

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpatuurbana.org

May 2018

Praying in the Spirit

Do you ever feel stuck in prayer? When you're trying to pray for some special need, do you ever feel like you just don't know what to ask God for? Or are you discouraged because you've been praying about something for a long time without result? Or maybe prayer just feels like talking to a brick wall. While you're struggling to pray, what do you think God is doing?

St. Paul says, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought. The Spirit himself intercedes for us in groaning that cannot be expressed in speech. He who searches the heart knows what the Spirit means, because the Spirit intercedes for us as God himself wills" (Romans 8: 26-27). So even – maybe especially – when you are struggling to pray, the Spirit is there with you, already knowing your desire to pray, already understanding your difficulty, already knowing the wisest intercessions to carry to the Father for you, already overflowing with love for you.

Sometimes when we're stuck in prayer, the best thing we can do is to shut up and trust in the prayer that the Spirit is making on our behalf. Sometimes it's good to remember that we don't always pray for the right things and that the Spirit is present to help us.

When we are praising God, it's good to remember our limitations:



we don't really grasp how good, how wise, how loving, how powerful God is. The Spirit does, and can praise God for us as God deserves. When we offer thanks, we don't always know exactly how God has answered our prayers. The Spirit does, and can increase our thanks a hundredfold.

Prayer isn't magic. It's not about saying the right words. It's about turning to the God of love. It's not about technique. It's about your relationship with the God who is prodigiously in love with you and with everyone he has created. Surely we can trust the Holy Spirit to help us when we want to turn to God.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Here's an Opportunity to Meet Our Muslim Neighbors

Today, Muslims in America often face a vicious campaign of discrimination and marginalization. As a neighbor of the nearby Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, St. Patrick Parish will host a "Know Your Neighbors" dinner on Thursday, May 10. Thirty-five members of the mosque and the Muslim American Society will share a meal with St. Patrick's parishioners in the parish center. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m., with dinner followed by a short program. This event is co-sponsored by the Women of St. Patrick, the Knights of Columbus, and Peace and Justice Ministries.

Dinner coordinator, Luis Cuza, shared that this is the first of hopefully many "Know Your Neighbors" dinners that will bring together St. Patrick's parishioners with members of other local places of worship and communities. He sees this first dinner as an opportunity to extend a hand of friendship to our Muslim neighbors to demonstrate our commitment to oppose all forms of persecution of people based on their religion and/or ethnicity, and to protect them with all resources and energies at our disposal. This dinner will give us a good start.

The dinner is open to all parish-

Muslim Neighbors continued on pg. 11

It Was Indeed a Grand Night!

The people of St. Patrick's came together on March 17, the feast of their Patron Saint Patrick for a grand evening. Some 200 parishioners came out to celebrate, including many Irishmen and Irishwomen and those who weren't.

There was a cook-off of three popular Irish dishes: corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, and Shepherd's Pie. After much deliberation and tasting, the winners were announced: Frank Gallo for his Shepherd's Pie, Patricia Fowler for her corned beef and cabbage, and Mary Ann Luedtke for her Irish soda bread. It was noted that "there wasn't an Irishman amongst them."

Thirty stout bodies contributed to the success of the evening by setting up tables and chairs, putting out food for entertaining the children, and finally cleaning up. A special thank you goes to Linda Weber, who kept the little ones very happy with the Cake Walk and crafts. And another thanks goes to the families who brought their dishes to share.

Awarding the door prizes was engineered by Jim Urban, and the very difficult judging of the cook-off dishes was deftly handled by Patricia Fowler and Jim Urban.

Mark your 2019 calendars – for sure we will be celebrating again next year!



First Fridays with Fr. Luke *by Ann Gindes*

Fr. Luke has hosted a brown bag event he calls Mystagogia 2.0 on First Fridays, inviting members of our parish, their families, friends, and guests, to learn more about their faith. Attendance for the program has been growing, with recent requests to add a second session. Over the course of the last several months, sessions have covered topics related to the liturgical seasons – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter – in addition to a “Stump the Priest” session and a session on Heaven and the Four Last Things (death, judgement, heaven, and hell), which included a discussion on purgatory.

