

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2019

In Remembrance



Jesus at the Last Supper, asked us to “Do this in remembrance of me.” What do we remember as we celebrate the Eucharist over and over? And why do we need repetition? Remembering, memorial, memory, mindfulness: each of these related words unpacks some of the richness of what Jesus has given us to do.

At the simplest level, we remember that God loves us, that Jesus became human among us, that he taught us, that he suffered, died, and rose for us. That’s why we always read the gospels when we celebrate Eucharist – it’s part of how we remember Jesus. We remember that, at the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks, blessed and broke the bread, then blessed and poured out the wine, sharing them with his friends. We remember that on the cross his body was broken and his blood poured out. We remember that he gave himself for

us. And we give thanks for his gift of himself.

The Eucharist is a memorial to Jesus, like a pillar in a town square, erected to remember heroes of the past. Experiencing it over and over helps us to keep him in mind. But we don’t confine our remembering to his deeds of the past. Our Eucharistic memorial reminds us of Jesus’ presence with us here and now. We remember who Jesus is for us, as individuals and as a community. He is teacher and savior, lover and beloved, companion and guide. He draws us together into community as well as communion. It also reminds us of where Jesus is taking us, drawing us closer to one another and to him, until the day when all God’s people are one, happy with him in heaven.

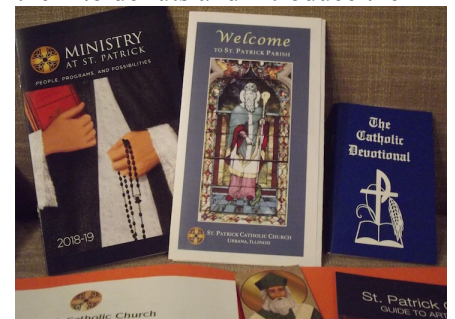
As we remember these things, we become more mindful. We start to catch glimpses of the good things

In Remembrance . . . Cont. pg 6

Welcome to St. Patrick!

Hebrews 13:2 says, “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.” The St. Patrick Welcome Team seeks to extend a warm welcome to newcomers and visitors to our parish.

Once a month team members stand near the Welcome desk in the gathering space, before and after Mass, to greet those who may be new or visiting. Welcome Team members share information about St. Patrick Parish and our many ministries. Every month the parish secretary emails the team with the names and contact information of newly registered parishioners. Several Welcome Team volunteers contact newly registered members and offer a parish tour or to meet them at Coffee Shop Sunday morning. It’s always fun to treat them to donuts and introduce them



Welcome to . . . Continued on pg 6

Two St. Patrick teens join the March for Life



This past January parishioners Abigail and Emily Goad walked for the second year in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. These two outgoing girls are students at St. Thomas More High School. STM sent 30 students, 7 chaperones, Father Eric Bolek, chaplain, and Sister Bridget Marten, theology teacher and campus minister, on the trip.

The group left Champaign on Wednesday, January 16, and drove through the night to reach Blessed Sacrament Parish in Fairfax, Virginia, by noon the next day and spent the next two nights on air mattresses in the gym. The generous Knights of Columbus made breakfast for them each morning.

After arrival in D.C., they visited the shrine of Pope Saint John Paul II, where they saw a vial of his blood and also the heart of Saint Jean Vianney, which is on a national tour from France. They also went to Arlington National Cemetery and watched as Sister Bridget and three STM students had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Friday, January 18, was the day of the actual March for Life. All the participants gathered on the Mall. They

stood for hours listening to famous speakers. Abigail and Emily were especially impressed by Vice President Pence and his wife. It was very crowded, and once the slow march began to move from the Mall, they had to hold on to the backpack of the person in front of them to stay together. It was a joyful procession, with different groups singing, chanting, or playing drums while they walked. The forecast of a winter storm caused the STM bus to leave for home a day early, on Saturday morning at 5:00 a.m.

Abigail and Emily both felt changed and fulfilled by this experience. Abigail, who is 17 and a junior, said, "If there is anything I won't forget about this trip is that having friends that stand up with you for something you believe in so strongly is amazing. I march for those babies who don't get the chance to see what this world has to offer." Emily, who is 15 and a sophomore, says she marches because "I believe every person has a right to dream and every 98 seconds a dream is taken away from a beautiful child that could have changed the world."

