

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

December 2019

## God came

God came. We have known the Christmas story since we were tots. We have recalled it every year of our lives. And it is so familiar to us that it is easy to forget what a lovely, ridiculous, and loving thing it is that God came to live among us.

The God who created the farthest star and the smallest microbe, who crafted the intricate order of healthy bodies and healthy ecosystems, is greater than the sum of everything he has made. He is outside of creation, completely different from it. An artist might paint a picture and include herself in it, but all she has done is include her image among the other images in the painting. God painted the universe, and then chose to become part of the painting, living among us. It wasn't the everyday miracle of a child being born. It was the once-in-all-of-time miracle of God coming to be with us.

God loves us. He could have loved us from afar. He could have sent more prophets to teach us how to be our best selves. He could have sent more saints to give us a glimpse of how to live in his ways. He could have found some other way to work out our salvation. But he loves us and wants to be with us. He came to share in our lives, being born and



dying, hungering and eating, sleeping and working, mourning and celebrating. God has shared in every part of our lives; he always has, and always will.

God loves us and understands us. He understands even the things that

we don't understand about ourselves, even the things that we are afraid to look at. He understands our broken relationships and wants to help us heal them. He understands our sins and he wants to help us deal with them. He wants to become our greatest joy, our greatest source of strength and endurance, our greatest love. And so he chose to come, to be as close to us as possible.

God came, and he wants us to be with him forever, free of sin and sadness, as holy and loving as he is. For most of us, it takes a lifetime to prepare for this, but God gives us every help. He gives us his Body and Blood to strengthen us. He gives us his forgiveness when we seek it. He gives us his community of faith to support us and travel with us. He is present in the scriptures and in our times of prayer to guide us. God came to be one of us, so that he can make us one with him.

## Prepare for Christmas with Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, is a series of novena Masses preparing for the birth of Christ. Simbang Gabi, literally "going to Mass in the evening," is also known as Misa de Aquinaldo, or "Mass at dawn."

This tradition began four centuries ago during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines. Originally the Masses were held at around 4 a.m., before farmers went to the fields. In recent years, however, Simbang Gabi Masses have been held in the evening, to accommodate the volume of churchgoers and urban life.

Simbang Gabi is now also celebrated in the United States. It is an expression of the Filipino culture, religiosity, and spirituality. It strengthens the faith of the larger church community by promoting the values "maka-Dios" (pro-God), "maka-tao" (pro-people), "maka-bayan" (patriotism), "maka-buhay" (pro-life), and "maka-Kalikasan" (integrity of creation/environment).



Simbang Gabi .....Cont. Pg 3

## The Cath'lic Boys set Ladies Knight Out on fire!

Once again, the Cath'lic Boys came through for the ladies of St. Patrick with a memorable evening of delicious food, professional table service, and first class entertainment. Each lady received a rose, a raffle ticket and a warm greeting. Dinner began with appetizers and wine, followed by a choice of three entrees and wine. Dinner was capped off with cheesecake and more wine. Entertainment began with the drawing of the raffle prizes. Next up was the much-anticipated performance of The Good, the Bad and the Cath'lic Boys, provided by St. Patrick's own troop of singers, dancers, musicians, and stage crew. This one-of-a-kind ensemble has been wowing the ladies for 25 years, and this year's show did not disappoint.

So how does this creative group of men continue to dazzle us with fresh, new material every year, you ask? According to the group's leader, Jim Mayer, it all begins in the summer. This year Jim and fellow C.B. Terry Bosley discussed their mutual love of the show Hamilton and its clever retelling of history. A trip to the Urbana Free Library uncovered a children's book called Celebrating C-U History by Alice McGinty. This book proved to be

the perfect basis for a show covering about the first 100 years of Champaign county history, leading up to the founding of St. Patrick Parish in 1901. There were so many heart warming stories that it was hard to narrow them down for a one-hour show.

When asked what the most fun part of the process is, it was difficult for Jim to choose. The creative process is definitely toward the top of the list. Choosing plot lines, pairing them with the right songs, and tweaking the lyrics to tell their story with the C.B. brand of humor really gets the creative juices flowing. One of their favorite storylines was the one where some of the women of the first church in Urbana decide to paint the church with a homemade whitewash that contained a fair amount of salt. The local free

roaming cattle loved it and licked it off! Another favorite was the story of the 1871 Urbana fire started by some young boys in a barn, burning the legs off of

cinch bugs. "Let me Light Your Legs on fire!" Sorry, guess you had to be there.

