

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2019

## Underground Time

The winter nights are still very long, but slowly the sun is beginning to reassert itself with an increase in warmth and light. Some plants truly go dormant and patiently wait out the winter. For them, it is a healthy, necessary time of rest in the cycle of seasons. But other plants continue to grow underground, strengthening their roots so they'll be ready when the warm weather returns. Then they burst out with fresh growth, new shoots, and perhaps even flowers. The rhythm of the seasons is a mirror of our lives, both as individuals and as a parish.



If you were at St. Patrick's four years ago, you surely remember the Sabbath that most parish groups took during the expansion of our church. Because of the construction, some of the meeting rooms were needed as staff offices and the Multipurpose Room disappeared altogether.

Rather than trying to keep meeting as usual, we took a winter of sorts, some "underground time." Many of us met in small groups in homes, reflecting together on Pope Francis' book *The Joy of the Gospel*. When the dust cleared, we had new ideas and new relationships to build on going forward.

A personal retreat is another example of winter rest. It may seem like unproductive time if one sees only the interruption of daily work

and family duties. But it's "underground time," a time when rest and new growth can occur.

Can you think of a time in your life of faith that seemed like springtime, a time when growth seemed easy and exuberant, a time when you felt close to God and sure of God's guidance? Can you think of a time when your life of faith seemed like the winter, colder, too dark to see what God was doing? The cycles of nature remind us that both are part of life.

Sometimes growth occurs underground where we can't see it, even in ourselves. Sometimes the cold enables a different kind of growth that we didn't know we needed. But always, winter and springtime, God is with us, attentive to our needs, deeply in love with us. And always, winter and springtime, we can trust in God's love as we seek out ways to grow in him.

From the staff of *In Focus*:



Happy Valentine's Day!

## What is keeping WSP busy these days?

The Women of St. Patrick want to thank everyone who made the Christmas Cookie and Basket sale such a great success. Whether you baked cookies or other treats or filled a tin with goodies for purchase or bought a lovely gift basket, we thank you. Special thanks to our bake sale co-chairs Sandy Cuza and Judy Lubben, and to the ladies who continue to make beautiful baskets year after year, Leslie Risatti and Ceil Weir. Lots of others lent a hand in



making and setting up the sale, but the success depends on all of you who come to buy, so we thank you!

The members of the Board of the Women of St. Patrick would like you to know that your generous support throughout the year at our various fundraisers has allowed us to continue to do good things in our community and beyond. We recently gave \$3,000 to the Maryknoll Retirement Fund on behalf of parishioner Susan Nagele. This was especially important this year as there were

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## Women of St. Patrick from page 1

matching funds available at Maryknoll, effectively doubling our gift to \$6,000! In a few years when Susan retires from her work with Maryknoll, she will be drawing from that fund.

We also had a request from Fr. Charles Dieudoxine Tomb Tomb from Cameroon, who was visiting relatives in our parish. He asked for a new censer to use during liturgies at



his home parish. As you know, the censer is the liturgical instrument that enables incense to be wafted in the air, representing our prayers rising to heaven. Your support through the year made the purchase and shipping of a new censer for Fr. Charles possible.

You may have noticed in the bulletin recently that the Women of St. Patrick have begun a grant funding initiative

for those in the parish and in the wider community. At their fall general meeting a vote was taken to begin the program and to set aside the funds to be used. If you know of a community organization that would benefit from a small grant, please contact the parish office or one of the board members for information or an application form. This is a way that we can let our light shine in the greater community.

Our next general meeting will be held following the noon Mass on Sunday, February 10. This will be a brunch meeting. General meetings are held quarterly and are a time for all women of the parish to gather to hear what the board has been doing and to vote for proposals affecting the group. It is also a great way to meet new people and to renew old friendships. An offering of \$5 is suggested, but not necessary, for the brunch.

It is also time to set aside a day for our annual Women's Lent Retreat Day. The day is planned for Saturday, March 30. As yet we do not have a speaker or theme for the retreat, but it is the goal of the board to bring in someone whose time with us will enhance our spiritual journey through Lent to Easter. There will be a minimal charge of \$10 for the day, but all women of the parish are invited to join us regardless of ability to pay.

