

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2018

## Discovering Jesus

This year, on the Sundays between Epiphany and the beginning of Lent, we hear the first chapter of St. Mark's gospel. Mark doesn't tell the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood. He begins with the witness of John the Baptist, and then launches straight into the public ministry of Jesus. It seems that those early days were a happy time – no conflict, no controversy; instead, we hear the stories of many people who came to recognize Jesus as a man of God.

One thing that attracted people to Jesus was his gift of healing. It is striking that he didn't just give physical healing or free people from evil spirits. He also restored them to their relationships, their place in the community. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, and restored her to her place in her family, to a role that gave meaning to her life. He healed a leper, which enabled him to rejoin his community, freed from isolation and loneliness.

The way that Jesus spoke also drew people to him. Other preachers quoted the words of famous rabbis of the past. Jesus spoke simply and directly. People could hear the authenticity ringing in his words, and

they were spellbound. His teaching touched their hearts.

We also hear of the call of the first disciples, Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. They came immediately when he called them. What do you think they knew about Jesus at that point? Had they seen him heal and preach? Had they known him or heard stories about him from the time before

his public ministry? We can only guess at how God prepared their hearts to respond to the call.

These must have been exciting days. Jesus could easily have been swept up in the excitement and

made choices that would build up his reputation and his power. Instead, he remained grounded in prayer, remembering daily that he had a mission from his Father. He could have asked people to shout his praises from the rooftops. Instead, he asked them to keep quiet.

Perhaps he knew that his mission would not always be so easy. As more people followed him, he

see **Discovering Jesus** on page 7

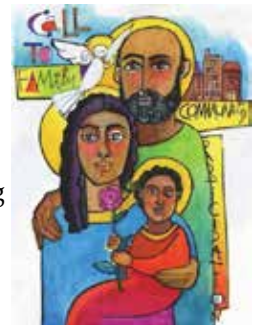
## Presenting Catholic Social Teaching 101

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. . . . liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free . . ."*  
(Luke 4:18)

Are you familiar with Catholic social teaching? If not, you are not alone. Back in 1998, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) found that many Catholics were not familiar with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and, further, that "many Catholics do not adequately understand that the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith." This, they believe, "weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel."

Beginning in February, St. Patrick's parishioners will have the opportunity to learn more about this teaching that is so essential to our faith and to our ability to answer our Gospel call. The parish is presenting a seven-part program called Catholic Social Teaching 101. Prepared by the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services, this program covers the seven core principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

see **Social Teaching** on page 7



## Communities came together for a Festival of Lessons and Carols

In December, parishioners and community members gathered at St. Patrick's for the Second Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. Choirs from St. Patrick, St. Mary, and St. Luke's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church joined together to present our unique interpretation of this service. Traditional lessons from Scripture were read in the languages spoken within our communities: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Lingala, German, Q'anjob'al, and American Sign Language. The carols interspersed between lessons

included those from both the Old and New Worlds. This year the German Community, the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra, the St. Patrick Bell Choir, and the Parkland College Chamber Singers joined a lineup that included the St. Patrick's Adult Choir, the Deaf Community, the Congolese, Vietnamese, Hispanic, and Mayan communities, and the choir from St. Luke's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.



### in our parish library

As we celebrate the feast day of St. Valentine on Feb. 14, the following readings may help to focus our love for those around us as well as on the love and care we receive from others.

***The Meaning of Love***, by Robert Johann, points to the spark of divinity that we see in another human being and shows how this "living ideal of Divine love, antecedent to our love, contains in itself the secret of the idealization of our love." (152.4 Joh)

***A Time for Love***, by Eugene Kennedy, is a book meant to help those who have lost their way to find it again in friendship and love. There are lonely people everywhere who, even though they cannot put their longing into words, are still hoping for some experience of love and understanding that will give them the strength to face life with a little more courage. (152.4 Ken)

***In a Different Voice***, by Carol Gilligan, points out that psychology has persistently and systematically misunderstood women, building developmental theories on observations of men's lives. Here the author attempts to correct psychology's misperceptions and re-

focus its view of female personality. The result reshapes our understanding of human experience.

