

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June, 2019

## Marking milestones

Imagine that you are one of our First Communicants, or perhaps one of the adults who were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. This event marks a stage of growth in your life of faith, a milestone on your path. Things will be different now than they were before. And now you have the Eucharist to remind you that God loves you, God is with you, God will always be with you.

Imagine that you are one of our graduates. You'll be moving on soon, perhaps to a new school, a new job, or maybe even a new place. It's a milestone. Your life is changing. But still this is true: God loves you, God will always be with you.

Many of us celebrate other milestones at this time of year. Young couples get married and begin a new life together. Some people move to new homes during the summer months. Some land their first job. As we get older, the milestones may become a bit less dramatic. We celebrate them with our children and grandchildren. We

also experience changes in our physical and mental abilities. These, too, are milestones, even though they usually happen gradually. And still, God loves you. God will be with you always.

Each of these milestones marks a change in life. Because our life of faith is so completely bound up with the rest of life, these are milestones of faith as well. If a milestone is a personal achievement, it is important to remember the role that God and the people around you played. If a milestone brings a challenging change, it is important

to embrace it knowing that you can rely on God's help.

So if you are marking a milestone, if someone close to you is marking a milestone, remember this, say this to

them: God loves you. God will always love you. God is with you. Through all the changes of life, through births and deaths, through joys and sorrows, God will always be with you!



## Fundraiser planned in memory of parishioner Angela Anderson



Paul and Wanpen Anderson, members of St Patrick Parish since they were married there in 1976, will have a fundraiser at St Patrick's parish center the evening of June 8 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The chicken dinner, catered by Nelson's, will also feature a Silent Auction to raise funds for Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Awareness and Research. Proceeds will go the SJS/TEN Research Fund at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, in memory of parishioner Angela Anderson.

Three and a half years ago, on Christmas Eve, 2015, Paul and Wanpen's daughter Angela had an eye infection. She went to Convenient Care for treatment and then went home to rest. Through the night, the infection spread to her face, neck, the inside of her mouth, and her throat.

Angela Anderson . . . Cont. pg 7

# Preparing children for their First Communion

By Mary Kate Arend

For the past two years, I have volunteered as an assistant teacher in our parish's second grade Religious Education classroom. Becoming involved in this class has been a wonderful opportunity for me to grow in my faith, because the students are learning about and preparing for two very important sacraments, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Because I joined the Church as an adult through the RCIA program, I missed the childhood catechism that many "cradle Catholics" take for granted. I grew up in a devout Christian home, where daily Bible reading was encouraged and weekly Bible school attendance was expected, but I learned very little about Church tradition or the lives of the saints, and I also developed a different understanding of the sacraments – particularly Holy Communion – which for my church family represented a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, but not the Real Presence of Christ.

When I was recently asked if I could give St. Patrick's parishioners an inside look at how our program prepares children for First Holy Communion, I realized there was a great deal I could say not only about our curriculum, text books, crafts, and head teacher, Kari Surratt, but also about how interacting with a classroom full of curious, eager First Communicants has pushed me to grow closer to Jesus.

Our students ask questions – lots of questions – and when Kari and I give them answers, we are learning to proclaim our faith in a very special way. Jesus loved children, and he made it clear that unless we become like children, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3). I often think of that verse during our lessons, and I ask God to help me be open to what the

children have to teach me that day about trusting him just a little bit more.

I generally serve as the "craft lady" for our class, and the very first craft we do in the fall involves cutting out and painting a paper chalice, which is then glued onto construction paper. Next, the children cut out, paint, and affix a paper host, which opens up to reveal the face of Jesus. I begin with this craft because it zeroes in on the heart of our Catholic belief about the Eucharist. When the children in our class receive their First Holy Communion, they will not merely remember Jesus in a special way, they will receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Now stop for a second and think about how you would explain that beautiful mystery to a class of second-graders. How in the world would you begin?

Fortunately for Kari and myself, for the past two years our second-grade Religious Ed class has been using the new "Blessed" series published by Dynamic Catholic. This simply written and lovingly illustrated series does a wonderful job of presenting information to

seven-year-olds. The text incorporates a large number of Bible stories to convey the basic tenets of our faith, the most important being the True Presence of Christ.