The following is from my recent e-mailed interview with Fr. Luke.

What was the most interesting or unusual question that someone has asked since the program began? During the “Stump the Priest” session some people asked me about my family, taking time for myself, days off, visiting with family, etc. I really appreciated the questions as I could tell people have a concern for my well-being. When I have the open questions format, I typically get questions about morality, celibacy, and other issues. I’m used to these types of questions, so I really appreciated those other questions as unexpected and edifying.

What is the most fun question you have been asked? Hmm... I honestly do enjoy *all* the questions. Probably anything from the “Stump the Priest” day (was the most fun). I enjoyed the questions about my background and my other ministry experiences. I really enjoy being able to share about so many great blessings I’ve experienced in other assignments through the years.

What questions were asked



during the most recent meeting (April 6)? What are people curious about? The last topic was Easter, so we talked about how the Jewish culture renders time (lunar calendar) and how the date of Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox each year, and how a day is measured from sunset to sunset (unlike our midnight to midnight). We also discussed how Jesus was in the tomb for the shortest time possible to make three days by the Jewish counting of days.

What topics will be covered in the next meetings? I have a list of questions developing that we’ll work from for future topics: celibacy (including background, reasons, chances of changes), Reconciliation, how to pray, the “why” of what we do in the Mass, an overview of the sacraments, an overview of the moral life – to name a few.

Anything else you would like to add? I really enjoy teaching! I come from a family of teachers (multiple generations), so perhaps it comes easily. Although my schedule often demands other kinds of ministry and administration, I think teaching really brings me to life in a unique way.

“...Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”

Two years ago, my daughter was welcomed into the family of God through Holy Baptism. During the ceremony, she was twice blessed with holy oils. At the end of April, catechumens will also be blessed with holy oil as they commit themselves to the Church. The significance of the oils was not lost on us, her parents, thanks to the baptism education class we had taken a few weeks earlier with Deacon Zola. He pointed out that the holy oils are much more than just an instrument brought out for special occasions. They have an important role in the Church throughout the church year and throughout one’s life.

During Holy Week last month, as priests have done year after year, Father Luke traveled to the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria to attend the Chrism Mass. During the Mass, Bishop Jenky consecrated the three different oils that would be distributed to churches throughout the diocese.



The three oils were presented to St. Patrick Parish during the Holy Thursday Mass. The first is the Oil of the Sick. It is used to anoint those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit.

It is one of the oils that Father Luke uses most often, as it is used to anoint those with an ongoing illness and before surgeries, as well as during last rites.

The second oil is the Oil of the Catechumens. It is one of the oils used during baptism.

“...Be Sealed” continued on pg. 9

Holy Cross Happenings



If school is in session, you can be sure that Holy Cross is continuing to excel at nourishing soul, mind, and body. With regards to the last one, congratulations to the 8th grade girls volleyball team who capped off their excellent season with conference and regional championship wins!

Spring in particular at Holy Cross always finds students especially engaged in artistic pursuits. By the time this issue of *In Focus* comes out many St. Patrick's kids will have performed solo and ensemble pieces at the IESA music competition, wowed the crowd at the spring concert, and lit up the stage in the musical *The Music Man Jr.* (look for photos in next month's issue). If you ever get a chance to watch our young ones perform, don't pass it up! Holy Cross staff and volunteers are especially dedicated to making sure our young people perform to their



Eighth grade girls' volleyball team.

Third Quarter Honor Roll

Highest Honors

Michael McCoy
Noelle Hunt
Anna Loftus
Josh Loftus
Ian Peters
Lukas Perdekamp
Jasmine Waite
Brandon Hood
Ellen Lofus

High Honors

Cate Feinen
Dareje Jahiel
Phil Withers-Sickles
Marissa Altaner
Natalie Caughlin
Tsega Jahiel
Christina Pembele
Hadley Peters
Maddy McCoy

Honors

Grace Dimoke
Kate McMillan
Ava Borbely
Emily Leininger
Abbie Vessell

potential.