***The Secret of Staying in Love***, by John Powell, lays out practical ways to build love, open lines of communication, and share feelings openly and honestly. Powell explores the fundamental prerequisite to personal sharing: a joyful and genuine acceptance of self. He also shows how an awareness of our feelings can tell us a great deal about ourselves. The final chapter includes some practical exercises to deepen communication and sharing. (152.4 Pow)

***Love and Will***, by Rollo May, is a book for those daring enough to study and cherish our human heritage and potential. The implications of this book for education and culture are profound. Written in a brilliant and impeccable style, it presents an excellent analysis of life and love in the modern period. (152.43 May)

\* \* \*

*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!*

## Returning Catholics panel recommends listening

“Someone recently said to me, in a suspicious tone, ‘I don’t really know you. I don’t know what kind of Catholic you are,’” panel facilitator Eileen Mathy recalls. “I wanted to reply that I am a Catholic who loves our Lord with heart, mind, and soul, but I knew the issues of dogma that separated us and what she was referring to in her suggestion that we were on opposite sides of a common battleground within the Church.”

On December 10, about 25 people gathered in Trinity Hall to listen and talk about themes that often divide us from our friends and loved ones. They first watched a video in which two individuals talked in very frank terms about the reasons they have left the Catholic Church; then they heard from one of our parishioners about his leaving the Church and his journey back.

Discussion was facilitated by a panel that included our pastor, Fr. Luke Spannagel, spiritual director Sr. Anna Phiri,



*Panel members (from left to right): Fr. Luke, Chris Washo, Dave Sandel, Jerry Walsh, Sr. Anna Phiri*

Christian counselor Dave Sandel, social worker and St. Matthew parishioner Chris Washo, and St. Patrick parishioner Jerry Walsh.

Pew Forum research reports tell us that more people are leaving the Church than joining it. Most who leave do so between the ages of 18 and 24. Some exit over the social teachings and dogma of the Church. Others find that their spiritual needs are not met. For many the decision to leave is complex, deeply personal, and difficult.

The process of reaching out to those who have left the Church and addressing the disagreements, disappointments, and hurts of those who have not yet left requires the capac-

ity to listen and to understand. Panel members encouraged considering family dynamics, issues of identity and acceptance, feelings of isolation, an inability to appreciate ancient practices or to agree on an intellectual level with the sometimes difficult teachings of the Church.

Those attending were challenged to consider ways in which we commit “spiritual abortion” when we are quick to judge or condemn those we deem in opposition to the Church. They discussed what is implied by the use of the phrase “cafeteria Catholic.” On some topics, the conclusion was that we simply have to agree to disagree.

Eileen says she found much food for thought in the discussion, and two particular impressions remain with her. Sr. Anna Phiri noted that one of the people in the video said that “the only time she felt safe calling out to God was when she sat alone in an empty church.” Eileen says, “The implication that we may have interfered with that sense of

safety and her ability to hear from God is something I will continue to ponder.”

Eileen was also moved by Fr. Luke’s encouragement to us

to put relationships ahead of disagreements, and to find not only the good in one another, but to build on what we have in common, knowing that in time those more difficult topics can be addressed if necessary. “His participation reminded me of his Christmas Eve homily, where he expressed a desire to see us, a congregation sometimes divided by the sorts of differences implied in the statement ‘what *kind* of Catholic you are,’ come together in greater appreciation of one another.”

Perhaps if we can create that sense of safety for one another in our church, and can listen to those with unmet needs, disillusionments, and wounds, we can heal our families and bring our friends back into the fold.

### Did you know?

- On the parish website ([stpaturbana.org](http://stpaturbana.org)) you can find everything there is to know about the Vincent Greene Scholarship Fund. If you have a graduating high-schooler in your family, check out what is required to apply for a scholarship.
- The crock of holy water from which you can fill your small bottles for home use has been moved into the church beside the Meditation Chapel, near the depiction of John baptizing Jesus.
- The Parish Council will soon be looking for new members to fill vacancies left by retiring members who have completed their three-year terms. If you are interested in this way of serving your parish community, contact Council president Kathy Cimasky ([fcimasky@aol.com](mailto:fcimasky@aol.com)).
- You will have noticed that Christ’s Precious Blood has not been offered for Communion in recent weeks. This is a temporary measure taken during the current flu epidemic; Communion under both forms will once again be offered to communicants when the threat of flu has passed.
- What is the Finance Council? You may remember it as the Financial Affairs Committee. The name has been changed to define better the function of the group, using diocesan guidelines and in accord with requirements for a parish found in Canon Law.