The months of rehearsing with the guys is another favorite part of the process. Based on how

funny these guys are in front of an audience of church ladies, one can only imagine the jokes and pranks that go on behind the scenes!

Last, but not least, Jim and the gang enjoy the reactions of their grateful audiences laughing and enjoying parish fellowship. While the entire process is full of logistical details add challenges that the audience never sees, It's all worth it in the end.

So to everyone who participated in the show, whether it was your twenty-fifth show or your rookie season with The Cath'lic Boys (Fr. Anthony), your parish is grateful! Can't wait till next year. "Let Me Light Your Legs on fire." Still laughing!





## Simbang Gabi

Continued from Pg 1

It celebrates stewardship, bringing awareness of God's generosity and God as the origin and end of all things. It is an act of thanksgiving. Above all, it is rooted in faith, centered on the manger: it is biblical, eschatological, Marian, and Eucharistic.

Come to St. Patrick's December 19 at 7 p.m. to celebrate Simbang Gabi Mass with your Filipino-American neighbors, followed by refreshments and fellowship at 8 p.m. See the weekly bulletin for dates and locations of other area Simbang Gabi events.

## A taste of Vietnamese Christmas

According to parishioner Joseph Nguyen, although Catholics make up only seven percent of the population in Vietnam, "We celebrate Christmas very jubilantly.



One month before Christmas almost every house prepares the front of the house with Christmas lights or many houses work together to make larger Nativity Scenes with the participation of non-Catholics. The streets are decorated with Christmas lights with all kinds of colored lights — even shopping centers." He says that people decorate using beautiful Christmas images, but these are just a form of advertising for businesses.

With the Vietnamese community in this country scattered among cities, it's hard to organize for a Vietnamese Christmas Mass. Although there has been one here in the past, this year there won't be a Vietnamese Christmas Mass at St. Patrick.

You can still enjoy some of the flavors of the food that is shared after such Masses, though, thanks to recipes from the kitchen of Duyen. Nguyen. (The second recipe is in our "Quick Fixin's" column.) All ingredients can be found at Far East Foods.

### Dipping Egg Roll Recipe

- 1 lb. ground pork
- 2 sweet potatoes sliced
- ½ lb. Taro soaked in salt water and sliced
- 2 lb. shrimp julienned
- 2 shallots sautéed
- 1 tsp powdered chicken seasoning
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 bottle of corn or vegetable oil
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp of sugar
- 1 package TYJ Spring Roll Pastry

Marinate the ground pork, shrimp, sweet potatoes, and fried shallots with a teaspoon of seasoning, salt, pepper, and sugar and mix them together. Wrap the meat in the spring roll pastry. Pour oil into the frying pan until about half of the pan is filled. Heat oil until very hot, then lower heat to medium high. Carefully put the egg rolls into the oil and fry them until they are golden brown.



**Q:** Isn't December 8 the Feast of the Immaculate Conception? Why aren't we celebrating it this year?

**A:** You're right! December 8 is the Solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception. The universal Church keeps it as, not only as a solemnity, but as a holy day of obligation, a day when all Catholics are called upon to attend Mass.

But this year, December 8 falls on a Sunday. The Church wants to preserve the integrity of the Advent season by observing all four Sundays, so Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday, December 9, this year.

In many parts of the world, Immaculate Conception will still be kept as a holy day of obligation. In the U.S., however, the conference of bishops has decided to dispense with the obligation of most holy days if they fall on a Saturday or Monday. So this year, we are not obligated to attend Mass, but it is still a day well worth celebrating. After all, the patron saint of the United States is Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception.

So find a way to celebrate the day. Here at St. Patrick, you could come to the Communion Service at 7:00 a.m. You could go to Mass at one of our neighboring parishes. Or you could keep the feast in your own prayers, and do something festive in your home.