The annual Holy Cross Trivia Night on February 24th was the most well-attended yet, raising \$19,000 for playground renovations. Enough money was raised to begin Phase One of the playground renovation. The evening's theme was "Get Your Game On"; the prize for best group costume was awarded to one of a few tables brilliantly depicting the characters from "Clue." The table which won the trivia contest this year (pictured in Speakeasy attire; their "game" was poker) had a lot of representation from St. Patrick's parish. Many thanks to Joslyn Unger and family for putting on a highly enjoyable event year after year!

One more chance to check out

our young minds at work: be sure to read the listing of honor roll for third quarter. By the time this article appears, it will almost be time for our eighth graders to graduate. Please remember them and their families in your prayers during this frightening, yet wonderful, time.

Please feel free to contact rachmc-mill@gmail.com if there is anything you'd like to see featured in an upcoming installment of Holy Cross Happenings or if you have any additions/corrections to report.

* * *

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



Trivia contest winners.

Many Came Out for Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Patrick Church was the setting on Sunday, April 8, for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

A crowd of 300+, that included a mix of individuals, couples, and families with their children of all ages, filled all corners of the church.

As worshipers they were welcomed by the Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus exposed on the altar in St. Patrick's newly restored monstrance, whose history dates back to 1922. The surrounding Easter flowers and the beautiful altar draping added to the solemnity of the Exposition of the Eucharist.

As people knelt in adoration, their numbers in the pews changed as they left their places to find one of the six priests waiting in the confessionals and in corners of the church to administer the Sacra-

ment of Reconciliation. As people patiently waited, their lines snaked around the entire church. Many more people than expected received the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that confessions continued to be heard during the devotion to the Divine Mercy and the Benediction. A seventh priest was called in to help with the overflow of penitents.

After adoration, the Chaplet was canted by St. Patrick's Music Director, Frank Gallo, and answered by the congregation. The Litany or the Divine Mercy was recited, after which Father Luke Spannagel continued with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, culminating in Benediction of the faithful.

Although it was in 2000 that Pope John Paul II had proclaimed Faustina Kowalska a saint of the



Catholic Church, the message that she had received from Jesus had been part of a devotion of the Polish Catholic Church for many decades. What Jesus asked for through the message of the writing of Faustina was threefold; that we ask mercy for ourselves; that we trust in the mercy of Christ, and that we show Christ's mercy to others.

As could be seen from the many people at St. Patrick's Church on the Divine Mercy Sunday, April 1, the message of Divine Mercy is resonating throughout the Catholic Church in the United States.

In our area, the Vicariate of Champaign and Urbana, there are six groups, also known as Cenacles, that are part of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy. Mary Pellizzarri, who is part of a Cenacle at St. Matthew Church, says that "we come together to regularly study, pray, and promote the practice of Divine Mercy in our lives."

Dan Richards, host of the 2018 Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Patrick's Church, hopes that many who attended the Divine Mercy liturgy, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Benediction feel a call to join one of the six Cenacles in our Vicariate.

St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Learn About the Orthodox Church's View of Mary

On April 11, after a delicious lunch at Perkins Restaurant in Urbana, the St. Jeanne Jugan Senior Group enjoyed a presentation by Rev. James Ellison of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Urbana. Rev. Ellison started by telling a little about himself. He began his ministry as a Protestant minister and became an Orthodox priest in 1993. He is married to wife Linda and is a father of 5 daughters (one deceased) and 11 grandchildren (3 deceased).

He talked about Mary, the Mother of Jesus, stressing that the Gospel is not about Mary and that in the scriptures Mary is not presented as participating in public preaching and teaching. One must have faith in Christ before learning about and growing to love Mary because she is integral as being the



Rev. James Ellison.

mother of Jesus.

He went on to say that Mary can be thought of as the ideal person because her life exemplifies living out the Gospel. She was not a great ascetic, monastic abbess, hierarch, emperor, theologian, ico-

View of Mary continued on pg. 7

It Was a Night of Folk Tunes

The most recent concert presented by St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra (SPYO) featured many folk tunes, including "Folk Tune and Fiddle Dance," "Appalachian Morning," and "Irish Tribute." At the concert five scholarships and the Father Joel Phelps' Award were given to members of the orchestra. The scholarship winners were Jose Guerra (7th grade), Nicole Cooper (10th grade), Lukas Perdekamp (7th grade), Sylvia Wither Sickles (7th grade), and Noel Chi (8th grade). Each was awarded \$300 to use for ISYM or private lessons.