## Our liturgical artists deepen our appreciation of Christmas

With the beauty of St. Patrick's dressed for Christmas still vivid in our minds, it is a good time to introduce those who plan and create these inspiring designs. Members of the Art and Environment Team collaborate to create an environment that inspires parishioners to pray together, and some have done this for several years.

Susan Reese is the team leader; she arranges flowers and sews. Marilyn Pollard is a stained-glass artist. (Did you notice the little stained-glass stars and crosses on the gold mesh hanging in the gathering space?) Tina Colombo is responsible for the intricate sewing seen in the angels with trumpets over the glass doors leading into the nave of the church. Aleta Lynch, who is very good at arranging and embellishing, created the wreaths for all the doors, and Becky Billman created the pine swags mounted on the church's pillars. Paula Sturdyvin ordered and



arranged the seasonal flowers.

Many of the team members first work individually on their part of the project. Then all bring their pieces to the church and finish the project as a group. Marilyn Pollard says her favorite time in the project is hanging the banners and seeing their efforts come together perfectly.

Currently the group is brainstorming for the Lenten season. Team members look for ideas in books on banners, books on seasonal liturgical readings, photographs, and travels to other churches. The team members communicate with one another by shar-

ing pictures and ideas via computer, currently ideas on how to reflect the Lenten message through art.

If this ministry sounds like fun to you, the team would welcome you as a new member. Contact Susan Reese (sereese@comcast.net) or any of the team members – or just come by and offer your help.

## Women of St. Patrick to offer Lenten retreat for women

On Saturday, March 10, the Women of St. Patrick will gather for the annual Women's Lenten Retreat. This will be a day for thoughtful reflection as well as prayer and fellowship with other women of the parish. If you have been longing to make a retreat, this may be a great option that doesn't involve travel or an overnight stay.

The retreat facilitator is Sr. Barbara Leonard, OSF. She has chosen the theme "The Beatitudes" for the day's presentations. Sr.

Barbara has been an Oldenburg Franciscan for 50 years; she has an M.A. in Biblical Studies from the Catholic

Theological Union in Chicago and a Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.



*Sr. Barbara Leonard*

The retreat will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30, allowing those who wish to do so to attend morning Mass beforehand. The first presentation will be at 9:00. The main presentations will be in Trinity Hall with other rooms in the parish center open for reading, creating art, journaling, or praying. The fee for the day will be \$10 and will cover materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships are available. The day



**Q: Does the Church still bless throats on the feast of St. Blaise?**

**A:** In a word, yes! This year the

feast of St. Blaise, February 3, occurs on a Saturday, and Fr. Luke has said that he plans to give this blessing to all who want it, both at the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

What does St. Blaise have to do with it? He was a bishop in Armenia in the fourth century, and also a physician. As tradition has it, he miraculously saved a young boy from choking on a fish bone, and he is said to have healed many others as well. Blaise was bishop during a time when the Church suffered persecution; he was eventually imprisoned and martyred for his faith.

During the prayer of blessing, two blessed candles, joined in the form of a cross and tied with a red ribbon, symbolizing his martyrdom, are positioned in front of the person's throat, and the following blessing-prayer for God's healing and protection is said: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," to which the recipient responds "Amen."

Do you have a sore throat? Are you sniffing, sneezing, or coughing? Are you suffering from the flu or any other ailment? Then you won't want to miss this opportunity to ask St. Blaise's intercession to be restored to good health.

\* \* \*

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

will wrap up at 3:00 p.m. All women of the parish are invited to participate in this day of spiritual refreshment during our Lenten journey.

Registration will be taken via email (womenofstpatrick@gmail.com) or by calling Nancy Olson (359-6424) and will accepted until Wednesday, March 7. The same contacts can be used to request a scholarship for the day.

## St. Paul Miki, early Japanese Catholics, and Silence

February 6 is the feast day of St. Paul Miki and the twenty-six martyrs of Nagasaki, Japan. Missionaries first came to Japan in 1549, led by St. Francis Xavier. They had success in conversions especially by reaching out to feudal lords, or *daimyos*.