The very first chapter of *Blessed: First Communion* discusses Jesus' ascension, and how he assured his disciples that he would always be with them. The authors then tie that promise into the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: "We go to church on Sunday to be with Jesus. In fact, anytime you are confused or upset or have some great news to share, it's great to stop by church and sit with Jesus for a few minutes. He waits for us in the



**First Communion . . .** Continued pg 3



## First Communion

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tabernacle. It is a great blessing that Jesus will always be with us in the Eucharist.”

Later in that same chapter, under a section entitled “The First Time,” the children hear the story of what happened when Zacchaeus met Jesus for the very first time. Although he was known for being a dishonest tax collector, Zacchaeus (who, as the song goes, was a “wee little man”) was so excited to see Jesus that he climbed a tree just to catch a glimpse as he went by. As we know, that first encounter with Jesus changed Zacchaeus’s life forever.

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can be very special. As we prepare for your First Communion, let’s remember that you will never have this first again. Every Sunday when you go to Mass you will be blessed to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. But there is something very special about the first time. So it is important for you to pay attention to everything that your parents and teachers are sharing with you about this very special event in your life. You will never have this first again. Cherish it.”

After having shared this story with our First Communicants, I now think of Zacchaeus almost every time that Father Luke raises the host high above his head – that moment immediately following the consecration, when ordinary bread and wine are changed into the precious body and blood of Christ. My heart gives a leap as I look up to catch a glimpse of our Lord!

When we go over the Real Presence with the



collector, Zacchaeus (who, as the song goes, was a “wee little man”) was so excited to see Jesus that he climbed a tree just to catch a glimpse as he went by. As we know, that first encounter with Jesus changed Zacchaeus’s life forever.

*Blessed’s* opening chapter emphasizes that as the children prepare to meet Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist, they should be as eager as Zacchaeus: “Firsts

children, they always have questions. In our final class period this spring, just one week before the First Communion Mass, a student asked how Jesus could be present in the Eucharist and at the same time present with God in heaven. Several other students chimed in with

**First Communion . . .** Continued pg 4

## First Communion

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similar questions – how can Jesus be present in our tabernacle as well as the tabernacles in every Catholic Church all over the world? Kari explained that as human beings, we cannot fully understand this mystery. We can only accept this incredible gift with open hearts. She emphasized that, as Catholics, this is what we believe. Then, with the timing of a seasoned teacher, she turned to the entire class and posed a question of her own: “Do you believe?”



The student who had originally asked the question smiled and proclaimed, “I believe!” Without a moment’s pause, several heads nodded in affirmation . . . one of them mine.

## Did you know . . .

The Communications Committee is looking to expand its membership to help with brainstorming for upcoming issues of *In Focus*, writing articles, taking photographs of parish events, editing articles to create a file for page layout, preparing the page layout for an issue to ready it for printing, and communicating with *The Catholic Post* about parish upcoming events. We’ve lost a couple of members recently, leaving us a little short of resources. Can you help?

### Vocation Prayer

**Father, at the end of every Mass you send us all forth to build up your kingdom. Help me to understand how I am to do this, given my current life situation. I pray especially for those whom you are calling to serve your Church as priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. Help them to hear and respond with generosity to your call to this special discipleship. We know that the harvest is great and the laborers few. Please provide for us men and women who will help to gather in a great harvest of souls!**



## Decades long ministry continues unaffected by new ownership

When our *In Focus* correspondent contacted Sandy Anderson to find out whether our parish ministry (Mass and fellowship) at the former Champaign County Nursing Home was affected in any way by its change in ownership, we received this heartening reply:

About the nursing home: It is now called University Rehab Center. I really can't tell you much about what is happening there – no one has ever really talked to me since it changed hands. I have talked to the Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Hottman – the same lady that was with CCNH – but she always seems very busy, so I try not to bother her.

