

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

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January, 2019

Jesus changes everything

The people of Israel were in a bad place 2000 years ago. They were conquered, occupied, and taxed by the Romans. Some people collaborated with the Romans, some planned violent resistance, some retreated to the wilderness, and others just tried to get along. Even the religious leaders were divided about everything from which prophets to accept to what one had to do to be holy.



Into this world of oppression, conflict, and division, God came, Jesus was born. Did he drive out the Romans, or make it possible to live peaceably with them? No, the conflict continued to heat up until 70 years later when the Romans crushed the Jewish rebellion and destroyed the temple. Did Jesus unify the people of Israel? No, the factions continued, and his followers added one more to them. Did Jesus make peace with the Romans? No, he was killed by them and his followers were persecuted on and off for hundreds of years.

So what good did it do that God came, Jesus was born? It changed everything! God doesn't make our problems go away. He gives us the strength and insight to deal with them. The difficulties in our lives can make us kinder, more loving, more eager to look to God

for help. Even when our troubled world harms us, God holds us in his tender care.

God also promises that evil won't win out in the end. The chaos in Israel made the early Christians get a move on. Within a generation, there were believers all around the Mediterranean and as far east as India. God didn't cause the chaos in Israel, he didn't want it, but he used it to help

spread the faith far and wide. As Jesus' followers struggled to find ways to tell others about Jesus, they became clearer in their own hearts about what God was doing in the world. As they dealt with persecution and even martyrdom, they gave witness that brought many people to faith.

We are the inheritors of that faith, spread by division, refined by being passed from believer to believer, witnessed in the lives and deaths of countless people. And we live in a world rife with conflict and division, a world that needs to learn more deeply the message of Jesus. Jesus is with us. He doesn't promise to solve our problems; he promises to be with us with his love and wisdom. He doesn't promise to

Jesus changes ... Continued pg 6

You can help to build a community of welcome

In 2016, St. Patrick parish was among the leaders of CU-FAIR (Champaign-Urbana Friends and Allies of Immigrants and Refugees), an interfaith task force, that wrote to Bishop Daniel Jenky, informing him of our desire to establish a welcome center for refugees here. As a result, Bishop Jenky contacted the Washington office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), writing, "I support the effort to resettle refugees in a manner which enables them to become integrated into our society in a positive way. I approve the effort to see if Champaign-Urbana in our diocese can become a center for the USCCB Resettlement program."

Since then, CU-FAIR has been working with families of migrants and refugees to welcome them and help them to become a part of our community.



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Would you have welcomed the Holy Family?

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. For just as Joseph and Mary traveled to a different country in their search for a safe haven for themselves and their newborn child, so today many families do the same, and under great duress.



The theme for National Migration Week 2019, “Building Communities of Welcome,” draws attention to the fact that each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

In our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others. We tend not to take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but often remain aloof to their presence and are perhaps even suspicious or fearful of them.

During this year’s National Migration Week, January 6-12, we are encouraged to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends. We might look at the important role that foster care plays in the lives of unaccompanied immigrants and refugees, consult with parishes organized to welcome refugees, and examine local initiatives that make important contributions in this regard.

Are there migrants in your community? In your parish? Going to your church? Joining the queue for food in the local food pantry? What efforts will you make to get to know them or help them find their way in your local community? How would you have helped Joseph and Mary, with their child Jesus?

Day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children

Each year on January 22 the Church calls us to participate in a day of prayer for the protection of unborn children. This year marks the 46th anniversary of the 1973 decision of *Roe v. Wade*. Through prayer, fasting, and/or giving alms we can be united with others this day.

Here are some suggestions:

- You may want to say a short prayer of blessing, like this one:

God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, all unborn children;
give them constant protection and grant a healthy birth

that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven...