The Father Joel Phelps Award is named after Father Joel Phelps, former priest at St. Patrick's and current pastor of St. Malachy. During his time with the orchestra in its early years he was brought charisma to the hard-working group. Father Phelps, with his great sense of humor, made sure everyone in the orchestra felt welcomed and included. His support continues to help SPYO grow both musically and socially.

The winner of The Father Joel Phelps Award is expected to have these characteristics and use them to encourage and uplift the orchestra as Father Phelps did during his time with the orchestra. This year's winner of the Father Phelps award is Lisa Altaner. Lisa is a tenth-grader at Champaign Central High School and has played the flute in SPYO for the past three years. She is very active socially in the or-

chestra and encourages others to enjoy their participation in SPYO. She has accepted the invitation to be assistant conductor for the orchestra for the next school year. Lisa received \$650 from the Father Phelps Award and plans on using it for two weeks of music camp at ISYM.

SPYO is an orchestra founded and run by students. The orchestra has members ranging in age from sixth through twelfth grades. Members come from schools throughout Champaign County. The orchestra is always looking for new members; no cost or audition is required. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, please contact stpatsyouthorchestra@gmail.com for information on practices for our next concert cycle.



Fr. Joel Phelps and Lisa Altaner.



SPYO Conductor Sarah Perdekamp and Assistant Conductor Elizabeth Atkinson.

VOCATION PRAYER

Loving Father, life is your gift to me. I have heard your invitation to share my life in service. Give me courage and generosity to respond to your love, to your call. I pray for all those others you have called, that they too will serve you in witnessing to the gospel through their service to your people. Open the hearts of many that they may accept your invitation, your challenge to build up the Kingdom.

STM Lives Out Its Mission, Helping Others *by Principal Jason Schreder*

At the end of one of his missionary journeys St. Paul tells the Church that “in every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

At the High School of Saint Thomas More we have shown this spirit of giving through the generous donations of our students and staff:

- \$1306 was donated to Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Houston for Hurricane Relief
- 4,442 canned goods were collected for the annual “CanStruction” House Competition and were donated to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society

- Over \$700 was raised to benefit our sister student, Pendo, in Tanzania to enable her to receive a Catholic education
- STM supported one of its own alumni, Tori McCoy (2016), by donating over \$1100 for kidney treatment
- During Catholic Schools Week the STM Families competed in “Penny Wars” and was able to raise over \$1,000 to benefit the Crisis Nursery Center

These are just some of the ways that STM shows support for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In forming students in their walk of discipleship with Christ, we hope to foster a spirit of stewardship so that it becomes a part of their life after graduation.

There are many ways that our

alumni, alumni families, and benefactors can continue to support STM. Any alumni who gives an amount over \$20.35 is part of the Alumni Giving Club. Our current “Great Saber Raffle” gives the opportunity to win a \$50 weekly prize and a \$5,000 grand prize drawn on May 5 at the STM Gala. Other ways to support STM include the annual “Fund for More” and new Tax Credit Scholarship to help “Sponsor a Saber.”

We are grateful for the support we receive that enables us to live out our mission. May those who have blessed us with their time, talent, and treasure be blessed as we celebrate this Easter Season the gift of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



STM Students gather around their “CanStructions.”

View of Mary continued...

nographer, martyr, confessor, preacher, teacher, or prophet, and yet she was all of these. She was, by her own words, a slave and childlike. When the angel announced to Mary that she would be giving birth to a son who would be named Jesus and he would be the Son of God, Mary replied “I am the Lord’s servant, let it be done to me according to your will” (Luke 1:38). Rev. Ellison elaborated on

the term “Theotokos,” meaning Mother of God, and the dates of church feasts and fasts that are related to Mary.