About the volunteers: We are so lucky! I have five amazing people that I can count on every Friday. I also have another that comes whenever he is available, and I have one lady that will fill in if we need her. I can't begin to tell you how lucky I feel to have these people that come every Friday – to see all of them with our residents and how kind and thoughtful they are with them. They treat them not as residents but as their family.

I guess what I am telling you is that I really don't have anything to write about for *In Focus*. My volunteers are great, and I feel that our little group does an amazing job, and I think we are good with the volunteers we have. Thank you for thinking of us!



Nursing home volunteers: *back*, Judi O'Connor, Steve Hauersperger, Susie McArthur; *front*, Sandy Anderson, Leslie Risatti, Irene Jacobson, Jo Emerson

Thank you, Sandy! It's good news indeed that this parish ministry continues to be in such good form after so many years. Although we may no longer share homemade cookies with the residents on Tuesdays (a weekly treat provided for many years long ago) with caring and conversation, it's reassuring to realize that Mass and fellowship are still offered to residents there!

## Pamela Anderson Continued from pg 1 . . .

By Christmas morning it had spread to her chest and arms.

Paul took her to the Emergency Room that morning and she was admitted to ICU with this unknown infection that continued to spread throughout her body, causing her outer layer of skin to slough off in sheets. By 5 a.m. the next morning, the doctor told Paul that they would have to put her on life support because her lungs were full of fluid. He said, "She's burning from the inside out."

Angela's condition continued to worsen over the next two days, and she finally died at 6 p.m. on Dec. 28, just four days after the eye infection began. The doctors said that she had succumbed to a very rare disease called Stevens-Johnson syndrome/Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis. SJS/TEN is usually triggered by medication; Angela's was Ibuprofen.

At her visitation and funeral at St Patrick Church, Paul and Wanpen asked for donations for research in lieu of flowers. At that time they received \$10,000 in donations. When Paul went to look for a place to send the money, he found no such research being done in the U.S. After many months of searching, Paul was contacted by a doctor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where they wanted to start a research program for this disease.

After much scrutiny of the proposal, the doctors, and their facilities, Paul and Wanpen decided to donate the money to their program, "The SJS/TEN Research Fund in Memory of Angela Anderson." By that time, nearly a year after her death, the Andersons had accumulated \$22,000 in donations and presented Vanderbilt with a check. The fund has since received over \$50,000.

If you would like to learn more about Angela, the disease SJS/TEN, and the Andersons' advocacy for awareness and research, visit [www.AngelaWanpenAnderson.com](http://www.AngelaWanpenAnderson.com). The Andersons hope to see many at the June 8 chicken dinner, helping to put an end to the devastating disease that took Angela's life.

### A father's prayer

Lord, I need your special care. Like your earthly father, Joseph, I want to do God's will, even if I may not always understand. Make me gentle and selfless in the care of my family; help me guide them in the toils and troubles, the happiness and wonders of this life. Make me strong in love and forgiveness for those you entrust to my care. No one can do all this rightly, Lord, without your constant help. Be with me always, and when my work here is done, may I come to you in heaven, and all my family with me.

# Holy Cross Happenings

That's a wrap! Holy Cross' all-school musical this year was *The Addams Family*.



As advertised in last month's issue of *In Focus*, leads Gomez and Morticia Addams were spectacularly brought to life (as much as any Addams cares to appear "lively") by St. Patrick's parishioners Aidan Beckett and Christina Pembele. Other parishioners lending their considerable stage skills were Jasmine Waite as the very un-Addams like Alice Beineke, Natalie Caughlin as the ghoulish-yet-daffy Uncle Fester, Anna Loftus as Margaret Addams (wife of Cousin It), Hadley Peters as Ancestor Amelia Earhart, Grace Dimoke as Ancestor Billie Holiday, and Kate McMillan as Ancestor Joan of Arc. Ensemble cast members included Grace Arends, Eilla Pope, and Emily Surratt as adorable ghostly ancestors who dwell most of the year in the family crypt.

There was also exciting action on the academic front as Holy Cross students participated for the first time ever in **National Geographic's Geo Challenge**, wherein



students from grades 5-8 are given the task of solving a different environmental problem each year. Holy Cross had many different teams tackling this year's focus: plastic waste in the water supply. One team was selected to compete at the state event; all students who had participated got to go to support the team and see the

solutions other students from around the state came up with. It is safe to say the future is in very bright, caring hands.