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

## Seniors group enjoys a day at St. Bede Abbey

Having been inspired by two visits from Father Dom—the Bread Monk—to St. Patrick, St. Patrick's seniors group organized a day trip to visit the St. Bede Abbey in Peru, IL, on October 16. It was a wonderful way to spend a fall day. The group of eight seniors began their visit in the airy intimate chapel for noon prayers, followed by lunch in the priests' dining room at the abbey.



[Margaret Bronson, Marie Horn, Abbot Philip]

Abbot Philip then took them on a tour of the Abbey including the area used for retreats by guests. Then they were able to shop in the small abbey store where handmade candles, honey, and books may be purchased. After that, they toured the modern sanctuary, the beautiful water garden and grounds, and the small piazza that the Italian architect insisted on creating when some renovations were made to the building. The Abbot Philip and Father Dom are both congenial men with warm personalities, and they radiated a joy about the lives they are leading. Father Dom was very gracious in spending time with the group. A man of many interests and talents, he presented a short slide show of stained-glass windows in area churches and also shared photos of his new Christmas

cookbook which will be off the press shortly before Christmas but will be available for many years to come.



Father Dom is currently working on a one-man religiously themed show. He is also the drama teacher at St. Bede Academy, where his students write as well as perform in the school's plays. Father Dom said he is more than willing to come to St. Patrick again and present a program, so that may happen in the future. It is wonderful to know that a place like St. Bede is so close (less than two hours away) and accessible for a little spiritual enrichment. All in all, a wonderful day out!

## Sing-a-thon weaves together music and community

On Sunday afternoon, November 3, the pews of St. Patrick's were packed to overflowing as people poured into the church to attend the first annual St. Jude's Sing-A-Thon. This event, designed to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, brought together eight different local choirs (seven high school and one college) to put on a concert.

The afternoon began with a video explaining the history and mission of St. Jude's Children's

Research Hospital, which is dedicated to helping children and their families fight cancer. In addition to conducting ground breaking research which they share freely with the wider medical community, St. Jude's also commits themselves to providing care and support for patients and their families at no cost.

As the concert proceeded, a collection was taken up, with all of the proceeds going directly to St. Jude's. During this time those in attendance also heard a testimonial from a woman who not only works for St. Jude's presently, but had been a patient there herself as a child. Hearing her story brought home what important work this organization does, both for patients themselves and also for their parents and families.

Each of the eight outstandingly talented choirs performed two or three pieces. The music encompassed a broad range of styles, including madrigals, folk songs, spirituals, a-cappella pieces, and works accompanied by piano (and even violin!). These performances were a delightful expression of the talent and commitment of young musicians in our local communities; not only was the music superb, but all of the choirs performed without printed music, which demonstrates their thorough preparation and extensive rehearsing. This concert was a great opportunity for both the attendees and the singers themselves, because high school choirs are rarely in situations where they get to see other local high school choirs perform!

By far the most moving moment of the afternoon was when all eight choirs filled the sanctuary to sing a joint piece called "Woven Together," a song about union, community, and standing together.

Sing-a-thon....Continued Pg 7



## St. Lucy remains a symbol of light

St. Lucy was a devout young Christian woman who lived at the cusp of the fourth century (283-304). Legend has it that Lucy, of noble heritage and wealth, vowed not only to lead a life of chastity in honor of Christ but also to donate her dowry to the poor. Originally her mother did not know of these choices, and betrothed Lucy to a wealthy pagan. However, after Lucy and her mother went on a pilgrimage to heal her mother's bleeding disease, St. Agatha came to Lucy in a dream to let her know her mother would be cured. After this miracle, Lucy was able to convince her mother to let her pursue her vows of chastity and poverty. Additionally, Lucy insisted on giving away her wealth immediately, and after some resistance, her mother agreed. Lucy's former suitor found out that Lucy was giving away her dowry and reported her to the Roman authorities. When Lucy refused to pay homage to the emperor, she was sentenced to be defiled at a brothel and to become a prostitute. However, when soldiers came to take her, by divine intervention Lucy could not be moved! Not even a team of oxen were strong enough to budge her. Then when soldiers attempted to burn her at the stake, Lucy would not catch on fire. Finally, they killed her with a sword through her throat.

Stories about Lucy circulated widely in Europe in the Middle Ages. St. Lucy became the patron of her home city of Syracuse, Italy, and of virgins. She is a saint in the



Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox churches. St. Lucy is one of eight women named in the Canon of the Mass, along with the Virgin Mary.

