

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

[www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)

December, 2018

In celebrating Christ as our King, we're marking something that is true for us now, but not yet fulfilled. In Jesus we have the wisest of kings, one who loves us and gave his life for us, one who knows what will make us most happy.

He reigns in our lives as we live in his ways and honor him with our loving prayer. But his kingship is not complete

as long as parts of ourselves and parts of humanity are not yet whole-heartedly with him.

So we wait for the fulfillment of his kingdom, but our waiting is not passive. We wait with hope, trusting that God is bringing about things more wonderful than we can imagine. We wait with attentiveness, looking for opportunities to grow closer to God and to bring others closer to God. We wait in prayer, realizing that only God can prepare our hearts. We wait even as we join in God's work, because we know that our efforts will bear fruit in God's time.

As the Church year turns to Advent, our patient waiting

continues. We remember how the people of God waited for their savior for so many generations. We remember how Mary waited for nine months for the birth of her child. We savor our own waiting for the coming celebration of Christmas. We

wait in the hope of Jesus coming more deeply into our lives, of family and friends coming

together peaceably, and of that peace rippling out into our troubled world. We wait, attentive to the joyful Scripture readings of the season that open our hearts to whatever God is doing in us.

And yes, we work too. The planning and traveling, the cooking and baking, the shopping and giving are all part of Advent too. They are holy, loving acts, worth the effort, that will surely bear fruit in God's time. If the activity starts to make you crazy, step back, draw a deep breath, and remember the patient waiting of this season. Remember to look for the reign of God in your life and in every life you touch.



## Christmas Cookie and Basket Sale a sweet tradition

Do you love Christmas cookies and treats? Do you like getting your shopping done early? Then mark your calendars for the Women of St. Patrick's annual Christmas Cookie and Basket sale, which takes place on Sunday, Dec. 9, starting at 9 a.m.

Here is your chance to stock up for the holiday season on a variety of goodies as parish bakers share the results of their favorite recipes for Christmas cookies, cake, candies, breads, and sweet breads. Enjoy them now or freeze them for later!

According to organizers Sandy Cuza and Judy Lubben, this year's sale will reflect



the influence of October's visit by Fr. Dominic, the Bread Monk. Some of the breads for sale will be made by parish bakers using

Christmas Cookie ... Cont. pg 7

## Come to sing Vespers!



We're all familiar with the Mass as part of the liturgy of the Church. Perhaps less familiar is the Liturgy of Hours or Divine Office. These prayers are prayed by most priests and religious, as well as many lay people. The prayers are drawn mostly from the Psalms and biblical canticles (Mary's Magnificat, for example). Certain Psalms and canticles are prescribed for different times of the day. The most important of the times are Morning Prayer (or Lauds), Evening Prayer (or Vespers), and Night Prayer (or Compline), but some people pray the Liturgy of the Hours even more often during the day.

On Sunday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m. we'll have a chance to gather in the church to sing Vespers together. The music will be easy enough that everyone can join in. And since this will be the Third Sunday of Advent (the rose-colored day), there's an opportunity for the day to be a little more festive than usual.

Come to pray with your fellow parishioners. Come to pray with the whole Church throughout the world. Come to keep the quiet season of Advent. Come to prepare for the coming of Jesus!

## Algerian martyrs to be beautified on Dec. 8

Nineteen priests, brothers and nuns died for their faith in Algeria's civil war from 1993 to 1996. Many armed factions fought the official government of Algeria in the 1990s, including radical Islamists. These terrorists targeted Catholic clergy and religious as symbols of French colonialism and as a so-called threat to Islam. Many priests and religious left the country.

The martyrs were ordinary clergy and religious in many ways. Teaching sister Odette Prévost and nursing sisters María Martín and Esther Alonso died on their way to Mass. Sisters Dénise Leclerc

and Jeanne Littlejohn were martyred coming back to their mission house from Mass. Four priests of the Missionaries of Africa were standing in the courtyard of their religious house when a sniper opened fire, killing them all. Another Missionary of Africa priest, Jean Chevillard, was killed sorting mail in his office. Brother Henri Vergès and Sr. Paul-Hélène worked at the same school and were murdered while talking in his office.