The present board is made up of the following persons: Nancy Olson, Chair; Sandy Cuza, Vice-Chair; Anna Conner, Treasurer; Eileen Schmitt, Social Chair; Janet Althaus, Recording Secretary; Members at Large: Annie Alligretti, Sue Schreiber, Bernadette Nelson, Donna Rinkenberger and Katie Leininger.

## Sister Audrey, at home with God

*Benedictine Sister Audrey Cleary was well known to many of us at St. Patrick's during her years in the C-U area and in Bloomington. She was well loved by those who were privileged to know her. Sister Audrey traveled to many parishes introducing the practice of centering prayer and providing retreats and spiritual guidance for any who sought her out. After a very long physical decline due to Alzheimer's disease, her bright spirit finally went home to God. Below is the announcement received from her Sisters at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island, Illinois.*



Those who had the good fortune to meet Sister Audrey Cleary came away with something ineffable but memorable. Call it an experience of undivided attention. Full awareness. Presence.

Pure blessing.

Sister Audrey personified the spirit of monastic life, sharing Benedictine values freely with commitment and joy.

"Monastics seek to be one with God," she explained in an article some years ago. "Our desire is to pray and work in community, and help others seek God and find peace. Monasteries have always fed the poor, counseled the doubtful, schooled the uneducated, and comforted the disturbed. Monasteries are centers of prayer, hospitality, and reverence for God, people, and nature. People come seeking those values."

Sister Audrey was steeped in the contemplative tradition as well, teaching Centering Prayer to any who wished to learn it.

Sister Audrey's love of life and all God's creation lives on in the many, many lives she blessed throughout her time on earth.

Join us in grateful prayer for the gift of Sister Audrey.

Love and peace,  
Your Benedictine Sisters

## Celebrating Advent's Solemn Vespers

St. Patrick's Parish hosted Advent Vespers on Gaudete Sunday, December 16, 2018. Fr. Luke Spannagel presided, assisted by Fr. Joel Phelps and homilist Msgr. Stanley Deptula. Frank Gallo led the singing, all of



which was the ancient, peaceful melodies of Gregorian chant accompanied by musical instruments.

The Vespers service includes psalms, the Magnificat, readings, and prayers. Frank served as cantor and led us all in singing our responses.

Fr. Deptula's homily focused on the happiness in the gospel stories of the archangel Gabriel and Mary, the baby John leaping in Elizabeth's womb, and the great delight of those witnessing Christ's ascension. Joy is a hallmark of the good news of the Gospels.

Gaudete Sunday is a time of rejoic-

ing in prayer and song. The readings illustrated the deep contentment

of the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist as they awaited the coming of Christ. The priests' rose-colored vestments and the music's glad tidings brought welcome color and light on a dark winter's night.

All the Catholic churches in the Champaign

Vicariate were invited to attend and it was great to see Fr. Joel again, in his role as Vicar. The priests of the vicariate are talking about having Vespers each Sunday during Lent, hosted by different parishes. Watch for news in coming months!



## Many hands made our Christmas liturgies beautiful

The preparations for our Christmas liturgies are the work of many people. Think about all the people you see: Fr. Luke, Deacon Cliff, Frank Gallo and the musicians, the altar servers, the lectors, the Eucharistic ministers. But there are many people working behind the scenes that you might not know about.

Before each Mass, some of our Mass setup folks put out the bread and wine and made sure everything needed was ready. Susan Sheahan, Janice Parker, Carm Walsh, and Minette Sternke helped in this way, as they do so often during the year.

Members of the Art and Environment Team, led by Susan Reese, helped design, sew, and hang new banners in the entry ways, order and arrange poinsettias, decorate and hang wreaths for the entrances, and create and hang evergreens for the side columns. Thank you to Susan, Becky Billman, Tina Colombo, Marilyn Pollard, Aleta Lynch, and Paula Sturdyvin.

Mark Gerhart and Chuck Shaw helped hang the triptych banners inside the church and brought the stable into the church.

Three members of CREW, Sandra Casco, Chysler Bonita, and Caroliene Animas, worked with some of the Knights of Columbus to set up the trees, carry the flowers from the classrooms, set up the manger scene, and put out extra chairs.