Both girls participate in many other activities. Both teach religious education on Sunday mornings. Both help out at Coffee Shop and with Knights of Columbus breakfasts. They both were altar servers in elementary school. Abigail is on the STM softball team and is manager of the STM wrestling team. Both girls volunteer at the U of I wheelchair basketball camp and tournaments.

St. Patrick is blessed to have such responsible and caring young women as parishioners.

Vocation prayer

Gracious God, you have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism you have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to your call each day, and inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Help me to become all that you desire of me, in the way of life you have planned for me.

Snow falls on the Women of St. Patrick quarterly meeting

The Women of St. Patrick hosted a brunch on Sunday, February 10. The tables were all decorated in pinks and reds with Valentine candies at each place setting. Hot egg casseroles, homemade breads, and bowls of salads and fruits were ready. Over thirty determined women braved the falling snow to attend. Father Luke joined them for the brunch.

Kim Hayden, from the National Council of Catholic Women, spoke to the group. As president of the Peoria Diocese affiliate of this national group, she encouraged our parish to rejoin at a cost of \$100 annually. WSP will vote on this at their May quarterly meeting.

Also discussed was a project with our Knights of Columbus to refurbish our statue of St. Patrick at a cost of \$5,200. The entire parish is invited to join

Women of St. Patrick



this project. Volunteers were sought for the WSP part in the celebration of St. Patrick's Day after the 10:00 Mass on March 17. And finally, a request was made to WSP for the replating of the chalices that hold the blood of Christ. It will be considered after funds are raised in the Cellar-to-Garret Sale this summer.

The WSP treasurer's report noted that the Christmas Cookie and Basket Sale raised \$3,178.75. The meeting ended with drawings for four door prizes. The next quarterly meeting will be in May, hopefully without snow!

Visiting deacon speaks on LGBTQ ministry and the Catholic catechism

A deacon of the Diocese of Joliet spent a Saturday morning at St. Patrick's discussing how the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church can shape the nascent LGBTQ ministry at St. Patrick's.

Deacon Mark Armamentos of St. Jude's Parish in New Lenox, Illinois, and St. Jude parishioner Marge Palmasani, visited on February 24. Along with Lorraine Kim, Deacon Mark and Marge co-founded St. Jude's LGBTQ ministry. Since Lorraine's return to St. Patrick, they have lent their support to the development of a St. Patrick LGBTQ ministry.



Speaking to about a dozen St. Patrick's parishioners, Deacon Mark emphasized the beauty of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but he noted that the catechism also has many layers that must be

considered. Although there are several sections relevant to the discussion, the paragraphs in sections 2357–2359 are the entirety of the catechism's reference to homosexuality. To the dismay of many, it describes homosexual people as "intrinsically disordered," a characterization that seems to contradict some scientific and psychological evidence, and as unloving, a sentiment shared by a number of Catholic bishops at the 2015 Synod on the Family. Yet it also states that "They [LGBTQ people] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided."

Deacon Mark stressed the importance of considering the Bible in its entirety, rather than taking verses out of context. He said the Bible comes down to this: Love God and love others. If you can do this, you fulfill all the 600+ laws of the Bible, noting that "Jesus isn't ignoring the old law, but raising it to a higher/highest level." He reminded the group that "Judgment is a gift of the Holy Spirit. But Jesus never condemns anyone – he makes judgments all the time, but doesn't condemn."

Referring to Pope Francis's comment about "smelling like your sheep," Deacon Mark emphasized the need for us to "touch those that others won't – any group that is marginalized." And he noted that if we as Church are not welcoming to LGBTQ people, or are silent about their exclusion, then we are marginalizing a large group of people.

"God is always the best father.... God loves you exactly where you are in the world. God loves his entire creation," he said. "Pray for the strength to love as God loves."

If you are LGBTQ, or the family or friend of someone who is, and would like someone to accompany you on your faith journey, you can call or text Lorraine Kim (217/721-3489).

The St. Patrick's LGBTQ ministry group generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month (check the weekly bulletin for dates). All are welcome.