A thousand years later, in the 1500s, additional details were added to the legend of Lucy. In particular, accounts of her eyes being gouged at the execution began to circulate.

Other versions suggested that Lucy herself took her own eyes out to discourage her suitors. Coupled with the fact that Lucy shares the same Latin root, *lux*, with the word “light”, this added to Lucy’s patronage. She is also the patron of sight, of eye illnesses, and of the blind.

Because of her patronage of light and sight, St. Lucy is prominently celebrated in the Scandinavian countries, where winters are long and dark. St. Lucy, on December 13, used to fall on the day of the Winter Solstice, and was thus celebrated as a feast of light that simultaneously began the Christmas season. In particular, Sweden still celebrates St. Lucy on December 13. You may be familiar with the outfit ritualistically worn by the oldest daughter of the family: a white robe signifying purity/virginity, a red sash signifying martyrdom, and a wreath of evergreens studded with candles to signify light.

Many places and landmarks are named for St. Lucy, even one country. St. Lucia, the Caribbean nation, was named after her when some French sailors were shipwrecked there on December 13 sometime in the seventeenth century. There are many Catholic parishes with her name—including one in another city called Syracuse, the one in New York.

## Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat returned to St. Patrick this year, thanks to religious education students in CREW and Vivo.



Outside, volunteers with decorated car trunks handed out treats to trick-or-treaters. Inside, there were game, crafts, and food.



Thanks to everyone who helped with this fun event.

When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity. A person can almost be defined by his or her attitude toward gratitude.

—*Elie Wiesel*

## Parish Council News: Music and Sound updates

You have probably already noticed some changes in our music and sound system at St. Patrick. As mentioned in previous In Focus articles regarding the music survey conducted this past spring, Frank Gallo and Fr. Anthony have been working on some changes to improve the audio balance and to make the music more accessible.



The most apparent change is the use of projections above the sanctuary. As you may recall, we asked the parish if they would like song numbers displayed visibly. An overwhelming number of you said, "Yes!" After much research and some creative thinking, Frank, Fr. Anthony, and John Maloney created the projection approach. The projections are displayed via an iPad, Apple TV, and a projector. Many thanks to John Maloney for making this happen.

Frank Gallo and Fr. Anthony have also been working on improving the sound system, the balance of instruments, and the intelligibility of the choirs and microphone users. The Zola Memorial Fund purchased an audio mixer that was installed into our current sound system. This mixer is completely digital and is controlled by an iPad donated by Fr. Anthony. In addition, two new speakers have been installed: one on the north side of the church near the Holy Family statue; and, the other on the south wall near the original confessional. These speakers will greatly improve sound clarity for parishioner who sit in the front third of the church. Thanks to Graham and Kay Evans for funding the speakers.

Frank continues to work on additional audio projects to enhance the intelligibility of the choirs and the balance of the instruments.



## Immigration attorney shares stories of migrants at the border

*I believe that the question of immigration right now—and how we treat those asking to come to our country—is not only an important policy decision, but also tests the moral, ethical and humane character of this nation.*



Thus, began a presentation by Heidi Cerneka in Trinity Hall on October 13, 2019, to 40 participants. Heidi is a Maryknoll lay missionary living in El Paso, Texas, and an attorney who practices immigration law. She spoke to those gathered via Skype.

Heidi quoted from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo:

The founders of the United States and the delegates to the UN Commission on Human Rights recognized that these fundamental freedoms (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) belong to every human being. These freedoms are not granted by governments but are derived from the inherent dignity of the human person. Nor may they be unduly restricted by governments even to further some economic, social, or cultural purpose. They are unalienable. Governments are charged with ensuring that the government itself does not wrongfully interfere with human rights and fundamental freedoms.

People seeking asylum in the United States must show that they are unable to return to their home country because their government is contributing to their fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group. Migrants usually do not have lawyers and must complete a 12-page application form in English. Almost every person Heidi

has met seeking asylum in El Paso is legitimately fleeing and in fear.