National Geographic also held its state Geography Bee competition at the same event.

Parishioner **Jack McMillan**



qualified, and out of 100 students from all over the state, made it to the final round and finished 10th. Congratulations, Jack!

On the sports front, Holy Cross' track season ended recently with St. Pat's parishioner **Alyson Clements**



qualifying for state in the 400. Blessings to Alyson as she continues in competition!

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*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, contact Rachael McMillan (rachmcmill@gmail.com).*

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



# Holy Cross students tackled plastic

By Judy Crull,  
middle-grade science teacher



Every day when we retrieve our mail from the mailbox, inevitably the majority of it is junk mail to be discarded. But who would have thought that a postcard from National Geographic, delivered last fall, would have such an impact on 39 students? National Geographic started the GeoChallenge program two years ago.

Students were made aware of the plastic pollution problem in our world through resources provided by National Geographic. Teams of four to six people from different grade levels were created. Each team had to research and select a river in the world as focus for their project. The river selected was further researched to determine if its pollution problem was up-stream, mid-stream, or down-stream, and what type of plastic pollution was prominent on their river. Using their research, groups had to come up with a solution on how to clean up the plastic pollution to prevent plastic pollution from movement to the sea.

Groups had to produce a digital or physical map of their river that included source to sea and the location of their solution along their river. One group created a digital map that included pinpoints of

information along their river. The other groups' maps ranged from using recycled materials that incorporated their solution to poster boards. After students came up with their solutions for tackling plastic on their selected rivers, a four-minute summary video was filmed to submit to GeoChallenge for appraisal for the regional competition.

Now teams had to act to make an impact on how to reduce or prevent plastics in their waterways. With eight groups, one would expect some duplicates in ideas, but no, we had eight different solutions! Team Future Marine Biologists, composed of Aidan Beckett, Anthony Studer, Ashley Parada, Phil Withers-Sickles, and Rafaella Nunes, designed bumper stickers and car magnets to bring awareness to the issue.

Natalie Caughlin, Michael McCoy, Kristina Maloney, and Therez Herges, Team Blue Crew, made contact with an organization in Florida to help more people participate in their Miami Canal clean-up days by providing incentive ideas.

Contacting sub shops to convince them to use paper bags and place recycle bins near their doors was the solution of the Connecticut River Plastic Bashers: Christina Pembele, Kate McMillian, Jackson LeFaivre, Jakob Riley, and Ben Summers.

The Hanapepe River in Hawaii was the location chosen by Team Plastic Chiefs. Members Emma Martinez, Anna Loftus, Cal Meyers, Kyan Pope, and Nicolette Burton came up with a trading program: plastic fishing line and lures for non-plastic fishing line and worms.

Working with a local restaurant owner, the Plastic Attackers Disha Chawla, Dereje Jahiel, Giovanna Nunes, and Nick Unger created signs for the restaurant to persuade customers not to use plastic straws and to find other uses for their take-out containers.

Who would have thought that cigarettes had microplastics in them? Team Lady Liberty's Liquid Legacy – Tsega Jahiel, David Hasenstab, Pilar Martinez, Ian Cameron, and Dario Acosts-Jimenez – created comics to post on the ferry that transports visitors to the Statue of Liberty, convincing smokers to dispose of their cigarettes correctly.

Team Save Our World, Ava Borbley, Sylvia Withers-Sickles, Ashanty Contreras, Kate Frasca, Wyatt Brownfield, and Brooke McMahon, created a website through Weebly that provided links for people to find household products that do not use plastic, along with other easy ways to prevent plastic pollution.

Brooke Hasenstab, Jack McMahon, Daniela Stewart, Miles Moomaw, and Ann Lehmann, Team Wisconsin Heralds, created an infographic for their Wisconsin River. They contacted the *Wausau Daily Herald* about their project and were interviewed, bringing awareness to the citizens along this river.