Is reading one of your better habits?

If you are looking for a book club whose one-word description is “flexible,” then the St. Patrick Book Club may be just what you are looking for. The group’s shared goal is to get together around a topic of common interest without making a big commitment. Whether you have read a chapter of the book being discussed or the entire book, you are welcome to join the conversation.

The group meets to read and discuss books of mutual interest, to form friendships and community, and to connect with fellow parishioners on a not-explicitly-spiritual basis. After the initial meetings some of those who are participating have chosen to reach out in service to the community by reading to residents in nursing homes.



The first book that the group discussed was *How to Live*, by Judith Valente, which was the topic of discussion for the first two months. The current title is *Habits of a Grace Filled Life: Increasing Gratefulness for the Things Around You*, by Susan Muto. If this intrigues you, if it’s a topic that you would like to explore with others, be sure to join in. If this particular book doesn’t interest you, the next one may. You are welcome any time.

Is reading one . . . Cont. pg 6

Parish Council news ...

The results of the music survey are in. Six hundred twelve people took the survey—a tremendous response! The participants ranged in age from 6 to 92 (or “older than dirt,” as one participant commented).

Based on the responses, parishioners are very happy with the music at St. Patrick. There were numerous comments thanking Frank Gallo and all the musicians – cantors, choir members, instrumentalists. Common comments included, “Best music of all the churches in this area,” “We attend St. Pat’s because of the music,” “Love the Congolese Choir,” and “Love the children’s choir.”



The results of the specific questions:

- 60% like the current music style, a mixture of tradition and contemporary.
- 50% always sing at Mass and 41% almost always sing at Mass.
- 67% prefer a mixture of organ and piano at Mass, which is the current approach.
- 89% prefer having additional musical instruments playing.
- 69% prefer more singing than instrumental music.
- 75% really enjoy the choir.
- 81% find the music spiritually enhancing.
- 73% use the seasonal worship aid.
- 66% would like to see readings and hymn numbers displayed.
- 35% attend special music events.
- 50% would like specific Masses designated as having a certain music style.

Respondents were very good about adding comments that will help the Parish Council and Frank Gallo move forward. These include suggestions for large-print song sheets, announcements in the bulletin that indicate which Mass has which type of music, not practicing with the cantor or instrumentalists in the church before Mass, and fewer verses of a hymn to be sung at the beginning and ending of Mass.

There were also comments regarding the volume of the organ and piano (too loud) and the choirs and cantors (too soft). Frank will continue to work towards better volumes. Unfortunately, the parish cannot afford to overhaul the sound system and instruments, which would fix volume and balance problems. However, Frank will experiment with some less expensive options to improve the balance of instruments and singers.

The complete results of the survey are posted on the parish website (www.stpaturbana.org). The Parish Council will make use of them in offering suggestions for the music ministry. Our thanks to the many respondents, the many singers in the parish, and to Frank Gallo for developing an excellent music ministry.

**A voice shall sound in your ears:
“This is the way; walk in it.”**

—Isaiah 30:21

St. Patrick's Forum addressed clergy sexual abuse

The evening of Thursday, February 26, 2019 was set aside as an opportunity to allow parishioners to come together in an open forum to address a concern, to look for solutions on how to come to terms with this crisis that has engulfed the priests, bishops, and hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church for much of the past 30 years.

Over 65 attendees were welcomed to the forum by a video of our pastor, Father Luke Spannagel, relating why he couldn't be present and sending a blessing and prayers for the success of the undertaking.

Parishioner Matt Kuenning, who had accepted the task of moderating the group, began by sharing his personal story of how the crisis had affected his family. To encourage dialogue, Matt offered the following questions: "What brings you here this evening?" and "What concerns you about this crisis?"

Many individuals were able to articulate their stories and their reasons for being present, their concerns for the abused, the abusers, and their Church as a whole. People spoke from their hearts expressing their deep sorrow and disappointment but none was heard calling out angrily toward those whom they obviously felt were the guilty ones; the priests, bishops, cardinals, and the papacy.