She shared stories of migrants she has met, including that of Jennifer, a student from Honduras. Jennifer's brother refused to join a gang and the police escorted the head of the gang to her house to take him away. His tortured and murdered body was found the next day. Weeks later the police returned looking for Jennifer. She and her mother fled by the back door, taking nothing with them. They walked to the U.S. border over the next three months. They were fed and assisted by kind strangers along the way. Jennifer was still in her school uniform!

Bishop Seitz of El Paso admonishes, "As a country, we are involved in the drivers of migration through unfair trade policies, our addiction to drugs and climate change. Lawmakers should address the root causes of migration and promote sustainable economic development abroad, which will allow our brothers and sister to remain in their home countries.

How might we as Christians help? Heidi suggested the following:

- Volunteer and contribute to the needs of local migrants,
- Educate ourselves beyond MSNBC and FoxNews. She invited us to come to the border and learn!
- Pray!
- Take a stand and contact your legislators.
- Vote, and get others to vote, for leaders who will respect the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) which the U.S. ratified.
- Contribute frequent-flyer miles to "Miles4Migrants" to help people who are released reach their families.
- Open up dialogue and really listen to people who think differently than you do.

## Sing-a-thon

Continued from Pg 4

The church resounded with the combined voices of the choirs, as well as the audience (who were invited to sing along on one of the verses). Through this music, all were able to celebrate unity with one another and a shared dedication to supporting St. Jude's in their mission. This concert will hopefully continue as an annual event, so participants from St. Patrick and our neighboring communities can look forward to weaving ourselves together next year in support of St. Jude's and talented young local musicians!

## Got mail

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](http://stpaturbana.org)). Go to

<http://eepurl.com/duJdY1>

and sign up—it's that easy!

You can also find on the parish website all issues of the newsletter that have been published during the current year, as well as access to all previously published issues of *In Focus*.

## Vocation prayer

A vocation is not a coat you put on like a doctor. There is no vocation from which you can “clock out.” A vocation is something you surrender to moment by moment. Of course, this may express itself in a great theme: a career, a mission, a large family. But I think, too, of the people we don't talk about: the old lady whose husband died who cooks for the parish priest and shops for her disabled neighbor. She suffers from chronic arthritis, but she never fails to smile and remember people's names. She, too, is living her vocation.

We are more susceptible than we realize to a Hollywood worldview. (How would my life look as a film? Where is its climax, its heroism, its catharsis?) Reality is messier. Sometimes God works through what a screenwriter would fail to serve up as a story. Your calling may present itself in different forms over time, even over different days or hours. But this fact does not change its central integrity: responding to God's unique proposal for you.

Sally Read from *Annunciation: A Call to Faith in a Broken World* (Ignatius Press, 2019)

## In Focus online? You've got options!

You can read our parish newsletter, *In Focus*, on the parish website ([www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)). From the site's home page, click on the image of *In Focus* to bring up the *In Focus* Issues page. The most recent issues are listed there, as well as a link to older issues dating back to 1981, when *In Focus* was first published.

To search for names and events in all issues of *In Focus*, use the Google search box near the top of the *In Focus* Issues page. Here are some tips for searching:

- ✚ Type the topic you're looking for in the search box. (It will help to put quotes around the subject of your search.) Then click on the magnifying glass to start your search.
- ✚ Skip through any ads that appear at the beginning of your search results.
- ✚ Click on an entry to get to the issue of *In Focus* that you want. Once there, you can page through the entire issue or use the search function in your browser to find what you want in that issue. (On many desktop browsers Ctrl-F will present a search box.)

To find older issues of *In Focus* by date, go to the *In Focus* Issues page, and click on “*In Focus* Issues from Previous Years.”

To receive email notification when a new issue is posted on the website, sign up by clicking on the link near the bottom of the page that reads: “Want to receive an email when new issues of *In Focus* are available online? Click here.”

Printed copies of *In Focus* are also available at the doors of the church for all who prefer to read it on paper!

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

—Advent's First “O  
Antiphon”



# It was a busy fall for the Peace and Justice Ministry!

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”*

Matthew 25: 35–36



This fall, St. Patrick's Peace and Justice ministry provided parishioners with a whole array of opportunities to learn, serve, and reflect as they live out their Gospel call.

In September, the Ministry of Environmental Stewardship offered a four-week study of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*.

The LGBTQ+ Ministry spent two evenings in retreat creating a mission statement and discerning how best to welcome and accompany LGBTQ+ Catholics and

their family members on their journeys to get closer to God.

