

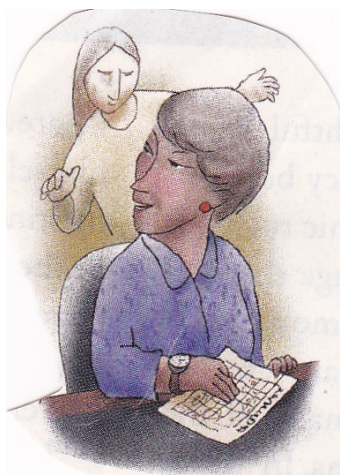
# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2018

## God, Our Father

There are many ways that we can come to know God, but one of the most important is to know God as Father. This is the way that Jesus spoke of God as part of the gradual process of revealing the Trinity to us. To say that God is our Father says that God is the one who gave us life and teaches us how to live it well. But the image of Father is even richer than that.



If you reflect on your relationship with your own parents, you might see a bit more deeply how father-like God is and how blessed we are that God has given us parents and called us to be parents. But some of us have never known a father or mother, or have had devastating experiences with them that are not at all god-like. Our parents are not perfect, and we ourselves are not perfect parents to our children. Still, the richness of

human experience helps us to see the richness of our life with the Father.

A young child may not understand that her parents gave her life, but she knows her parents as providers. They give her food, shelter, and clothing. They give love and security. They show her how to be part of a family and part of a community. They teach her to avoid things that are destructive or hurtful, and to seek out things that are creative and life-giving. Doesn't our Father do the same for us?

A young adult is busy shaping his own identity, learning about his talents and tastes, and figuring out how he can use them. His parents help him to recognize his gifts and find ways to build a life for himself that makes the world a better place. They help him find a direction as he sets out into adulthood. When he makes mistakes, they give comfort and help him learn to do better. Doesn't our Father do the same for us?

A new parent has a lot to learn about her children, but at the same time she is learning a lot about her parents. The things that she wants to give her children are the same things that her parents wanted to give her. As she discovers the unconditional love of a mother, she

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## Come Spend A Holy Hour

A renewed tradition at St. Patrick continues to grow: adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during a Holy Hour has seen an increase in participants since it began in February, according to Father Luke. The Holy Hour, which is held on the first Saturday of each month, usually sees 25-50 participants.

As the Holy Hour continues to develop at St. Patrick, Father Luke would like to see a prayer booklet developed specifically for our parish. The booklet could be used during Holy Hours or other times of public prayer and in parishioners' private prayer time.



**Come Spend A Holy Hour** cont. pg. 7

## A Warm Welcome To Our RCIA Graduates!

At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed nine people into the Church, baptizing four adults. This past year, St. Mary's and St. Patrick's once again met together for the RCIA gatherings, with team members from both parishes sharing faith and teaching. There's a richness to the diversity of these joint classes, with people from many faith and cultural backgrounds coming together.

At the Vigil we were joined by a young man who had been prepared in Italy for Confirmation and received the sacrament here. He is soon to be married in Italy, then is moving to Iowa.

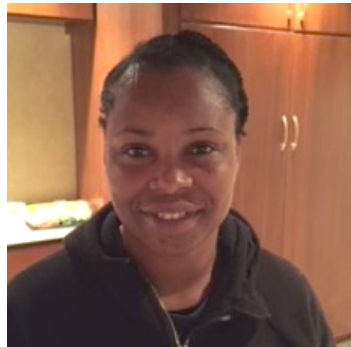
Our new St. Patrick's parishioners are Katie Bittner, Dwayne Hamby, Prisca Mouloma, and Mary Schmitz. You may already recognize them, as some have been coming with their families to Mass at St. Patrick's for quite a while. Please welcome them when you see them.



**Katie Bittner**



**Dwayne Hamby**



**Prisca Mouloma**



**Mary Schmitz**

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## Confirmation at St. Patrick's



## St. Patrick's Is A Busy, Spirit-filled Parish

### Four parish volunteers receive DCCW awards

Congratulations to Mary Ann Luedtke, Cathy Salika, Ellen Abell, and Mary Lou Menches for their recent awards from the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. On April 24 all received certificates as outstanding women volunteers at a luncheon held at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria.