Some daimyos sponsored mass conversions and allowed missionaries to set up schools, churches, and businesses in their territories. In the 1580s the missions became caught up in political rivalries between local daimyos and the newly emerging national leaders. The victorious Shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued the first ban on Christianity in 1587. Catholics were seen as a wicked foreign influence on the native Shinto Buddhist population. Missionaries and



Christians were officially banned or exiled in 1635.

Paul Miki was born into an upper-class Japanese family around 1564. His parents converted to Christianity and he was baptized at the age of five. As an adult he joined the Jesuit order, becoming a novice and a noted preacher. Eleven years later he was arrested.

Miki continued to minister to his fellow prisoners despite extreme torture, maiming, and death by crucifixion on February 5, 1597 in Nagasaki. According to witnesses, he forgave his executioners and led the martyrs in prayer and song from his cross until they were killed. The martyrs included Franciscan clergy, laymen, and other Jesuits.

Hundreds of Japanese Christians were killed. Thousands were forced

to renounce their faith on pain of death by stomping on a symbolic *fumi-e*, a depiction of Christ. Yet when missionaries returned to Japan in 1860s, they discovered hidden communities of believers called *Kakure Kirishitan*. For two hundred years, Christians had found ways to worship in secret and to instruct their children in the faith.

In 2017 the movie *Silence* brought renewed attention to the early Christian history of Japan. Director Martin Scorsese adapted the 1966 novel *Silence*, by Shūsaku Endō, a Japanese-born Roman Catholic. Both the novel and the movie are based on the historic events and oral histories of persecuted Catholics in seventeenth-century Japan.

The cruelty that early Japanese Catholics endured make this a movie for adults only. (See the Paulist review at <http://media.pauline.org/reviews/ArticleID/2932/Scorseses-Silence-is-his-most-Catholic-film>)

## St. Thomas More Minute



It was a busy fall semester at the High School of St. Thomas More. Students participated in service projects. A dress-down day raised over \$1300 to help Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Houston, Texas, to recover from Hurricane Harvey. The second annual CanStruction Competition not only produced some amazing “canstructions,” but donated 4,442 canned goods to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society. Performing students showed their talents in the Saber Showcase and in the fall play, *Our Town*.

Academically, 13 seniors scored a 30 or above on the ACT, with one as high as 35; 24 percent of the seniors were named as Illinois State Scholars. Many of these seniors have been accepted to college. Thirty juniors and seniors participated in the Fall LOGOS retreat.

Fall Sports teams enjoyed unprecedented success:

- Volleyball won the first ever Class 2A State Championship in STM History
- Girls Tennis won their first ever Sectional Championship
- Girls Golf placed fourth at State, while sophomore Alaina Bowie placed third as an individual
- Girls Cross Country placed tenth, while sophomore Fran Hendrickson placed fifth in Class 1A
- Boys Cross Country competed in Sectionals
- Boys Soccer broke every school program record on their way to the Sectional Championship

STM Principal Jason M. Schreder writes, “All of this would not be possible without the support and prayers of the Campaign-Urbana Catholic Community, especially from St. Patrick’s Parish. We will continue to keep Fr. Luke and the members of St. Patrick’s Parish in our prayers. We know that this success is not our own, but the love of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit leading and guiding our school. We look forward to what the Lord has planned for us and trust that it will be amazing.”

If you would like to learn about financial opportunities for your family, including the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship, go to the STM website, [www.hs-stm.org/](http://www.hs-stm.org/), and look under the “Admissions” tab. If you would like to know more, contact the school and ask for Mr. Ian Blomberg, Advancement Director.

## “This is truly the most wonderful Thanksgiving tradition that I know of in this community!”

While volunteers helping with the annual Thanksgiving basket distribution last November knew it was greatly appreciated – individuals picking up or receiving baskets all expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to have a special holiday meal – the parish at large may not be aware of the impact of this annual tradition.