Fr. Ellison also sang a few hymns used to honor Mary at various times in Orthodox liturgy and church year, and he prayed the Prayer of Paul the Cenobite to the Most Holy Theotokos. He gave participants copies of the prayer. and concluded his presentation by

showing and explaining the icons (pictures) of Mary he brought from his church. One was 400 years old and had come from Russia. He then entertained many questions from the group. Everyone enjoyed his discussion and expressed their thanks.

Watch the weekly bulletin for news of the group’s upcoming lunches. All are welcome!

St. Isidore, the Farmer Who Was Named a Saint

In March 1622 five great saints were canonized together. They included four of the giant figures of the Catholic Reformation: St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Philip Neri. The fifth, St. Isidore, founded no order, accomplished no great deeds (apart from tilling the land), left no teachings, did not inspire any disciples. He was, in fact, a simple farm worker, born in Madrid, who spent his entire working life in the service of the same wealthy landowner.

With his good wife, Maria, Isidore bore one son, who died in childhood. He knew the hardships, the toil, and the sorrows of all farm workers then and since. And he displayed the simple though profound faith so common to *campesinos* the world over. He attended Mass daily and prayed continuously as he worked the fields.

In Isidore's case, however, his faith was attended by visible signs and wonders. It was reported, for example, that angels were seen assisting him as he plowed. He was famous for his generosity toward those even poorer than himself. His table was always open to the indigent, while he was content to live on the scraps left over.

His kindness extended to animals. One winter day he was so moved by the sorrowful noise of a hungry bird that he opened the sack of corn he was carrying and poured out half its contents. Though witnesses scoffed at this prodigality, later at the mill the bag was found miraculously to be full.

Other similar stories are told of this holy peasant, who died on May 15, 1130. Yet for all the miraculous legends, what most stands out is how very ordinary his life was. He is simply one of the "little ones" so beloved of God. Though not a monk, he passed his life in work and prayer. Though poor himself, he poured himself out in charity. Though happily married, he communed with angels. In the list of canonized saints his kind is surprisingly rare; in heaven, presumably less so.



Parish Council News

After processing the various ministries' views on St. Patrick's mission at the February meeting, Parish Council members shared their own views on St. Patrick's mission in the March and April meetings. To guide our brainstorming, Fr. Luke asked us to answer such questions as, Who do we serve? How do non-parishioners view us and how do we view ourselves? What is success for us? How are we unique? From both the ministries' views and Parish Council members' views, common descriptions of what St. Patrick's is and does included "welcoming," "a home," "sharing the Gospels," and "nurture faith and each other."

The next step in developing the mission statement is a day-long retreat facilitated by parishioner Jenn LaMontaigne. Using the comments from the ministries and parish council, Jenn will guide us

in creating a mission statement. Although we are not finished yet, the process of examining who we are as a parish has been inspirational and joyful. We are truly blessed to have such caring and energetic people at St. Patrick's who strive to share God's love.

Which leads us to the following announcement:

WANTED: A FEW GOOD NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Usually in May, the Council recruits new members. Because this has been a transition year with our new pastor, the Parish Council will continue with current members for a bit longer in order to maintain continuity for a few unfinished projects, including the mission statement. Towards the end of the summer, Fr. Luke looks forward to welcoming new members who will



provide fresh eyes and ideas. If you are interested in becoming a member of the 2018-2019 Parish Council, contact Kathy Cimasky (fcimakasky@aol.com) or Jack Parisi (marketing4u@comcast.net). Please consider volunteering. Serving on Council is a great way to grow in faith, contribute to the future of our parish, and learn more about who we are and what is so special about St. Patrick's.

Where Does the Money Go?

After a successful Women of St. Patrick fund raising event such as the holiday Cookie and Basket sale or the summer's much-anticipated Cellar-to-Garret garage sale, the question is sometimes asked, "What do you do with the money you raise?"

Some of the money raised is used for things you can see. The chairs and tables in Trinity Hall were purchased with WSP funds. The dishes in the kitchen, the warming oven, the ice machine, the microwave – in fact the renovation of the main kitchen itself many years ago – all (and many other items) were paid for by the group. The restoration of the Blessed Mother statue will be a shared expense of WSP and the Knights of Columbus.



Cellar-to-Garret Sale.