Videos were submitted after four months of dedicated work on their projects. In February we were notified that five of our eight teams had made it to the GeoChallenge Regional competition: Team Blue Crew, Team Future Marine Biologists, Team Lady Liberty's Liquid Legacy, Team Plastic Attackers, and Team Plastic Chiefs. The competition was to be held at the Heartland Community College, in Normal, Illinois, so all teams loaded the bus for the competition to provide moral support. Fourteen teams competed, and Holy Cross provided five of them! Only one team would make it to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Although none of our teams was selected, I don't see this as a failure. The life lesson of teamwork and the passion ignited for the care of our Earth is reward enough!

## Parish Council News

We are pleased to introduce several new members of the Parish Council. They bring a wealth of experiences and are energized to serve our parish. We thank them in advance for their service!

Last year the Council did not add new members because several major projects required continuity of membership. Consequently, this year we have several new members to take the place of those whose terms have expired, with the goal of having a Council that more nearly reflects the diversity of the parish. Next year the Parish Council expects to return to a rotating membership and to draft new by-laws.

Here are the introductions they've prepared.



Hi! My name is **Becky Billman**. My husband, Steve, and I started attending St. Patrick Church after we moved to the St. Joseph-Homer-Sidney area in 2001. Before that we were members of St. Patrick Church in Tolono. I retired from the University of Illinois in July 2017 after working in human resources with Illinois International Programs for over 20 years.

I have been a member of St. Patrick's Art and Environment Team for much of the time that I've been a member of this parish. I enjoy this as a creative outlet, along with the challenge to enhance our liturgies. I am in the Quilting Group and have also helped out with food for funeral dinners.

I look forward to making a contribution as a member of the Parish Council, with the hope of

making progress on the great ideas (dreams!) Father Luke has for our parish.



Hi! I'm **Sarah Bonson**. I have been at St. Pat's since Fall 2017, when I was welcomed to the parish with open arms after I moved to Champaign-Urbana to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry at UIUC. I grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, and I studied at Mount St. Mary's University.

While I was at the Mount, I had the opportunity to lead several retreats and to serve on the Campus Ministry Student Advisory Board. In my senior year, I developed a *True Leadership* training, which focused on integrating our God-given talents with our faith to become everyday Christian leaders.

At St. Pat's, I enjoy serving as a Mass setup assistant, Eucharistic minister, and lector. I look forward to continuing to foster community and fellowship among people of all ages at St. Pat's as we journey toward Heaven together.

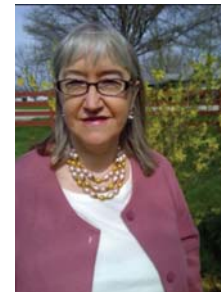


My name is **Richard Keane**. My wife, Trudy, and I have four children – Elizabeth, Rosemary, Catherine, and Patrick – all born and brought up in St. Patrick's Parish. I earned my Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at the UI and taught there for several years, retiring in December 2018.

June 2019

I have served in the parish as lector and Eucharistic minister; helped with the SVDP Food Pantry and the K of C fish fries, Ladies' Knight Out, and the Fr. Martell scholarship pancake breakfasts; collected Panera's leftover breads for distribution by the Food Pantry; worked for Empty Tomb's MegaWorkathons and helped with their furniture deliveries and home maintenance projects; and I am presently Deputy Grand Knight as a 4<sup>th</sup> order member of the Knights of Columbus.

I hope to help the parish continue to be a welcoming community, expand activities to assist underprivileged people, and increase interaction with churches of other denominations.



My name is **Bridget McGill**. I was born in Ireland, so St. Patrick Parish is just where I belong! I have been a parishioner for over 30 years and served on the Parish Council during the Capital Campaign for the expansion of the church. My husband, Gregory Danner, and I joyously celebrated our Marriage Blessing in 2014 with Fr. Joseph Hogan.