Many of the deceased were known for their outreach to Muslims, such as studying the Quran, teaching classical Arabic, and caring for all regardless of their religion. Best known of the

martyrs are Bishop Pierre Claverie and the seven Trappist monks of Tibhirine monastery. The monks were kidnapped on March 27, 1996, by a terrorist group affiliated with al-Qaida, and were beheaded two months later. The 2010 film "Of Gods and Men" dramatizes their story.

Bishop Pierre Claverie was born and reared in Algeria and became widely known for his

ecumenical work with Muslims. He sought true in-depth dialogue and mutual tolerance but did not hesitate to criticize the excesses of all sides in the civil war.



Claverie and his driver and friend, Mohamed Bouchikhi, were killed by a remote-controlled bomb as they drove up to the bishop's residence near midnight on August 1, 1996, in Oran, Algeria. At his funeral, local Algerians proclaimed him "the bishop of the Muslims too."

Pope Francis approved the beatification cause for the nineteen as martyrs on January 26, 2018. Their status will be celebrated at Oran's Santa Cruz Basilica on Dec. 8, 2018.

Perhaps one day soon Bishop Claverie and the other martyrs will become the patron Saints of Islamic-Christian dialogue.

# Holy Cross Happenings

## First Quarter Honor Roll:

### Highest Honors

Anna Loftus  
Ian Peters  
Jasmine Waite

### High Honors

Michael McCoy  
Josh Loftus  
Natalie Caughlin  
Ava Borbely  
Tsega Jahiel  
Emily Leininger  
Hadley Peters

### Honors

Cate Feinen  
Grace Dimoke  
Marissa Altaner  
Parker Moore  
Gabby Mboyo  
Sylvia Withers-Sickles  
Aiden Beckett  
Christina Pembele



Above: Holy Cross students dress up as saints for All Saints Day.

Right: Fr. Luke gave Holy Cross kindergarten students a tour of St. Patrick's.



### ***Interested in having your children attend Holy Cross School?***

*Schedule a tour of the school by calling one of our co-principals, Rose Costello or Joseph McDaniel (356-9521). Financial help may be available; contact the St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) for more details.*

## Welcoming all with respect, compassion, and sensitivity

Have you ever felt rejected by those around you? Have you ever felt there was no place for you in the Church? Have there been times when you longed to attend Mass but did not feel welcome to do so, whether in a place you were visiting or even your home parish?



Many LGBT Catholics and their families feel this way and it can lead them, and those who care about them, to stay away from the Church or leave it altogether. Those feelings of being unwelcome or rejected can also lead to loneliness, depression, and even suicide. A group of St. Patrick parishioners is coming together to ensure that our parish is a welcoming place to all. Inspired by this fall's study of Fr. James Martin's book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church & the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*, as well as by their own connections with or concern for LGBT Catholics, they met in October to begin work on forming an LGBT ministry in our parish.

"We are hoping to create a welcoming, open ministry for people to be themselves, share and grow their faith, and form supportive relationships in their parish family," says Lorraine Kim, who introduced the idea of establishing an LGBT ministry. "We are still in the formation stage, so if people have ideas or suggestions for what they would like to see done in the parish in this ministry area, we would welcome input." Some ideas so far have been about planning opportunities for dialogue and for education, as well as exploring what other Christian churches are doing in this area, and what might help LGBT Catholics who have left the Church find their way back.

The group at the initial meeting agreed that the ministry's first task will be to create an attitude of welcome, respect, compassion, and sensitivity for LGBT Catholics and their families at St. Patrick's and will be working on ways to do that.

If you are an LGBT Catholic or the family member of an LGBT Catholic and would like to be accompanied in your faith journey by loving, supportive Catholic allies, please contact Lorraine Kim (call or text 217-721-3489, or email [bearspaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bearspaw@sbcglobal.net)).

## For Catholics who want to come home: An invitation

- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?
- Have you left the Church because of a divorce or remarriage?
- Were you raised a Catholic but do not come to church anymore?
- Do you attend church only on Christmas and Easter, or on family special occasions?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, meeting with the Returning Catholics team may be the opportunity you've been looking for to tell your story, ask your questions, find healing for any hurts from the Church that you may have



experienced. The team looks forward to meeting

with you at St. Patrick's parish center on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10:00 a.m. For further information or if you are unable to come at this time, simply leave your name and contact information with the parish secretary (367-2665) and a team member will get back to you.