The Women of St. Patrick have made gifts for the church expansion to assist with that expense. You may be sitting in a WSP pew on Sunday morning! The very successful Christmas basket project with Empty Tomb required a small outlay for baskets and items to "fill in" around the edges.

In the realm of the unseen, monetary gifts to clergy and staff at holidays and on other occasions are part of the regular giving of the group. Priests who have served us through the years leave with a monetary gift as a token of thanks



Christmas Cookie and Basket Sale.

for their loving and selfless service. Sometimes a family requests a funeral dinner and is unable to share in some of the costs. No one is ever turned away, so those expenses may be covered from funds on hand.

The WSP annually raises money for Lay Maryknoll Missioner and parishioner Susan Nagele's mission activities in Kenya. Speaker fees and other expenses for retreats and special events come from the WSP bank account so that registration fees can be kept low or free and scholarships can be offered.

The group is currently working on a protocol for making small grants to parish and community groups engaged in charitable work. A careful accounting of all of WSP funds and expenditures is kept by the treasurer, Anna Conner, and is presented for everyone's information at their general meetings. Watch for these to be announced; they are held on a quarterly basis, often in conjunction with a dinner at the parish center or at a restaurant in the community.

WSP invites all women of the parish take part in their events; fundraisers, dinners, special pro-

jects, praying the rosary, or retreats. The Women of St. Patrick are women of faith who share spirituality, service, and social components in mission to the parish and our community.

For more information please feel free to speak with any board member at any time. Current board members are Donna Rinkenberger, Janet Althaus, Bernadette Nelson, Eileen Schmidt, Annie Allegretti, Anna Conner, Nancy Olson, Sandy Cuza, Sue Schreiber, and Katie Leininger. You can contact the Women of St. Patrick at womenofstpatrick@gmail.com.

"...Be Sealed" continued...

The third is the Sacred Chrism. The oil has been mixed with a sweet perfume by the bishop. It is the second oil used in baptism, and is used for Confirmation, and Holy Orders. It is also used in the consecration of churches and sacred objects.

These oils are kept in the church for one year, traditionally in an ambry; however, because St. Patrick's does not have an ambry, it is stored in our sacristy. If there is oil remaining at the end of the church year, it is burned in the Sanctuary Lamp, the Easter Fire, or disposed of in another acceptable manner.

Holy oils can be traced back for centuries in their use for the consecration of priests and coronations of kings. When the Chrism Mass was first celebrated, the oils were mixed by the pope himself.

When you see the catechumens marked with holy oil, or if you or someone you know receives a blessing before a surgery, you are experiencing a holy tradition that started at the baptismal font and will continue to bless you throughout your Catholic life.

What Did You Do During Lent? What Will You Do Now?

Lent was a busy time at St. Patrick's, with many opportunities for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship. Parishioners took part in rosaries, retreats, and Bible studies. They attended special worship services, such as a Holy Hour, the Mass of Anointing, and Solemn Vespers. They took part in a Seder Dinner. They enjoyed musical events such as the performance of "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross" and the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra concert. They began a study of important aspects of our Catholic faith in Catholic Social Teaching 101. Every week, Lenten dinners provided the opportunity for parishioners and guests to break bread together and enjoy fellowship.

Some of these opportunities continue. On the first Friday of each month, you are invited to bring your lunch to eat while Fr. Luke explores and answers questions on topics relevant to our Catholic faith in *Mystagogia 2.0*: "Father, Why Do We Do That?" On the first Saturday of each month, you can make a holy hour of adoration after the morning Mass.

The Ministry of Consolation hosts a monthly rosary and brown

bag lunch. There are opportunities for fellowship with the St. Jeanne Jugans senior group's monthly luncheons, with Women of St. Patrick dinners, and with parish family events. Studies such as Catholic Social Teaching and Bible studies will continue.

There are always many ways to serve: helping with a parish event, preparing food for funeral dinners, bringing Communion to hospital patients and the homebound, helping in the food pantry, singing with a choir, giving someone a ride to Mass, welcoming newcomers to St. Patrick's, working with the grounds crew – the list goes on.