~ *Modified excerpt from the Prayer of Blessing*

- Attend Mass on January 22.
- Pray the *Holy Hour for Life: Based on Reflections of Saint John Paul II*.
- Commit to a novena or Stations of the Cross.
- Donate clothing and supplies for babies at the Pregnancy Resource Center in Champaign.
- Plan a trip to Washington, D.C., to pray together with other pilgrims for an end to abortion at the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on January 17-18, 2019.

If you can’t make it to D.C., perhaps you can attend the local **Community Ecumenical Memorial Pro-Life Prayer Vigil on Tuesday, January 22 at 7 p.m.** This year’s vigil will be held at Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, 2010 Three Hierarchs Court, Champaign. The prayer vigil brings the community together to remember and mourn those lost to abortion and includes Scripture, testimony, a speaker, and a candlelight procession. Our parish hosted the vigil last year and has helped to plan the vigil for more 30 years. If you would like to help plan this event, contact Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

For information on the National Prayer Vigil for Life, visit www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prolife-prayers.cfm.

How much longer will you waiver,
hobbling between two opinions?

If the Lord is God, follow him!

—1 Kings 18:2

We are called to care for God's creation

Our mistreatment of the natural world diminishes our own dignity and sacredness, not only because we are destroying resources that future generations of humans need, but because we are engaging in actions that contradict what it means to be human. Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all creation.

—From USCCB, *Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching*, 1991 (no. 2)

One of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is care for God's creation. While Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home*, which calls all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home, is the most recent reminder of our duty as Catholics to protect the environment, this concern is not new. In his message for the 1990 World Day of Peace, St. Pope John Paul II saw caring for the environment as a moral issue, and wrote:



The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of *respect for life* evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution. Often, the interests of production prevail over concern for the dignity of workers, while economic interests take priority over the good of individuals and even entire peoples. In these cases, pollution or environmental destruction is the result of an unnatural and reductionist vision which at times leads to a genuine contempt for man.

The Environmental Stewardship Ministry is part of the Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Patrick. This group works on projects to help make the parish "greener" and has sponsored events such as the Interfaith Prayer Service for the Environment, as well as participating in activities with Faith in Place, an interfaith group dedicated to environmental works. If you are interested in pursuing

your call to care faithfully for God's creation, contact Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org, 367-2665), or John Dorsey (jdorsey@ameritech.net, 344-3016).

Did you know ...

Watch for it...it's coming...you'll really enjoy it...it's the Knights' end-of-year Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 30! A great opportunity to share with friends your hopes for the New Year, to put the disappointments of the past year behind you, to put off resolutions for the year to come – to savor the pancakes and coffee or tea and the other good things the Knights will offer you on December 30. Don't delay, plan now to support the Knights' Fr. Martell Scholarship Fund for graduating seniors through your free-will offering in return for the good time and good food on offer!

*

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. (You might be surprised at what Mass-goers leave behind: sweaters and jackets, eyeglasses, keys, water bottles, books, wallets – yes, wallets! – as well as whistles, toys, and all kinds of useful things.)

One person can do it in about an hour and a half or two; two persons make the task easier. This is currently done on Monday morning after the Communion service, although after Mass on any other weekday would be as helpful. Could you help with this rather unglamorous although sometimes prayerful task? 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 sitting 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, in case she's aware of it's having been put in a special place waiting for you to claim it.

Save the date – the Clucking for Catholic Education Dinner is back! Saturday, January 26, 5-7:30 p.m. Same great menu with Nelson's catering. Dine-in or curbside will be available. Come enjoy great foods and friends. Look for tickets on sale in January.

Baskets for Fathers helps children learn the joy of giving

For the second year, members of the Women of St. Patrick put together Baskets for Fathers. Items donated by St. Patrick's parishioners – gloves, socks, fleece blankets, tools, games, stationary supplies, and candy, among other things – were assembled into gift baskets.