Musician, sacristan, editor, food pantry coordinator, Eucharistic minister, cantor, organizer, lector, conductor, committee chair, devotional leader – these are some of the many roles these ladies have filled at St. Patrick's over the years. Nominated by the parish staff, they joined over fifty other honorees from parishes throughout the diocese for Mass at the Cathedral, at which Bishop Daniel Jenky presided, followed by the luncheon and awards ceremony.

### How to fulfill your ADA pledge

Did you fill out the Annual Diocesan Appeal pledge at Mass on April 14-15, or have you filled one out since then? Eighty percent of our generous parishioners have made their tax-deductible pledges for which they will receive a tax letter in January.

Now, how do you fulfill your pledge? You may make a one-time gift, or fulfill the pledge in increments over six months. You may use a check, a credit/debit card, direct debit from your checking or savings account, or pay your pledge online. One of the easiest ways is to put a check for ADA in the weekly collection basket at Mass. Simply write "ADA Pledge" on the outside of the envelope containing your pledge check.

There are ADA pledge forms on the cabinet in the Gathering Space at the top of the stairs outside the inner doors to the church. Even though there are suggested amounts to pledge, there is no minimum amount to give. All gifts are accepted and appreciated.

Remember, we are all part of the Mystical Body of Christ. We are called to share with one another the gifts we have received. Our 2018 ADA goal is \$130,518. This year we could surpass our goal and have the excess returned to St. Patrick Parish.

### Did you know . . .

Seminarian Daniel Delgado will be spending his summer at St. Patrick's, assisting Father Luke. More about Daniel and what Father asks of him in the next issue!

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If you're new to the parish and haven't registered yet, you can do so by stopping at the parish office during office hours (daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) or online at the parish website ([www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)).

\*

Ushers are still needed, especially for the noon Mass on Sundays. If you can greet with a smile the people who are coming in for Mass, help pass the collection baskets, and hand out the parish bulletin after Mass, please do contact Lynn Black ([itsb@att.net](mailto:itsb@att.net), 344-8618). She'll be delighted to hear from you!

\*

Cathy Salika has been elected to chair the Communications Committee. She succeeds Denise Green, who guided the committee with dexterity, understanding, and quiet determination, yet managed to send us all home in very good time and in great good humor. Thanks, Denise, for your effective leadership for the last two years!

### Vocation Prayer

*Loving Father, the scripture readings in recent weeks have focused on Jesus' appearances to his followers and friends, and his words of comfort and reassurance. For me also these words provide reassurance and a sense of what he now wants of me. "Go, share the Good News, reveal me to those who don't yet know me, let love be the way." Father, I'm ready, help me to see how I can carry this out. I'm no longer young, but what years I have I give to you to use in whatever way you deem best. With love I give them to you...*

## Parish-Wide Graduation Day

On Saturday, May 5, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade graduates were honored at the evening Mass following Fr. Luke's recognition of their achievement in his homily.



## Knights of Columbus Father Martell Scholarships Awarded



The 2018 Knights of Columbus Father Martell Scholarships were awarded by Ed Clancy to the following recipients:

John Acklin  
Sarah Acklin  
Jakob Arend  
Samuel Arend

Nathan Elsbernd  
Stephanie Gonzalez  
Courtney Kneer  
Antonio Olson

Ethan Smith  
Lucas Simpson  
Maris Wszalek

## Vincent O. Greene Scholarships Awarded



Fr. Luke announced that, thanks to the generosity of parishioner Vincent Greene, a combined total of more than \$55,000 will be given to the recipients of the new Vincent O. Greene Scholarship for their next year of college. The individual scholarship amounts vary, based on each student's need and their particular school's tuition costs. The primary requirements to be eligible for this scholarship are family membership at our parish, involvement in the Mass and activities here, and service to both our parish and the community.