The participants were then randomly placed into nine small groups for 45 minutes of open discussion, each facilitated by one of these parishioners: Stan Yachus, Jean-Philippe Mathy, Megan Davis, Anna Kasten, John Dorsey, Elizabeth Hendricks, Lorraine Kim, Beth Rogers, and Lisa Herzog.

Besides these nine, other parishioners lent much to the framing of this idea, including a subcommittee of Peace and Justice that met with Fr. Luke Spannagel and the trustees. Many others came forward to help with hospitality, registration, and logistics. Eileen Mathy in her role as facilitator added much to the flow of the forum.

When the small groups returned to the hall, the group leaders shared what had been discussed. Surely the Holy Spirit was working in their midst because so many concerns, and talk of hurt and sadness, and positive feelings came out through the reports of the group leaders.

Some ideas were quite bold, such as spearheading a "New Reformation," writing a "Magna Carta" for the

Roman Church, replacing the "St. Michael the Archangel Prayer" with a new and stronger prayer for the Church and its clergy, and establishing a financial fund to assist the abused, the sorrowful, and their families.

Some of the suggestions have been proffered many times before, such as study and scrutiny of Church authority, power, finances, and overall transparency; increase in input from the laity; and greatly expanded roles for women in the Church.

The groups had many other insights that are worth noting, such as the slogan "Change the Church by Staying – Not Leaving," taking comfort in identifying with other Catholics, standing beside other Catholics to present solidarity to the secular and other media, subscribing to Catholic periodicals (back issues of *Commonweal*, *America*, *The Catholic Worker*, *U.S. Catholic*, *The Catholic Post*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, and other publications are available on a circular rack in the conversational area between the parish lobby and the lower gathering space of the church).

Participants responded to the event by answering a survey that will be reviewed by Father Luke and members of the Peace and Justice ministry. Participants



were extremely grateful for the evening and provided suggestions for how our parish might move forward in addressing the priest abuse crisis. Themes including clericalism, honesty and transparency among leaders, and the role of the laity were among those addressed. Hope was expressed that this evening of dialogue would be the beginning of open

expression on how the crisis has impacted each of us, and what we each need in order to heal.

In this dark time of the Catholic Church, it was heartwarming to hear so many forum participants expressing great love and confidence that Catholics will together find a way to restore their Church to what Jesus intended it to be. Some expressed a need to express mercy and forgiveness to all that aided the making of the crisis. It was very heartening to hear of the deep appreciation of the graces they have received from participating in the Church's sacraments and, the power that Mass and the Eucharist give to them as they go about their daily lives.

There is still an unwavering confidence that Jesus established the Catholic Church and "the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it," that the Holy Spirit remains with us and is working in our Church to keep it good and holy and true.

In Remembrance

Continued from Pg 1 . . .

that Jesus is doing for us and in us. We acquire the habit of seeing Jesus in other people. We allow him to change us, to make us more peaceable, wise, patient, thankful, and just, according to our needs and personalities. We come to recognize sin and failure in ourselves, our families, our Church, and our society. We call to mind that Jesus is with us, with strength, forgiveness, and healing.

This remembering changes us. It is work that continues all through our lives, and it allows us to change the world around us, becoming a blessing for others. It is work that the Church continues through the ages and throughout the world, until the reign of God is fulfilled.

Welcome to

Continued from Pg 1 . . .

to other parishioners. Team member Mary Long says that she has met some wonderful new people this way and loves seeing them at Mass and getting involved in parish life.

Welcome Team members are Mary Long, Margaret Bronson, Dottie Davito, Patricia Fowler, Annessa and Jack Parisi, Beth Rogers, Sandy and Luis Cuza, Stan Yanchus, George Czapar, Susan Fowler, Chris Sturdyvin, and Cathy Schneider and her daughters, Natalie and Anna.

As team members greet arrivals, they are always on the lookout for people who seem a little lost, and they help them find the restroom or Coffee Shop, or share when Reconciliation or Eucharistic Adoration are offered. Sometimes visitors remark on our beautiful church, so the team gives them a little history of St. Patrick Parish and the church's expansion. Newcomers often ask how to get

involved in parish life. They are offered a welcome folder with a registration form.