Children from low-income families were able to pick out baskets to give to their parents during Empty Tomb's annual Christmas giveaway. Sue Schreiber, who organized the effort, was joined by Ginger Schutz, Pat Fettig, Linda Weber, Marty Sierra-Perry, and Janet Althaus, who made 16 baskets in all. They also bagged stocking stuffers for parents to give to their children.

Thanks to the volunteers and all who donated for helping to spread some Christmas cheer!

**Hope without risk
is not hope,
which is believing
in risky loving,
trusting others
in the dark,
the blind leap
letting God take over.
—Dom Helder Camara**

Parish Council news ...

The primary focus of the Parish Council last fall was the Time and Talent volunteer registration. This time it began with a prayer commitment. Fr. Luke encouraged parishioners to make a commitment to prayer, and their prayer commitments were placed in a vase before the altar as an offering to God. The vases will remain there as a reminder to us of our prayer commitments.



After the prayer commitment weekend, Time and Talent registration began. Parishioners were invited and encouraged to share their time and talents with the many ministries St. Patrick's offers. The more than 70 ministries are grouped by common themes: Worship, Spiritual Enrichment, Peace and Justice, Community Life, Stewardship, and Faith Development.

The graphic for the six themes was formed in the mid-2000s as a way to enhance communication, cooperation, and support among the many ministries. Using St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and St. Paul's letter to the Romans as its grounding philosophy, the Parish Council created an organizational structure that would allow all of the ministries to be acknowledged as equally important and interconnected, as well as to acknowledge that people have different talents and all are needed to do the work of Christ.

The ministries were gathered into six groups, or circles, according to their primary goals: Faith Development (faith education programs), Worship (ministries related to the Mass and other prayer experiences), Parish Community Life (building community), Peace and Justice (encouraging equality and human dignity), Stewardship (administration of parish resources), and Spiritual Enrichment (providing opportunities for spiritual growth).

The graphic was designed to show interconnectivity. At the center of the six thematic circles is the circle that binds all of the circle ministries together—the pastor, staff, and Parish Council. Consequently, each circle has a staff member, a Parish Council member, and a parishioner-at-large to support its activities and goals.

In the past, parishioners learned about the ministries on one weekend, and on the next were invited to sign up for any ministry or ministries in which they were interested. This year, in an effort to feature the individual ministries and to emphasize those in special need of new members, the format was changed to feature one group of ministries each week.

The Parish Council itself is seeking volunteers to serve as members, allowing those who have completed their term of membership to rotate off the Council! If you are interested, contact Mardia Bishop (vice-president, mardiabishop@comcast.net) or Jack Parisi (president, marketing4u@comcast.net) for information.

Council members are still evaluating this approach. If you have any comments regarding Time and Talent, please contact Mardia Bishop. If you haven't had a chance to volunteer for a ministry, please call the parish office (367-2665). All volunteers, regardless of specific talents and the amount of time available to serve, are welcome.

Many were thankful for Thanksgiving baskets

In November, St. Patrick's SVDP Food Pantry once again packed and gave out Thanksgiving baskets. Each "basket" contained the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal that could be shared with family or friends, as well as basic food items to provide another couple of meals.



According to SVDP Food Pantry Coordinator Sally Czapar, 234 baskets were given out this year. A big thank you to all parishioners who generously donated money and time to make this wonderful tradition possible!

Christ plays
in ten thousand
places,

Lovely in
limbs and lovely
in eyes not his,

To the
Father through
the features of
men's faces.

—Gerard
Manley Hopkins

Parish Council news Continued from pg 4 . . .

For most of the coming year the Council will review St. Patrick's music program. The goals of the review are to ensure proper congruence with liturgical teaching/norms and our parish mission statement, provide feedback on priorities, and gather recommendations for the future of the music program. The review began in the fall when Frank Gallo, St. Patrick's music director, explained a music minister's duties. Council members will continue to delve into other goals of the review process, including distributing a survey to parishioners for their input on music.

More to come in next month's *In Focus!*



Q: Why do we use pink and purple candles in our church's Advent wreath? Wouldn't red ones be more in keeping with the season?