The 2018 Vincent O. Greene Scholarship recipients and their destinations are:

John Acklin, Parkland Community College  
 Sarah Acklin, Indiana State University  
 Jakob Arend, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Samuel Arend, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Hank Asmussen, University of Iowa  
 Brooke Berry, Northern Illinois University  
 Brianna Hopper, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Courtney Kneer, Eastern Illinois University  
 Paul Nguyen, Parkland Community College  
 Antonio Olson, Illinois State University  
 Kyle Rasmussen, Iowa State University  
 Matthew Reeder, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Cameron Robinson, John A. Logan Community College  
 Kayley Schacht, University of Notre Dame  
 Kathleen Sherlock, Butler University  
 Lucy Sherlock, Butler University  
 Lucas Simpson, Iowa State University  
 Ethan Smith, Catholic University of America  
 Robert Stavins, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Hannah Sweeney, MacMurry College  
 Maris Wszalek, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## First Communion



Thank you, Jesus, for coming to me in Holy Communion.  
 Thank you for helping me remember that you are with me.  
 Thank you for being the food that helps me to grow.  
 Thank you for loving me so much that you want to be in my heart.  
 Thank you for all the people who tell me about you.  
 I love you!  
 Amen.



**Q: Why were Confirmation and First Communion celebrated at our Sunday Mass this year?**

**A:** There are some practical reasons for this: The expanded church gives us room enough to accommodate everyone, there's now enough time between Masses to get things ready, and celebrating the sacraments at Sunday Mass makes life slightly less hectic for Fr. Luke and the parish staff. But there are deeper reasons too.

When we pray at Mass, we're praying as part of one Church, saintly sinners all over the world and of all times. The Mass belongs to the whole Church, not just to the First Communicants and Confirmands. The whole Church prepares our young people and brings them to God for the sacraments. It's only right that we should all be able to celebrate with them.

Who, me? Yes, you! A Eucharistic minister who gave a child a loving blessing, a lector who helped them hear the Word of God speaking to them, a member of the assembly who showed them how to participate in the Mass as if their life depends on it, the leaf rakers and flower planters and cookie bakers and casserole makers – all have taught our young people how to be part of the family of God and prepared them for this day.

## God, Our Father continued...

learns anew the love that her parents have for her. Doesn't this tell us about our Father's love for us?

A child of elderly parents still has much to learn from them. They can be a source of wisdom, of family history, of cultural heritage. As they become infirm, their lessons change from how to be a graceful giver to how to be a graceful receiver. They can show us how to live lives of faith and trust in God, who is with us even when mortal life ends. Isn't this what our Father wants for us?

God our Father is always with us, with unconditional love, unfailing forgiveness, unfathomable wisdom, and unending life. There is every reason to be thankful for his presence. Be thankful, too, for your parents, for the times that they have been an image of God's love for you!

## Come Spend A Holy Hour continued ...

Father Luke would also like to arrange for confessions to be heard during the Holy Hour, something that would work especially well if there would be someone willing to lead the prayers.

All parishioners are encouraged to participate in the Holy Hour service. The next one will be offered on Saturday, June 2, beginning immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church.

*softly . . .*

*slowly . . .*

*quietly . . .*

*may you grow to accept  
the changes in your life  
with courage.*

## Charles Lwanga, young martyr for his new faith



During recent years the world has watched the tremendous growth of the Catholic Church on the continent of Africa. According to recent statistics there are now 222 million African Catholics, 17 percent of the world's Catholic population. This growth also reflects a 20 percent rise in the number of priestly ordinations on the continent.

For centuries it has been believed that what has spurred the growth of the Catholic faith and the Church in all parts of the world has not only been the examples of priests and religious, but the sacrifice of those who have died for their faith – as Tertullian, a second-century Doctor of the Church observed: “The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church.”

On June 3 the Church commemorates the martyrdom of Ugandan Charles Lwanga and his companions. In his lifetime Charles served as assistant to the head page in the household of King Mwangwa of Uganda. He protected his fellow pages, ages 13-30, from the homosexual demands of the king, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the king's demands.