Thank you, one and all, for the beauty and joy that you give to our celebrations.





**Q: What is the Blessing of St. Blaise?**

**A:** It might be best to start with St. Blaise himself.

(You may know his name as St. Blase.) We know very little about him. In the legendary Acts of St. Blaise, written about 400 years after his death, we learn that he was a good bishop who worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people in Armenia, where persecution of Christians still raged despite the fact that freedom of worship had been granted throughout the Roman Empire in 311.

Blaise eventually fled to the back country, where he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer – and apparently made friends with wild animals. He was discovered there

by hunters looking for wild animals for the amphitheater and found him kneeling in prayer, surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions, and bears. They hauled him off to prison; on the way, a mother

approached and implore his help for her young son, who had a fishbone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone. While he was in prison, she is said to have brought him food and candles to light his prison cell.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, in 316, he was beheaded.

St. Blaise's saving the life of the young boy with a fishbone caught

in his throat is the origin of the custom of blessing throats on his feast day (Feb. 3). In remembrance of the mother's gift of candles, two candles, crossed, are held under the chin and against the throat while this blessing prayer is said: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

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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.*

## Pray for the Sick

Pope Saint John Paul II initiated the World Day of the Sick on February 11, 1992, to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. February 11 is the feast honoring Our Lady of Lourdes, who has been an efficacious advocate for those suffering from illnesses of mind and body.

Watch, dear Mother,  
With your children who wake,  
Or watch, or weep tonight.  
Tend your sick ones,  
Rest your weary ones,  
Bless your dying ones,  
Soothe your suffering ones,  
Pity your afflicted ones,  
Shield your joyous ones,  
All for your Love's sake

### Vocation Prayer

Father, you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you. Inspire us as we grow to know you better and love you more, and open our hearts to hear your call. Grace us with an understanding of how best to serve you in your people. We ask this in Jesus' name.



Patron Saints for February

Fr. George Wuellner

## Sharing a mug of Christmas cheer

Tables in the parish center were overflowing with generous donations when volunteers gathered to assemble the Christmas mugs. Each mug was filled with sweet treats as well as small practical items or toiletries, wrapped in cellophane and tied with a bow.

Every year, these little gifts bring smiles to our friends who visit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry the week before Christmas. Parishioners were so generous with their



donations this year that even those folks who didn't come to the food pantry until after Christmas were surprised and delighted to receive one of these lovely gifts.

This is just another great example of our parishioners, each doing a little bit to create something special. Thank you, one and all.

## Seniors had a merry time!

The St. Jagan Seniors met for an enjoyable Christmas luncheon at Olive Garden on December 5. Part of their fellowship was spent working on a holiday A-Z exercise, thinking of words or ideas related to Christmas starting with each letter of the

alphabet: A, angel; B, baby Jesus; C, Christmas. . . (can you complete the list?). They concluded their time together by addressing Christmas cards for St. Patrick's homebound and nursing home residents.



### 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 ([staturbana.org](http://staturbana.org)). Go to <http://ee-purl.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.



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **February 3**.



## in our parish library

These titles offer a distinctly feminine flavor – take and read!

***Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith***, by Kathleen Norris. This entertaining and thought-provoking book defines “scary words” that can intimidate and distance us from our religious heritage – words like judgment, faith, dogma, salvation, sinner. Norris blends history, theology, storytelling, etymology, and memoir to help us reflect on their meanings. Readers will come to know more about the gradual conversion and the daily struggle for faith that Norris described in her bestsellers *A Spiritual Geography* (1992) and *The Cloister Walk* (1996). 230 NOR 1998

***The Gospel According to Women: Christianity’s Creation of the Sex War in the West***, by Karen Armstrong. Armstrong’s book is an extremely well-written account of the Christian churches’ attitude toward women, and lack of respect for them. She traces the whole history of Christianity as women have taken it, and also “the gospel for women” as male church leaders have presented it. 270 ARM 1986

***Guests in Their Own House: The Women of Vatican II***, by Carmel McEnroy. This is a fascinating account of the 23 women who officially observed Vatican II through interviews and other accounts. McEnroy describes their reception and important contributions. 262.5 MCE 1996

***Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now***, by Maya Angelou. In this collection of short prose (homilies and reveries), many only two or three pages long, Angelou reflects on spirituality, self-worth, style, death, friends, family, racism, sensuality, being a woman, and more. She offers words of wisdom, inspiration, and reflection. 814.5 ANG 1993

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*If you have questions, contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. You can obtain a key to the door to the parish library from the parish office – come in and browse to your heart’s content!*

## Have you seen the new panels in Trinity Hall?

Trinity Hall, the large room below the church, has some new panels! The plan for that space has always been flexibility. It’s wonderful to have another large space to accommodate large gatherings, but we have needed more classroom and small group meeting spaces as well,

and the panels make this possible. The northern third of the Hall can be divided into three rooms that can seat groups of up to 15 or 20 people. A crank is used to move the panels into place and to tuck them away. Jon McCoy and Craig Goad know how it all works.

Several parishioners made special donations to help cover the purchase and installation of the panels. We also used about \$1600 of the proceeds from last year’s Holy Cross Chicken Dinner to make up what was still needed.

Thanks to all of you who helped to make this possible!



# Come, Holy Spirit! Or: Why spiritual direction?

By David Sandel

In his poetic prose, William Faulkner wrote, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

Although I read that in *Sports Illustrated*, it could easily have been in *Presence*, published monthly by Spiritual Directors International (SDI).

SDI’s “Seek and Find Guide” lists nearly 50 spiritual directors registered with SDI within 100 miles of Urbana. Several of them are within a mile or two. We may be sitting together in church every Sunday!

But why go to spiritual direction? Is it like pastoral or psychological counseling? They overlap, of course, but the beauty of spiritual direction lies in two special things. First, the director is your companion, a seeker just like you. Spiritual direction is a consultation involving seeker, helper, and Holy Spirit.

Second, we listen more to the Holy Spirit than to each other. We talk to each other, of course, but sometimes we are silent, because in silence the Holy Spirit has room to speak. Our personal puzzles become more accessible.

I remember my experience a few years ago, sitting on a dock with my spiritual director. I was struck by God’s assurance (in Isaiah 43) that he would care for me, come fire or flood. I had also heard God whisper, “But you get ahead of me, David. Please. Let me lead you, let me lead you.”

We sat quietly and listened to the water. I closed my eyes and remembered my childhood dairy farm. My dad had misnamed a cow named John, who kicked when I tried to milk her. She scared me. I sat on my one-legged homemade stool and pressed my head into her hip.



But now I was not alone. I felt Jesus sitting right up next to me, sitting on his own stool, pressing on her too. “Let me,” he said.

I looked up, and there was my dad, right beside Jesus, all of us sitting on our stools, milking John. The usual music was playing in the milking barn, and after a moment, Chet Huntley’s newscast broke in.

So my spiritual director and I talked and prayed and left the water, and I knew how close God was.

For years I’ve seen a spiritual director every month. Sometimes wonderful things happen, sometimes they don’t. I plan to go again and again for the rest of my life.

Faulkner continued his reverie in *Requiem for a Nun*, “Man’s imagination is so vast

and limitless, to burn away the rubble, leaving only truth and dream.” Spiritual direction helps to uncover these precious gifts from God.

*David Sandel is a licensed spiritual director; he lives in Urbana, Illinois.*

Father Luke and former staff member Sister Charlene Cesario are often sought out for spiritual direction. St. Patrick’s is blessed also to have a few parishioners who have been trained and licensed as spiritual directors, among them:

Mary Long  
Eileen Mathy  
Bridget McGill  
Patricia Fettig

## Did you know?

Who sets the pews in order for the week following the weekend Masses? One or sometimes two parishioners walk through the pews to make sure there are worship aids for all and to check the hymnals – tucking in the ribbons, putting hymnals right-side-up with front facing out, three to each book pocket, etc. One person can do it in about an hour and a half; two persons make the task easier. This is currently done on Monday morning after the Communion Service. Could you help? No need to call anyone—just come!