## Painting a prayer

Back in August, there were two nights of short prayer workshops held at St. Patrick's. Parishioners were introduced to a variety of methods with which to approach prayer. One of them was Prayer through Art, and last month those who were intrigued by this approach had a chance to explore it more deeply.



On an October evening in our parish hall, Mary Long led a group of eight women to experience prayer while creating art. Mary Long learned this method of prayer from Mary Hogan, the sister of our former pastor, Fr. Joe Hogan.

Mary Long created a prayerful atmosphere. Participants first sat in a circle of chairs surrounding a low table covered in an autumn-colored cloth and adorned with candles, tiny pumpkins, and fall flowers. There was soft meditational music playing.

Each participant introduced herself and described her past experience with creating art. Most were limited to coloring books and school projects. Mary Long explained that they did not have to worry about staying within the lines or finishing a painting to be judged. This art was to be created for an audience of one, God. To help them talk to God, Mary led them in reading Scripture passages from the Old and New Testaments. They read some contemporary psalms and Psalm 104.

Then they went to round tables set up to accommodate two artists each. There was a piece of heavy art paper, a plastic cup for water, paper towels, and a clear plastic egg carton for each artist. The artists could squeeze acrylic paints from tubes into the egg-carton sections and pick up different-size brushes from a main table.

After painting their prayers to God for an hour, they returned to their circle of chairs. The art-prayers were amazing as each woman told what inspired her

painting/prayer. Some spoke of God's expression in nature, others saw God coming down to Earth, and some alluded to emotional experiences in their past lives. These prayers were very moving, and everyone was open to repeating this experience.

## Vietnamese community plans Christmas celebration

On Christmas Day the St. Patrick's Vietnamese community will celebrate a Christmas Mass at St. Patrick's at 4:00 p.m. They are joyfully anticipating the visit

of Father John Pham, who very recently served here as Parochial Vicar to Fr. Joe



Hogan and who will celebrate the Mass with the Vietnamese community on Christmas afternoon. And "Yes," said Thang Nguyen, "the Vietnamese choir will be singing its heart out!"

Thang has been a member of St. Patrick Parish for over 25 years. His Catholic roots go back hundreds of years in the history of Vietnam, and he takes every opportunity he can to share his Catholic faith with young Vietnamese.

Although Thang estimates that there are only about ten Vietnamese families in our parish, with the family members expected home for the holidays and the Vietnamese living throughout the area and beyond, he estimates a crowd of about 150 to 200 people at the Christmas Mass and the celebration that follows in the parish center. "It is always a great Christmas party," he added, "with a potluck selection of Vietnamese foods, Vietnamese bands from Springfield and St. Louis, and, of course, the ever-popular family pleaser, Karaoke."

What a wonderful way to celebrate this most holy day!

## Did you know?

Much care is taken year long, but especially during coughing-and-sneezing seasons, to ward off passing germs from person to person during Holy Communion.

Before approaching the altar, each Eucharistic minister uses the hand sanitizer to the left or right of the sanctuary. During Communion the Eucharistic minister carefully wipes the rim of the side chalice inside and outside after a person takes a sip of the Precious Blood. After Mass, a Eucharistic minister carefully washes the communion vessels with soap and water before their next use.

In the event of a serious outbreak of the flu, as happened last year, Communion of the Precious Blood will be discontinued for a time at the discretion of Bishop Jenky.

**Lord, oil the hinges  
of our hearts' doors  
that they may swing  
gently  
and easily  
to welcome your coming.**  
—Prayer from *New Guinea*

## Growing in faith with RCIA

How can you help our faith community grow? Certainly by being always willing to welcome the stranger, to extend a warm greeting to newcomers to the parish, and by inviting people to join in a parish gathering or ministry.

Another way you can help is to pray regularly for the adults who are journeying in faith with RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), the process by which adults join the Catholic Church or complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation).



At St. Patrick's the RCIA journey usually begins in the fall, with a team of parishioners meeting with inquirers (on Wednesday evenings this year) in the parish center. Sessions begin with prayer, then may have a small-group question/faith sharing time, and teaching (and, of course, snacks).