For many years I sang in both the parish choir and the funeral schola. I have also served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to Carle Hospital patients. I studied Christian Spiritual Direction at the Chiara Center in Springfield (Illinois) and was certified as a spiritual director in 2015. I founded St. Brigid's Well with Fr. Hogan's blessing. Beth McDonald and I have been co-leaders of a weekly study group that

**Parish Council ... Continued pg 7**



**Parish Council**

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began with *The Joy of the Gospel* in 2015 and continues to this day.

I look forward to serving my parish again as a Parish Council member.



Hi! I am **Jesus Sarol, Jr.** My wife, Lilen, and I emigrated from the Philippines two years ago. Both of us worked in the field of public health in the Philippines. My daughter Janina, born in Los Angeles, is currently a graduate student at UIUC. We hope our two other children can join us here soon.

I have been a Eucharistic minister since 2006 in the Philippines. At St Patrick's, I served as an EM at Sunday Masses and for homebound ministry, and as an assistant sacristan for Mass setup. I left these ministries last year to work in an international organization abroad. Now that I am back in Urbana, I am taking up ministry as an EM again.

Serving in this parish is my way of thanking the Lord for all his blessings.

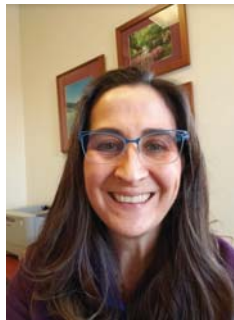


Hello! My name is **Chuck Schmitz**. My wife, Becki, and I have three children and live in St. Joseph. Grace is completing her

freshman year, Charlie sixth grade, and Sophie fourth grade. We have previously been members of St. Peter in South Beloit and Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet. We joined St. Patrick's eight years ago and have enjoyed being a part of this great parish.

I graduated from the U of I with a degree in Industrial Engineering. My working career has provided significant experience in managing teams, capital projects, budgeting, and problem solving.

My goal is to see our congregation continue to grow, encouraging younger generations to keep the faith.



Hi! My name is **Mary Schmitz**. I joined St. Pat's on Easter in 2018 through the RCIA program, having previously been a member of St John's Lutheran in Royal. My husband and our four children (ages 16, 14, 11, and 8) transferred their membership from St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Penfield to St. Pat's last summer.

Since then, we have been finding our place at St. Pat's, with the kids participating in Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir, ushering, serving Mass, and CCD/VIVO/CREW. My husband, Chris, has been teaching fifth-grade CCD in St. Joe, and my "job" has been scheduling and driving the kids! I look forward to participating in the Parish Council and lending a unique perspective to the group.



Hello, my name is **Mary Tate**, and I am a life-long member of St. Patrick's. My husband, Mark, and I have three young-adult sons.

While I was a student at the U of I, I began teaching Sunday school and sacrament preparation classes at St. Pat's. These experiences helped form my desire to become a Catholic school teacher. I have taught at Holy Cross School for 30 years, and I love being able to share my faith with my fourth-graders every day. I enjoy organizing many of the service projects in which our school participates.

At St. Pat's I play in the bell choir and feel blessed to be a part of our beautiful music ministry. I enjoy sharing my interests in cooking, baking, and photography with my family, friends, and parish. As a member of the Parish Council I look forward to serving in any way that I am needed.

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## St. Jeanne Jugan meeting



Candy Gilbert, standing, Senior Services Program Coordinator for OSF Health Care Social Seniors presented information about the new Social Senior program at OSF.

## Welcome to RCIA graduates!

Along with the blessings of Christ's Resurrection, at the Easter Vigil we celebrated Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, welcoming several new people into our faith community. The St. Patrick's RCIA class was joined by three members of St. Mary's Korean community; because St. Mary's Easter Vigil Mass was in Spanish, these young people chose to come to St. Patrick's church for Mass in English: Hyeonsuh Lee (Hailey), Hyo Jin Do (Gina), and Hae Woo Chung.

In addition, we were joined by three teens from our Congolese community, who received First Communion as a step towards their preparation for Confirmation next year: Bebel Mounka, Jeslie Mounka, and Jemima Nzeza.