One Welcome Team member, Margaret Bronson, said, "I have heard [from newcomers] comment on what a friendly and welcoming parish we have, the lovely music, and the amazing banners hanging in the side chapel, especially when they find out how they were made."

Thank you, Welcome Team, for helping ours to be a hospitable parish!

St. Vincent Ferrer, patron of reconciliation

The polarization in the Church today is a mild breeze compared with the tornado that ripped the Church apart during the lifetime of Vincent Ferrer. The Western Schism divided the Church between two popes, Clement in Avignon and Urban in Rome. When Clement died, Cardinal de Luna was elected pope, taking the name Benedict XIII.

At 19 years of age Vincent entered the Dominican Order in his native Spain and was later ordained a priest by then-Cardinal de Luca. Vincent practiced the austerities of the order with great energy and was chosen prior of the Dominican house in Valencia shortly after his ordination. As a preacher he was warmly received; in some places he preached in the open air because there were no churches large enough to accommodate the crowds who came to hear him.

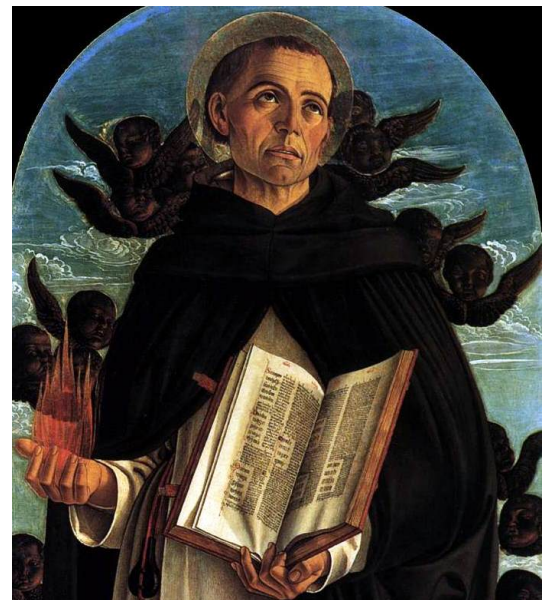
Vincent supported the claims of the Avignon popes

over those in Rome. When his friend Cardinal de Luca was elected pope, he worked for the new Pope Benedict XIII as his advisor and confessor as well as Master of the Sacred Palace, the pope's personal theologian. But he became disillusioned when Benedict stubbornly refused to resign for the sake of Church unity, and decided to take up the work of simply going through the world preaching Christ.

By 1409 Benedict was one of three claimants to the papacy, and again in 1415 Vincent tried to persuade his former friend to resign. Unsuccessful, Vincent mounted the pulpit before an assembly over which Benedict himself was presiding and thundered his denunciation of the man who had ordained him priest. Benedict's credibility collapsed, and the schism was eventually brought to an end by the Council of Constance in 1417.

Vincent died just a couple of years later, in 1419, and was canonized in 1455. He is commemorated by the Church on April 5, the anniversary of his death.

The split in the Church for 36 long years at the time of Vincent Ferrer should have been fatal. It is a testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit that the Church has not long since been shipwrecked.



In Focus archive is now available on-line!

St. Patrick's has been publishing *In Focus* since 1981. It's a wonderful glimpse into the history of our community life. Have you ever wondered when an event happened, or what was going on when you were born? Well, now you can find out. Every issue of *In Focus* is now posted on our parish's website (www.stpaturbana.org). You can easily get to an issue by date, or you can search all issues. Here's how:

Start at the main page of the parish website, stpaturbana.org. Click on the image of *In Focus*. This is where you'll find the most recent issues. To find any issue by date, follow the link near the bottom of the page, "In Focus Issues from Previous Years." If you want to search for something

in particular, read on:

- Enter your search terms in the search box near the top of the page. It's a good idea to put names and phrases in quotes. Then click the magnifying glass.
- There may be some ads at the beginning of your search results; skip through them. In the top right corner of the search results is a drop-down box that you can use to sort the results by date. (It's not perfect, but it's helpful even so.)
- Click on an entry to get to the issue of *In Focus* that you want.

Once you get to the issue you want, either by date or by searching, you can browse the entire issue. Or you can use the

search function in your web browser to find what you want within this issue. On many desktop browsers, Ctrl-F will give you a search box.