When St. Mary's and St. Patrick's were joined in sharing a pastor, we began coordinating RCIA together, and are continuing to do so now. This year, the parish lounge is almost bursting with people on Wednesday nights! Some are baptized Catholic adults who did not have the opportunity to receive all their Sacraments of Initiation. Others were baptized in other Christian churches and are seeking to know more about the Catholic faith, having been inspired by the Church's teachings and the actions of the faithful.

In the early days of the Church, people who wished to join would come to Mass and would be "dismissed" after the Liturgy of the Word to "break open the Word" as a way of teaching. This year, we are reviving that tradition on a once-a-month basis (typically at the 10 a.m. Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday), asking our inquirers to come to the Mass, to be called forth after the homily, then to go with team members to break open the Word – to prayerfully go deeper into the Good News of Christ.

We all have a role in developing the faith of others – by modeling, inviting, and especially by praying for our inquirers. It takes courage to step into an unknown space, to be willing to learn about different beliefs, and to be open to God's call. Please pray for all who are discerning this call and traveling the RCIA journey this year.

## Christmas Cookie

Continued ...

Fr. Dominic's recipes. And if you saw Fr. Dominic's "kitchen boa" and thought "I need one of those!" then you're in luck – those will be for sale as well, hand-crafted by our own parishioners.

No Christmas Cookie and Basket Sale would be complete without the gift baskets. As they have done year after year, Leslie Risatti and Ceil Weir and their crew have created gorgeous gift baskets – more than 70 in all. However, one very special basket is not for sale. The one-of-a-kind Illini basket includes a pair of Illinois basketball tickets, a large hooded Illini sweatshirt, and many other wonderful items. For the low price of \$5, you can buy a raffle ticket for the chance to win it.

If you would like to help with the sale, whether with set-up, selling, or baking, watch for emails from the Women of St. Patrick or notices in the weekly bulletin to tell you how to sign up.

Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on sweet treats or find unique gifts for special people in your life. Preparing for Christmas can't get much sweeter than this!

**Help me, Lord,  
who am alone,  
and have no  
help but thee.**

—*Kathleen Norris*



### Q: What is Lessons and Carols?

**A:** As we look forward to the third annual Festival of Lessons and Carols to be held here at St. Patrick on December 9, many in our parish might be curious about how this program was developed.

Lessons and Carols is based on a traditional Christmas Eve observance that was first created in 19th-century England. The format was simple: a series of lessons, or readings, from the Bible, each followed by a Christmas carol from the cherished seasonal music of the time.

From its beginnings as a special event at one church, Lessons and Carols soon became a regular Christmastime event at many churches in England. It was established as an annual celebration at King's College in Cambridge in 1918, where the nine lessons soon came to be a standard set, ranging from Genesis and Isaiah to the Gospels. By that time festivals of Lessons and Carols had also spread to the United States. They are held every year at locations around the world. Catholic communities in America have adopted the program, using the same format and many of the same readings used in the Anglican settings of a hundred years ago.

When Dr. Franklin Gallo began as St. Patrick's musical director in 2016, he decided to make a Festival of Lessons and Carols part of our parish's Christmastime tradition. He had two great resources to make use of, a newly expanded church with wonderful acoustics for choral performances, and a location that was home to many communities with distinct musical traditions, both within St. Patrick and in the towns of Champaign and Urbana. So our Lessons and Carols was conceived as a presentation by several choral groups, each taking the stage in turn to share a reading and a prayer, and then to sing a song from their Christmas tradition, all in many languages. The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra was also brought on for prelude music and instrumental backing for the familiar songs that everyone is invited to join in singing.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols has been inspirational to participants both on stage and in the St. Patrick pews, impressing all with how widely shared our Christmas joy is with peoples from many places, blessed as we all are with centuries of musical reflections and proclamations on the gift of Jesus's birth. This year's festival will continue the tried and true format of readings and songs performed by several choral groups. It will begin in the church at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. Admission is free for all; free-will donations to support the participating music ministries will be gratefully accepted.