Rosecrance (formerly Community Elements) is one of the local agencies most involved in our parish’s distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets each year. This year, with our help, they were able to deliver Thanksgiving baskets



to 96 of their clients. In December, they sent a letter to our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry expressing their thanks. It read, in part:

“One client told us that without the basket, they would not have had any Thanksgiving at all. For another client, it allowed them to invite their family to have dinner with them, and they reported that this was the first time in years the family had been together. Several clients told us how wonderful the food was, and for some it provided meals for several days. It truly is special to be able to participate in

bringing joy to another person for the holiday.

“St. Pat’s is truly a great asset to our community for the daily food pantry it operates, as well as for this wonderful tradition of providing a Thanksgiving to so many. Rosecrance and our clients are blessed that St. Pat’s continues to include us in this tradition.

“Please pass on our thanks to all St. Pat’s parishioners who make this possible, and to all the volunteers who were there helping on that day....This is truly the most wonderful Thanksgiving tradition that I know of in this community.”

Food Pantry Coordinator Sally Czapar, who managed the complexities required in preparing the Thanksgiving Baskets for delivery, also thanks all of our parishioners who support this tradition with their donations, time, and prayer.

## Open forums update parishioners on parish finances

On December 2 and 5, Fr. Luke hosted two open forums on the financial situation of our parish. It took months of work to get to the point where questions could be answered clearly. Fr. Luke, our bookkeeper Karen Barnes, the parish trustees, and members of the Finance Council (formerly known as the Financial Affairs Committee) worked very hard to pull it all together for us.

You probably saw the two financial reports in the bulletin in November, one for the parish as a whole, and one showing the status of the church expansion expenses. The two open forums were a chance for parishioners to ask questions about the reports.

One thing that makes our finances complicated is our relationships with other parishes. For example, Fr. Luke lives at the St. Mary’s rectory with their pastor, Fr. Fredi Gomez-Torres. St. Patrick’s pays for the trash hauling, housekeeping, internet, and television, and St. Mary’s pays for the utilities, household supplies, food, and grounds keeping. The cost of repairs is split 50/50.

Tuition assistance for our children in Catholic schools is another complex area. We have 48 children at Holy Cross, 11 at St. Matthew, 7 at St. Thomas in Philo, and 16 at the High School of St. Thomas More. St. Patrick’s helps with the tuition for these young people as part of our commitment to Catholic education. The arrangements are slightly different with each school, and Fr. Luke has been working with the schools to make adjustments so that our support

is fair for St. Patrick’s, for the schools, and for the families of our children enrolled in the schools.

Several people asked about the Annual Diocesan Appeal. The Diocese of Peoria determines what it needs each year, and then sets a goal for each parish based on its ordinary income (i.e., the Sunday collection), with credit given for support for Catholic schools. If a parish exceeds its goal, the excess is returned to the parish. If a parish does not meet its goal, it has to make up the shortfall from its budget. St. Patrick’s has not met its goal for the past several years. Last year the shortfall was \$17,835. Our progress report for the current year appears regularly in the bulletin.



At the time the forums were held, Fr. Luke said that the legal arrangements for the Vincent Greene scholarships were almost complete. Since then all matters have been resolved, and Fr. Luke presented basic information, including eligibility and requirements, at all Masses on January 13-14. He gave a detailed report in the bulletin for that weekend and referred parishioners to information that has been posted on the parish website (stpaturbana.org).

It was great to have so much information and openness about the parish finances. It allows us all to be good stewards of our parish. Thank you to Fr. Luke, Karen Barnes, the parish trustees, and members of the Finance Council for all their hard work!

## Discovering Jesus

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began to draw opposition from both the civil and religious authorities. As more people heard his preaching, there would be some who would oppose him. And who knows how many disciples he would call who chose not to follow him, or would stay with him for only a short time and then drift away?

And yet, the excitement of discovering Jesus is something that you may recognize. You may remember it from the early days of your growth in faith. You may know it from watching your children come to know him. You may have seen it in the faith stories of our catechumens. For many people, the excitement gradually fades into a happy memory, but not because their faith fades. Instead, their faith matures into a steadfast commitment to follow Jesus.