Thanks to Mary Lou Menches and Cathy Salika for scanning the older back issues of *In Focus*, and to webmaster Jose Schutt-Aine for posting them to the website and implementing the search function! Thanks, too, to the hundreds of St. Patrick's staff and parishioners who have contributed to *In Focus* over the years with articles, photos, artwork, information, and production skills!

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/duJdYI> 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.



"You are precious in my eyes and glorious, and I love you," says the Lord.

—Isaiah 43:4



The front page of *In Focus*, Fall, 1981!

Holy Cross Happenings

As winter draws to a close and spring begins, so ends one of the more unique experiences at Holy Cross: the school musical. This year our talented youngsters are taking on *The Addams Family*.

The kids are always coached to give their best performances by dedicated professionals in the local music/theatre scene. St. Patrick's parishioners Christina Pembele and Aidan Beckett star this year as Morticia and Gomez Addams, with many other St. Patrick kiddos filling out some of the lead roles. Be sure to catch the show, which runs from April 4 through April 6.



Parishioner Kathy Cain, seen with her kindergarten class, was the Rick Ridings/Mix 94.5 Teacher of the Month for February.

Second Quarter Honor Roll:

Highest Honors
Noelle Hunt
Anna Loftus
Ian Peters
Ava Borbely
Jasmine Waite

High Honors
Michael McCoy
Kyan Pope
Josh Loftus
Marissa Altaner
Natalie Caughlin
Hadley Peters

Honors
Cate Feinen
Grace Dimoke
Parker Moore
Emily Leininger
Christina Pembele

Also on Saturday, April 6, the IESA solo/ensemble contest takes place. Typically, Holy Cross students do very well at this event, owing to their talent, dedication, and the school's excellent music program. Look for a wrap-up of that event in next month's In Focus.

In January, Catholic Schools Week kicked off in St. Patrick's main hall with the second annual "Cluckin' for Catholic Education" chicken dinner. Dinners, available for either dine-in or carry-out, were provided by Nelson's catering and included a smoked half-chicken, sides, drinks, and a dessert. The event raised \$2662 dollars, which was split equally between St. Patrick's and Holy Cross's religious education funds.

Scouting Sunday was the following weekend. Several parish

Girl Scouts were awarded medals and awards they had earned throughout the year. The "My Promise, My Faith" pin for this school year was awarded to Alice and Elizabeth Withers-Sickles, Gigi Zwilling, Grace Arend, and Sarah and Emily Surratt. Junior Troop 2174 at Holy Cross earned their Bronze Award; members include Cate Fenien, Noelle Hunt, and Anna Loftus, St. Patrick's parishioners who are students at Holy Cross.

As hard as it is to believe, there is only one more sporting season left for Holy Cross students this year: track and field. As it begins, let's say a prayer that God will continue to enrich our students, body, mind, and soul. Go Crusaders!

Holy Cross . . . Continued on pg 9

Holy Cross . . . Continued from pg 8



On January 24, Holy Cross held its yearly National Geographic-sponsored Geography Bee. Eighth-grade St. Patrick's parishioner Jack McMillan won the bee, with his sister Kate taking the runner-up spot. Jack took the 70-question test to proceed to the state level and got in! Good luck to Jack as he competes to win a trip to the national contest in Washington, D.C.



Please feel free to contact Rachael McMillan (rachmcmill@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 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.



Q: What are the Scrutinies, and why do we have them?

A: According to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the Scrutinies “are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good” (RCIA 141). The Elect, and the congregation with them, look within to find anything that is keeping them from Christ, and then look to Christ to heal those weaknesses and to strengthen them against temptation.

We journey from sin, blindness, and death to eternal life with Christ. The First Scrutiny leads from the Gospel story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman. The Second Scrutiny focuses on Christ as the Light of the World (Jesus healing a man born blind). The Third Scrutiny sees Christ as the Resurrection and the Life (Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead).

Typically, the Scrutinies occur during Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, after the homily. The priest-celebrant and the assembly pray for the Elect, that they may be freed from the effects of sin and the influence of the devil. And we offer intercessions for them.