October began with a visit from Sr. Michelle Fernandez, the new Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Peoria, who spoke about her plans to expand service to those in need, including the new St. Nicholas Mobile Pantry van.

Heidi Cerneka, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner who worked with our own Susan Nagele in Kenya, spoke to parishioners via Skype about her work as an immigration attorney serving migrants and asylum seekers in El Paso, Texas.

The Housing Ministry organized a group of St. Patrick volunteers to help with a Habitat for Humanity build.

Volunteers did end-of-season clean-up at the SVDP Food Pantry garden, which grows fresh produce for our SVDP Food Pantry.

Created by a team of parishioners inspired by last spring's parish town hall on the clergy sex abuse crisis, *Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church*, a beautiful booklet of reflections and prayers for those trying to work through the crisis, was published. Copies are still available in the gathering space.

In November, the "Hear Our Prayer, Heal Our Church" retreat helped guide those wanting to write prayers or create artwork to express their feelings about the sexual abuse crisis. All parishioners were invited to contribute prayers and artwork for a later display.

The second Know Your Neighbor dinner gave parishioners the opportunity to break bread with members of FirstFollowers, an organization devoted to helping

formerly incarcerated people re-enter the community. The event informed people about FirstFollowers' mission and helped raise funds for FirstSteps, the first transitional house in our area.

Volunteers packed and distributed 260 Thanksgiving baskets. One hundred baskets went to people served by Rosecrance, a local mental health agency; the rest were given to people served by the SVDP Food Pantry.

"Baskets for Fathers" were put together for Empty Tomb's annual Christmas basket project, which gives children the chance to choose Christmas presents for their parents.

Sr. Michelle showed her St. Nicholas Mobile Pantry van to parishioners.



On the weekend of December 7 and 8, you will be able to see some of the artwork collected for the "Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church" project on display, and some of the prayers contributed will be read at Masses.

Donations are being accepted and volunteers sought to put together Christmas mugs, which are filled with both goodies and useful items and given out at the Food Pantry.

What next? The Peace and Justice Ministry hopes to continue bringing more opportunities like these to parishioners in the new year.

## From Susan Nagele December 2019

To all you Good People of St. Patrick,

In May 2000, I was working as a family physician in a remote village in Sudan. A very sick little boy, Adimo, was brought to our clinic by his mother. She had taken him to traditional healers but he kept getting thinner and thinner. The last town they visited which was sent by the afraid and had heard area. So, in desperation, he met the first white know his age. He weighed 20 pounds, the killing him. The while tending the hill and bite the children them to waste away was sure he would die treatment, which was a Over the next month he email address and wrote to say thank you. He you.

I want to say *thank you* contributed \$5000 to in our efforts to recruit, ministry.



was being bombed by the Antonov plane government to terrorize people. They were that there was a clinic deep inside their home they walked 120 miles to Nanyangacor where woman he'd ever seen...me! They didn't looked about nine years old but he only weight of a one-year old child! Kala azar was shepherds would sit in the shade of ant hills livestock. Sand flies would come out of the ant and pass on a little worm that would cause until they died if they didn't get treatment. I but I was wrong. We began to give him painful daily injection in his tiny little muscles. improved and lived. Last month he found my to me. He now weighs 140 pounds and wanted gave me permission to share his story with

to you, too. This year, St. Patrick Parish has continue supporting Maryknoll Lay Missioners train and sustain lay missioners in overseas

One of our strengths as Maryknoll Lay Missioners is that we try to provide service for the long haul. Adimo was able to do odd jobs in South Sudan to finish high school. He took a course to become a community health worker but then left to go to Nairobi, Kenya because of ongoing fighting and insecurity where he lived in South Sudan. He wants to go to college and is looking for a scholarship. I have written to one of our lay missioners in Nairobi who works with refugees to see how we can assist him.

As I write, South Sudan is facing another deadline on November 12, 2019. They must set up a legitimate government or risk returning to war. I have written a short history at <https://maryknollogc.org/article/sudan-and-south-sudan-history-and-future>.

There is so much violence and suffering throughout the world. More than ever we need to pray for peace and work for justice. May this Advent season bring each of us the joy of Jesus born in our hearts again. Look at the joy in Adimo's smile and know that it is possible!

