting cake slices as necessary to cover the bottom of the dish. Drizzle coffee evenly over the cake. In a large bowl beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add chocolate syrup and mix well. Fold in whipped cream and spread over cake. Sprinkle with crushed Heath bars or powdered cocoa 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 be easy and quick to prepare!



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

Please send news items to infocusstpatrs@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. Bylines are generally omitted.

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The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next (May) issue of *In Focus* is April 15.



April Patron Saints

Fr. Wuellner