At St. Patrick’s this year, we will celebrate the First and Third Scrutinies at weekend Masses: March 10 at the 10 a.m. Mass and March 23 at the 5 p.m. Mass. Because it can be challenging for the entire group to be able to come to the same Mass, the Second Scrutiny will be prayed during an RCIA class.

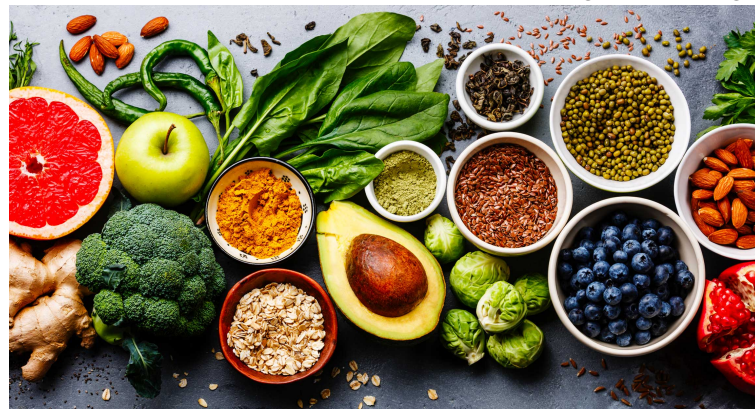
“These rites should... deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.” (RCIA 141).

Even if you cannot come to those Masses, please pray for those entering the Church this Easter. We will pray for our Elect during the Prayers of the Faithful each Sunday of Lent, but add your own prayer for them as they make their way through Lent to Easter. Help to welcome those who are called to the Faith as adults, and celebrate with joy their new life in Christ through the sacraments.

* * *

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

Consider the impact of your diet choices this Lent



During the Lenten season, we join our global Church community in fasting, prayer, and reflection. This Lent could be a time to reflect on what we eat and how that affects our personal health and the health of our world.

St. Patrick’s Environmental Stewardship ministry reminds us that while you might know that diets lower in fat and higher in fiber are better for our personal health, did you know that they are also better for the health of our planet?

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 60% of the world’s agricultural land is used for beef production. Producing one ton of beef requires approximately 20 times more land on average than is needed for production of the equivalent amount of chicken or pork. Carbon dioxide emissions from beef production are much higher than those for other meats: 45–643 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of protein for beef versus 20–55 for pork and 10–30 for poultry.

In his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis writes that “the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle.”

Most of us are not going to adopt a vegetarian or vegan diet, but we can still make changes that will benefit both our personal health and the health of our environment. Making small changes such as

eating more fruits, vegetables, and grains and reducing our consumption of red meat can be good for our bodies as well as for our planet.

Lent is a good time to consider making such changes. When you are planning your meatless meals on Fridays, try something new—perhaps one of the many meatless recipes from around the world found on the Operation Rice Bowl website (www.crsricebowl.org). You may discover a new dish that you will enjoy eating regularly.

If you are interested in the Environmental Stewardship ministry, contact Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

Who looks after the parish money?

When you put money into the collection basket or make a contribution to a parish fund, do you ever wonder where that money goes? When you read a parish financial statement, do you ever wonder who put together the

develop a thorough understanding of the parish's goals, its people, and other resources. The pastor provides members with appropriate background and enrichment to enable them to carry out their duties.

The Finance Council reviews the parish's annual budget and financial reports, and is typically involved in the preparation of both. Members help formulate and communicate the annual financial report to the parish community. The council manages our parish's debt,

monitoring the loan and mortgage, and takes care that the debt is repaid in a timely manner. Planning for debt repayment is an integral part of the budget process.

Regular monthly reviews of financial reports – balance sheet, income statements, and comparisons to projected budgets as well as spending in prior years – is another key function of the Finance



budget? The answer is the parish's Finance Council.

The Finance Council assists Father Luke in the administration of parish temporal matters. An active, well-formed Finance Council is a key element in promoting the financial health of a parish, assuring accountability, and assisting the pastor with his temporal responsibilities.