\* \* \*

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

# From Mission Doctor *Extraordinaire* to Story Teller *Extraordinaire*

Maryknoll Lay Missioner and parishioner Susan Nagele has returned from her mission work to live with her mother, parishioner Lenore Nagele. Though no longer working as a mission medical doctor in East Africa, Susan continues as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. These days she serves Maryknoll Lay Missioners in three ways – doing medical consultancy, mission advancement, and advocacy for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

Susan was invited by the Women of St. Patrick to talk about her 33 years as a mission doctor in East Africa. She mesmerized those present that November 8 evening with her incredible skill at telling remarkable stories during her talk, which was entitled “Maryknoll, Medicine, and Miracles.”

Susan’s first assignment as a mission doctor was in Kowak, Tanzania where she worked to get a hospital back on its feet. Susan said, “It was a peaceful country with lots of needs and challenges, a really good place for me to start my mission ministry.” A dreadful measles outbreak was taking place, with 1-2 children suffocating each day from measles. “When a 16-year-old girl died it broke my heart.” A vaccination program was

started and within three years there were no more deaths and within six years there was no more measles! “That wasn’t miraculous. That was just good public health and hard work. Much of the work that we did



was that – good basic health care.”

Susan’s next assignment was in South Sudan. There she set up a primary health care program. While in Tanzania it was peaceful times, during the 12 years she was in South Sudan, the country was fighting a frightful civil war. Under those circumstances, the dream of a primary health care program never came to be. Susan and the

mission team had to move many times, always a priority being to stay with the people.

A story Susan told about her time in Sudan, really two stories in one, enabled those present to appreciate the daily life of a mission doctor.

“One day a woman walked 12 miles from the camp to bring to us her 10-year-old daughter, who had burning fever and a rigid neck and was very sick with meningitis. I began treatment but wasn’t optimistic that she would live. At the same time, a young woman came, unable to deliver her baby. She needed a C-section but all I had to offer this young woman was a vacuum extractor on a bamboo bed in a mud hut at 8 p.m. With much difficulty, we delivered the baby with a healthy cry. I was relieved, grateful, and exhausted.

“At midnight, I looked in on the little girl with meningitis. Her fever was still high, so I went to bed and said a prayer that she wouldn’t suffer too much longer.

“The next morning, I could hardly get out of bed because my arms and back were aching from pulling on the baby that I had delivered with the vacuum extractor the night before. Visiting the young mother, I found her sitting up on the bed,

**Susan Nagele ... Continued pg 9**



## Susan Nagele

Continued ...

smiling and happily nursing her baby. Clearly, she was far stronger than I was!

“I then went to the room of the little girl and found her fever had broken. She was starting to wake up and eventually she recovered completely and walked home. It was amazing to me that both these patients did so well. A miracle? I do consider it miraculous that I survived it all!”

While Susan was in Sudan, from 1997 to 2003, there were over 50,000 guinea worm cases each year. Susan tells how she saw hundreds of people who were sick with it. One man had 66 worms come out of his body. “The miracle is that as of February 23 of this year, South Sudan has been declared free of this horrible little worm. Last year there were only 26 cases in the whole world.” The Jimmy Carter Center was a major funder in eradicating guinea worm, and Susan said it is an exemplary organization with which to work.

Susan talked about the need for health care to be holistic, and that is how the Maryknoll Missionaries approached it. She worked together with priests and catechists to serve the people in the villages. During the day, the work of medical clinics was done; in the evenings, villagers would sit around the fire to learn about Jesus and to sing and pray together.

In 2003, Susan moved to Kitale in Kenya, where there

was a small hospital that had fallen down and needed some restoration – a task that was now becoming Susan’s forte it seemed! Just when they got the hospital functioning well, there was massive post-election violence that resulted in 9000 people being displaced to the little town of Kitale. The hospital and its corridors were filled with sick people – most of whom had never had the chance to see a doctor before. Because of her past experiences, Susan was grateful that she had the skills to help organize the staff to deal with the trauma and rape that ensued. “The miracle there was how well our staff worked together. They refused to discriminate against people because of their ethnicity. Our town was one of the few that escaped executions, petrol bombs, and destruction.”

When that catastrophe subsided, Susan felt it was time to move once again, this time to the Archdiocese of Mombasa. There, Susan worked as the assistant to the Kenyan nurse midwife, who was the Health Coordinator for the Archdiocese. “When I began in 2010, we had 16 health units; when I left we had 24. All were staffed by nurses and only recently did the hospital get a doctor. So I would travel around to the units that needed the most assistance to see patients in consultation, teach the nurses, and help them get what they needed to do their work better.”