We asked the neophytes who are joining St. Patrick's to tell us a little about themselves:



**Zac Dawkins**

I attended a Catholic LaSallian college, which was my first experience with the Catholic perspective of the Christian Faith. This was the first time I felt the loving dynamic of God. When my now fiancée asked if I would join her in attending Mass, I was open to the experience. St. Patrick's embodied the open loving nature of

the Catholic faith I had experienced in college.

I join my fiancée here at St. Patrick's. We're excited as we move towards our marriage this fall. I am a social worker and will begin classes this summer towards my MSW at the University of Illinois.



**Ben Dyer**

I arrived at the Catholic Church from my upbringing as a Tarheel Presbyterian through three preconditions: (1) a general interest in Reformation-era Europe, (2) a positive impression of the Church based upon its emphasis on serving the poor and not merely evangelizing them, and (3) marrying an Irish Catholic who is very thoughtful and smart. On this fertile ground, I read several works by Hans Kung, James Martin, and Christopher Haigh. The friendly folks at St. Patrick's iced it; here I am.

I was raised Presbyterian in Raleigh, North Carolina, and first came to the Midwest to attend Grinnell College. My wife, Katie, and I are both attorneys. We met in law school in Chicago, and we left careers in large law firms to work in public service and to start a family here in Urbana. I am an Assistant Public Defender, and I represent people who are accused of crimes but cannot afford to hire a lawyer on the private market. We live in Urbana with a cheerful toddler, a crazed springer spaniel, and a needy cat.



**Jose Garcia**

I decided to look into the Catholic faith because of my mom and my sister. I always see them going to church and praying, and they kept telling me that I needed to get closer to God and start going to church. This motivated me to begin.

I am from Mexico and have lived in the U.S. for 17 years. I work in a factory and enjoy what I do. My family is big – I have six brothers and one sister. We always help each other when needed, and we get along really well.



**Jake Luffman**

My mother's family was Catholic, and I decided last year that I wanted to explore the faith more.

I'm from the area and have one brother. I currently attend Parkland College, recently became an EMT, and am studying to become a firefighter.

**Graduates . . . Continued pg 11**





**Cari Ritchie**

My boyfriend attends church at St. Pat's and always spoke highly of it. I began attending Mass here and felt more comfortable after three or four times than I had ever experienced at other churches.

I have two sons, 15 and 30 years of age. I've worked at a law office for nearly 22 years. I enjoy Cubs baseball and watching my younger son participate in his sporting events.



**Sara Roskovic**

I was baptized Catholic and raised Lutheran. When I moved to town last year, I searched for a church community and St. Patrick's was a good fit.

I am a first-year special-education teacher in Urbana. I love working with and advocating for children with special needs.

## Parish grounds have their spring cleanup



On Saturday, April 13, about 15 people came to help "spring clean" the parish grounds. Adults, teens, and younger siblings lent a hand to tasks that included raking leaves; picking up litter, sticks, and branches; sweeping stairs and sidewalks; cleaning gutters; planting grass; and hauling away bags of yard waste.



Thanks to everyone's hard work, the tasks that Phil Davis had planned were completed in less than two hours! He really appreciated everyone's time, effort, and care for

the church grounds. Phil and some other men did quite a bit of trimming of bushes and other tasks in the weeks prior to the cleanup day.



## Let there be light!

Have you noticed some new lighting fixtures being installed in the parish center? In the main hall, new bulbs are being put into the existing fixtures; everywhere else, the fixtures are being replaced with flat LED panels.

Some areas are better lit because of the changes, but the big news is the savings. St. Patrick's will be saving about \$2000 per year on our energy bill, which is good for the parish and good for the earth. A rebate from Ameren is helping us pay for the new fixtures. And there will be very little maintenance once they are installed – no bulbs to replace!

Thanks to everyone who has helped to bring this project to fruition. Craig Goad had the ideas and experience that got things started. Electrical work is being done by Chuck Shaw, Kevin Martindale, and Keith Henry. Kai Nielsen is doing carpentry to make the new fixtures fit where the old ones were. What a great project!

## Why come to a meeting on annulments?

Are you a Catholic contemplating a second marriage and want to remain Catholic? Are you currently divorced and considering becoming Catholic through the RCIA program? Are you interested in finding out more about the annulment process because you're in a position to advise others? Then you will want to come to this informational meeting on annulments.