\* \* \*

Where are all those left-behind belongings put after all the weekend Mass celebrations? They’re destined for the chest of drawers in the small conversational space between the church entrance and the parish center lobby. If you don’t find what you’re looking for there, you might ask Patricia, the parish secretary, whether she knows that it may have been put in a special place waiting for you to claim it.

## Unity through diversity at the Festival of Lessons and Carols

*The following summary is substantially excerpted from a December 11, 2018, article by Thomas Dermody, editor-in-chief of The Catholic Post. We thank Dermody for permission to base this summary on his article.*

Just as Jesus' birth brought joy to local shepherds and kings from far-off lands, the anticipation of celebrating the miracle 2,000 years later united diverse groups in an evening of song and prayer on December 9 at St. Patrick Church.

Eight choirs – over 100 musicians in all, representing several ethnic communities, took part in the third annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at the close of the Second Sunday of Advent.

Following a six-song prelude by the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra, Stephanie Rayl, cantor, opened with prayers for peace, unity within the Church, and for the needs of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely, those who are mourning, and all those who do not know the Lord Jesus.

The choirs then took turns singing after the proclamation of nine Scripture readings that spoke of God's love and promises through the ages and the mystery of our redemption. But the presence of

the Hispanic, Filipino, Mayan, and Congolese choirs – as well as the adult and bell choirs from St. Patrick Parish, singers from a local Greek Orthodox church and Parkland



College, representatives of the deaf community, and the musicians of the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra – also taught valuable lessons in an age too often marked by division.

“Our Lessons and Carols shows us we have more similarities than differences and brings a sense of community, togetherness, and joy that is sorely lacking in our day-to-day world,” said Dr. Franklin Gallo, Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Patrick Parish and coordinator of the Festival.

The universal nature of salvation was re-

hymns sung in a variety of languages – including Tagalog for the Filipino Community Choir, Lingala for the Congolese Catholic Community, Q’anjob’al for the Mayan Catholic

Community, Greek for the choir from Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Spanish from the Hispanic Choir, and sign language from the deaf community.

“Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth,” said Rayl in a closing prayer. “Fill our words with power that we may proclaim your good news and draw all people to you.”

Gallo said that while “the logistics are crazy,” he hopes the Festival continues to expand – previous years have included Korean and Vietnamese representation, and he would like to involve choirs such as the Black Chorus from the University of Illinois “so that we feel even more together and unified.”

One of the participants reflected, “Some of the songs and languages may have been unfamiliar, but the messages were clear.”

Many thanks to Father Luke, the musicians, the lectors, the staff, and the volunteers for a beautiful, moving, and inspirational devotion.



lected in readings proclaimed and





## Thanks be to God for consecrated individuals

Forty days after Christmas, on February 2, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast is called, in the Christian East, the Feast of Encounter – the encounter between God, who became a child to bring newness to our world, and an expectant humanity, represented by the elderly man and woman in the Temple.

The celebration of this feast is also marked as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed, symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Christ to all people.



In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. It is attached to the Feast of the Presentation on February 2, but moved to the following Sunday in parishes to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

The primary purpose of this day is to encourage prayer for all who have made commitments to consecrated life that they may continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and to respond generously to God's gift of their vocation, and also to thank them on this special day for their response to this gift.

So on this day remember all those in consecrated life, the men and women religious you've known from childhood as teachers and friends, perhaps as spiritual directors, and offer your prayers for them and express your appreciation for their life of service.

The U.S. bishops offer us this prayer:

*God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, hermits, and members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Planning for the future

Have you ever heard a hymn on a Sunday morning and thought, "I'd love to have that sung at my funeral"? Or heard a reading from Scripture or a Responsorial Psalm that caused the same reaction? Perhaps you have attended a funeral liturgy and seen family members lovingly and reverently place the pall on their loved one's casket. Or perhaps you have thought about your own funeral quite out of the blue.

One of the most loving things you can do is to plan your own funeral liturgy. While this statement might sound odd at first reading, it is quite true. When a family is grieving, the task of planning a funeral liturgy can be overwhelming. What will be sung, what will be read and who will do the reading, who will carry the gifts forward at the Offertory, what sacred objects that were special to me will be placed on the casket or near the urn? Small details, yes, but of great significance.