A: In 19th-century Germany, when Johann Hinrich Wichern created the modern Advent wreath, he used both red and white candles. A Lutheran pastor, he used an old cart wheel to craft a wreath with four large white candles and small red ones between them. This was for the children in the school he founded for poor boys, who kept asking him when Christmas would arrive. They lit a new candle each day, a white one on Sunday and red ones for the days in between. When all the candles had been lit, it was time to celebrate Christmas.

Wichern's original design was simplified in subsequent generations, making wreaths with only four red candles. Other churches soon adapted the wreath for their own needs and understandings of the season. Catholics swapped the red candles for three purple candles, the color typically associated with penance, and one pink candle, the color of rejoicing on the third Sunday of Advent.

Other churches have modified the wreath in other ways. In Orthodox Christian churches, where Advent lasts 40 days, the wreath has six candles: green (faith), blue (hope), gold (love), white (peace), purple (penance), and red (communion). Moravian churches use four plain beeswax candles that can be made at home, reflecting a faith tradition that values simplicity and domestic work. The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod uses pink and purple candles, while the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America uses four blue candles, symbolizing hope and expectation.

In less than 200 years the Advent wreath has become an important and meaningful part of the Advent season. It is also a tradition that is still evolving, and even at the highest levels of the Catholic Church can reflect both theological meaning and cultural significance. In 2006 photographers snapped a few shots of the Advent wreath in Benedict XVI's office. The German pontiff's wreath featured four red candles.

* * *

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

Working toward Christian unity

When Jesus prayed for us at the Last Supper, he asked his Father to make us one, one with each other and one with him. Every January, from January 18 to January 25, Christians around the world join him in that prayer for unity. The dates were chosen to end with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Paul shared the faith with Jew and Gentile alike. He also gave us the image of the Body of Christ with many members, diverse and yet one.

Church leaders often come together to understand the cultural, and reasons for the us. Someday we gather at the Lord's our brothers and faith. But the the Catholic Church this is work for the whole Church, the faithful and clergy alike.



and theologians to better historical, theological divisions among may be able to table with all of sisters in the Catechism of says (#822) that

Here at St. Patrick's, we often have opportunities to pray with people of other faiths. For many years, we have participated in the prayer for the protection of human life on January 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade court decision. Choirs from St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church have enriched our prayer at Advent Lessons and Carols. Some of us have attended the Interfaith Alliance Thanksgiving Celebration.

We've also had opportunities to serve with other Christians. The Women of St. Patrick's worked with people from the Empty Tomb to make Christmas gift baskets. Some of us have participated in an interfaith Habitat for Humanity project. Some work with CU-FAIR, the Champaign-Urbana Friends & Allies of Immigrants & Refugees.

We can come together in prayer. We can share in the gospel work of peace and justice. We can get to know one another. And in doing so, we help to answer the prayer of Jesus, that we may be one.

Seniors learn about Australia

St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors Group, which welcomes seniors from all C-U parishes, enjoyed luncheon at Attie's Bar & Grill, Urbana, on Wednesday, November 14. Afterward, parishioner Shirley Splittstoesser (on the far right in the photo below) shared stories and beautiful photographs of landscapes, animals, and birds peculiar to Australia where she and her husband, Walter, lived for six months while he was on sabbatical.

Want to join the group for lunch and an interesting speaker? Watch the weekly bulletin to find out where this active group is meeting next!



Jesus changes

Continued from pg 1 . . .

make life easy; he promises to make us fruitful, abundant, and full of his love. He doesn't promise to keep us safe from the evil in the world; he promises to hold us in his care forever. He doesn't change our circumstances; he is with us to change who we are. And that changes everything!

You can help

Continued from pg 1 . . .