Susan ended her talk saying, “I am one of the most fortunate people in the world. I have been able to do what I love and to grow in my faith while doing it. I will be forever grateful to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and the people of St. Patrick’s for supporting me in my vocation to practice medicine and marvel at the miracles I saw!”

If you are interested in helping to create a more just and compassionate world and want to learn more about the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Susan invites you to contact Maryknoll recruiter Karen Bortvedt ([kbortvedt@mklm.org](mailto:kbortvedt@mklm.org) or 914-467-8857). As well, Susan welcomes recommendations of groups she might talk with – especially groups of young high school and college students – to tell them stories of the life of a Maryknoll Lay Missioner. Susan can be reached at ([nagelesusan@gmail.com](mailto:nagelesusan@gmail.com)).



Fr. George Remm was one of many attendees mesmerized by Susan’s story telling.

## SPYO plays an evening of fall classics

The evening of November 3, is a perfect example of why our church gets more and more crowded for every performance of the St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra. They play like a professional symphony creating beautiful sounds no matter how difficult the program. Couple that with the enthusiasm of young performers and you get a very enjoyable evening.

The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra was founded in 2013 with 12 musicians; there are now 35. It is the only youth orchestra in the country that is founded and run by youth. These youth include 7<sup>th</sup>- through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders from Champaign-Urbana and Monticello. Many of them continue their study of music in college and beyond.



The conductor of the orchestra this year is Sarah Perdekamp, who has been with the orchestra since 2013. She opened the program leading a spirited playing of the "Russian Sailors Dance," by Reinhold Gliere.

The next two pieces on the program featured Dr. Sun-Young Gemma Shin as a violin soloist. Dr. Shin has played and taught all over the world. She is currently the Associate Concertmaster of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. It was thrilling to hear Dr. Shin play Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi with the orchestra. Afterward Sarah Perdekamp presented her with a huge bouquet of flowers.

Assistant conductor, Lisa Altaner, took the baton to lead the orchestra in a lovely interpretation of John Cacavas' "Rhapsodic Essay." After that piece, Matthias Perdekamp presented both conductors with bouquets of flowers. He thanked everyone for attending and announced that the orchestra had now received 60% of the \$11,630 needed to purchase a timpani set.

Sarah led the orchestra through the final piece on the program, the "Berceuse" and "Finale" of Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite." The energy and vivacity of this difficult piece brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation.

The orchestra, parents, and friends joyfully mingled afterwards over sweet and savory treats in the Gathering Space. Please check St. Patrick's bulletin for news of the orchestra's next performance. Their concerts are too good to miss, and they are free.

## Mary's feast, ours to celebrate!

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 celebrates Mary's unique conception without Original Sin, and its solemnity is recognized as a holy day. This year Mary's feast might have been declared a holy day with no obligation to celebrate Mass because it falls on a Saturday. But the U.S. Bishops have placed our country under Mary's protection as the Immaculate Conception, giving it special, permanent standing for its celebration with Mass.

At St. Patrick, Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, will be celebrated on the Friday vigil at 5:15 p.m. and on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

*You are the glory of  
Jerusalem, the joy of Israel;  
you are the fairest  
honor of our human race.  
Your Immaculate  
Conception, Mother of God,  
fills the whole world with  
joy!*

## Want to receive

### In Focus

### by email?

Join our email list to receive a monthly notification when a new issue of *In Focus* is published, with a link to it on the parish website (stpaturbana.org). Go to:

<http://eepurl.com/duJdY1>

and sign up. It's that easy! You can also find on the parish website all issues of the newsletter that have been published during the current year.

O Wisdom,  
O holy Word of  
God,  
You govern all  
creation  
with your strong  
and tender care.  
Come, and show  
our people  
The way to  
salvation.

—Advent's First  
"O Antiphon"

## Advent menu to nourish your spirit

For the four short weeks of Advent, St. Patrick's offers several possibilities for your consideration this year. You may think of others that better suit your personal needs and circumstances – this is by no means a complete list of ways to grow in the Spirit this Advent!