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!*

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If you would like to know more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners log onto our website: [www.mkmlm.org](http://www.mkmlm.org) or call toll free 1-800-867-2980



# Holy Cross Happenings

It seems as if every edition of Holy Cross Happenings touts the incredible, unique events and traditions that have taken place in the month(s) the article covers, as if every season at Holy Cross is the best one of the year. That’s just the nature of the school, which over the course of its 107-year history has developed its special character in all parts of the year while seeking to enrich every facet of the spiritual,



physical, and emotional growth of its students.

For example, Holy Cross School celebrates Halloween with ghoulishly glorious parties for both its K-5 and junior high students, both of which feature an optional walk through the Haunted Hallway. The younger students are offered ramped-up and less-scary versions to choose from, while the junior high students must face their fears through much of the third floor, with the thrills continuously set to “jump.”



But then Holy Cross brings it back to the reason for the (spooky) season: to celebrate the saints and all of the holy ones who’ve gone before us and remind us that we never have to be afraid

if we follow God with our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. The All Saints Day Mass featured, as always, its fourth grade students portraying many of the great saints of our Church.

Holy Cross School also traditionally opts not to give students the day off of school on Veterans Day but instead uses the opportunity to impress upon them the sacrifice made by those who serve. Veterans and active military members with a connection to the school are always invited to attend an assembly in their honor. This year after the assembly, students were divided into two groups: those in kindergarten through third grade heard a talk by Holy Cross dad Garrett Anderson, who was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the Iraq War; students in grades four through eight heard the daughter of a survivor of the WWII attack on the U.S.S. Indianapolis share stories of her father’s service to our nation.

As the school year rolls into the winter months, there are--again, as always--many special events and opportunities on the horizon. Notably, eighth graders who chose to be confirmed at Holy Cross will receive the sacrament on



Saturday, December 14. Please pray for the Spirit’s abundant blessing on them that day and always, and for God’s grace, guidance, peace, protection, and joy to be manifest in the lives of all of our young ones!

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*Please feel free to contact [rachmcmill@gmail.com](mailto: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 Principal Rose Costello at 356-9521. Financial help may be available; contact the St. Pat’s parish office (367-2665) for more details.*

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

### HONOR ROLL 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

2019-2020

### HIGHEST HONORS

**Natalie Pociask  
Anna Loftus  
Ian Peters**

## HIGH HONORS

**Emily Surratt  
Alyson Clements  
Michael McCoy  
Natalie Caughlin  
Grace Dimoke  
Josh Loftus**

## HONORS

**Eilla Pope  
Phil Withers-Sickles  
Parker Moore**



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

### Banh Mi Hot Dog

1 C thinly sliced jicama (about 1 jicama)  
 1 C thinly sliced carrots (about 5 carrots)  
 1 C water  
 ½ C white vinegar  
 ¼ C granulated sugar  
 ½ tsp kosher salt  
 ½ C mayonnaise  
 2 tsp sriracha chile sauce  
 8 hot dogs  
 8 top split hot dog buns  
 1 large cucumber, seeded and cut lengthwise into 8 slices  
 ½ C hoisin sauce  
 2 jalapeno chiles, seeded and sliced  
 Fresh cilantro sprigs

Stir together jicama, carrots, water, vinegar, sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Cover and refrigerate at least 20 minutes or up to 24 hours. Preheat a grill or grill pan to 400 to 450 degrees F). Stir together mayonnaise and sriracha in a small bowl: set aside. Place hot dogs on oiled grate, and grill, uncovered, turning occasionally, until nicely charred and warmed throughout, about 8 minutes. Place hot dogs in buns and top each with 1 cucumber slice, 1 T each hoisin sauce and sriracha mayonnaise, desired amount of slaw, jalapeno slices, and 1 or 2 sprigs of cilantro.

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, [mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!*

*It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.*

*—St. Francis of Assisi*

*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](mailto: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 Andrew Beyers, Mardia Bishop, Frank Gallo, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Lou Menches, Susan Nagele, Duyen Nguyen, Katie O'Toole, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, Mary Tate, Angharad N. Valdivia, and Chris Whippo. 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 (December) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, December 8.**