CU-FAIR recognizes the importance of identifying the uniqueness of each immigrant. Our "new neighbor" has generally had challenges which may seem overwhelming to us. They felt forced to abandon their historical social structure to escape a civil war, environmental crises, criminal organizations, corrupt governments, human traffickers, street gangs, domestic violence, and/or poverty.

Their journey here

The volunteers of CU-FAIR identify the strengths of the immigrant family and build on them to help navigate our complex society. Each family is assigned a "case manager" to evaluate and coordinate their needs. Other trained volunteers help each family with needs ranging from finding housing and jobs to learning English to simply learning their way around town on the bus.

Would you like to be part of a Community of Welcome? For more information on CU-FAIR, contact parishioner Luis Cuza (luis@cuza.us, 954-8371) or pastoral associate Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org, 367-2665). You can also visit the CU-FAIR website at www.cufair-us.com.

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/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.

In the parish library

The new year brings hope for and resolutions about beginning anew—of being a better person to ourselves, to others, and to God. The following books are representative of materials that can be found in the parish library. Once you locate the call number on the shelf, scan other books in the same section for similar books on these topics. Happy reading!

The Art of Happiness: A Handbook of Living, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler, M.D. Through meditations, stories, and the meeting of Buddhism and psychology, the Dalai Lama shows us how to defeat day-to-day depression, anxiety, anger, jealousy, or just an ordinary bad mood. He discusses relationships, health, family, work, and spirituality to show us how to ride through life's obstacles on a deep and abiding source of inner peace. (241.3 LAM)

Care of the Soul: A guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life, by Thomas Moore. The author, an internationally renowned theologian and former Catholic monk, offers a philosophy for living that involves accepting our humanity rather than struggling to transcend it. By nurturing the soul in everyday life, Moore shows how to cultivate dignity, peace, and depth of character. (158 MOO)

Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work: 101 Stories, by Jack Caulfield et al. This is a special collection of inspiring tales that share the daily courage, compassion, and creativity that take place in workplaces everywhere. This book offers you new options, new ways to succeed, and, above all, a new love and appreciation for yourself, your job, and those around you. (331.25 CAN 1996)

The Heart of Hope: Contemplating Life, Awakening Love, by Michael Downey. More than a book on how to change your life, this is the story of a man whose life and heart were changed, inadvertently, forever. Like a walk with a spiritual guide, you will finish the book feeling that your heart has been refreshed and awakened. (942 DOW 2005)

Spiritual Fitness: Everyday Exercises for the Body and Soul, by Doris Donnelly. (248 DON)

Too Busy NOT to Pray, by Bill Hybels. (242 HYB)

* * *

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 the door to the parish library from the parish office – come in and browse to your heart's content!

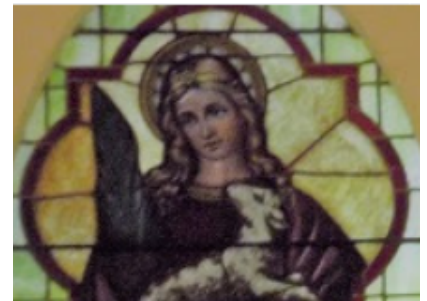
Agnes, so young and yet a saint

Almost nothing is known of St. Agnes for certain except that she was very young, 12 or 13, when she was martyred in the last half of the third century.

Legend has it that she was a beautiful girl whom many young men wanted to marry. Among those she refused, one reported her to the authorities as being a Christian. She was arrested and confined to a house of prostitution. The legend continues that one who looked upon her lustfully lost his sight and had it restored by her prayer.

She was condemned, executed, and buried near Rome in a catacomb that eventually was named after her. The daughter of Constantine built a basilica in her honor. And the Church commemorates her in one of the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass as well as on January 21, her memorial.

The martyrdom of a virginal young girl made a deep impression on a society enslaved to a materialistic outlook. Agnes is a reminder that holiness does not depend on length of years, experience, or personal effort; it is a gift God offers to all.