As a consultative body, the council does not have decision-making authority; rather, it provides useful input to the pastor and parishioners as they gather information and develop consensus around important decisions and issues affecting the parish. To be effective in their roles, members of the council must have a love for the Church and its mission and strive to

Council. Details of the differences between projected and actual expenditures are reviewed by individual program category, such as tuition assistance, ADA, and utilities. Significant variances from budgeted figures are investigated.

Members of the Finance Council are chosen based on demonstrable skills or expertise in management and/or finance. Skill sets include business, law, accounting, communications, and other professions. Father Luke, as pastor, serves as the chair of the council. Our two lay trustees, Pat Justice and George Fahey, are ex-officio members.

Diocesan guidelines recommend at least five to seven members for a parish of our size. Parishioners currently serving are

Bruce Rogers, Marguerite Maguire, Mary Hittmeier, Craig Gundersen, Dan MacKenzie, Jack Parisi, and Parish Council member, Gary Wszalek. Karen Barnes, as bookkeeper, processes and records the financial transactions, prepares the financial statements, and reports to the pastor and the Finance Council.

Together we work to make wise financial decisions so as to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to St. Patrick Parish.

The Eucharist is far more than just a meal; it has cost a death to provide it, and the majesty of death is present in it.

Whenever we hold it, we should be filled with reverence and awe in the face of this mystery, a mystery that becomes a present reality in our midst.

—Pope Benedict XVI

Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Terry Bosley



Clam Chowder

2 cans New England clam chowder soup

2 cans cream of potato soup

1 can cream of celery soup

1 can cream of onion soup

Mix all together and heat thoroughly. Delicious, easy clam chowder for a Lenten Friday dinner.

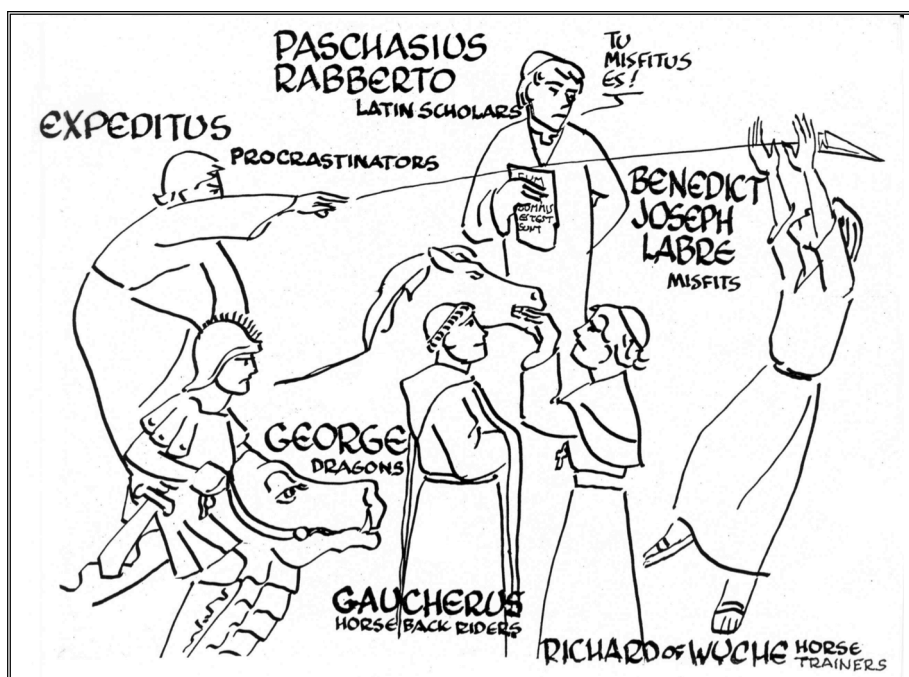
* * *

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!

Let him easter in us,
be a dayspring to the dimness in us.

—Gerard Manley Hopkins

April Saints by Fr. Wuellner



St. Patrick 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 Mardia Bishop, Terry Bosley, John Dorsey, Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Abby Goad, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Kristine Ketcham, Mary Long, Rachael McMillan, Eileen Mathy, Mary Lou Menches, Chuck Milewski, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Sue Schreiber, and Patsy Schmitt. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Jerry Walsh, page layout by Shirley Splittstoesser.



The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (May) issue of *In Focus* is April 7.