So what will you do now? Check the weekly bulletin and the parish website (www.stpaturbana.org) or Facebook page to see what opportunities are coming up. Check the ministry booklet or ask what other opportunities may be available. Talk to someone on staff or a Parish Council member about opportunities you might be interested in. Continue the journey you began during Lent, or begin one now!



Grounds Crew volunteers came out on April 14 for the spring Grounds Clean-Up Day.

Calling all photographers!

Going to a parish event?

Participating in a study group or class?

Willing to go on assignment?

In Focus needs pictures of people and events or activities for the newsletter. If picture editing is more your thing, you could help with sorting, cropping, and captioning them. For more information leave your name and phone number or email address with the parish secretary and one of us will get in touch with you!

Senior Group Learned About the Food Pantry

Fourteen members of the St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors met for lunch on March 21 at Papa Del's Restaurant on Neil Street in Champaign. Ellen Abell, past coordinator for St. Patrick's Food Pantry, spoke to the group about her experiences with the food pantry, working with the 53 volunteers who serve an increasing number of people in need.

The parish's food pantry is open 4:30-5:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday to distribute food items to all who come hoping to stretch their meager incomes by receiving St. Patrick's bags of food.

It was interesting to learn that there are specific guidelines from The Department of Human Services that must be followed, and regulations concerning food for distribution. Eastern Illinois Food Bank is one of the largest of 220 such facilities that serve as distribution points for local food pantries. They purchase food items from Midwest Food Bank and

make it available to local food pantries. Because the Food Bank can buy ten dollars of food with every dollar donated, they much prefer donations of cash instead of canned or boxed foods.

St. Patrick's Food Pantry purchases from Eastern Illinois Food Bank some of the food items that are distributed. They also receive breads from Panera's Bread, Great Harvest, and St. Joseph's IGA, which our volunteers pick up on a schedule. Our food pantry serves many in Champaign County, including the homeless, families, veterans, senior citizens, and college students.

Ellen said among her most re-



warding "memorable moments" is reading letters from grateful individuals—or just watching people pick out something in particular they really need and being so happy!

The Seniors were very pleased that Ellen Abell could join them and explain a little about some of the work done by the volunteers in this ministry to alleviate hunger.

Muslim Neighbors

continued...

ioners, including children. The number of tickets is limited in order to have a comfortable balance of guests and parishioners. Each adult parishioner attending the din-

ner is asked to provide a vegetarian salad, side dish, or dessert to serve 10-12 people. To accommodate our guests, please make sure your dishes do not contain any kind of

pork, alcohol, or vanilla extract, even in the desserts. Tickets are \$5.00 for each adult. Children under 12 are free. The ticket fee will cover the cost of meat, which will be prepared according to Muslim tradition. Tickets sales began at the 5 p.m. Mass on April 21 and will continue at each Mass until the seating limit is reached. We look forward to meeting our neighbors in this very special way.

For more information, please contact Luis Cuza (217/954-1956, Luis@cuza.us) or Jim Urban (217/367-2665, jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

Who are our neighbors? Come to share a meal and find out!



CREW Mission News

Thanks to everyone who came out for the annual CREW Service Auction! The teens raised \$2,605 for this summer's Mission Trip.

Holy Spirit, lead us!

Renew us, Holy Spirit!

Empowering, energizing breath of God,
prepare us for a fresh outpouring of your Spirit.

Open our hearts to the unity of community
we call Church.

Abide with us and lead us!

Make us yielding, obedient, responsive to becoming
the people and the Church
you have created us to be.

Let the fire of a new Pentecost fall afresh on us!

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

A learner

Happiness Cake

- 1 c good thoughts
- 2 c sacrifice
- 3 c forgiveness of others
- 1 c kind deeds
- 1 c consideration
- 2 c own faults, well beaten

Mix together thoroughly. Add tears of joy, sorrow, and sympathy. Flavor with love and kindly service. Fold in 4 cups of prayer, faith, and enthusiasm. Blend well with human kindness. Spread all



into your daily life. Serve with a smile at all times, and it will satisfy the hunger of many people less fortunate than ourselves.

* * *

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 Parish IN FOCUS

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

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

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The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next (June) issue of *In Focus* is **May 8**.