## Social Teaching

from page 1

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** Every human is created in the image of God. The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** How we organize our society – in economics, politics, law, and policy – directly affects human dignity. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good.
- **Rights and Responsibilities** The Catholic tradition teaches that we can protect human dignity and achieve healthy communities only if human rights are protected and both personal and social responsibilities are met.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** In a society deeply divided between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** Work is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.
- **Solidarity** We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Pope John Paul II described this as "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, no. 38).
- **Care for God's Creation** We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. As we live our faith in relationship to God's creation, we are called to protect people and the planet. Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith.

Catholic Social Teaching 101 will take place at St. Patrick on Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m. It will also be offered at St. Joseph Middle School on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The program begins Feb. 22 (Feb. 21 in St. Joseph) and will continue with two sessions each month from March through May. Cost is \$10. See the bulletin and parish website for all the dates, more details, and sign-up information. Questions? Contact Jim Urban (367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

Give yourself a good understanding of this essential aspect of our Catholic faith. What better time to start than as a Lenten practice for 2018?

### Vocation Prayer

Dearest Father, we rely on you to strengthen us on our journey of faith. Open our hearts so we may respond generously to your call to serve your people. Bless those in ordained and consecrated life with courage, integrity, and zeal, with long-suffering endurance, with joy in your service.

## Eucharistic adoration coming to St. Patrick

A piece of St. Patrick's history has returned. The monstrance used at St. Patrick dates back to 1922; it was returned in mid-January after being out for repairs. Thanks to a generous donation from one of our parish families, St. Patrick's monstrance was repaired and re-plated.

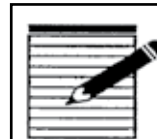
A monstrance is a vessel that displays the Blessed Sacrament when carried in processions and for adoration of Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament. The monstrance



displays the Eucharist for those who wish to look upon Christ in love and gratitude, to spend time with him in adoration. The opportunity for Eucharistic adoration is always available, of course, to those who find time to come to the church, where Christ is always present in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle.

A communal experience of Eucharistic adoration, which involves praying or meditating with others in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, can incorporate psalms, readings, and/or silent prayer – however the parishioner chooses to spend this time with Christ in the Eucharist.

Father Luke hopes to make a devotional Eucharistic adoration available to parishioners on a fairly regular basis and is currently looking for a time to insert it into the church's schedule. Watch the bulletin for announcements of these opportunities.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **February 11**.

## Singing at a funeral is a gift for family and friends

Do you like to sing? Would you like to help provide comfort and consolation to grieving families in the parish? Are you available mornings or could you make yourself available on the occasional morning?

If your answer to these questions is yes, please consider joining the St. Patrick's Funeral Schola, the choir that sings at parish funerals. It is open to all St. Patrick's parishioners, and there are no auditions: all skill levels are welcome. Some of the music may already be familiar to you from singing at Sunday Mass.

Rehearsals are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Most funerals take place in the morning, often at 10 or 11:00 a.m. Schola members are not required to sing at every funeral but participate as their schedules allow.

Singing with the Schola is a wonderful way to serve in our parish. Families appreciate having a choir to sing at a funeral, most especially when there are very few family members and friends who can help to celebrate their loved one's life and gifts.

If you would like take part in this compassionate ministry, please contact Music Director Frank Gallo (367-2665 or franklin.gallo@stpaturbana.org).

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 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. Bylines are generally omitted.

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**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Sally Czapar, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Eileen Mathy, Jean-Philippe Mathy, Lori McDonough, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Megan Raab, Jhane Reifsteck, Cathy Salika, Adam Smith, Jason Schreder, and Jim Urban. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by John Colombo.

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



#### Southern Beef Stew

- 3 T flour
- 2 lbs beef stew meat, trimmed
- 1/2 stick butter or oleo
- 2 c water
- 1 c black coffee
- 1 t dried thyme
- 2 t salt
- 1 t black pepper
- 6 potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 6 carrots, cut into large chunks
- 3 onions, quartered
- 3 stalks celery, cut into large chunks

Place flour in a shallow dish; add beef chunks and coat completely with flour. In a soup pot, melt butter over medium-high heat and cook beef 8-10 minutes, turning to brown all sides. Add water, coffee, thyme, salt, and pepper; mix well and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 1 hour. Add remaining ingredients and simmer 50-60 minutes, or until beef and vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.

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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!*

I am not asking you tonight, Lord, for time to do this and then that, but your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do.

—Michael Quoiat