A year in the life of St. Patrick's

Here are some (really, just a few) of the groups, activities, and events that took place in our parish in 2018.

January New sewing group prepares baptismal garments.

February First Saturday Holy Hour of Adoration. Super Bowl Breakfast. Financial University. Parish Lenten study. Catholic Social Teaching 101.

March Mass of Anointing. Weekly rosaries. Annual Women of St. Patrick Women's retreat. RCIA candidates and First Communicants took part in a Seder Dinner. The St. Patrick Festival Choir performed Cesar Franck's "The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross." Solemn Vespers, followed by a St. Patrick Youth Orchestra (SPYO) concert. Weekly Lenten dinners. Annual St. Patrick's Day celebration.

April Divine Mercy Sunday. The Ministry of Consolation's Planning for the Future seminar. Holy Week. Easter Vigil. Easter.

May First Communion. Confirmation Mass. Graduation Mass. The first Know Your Neighbor dinner, which brought together parishioners with our Muslim neighbors from the nearby Central Illinois Mosque to share a delicious dinner and learn about one another's lives and faith.

June and July CREW teens and chaperons went on their Mission Trip. Younger children enjoyed Vacation Bible School.

August The Women of St. Patrick's annual Cellar-to-Garret sale. SPYO concert. A book study of Fr. James Martin's book *Building a Bridge*. The second Interfaith Prayer Service for the Environment. Prayer workshops.

September Time and Talent recruitment. Training for new servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and others. Start of the new choir year. New RCIA class. Opportunity Fair. Mass of Anointing. Voter Registration Drive. The Friends of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Dinner. Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast. Parish Nurses' Health Fair.

October The Pet Blessing. Fr. Dom, "the Bread Monk," came to bake. Fr. James Martin spoke via Skype. The Knights of Columbus and the Cat'lic Boys put on another fabulous Ladies Knight Out.

November The SVDP Food Pantry assembled Thanksgiving baskets. The Ministry of Consolation offered ways to remember lost loved ones and prepare for the difficulties of the holiday season.

December A Festival of Lessons and Carols. Sung Vespers. Christmas celebrations.

This is by no means everything that went on at St. Patrick this year! Every week there were meetings, activities, service projects, Bible studies, book studies, work projects, and other activities of many groups. The St. Jeanne Jugan senior group met every month for lunch and featured a guest speaker. There were religious education classes, Vivo and CREW activities. Volunteers did many different jobs to keep the food pantry running smoothly. The Consolation Ministry helped with funerals, while the Funeral Schola provided music and the Women of St. Patrick funeral-dinner crew served food afterward.

Parishioners set up for Masses, served as lectors, cantors, ushers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, and greeters. The Women of St. Patrick held dinners out, dinners in, meetings, and other activities. Eucharistic ministers brought Communion to hospital patients, nursing home residents, and the homebound. Volunteers delivered Meals on Wheels. Crews maintained the church and parish center grounds. Knitters and crocheters made prayer shawls.

And there's even more . . .



Pictures ... Cont. pgs 9, 10, 11







Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Cathy Salika



Stained Glass Cookies

Ingredients:

Your favorite sugar cookie dough, or store-bought dough
Brightly colored hard candies like Life Savers or lollipops

Roll out the dough and cut out cookies. Then cut out the centers, leaving at least ½ inch of dough around the edges. Place them on aluminum foil on a cookie sheet. Separate the candies by color. Place each color in a separate plastic bag and crush them with a mallet or rolling pin. Using a spoon, fill in the center of the cookies with crushed candy and bake the cookies according to your favorite recipe. Cool them completely before you remove them from the foil.

Suggestions: Cut out Christmas tree-shaped cookies, and use a soda straw to make several holes. Fill holes with crushed candy to make ornaments. You can get different effects by crinkling the foil before you place the cookie dough on it by blending colors.

* * *

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



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

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

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January Saints by Fr. Wuellner



The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (February) issue of *In Focus* is **January 6.**