Your gift of having preplanned your liturgy can take this task off someone else's shoulders and assure your loved ones that what you would like to have happen is carried out.

"But I'm only 42! Why should I think about this when I have many

years left to live?" God grant that this is so! But we all know that accidents and illness can happen at any time. St. Patrick Parish pastoral staff and Ministry of Consolation have prepared a tool for your use in planning your funeral liturgy –

whenever it may be. The booklet provides the most commonly used readings, psalms, and hymns, with links to the entire list available for choosing. Questions invite decisions regarding everything from funeral visitation options to who will assist at the liturgy in various ways. "But," you say, "I could easily change my mind!" Your choices can be changed at any time.

The funeral liturgy planning guide is available from the parish office or to download from the parish website ([www.staturbana.org](http://www.staturbana.org)). It can be completed and stored with your other important documents, such as your health care power of attorney, advance directives, and other medical information. Let someone in your family know where the guide is – or complete it together with your spouse or another loved one. This simple act taken now will be a great gift to your family in the future!

## A look into the Holy Cross pre-school

Five years ago, Holy Cross saw a need for a Catholic pre-school and established the Holy Cross pre-school for three-year-olds and pre-kindergarteners. Over the years our pre-school curriculum has continued to develop into an academic hands-on program to meet the needs of 21st-century students entering an academic kindergarten. Students successfully completing our pre-kindergarten program are ready for kindergarten – academically, socially, and spiritually.

We invite you to check out the school's pre-school program. If you missed the January 22 Pre-school and Kindergarten Information Night for the 2019-20 school year at Holy Cross, you might call the school office (356-9521) to set up an appointment to meet with our teachers. Children who will be three, four, or five years of age or older by September 1 may be eligible for enrollment.

*(Photos continue on page 11)*



*Blessed beginnings*



*Calendar time*

“I know well the plans I have in mind for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare, not for woe! plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you pray to me, I will listen to you.”

When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you,” says the Lord, “and I will change your lot.”



*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*



*Children work together on a bridge-building project*



*Designing a stained-glass window*



*Princess or engineer – why not both?*



*Learning their colors takes on a new meaning!*



*Learning to prepare the altar*

## Holy Cross Happenings

Students at Holy Cross School prepared for the coming of Jesus at Christmas by prayer and various Advent projects. Each morning a new symbol was placed on the Jesse Tree in the front hall. Advent wreaths throughout the building reminded us of our Advent promises.

Students in all grades participated in various Advent projects. Some raised money through bake sales for the Champaign County Humane Society; others brought in needed supplies for the backpacks distributed by the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen; others donated lightly used shoes for students across the globe through the Soles for Souls program; the seventh- and eighth-grade choral group sang Christmas carols at various nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

In addition, students and their families continue to donate fresh fruit and milk every week throughout the school year to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen as they try to live up to Jesus' call for us to be persons for others.

Holy Cross School's fourth-graders, with the help of their teacher, Mary Tate, have been getting to know Daniel Delgado, the seminarian who was assigned to St. Patrick's last summer. They have written letters and emails to him and sent him pictures. Recently, with the guidance of our Spanish teacher, Luciano Vazquez, they were able to visit with him via Skype. They practiced their Spanish by asking Daniel lots of questions and praying "Padre Nuestro" with him. It was a great language and faith experience for all!

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

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**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Rose Costello, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Jon McCoy, Mary Lou Menches, Chuck Milewski, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, David Sandel, Mary Tate, and Chris Whippo. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by John Colombo.

### Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Salika



#### Barbecue Beef "Sloppy Joes"

- 1 large onion, cut into large chunks
- 1 bell pepper, cut into large chunks
- 1 clove garlic, halved
- 1 c sugar
- 1/2 c catsup
- 1/2 c Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 c vinegar
- 1-1/2 c tomato juice or sauce
- 1/2 c water
- 1 t red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 T butter
- 3-1/2 lbs beef stew meat

Mix all ingredients and simmer 3 hours in a large pot or 8-10 hours on low in a crock pot. Mash with a potato masher. Makes 12-15 sandwiches.

\* \* \*

*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!*