Charles first learned of Christ's teachings from two retainers at court. While a catechumen, he entered the royal household as assistant to Mukaso, the head of the court pages, and requested and received Baptism on the night of Mukaso's martyrdom for refusing the king's advances.

For his own unwillingness to submit to the immoral acts and his efforts to safeguard the faith of his friends, Charles was burned to death on June 3, 1886, by order of the king. The Church has since named Charles Lwanga the patron of youth and Catholic action. Like Charles Lwanga, we are all teachers and witnesses to Christian living by the examples of our own lives. By remaining courageous and unshakable in our faith as Charles did during times of great moral and physical temptation, we are living as Christ lived.

**Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...****Betty Conerty****Lemon Bars**

- 1/2 c butter or margarine, softened
- 1-1/2 c flour
- 1/4 c sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 c sugar
- 2 t flour
- 1/2 t baking powder
- 3 T lemon juice

Combine the first three ingredients and mix until blended. Pat into 8-inch square pan and bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients; mix well and pour over crust. Return to oven for 18-20 minutes, or until set. When cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

\* \* \*

*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 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.

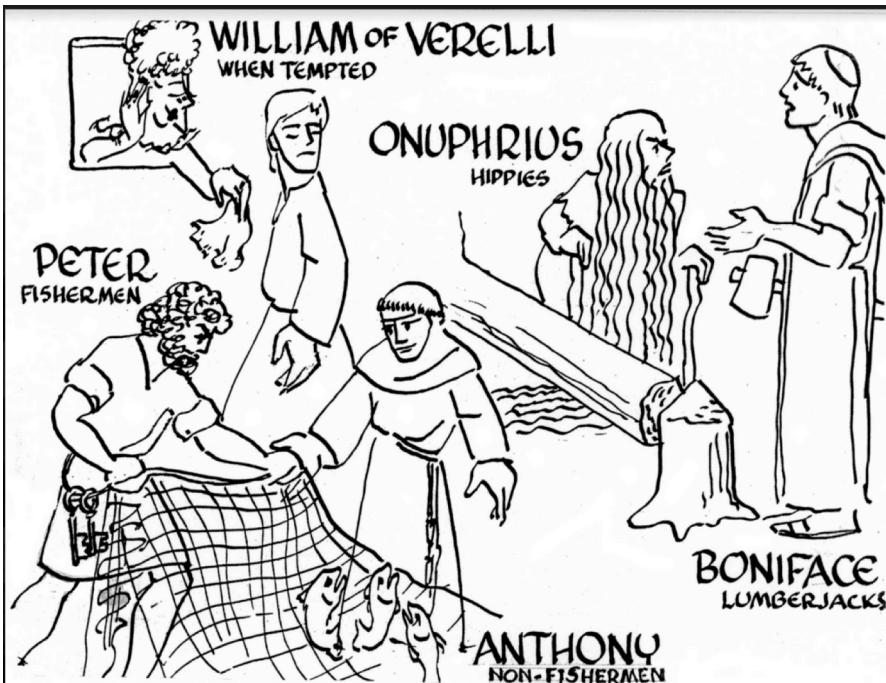
**Editorial board:** Judy Fierke, 352-7670 (j-fierke@comcast.net); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Ann Gindes (ann.gindes@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elizabethwhend@gmail.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); Jhane Reifsteck, 841-6048 (jhane.reifsteck@gmail.com), Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu); and Patsy Schmitt, 607-1594 (patsy.schmitt@gmail.com).

**Associates:** Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Joe and Nancy Costa, Frances Drone-Silvers, Camille Goudeseune, Mary Karten, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Carole Rebeiz, Mike Redenbaugh, Lucille Salika, Sue Schreiber, Shirley Splittstoesser, Adam and Stephanie Smith, Jackie Sturdyvin, Jim Urban, and Jerry Walsh.d

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**June Patron Saints**

Fr. Wuellner



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next (May) issue of *In Focus* is June 10.