- ✚ **Daily Mass:** Tuesday-Friday at 7:00 a.m., Saturday at 8:00 a.m. A great way to begin your day!
- ✚ **Communal Penance Service:** Date still to be determined; watch for it!
- ✚ **Lessons & Carols:** Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.
- ✚ **Sung Vespers:** Sunday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ **Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina:** Mondays, 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- ✚ **Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy:** Feed the hungry (help at the Food Pantry, shelter the homeless (help at the overnight shelters for the homeless, provide food or shelter for immigrants), visit the sick (in person or by telephone), pray for the living and the dead (attend visitations and funeral Masses), bear wrongs patiently, etc.
- ✚ **Spiritual Reading:** Several books for adults and selections for children will be offered for individual or small-group discussion, some with study guides – watch for information to come! Or spend a little time prayerfully reading Scripture, or choose a book by a spiritual guide like Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Fr. Rolheiser...many possibilities here!
- ✚ **Digital Input:** If you sign up at [dynamiccatholic.com/signup](http://dynamiccatholic.com/signup), you will receive daily emails during Advent that include short inspirational videos, practical tips to incorporate into your life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.

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

Mary Ann Luedtke

### Easiest-Ever One-Dish Chicken Tamales

- 1 pkg (8 oz) corn muffin mix
- 1 can (14 oz) cream style corn
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 c milk
- 1 t chili powder
- 1/2 t ground cumin
- 1 pkg (8 oz) shredded taco cheese
- 1 can (10 oz) enchilada sauce (hot or mild)
- 3 c shredded chicken (as from rotisserie chicken)
- 1 c sour cream (optional)
- Lime wedges (optional)



In a large bowl, combine the first six ingredients and 1 cup of the taco cheese. Spoon mixture into 13 x 9 x 2-inch greased or sprayed baking dish, and bake at 400° for 20 minutes. Pierce with a small knife in 12 places. Spread enchilada sauce over it, scatter shredded chicken and remaining taco cheese over the sauce, and bake for another 20 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes, cut into squares, and serve with sour cream and lime wedges.

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*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

*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.

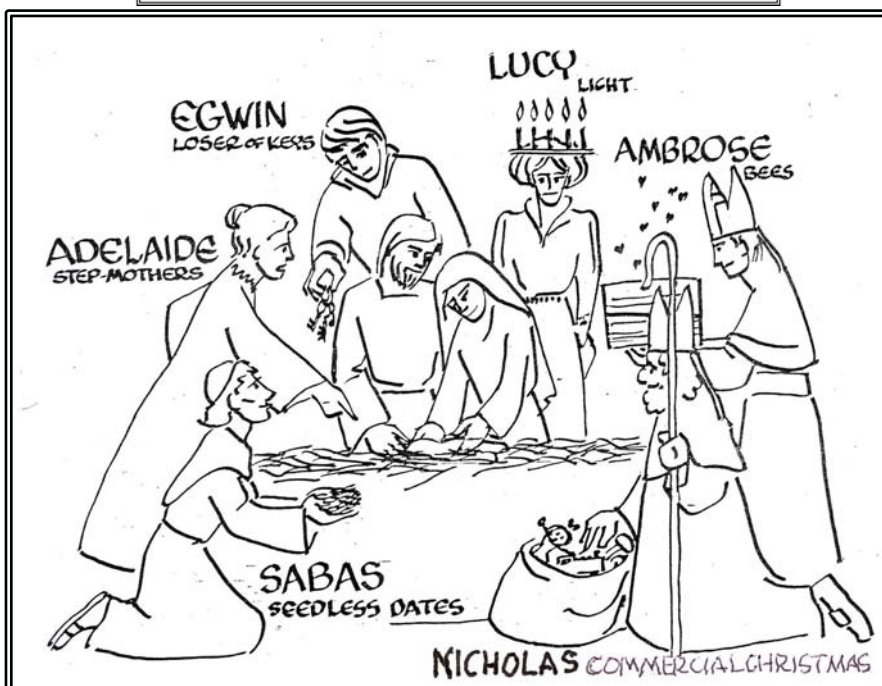
Please send news items to infocusstpats@gmail.com. You may also send them to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

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**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Carol Bosley, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Ann Luedtke, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, and Jerry Walsh. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin, page layout by Shirley Splittstoesser.

### December Saints by Fr. Wuellner



The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (January) issue of *In Focus* is **December 2.**