Bring your questions – all discussions are held in strict confidence, and there is no obligation to begin the process of applying for an annulment. But you can learn quite a lot by coming! This informational meeting will be held on Saturday, June 15, at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby of Trinity Hall. The meeting will feature three Notary-Auditors who serve the C-U area for the Diocese of Peoria. They will discuss the process and procedures, answer questions, and talk privately with any participant who requests it.

For most Catholics, the very word *annulment* brings to mind a legal process that straightens out a previous marriage to make way for a second one in the Catholic Church. While this is true, it is only a partial reason for considering an annulment even if a second marriage is not on the horizon.

The annulment process can also be a moment of grace, an opportunity for reconciliation with oneself as the petitioner asks the Catholic Church to examine the circumstances surrounding the marriage to determine whether it was indeed a sacramental union.



How does the process support this effort at resolution? The Church asks that both parties to a marriage honestly recall their state of mind and heart at the time of dating, engagement, and marriage. Through hindsight, each party is asked to examine their own maturity and motives as they took on the responsibility of a Christian marriage. Had they grown intellectually and spiritually to be able to embrace a long-term commitment fully and freely? Had either party used marriage as a means to escape other problems and relationships?

For those who are divorced and are now choosing to become Catholic after years of little or no church affiliation, seeking an annulment is a part of the attitude of growth. The desire to know a loving God entails making things right in our personal lives, including a marital relationship. Unburdening ourselves of guilt or anger offers freedom that enables us to make good decisions, to become the persons we were meant to be and to move forward in our temporal and spiritual lives.

The informational meeting will address both purposes of the annulment process – the legal and the spiritual. There is no obligation and no charge. If you desire to speak privately with an individual Notary, time can be arranged.

## Did you know . . .

The Communications Committee is looking to expand its membership to help with brainstorming for upcoming issues of *In Focus*, writing articles, taking photographs of parish events, editing articles to create a file for page layout, preparing the page layout for an issue to ready it for printing, and communicating with *The Catholic Post* about parish upcoming events. We've lost a couple of members recently, leaving us a little short of resources. Can you help?

### Vocation Prayer

**Father, at the end of every Mass you send us all forth to build up your kingdom. Help me to understand how I am to do this, given my current life situation. I pray especially for those whom you are calling to serve your Church as priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. Help them to hear and respond with generosity to your call to this special discipleship. We know that the harvest is great and the laborers few. Please provide for us men and women who will help to gather in a great harvest of souls!**





**Q: Father Luke, how do you expect that the increasing shortage of priests will affect our parish? We've already seen a couple of changes – Monday's Mass has been replaced by a Communion Service and another weekday**

**Mass is now regularly celebrated by a visiting priest. What other changes are we likely to see in the future?**

**A:** Short answer: Because people here are so generous and involved, I don't anticipate many changes. One of my favorite passages from the Bible is "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jeremiah 3:15). For me, this passage hearkens back to my time of discernment, but it also includes a promise from God to provide for the needs of his people. How do we reconcile the fulfillment of that promise while knowing there are fewer priests now than in the past? I could be light-hearted and say that it all depends on how hard the priests work! 😊

With great joy, I am happy to say that I love serving as a priest – I love helping hearts know God's love for them. As pastor, I'm always striving to meet the needs of our parish family and help people grow. I'm sorry if it ever seems that I'm too busy or that there are other priorities holding my attention! There are times when there are multiple demands at the same time – and times when I am disappointed that I'm not able to help everyone on a given day.

Since coming to St. Patrick, one of the things I've been most impressed by is the huge volume of life and activity here. One of the things I've struggled with is not being as available to all our family and parish activities as I wish I could. All that being said, I am learning (work in progress!) the need to prioritize, beginning with the sacraments.

We are so blessed here to have many wonderful and generous people who keep our ministries going and growing. Our staff is incredibly hard-working and generous – I am continually edified by what our staff does to provide for our parish! No doubt, the generosity of our parish family is able to absorb many shortcomings of availability and presence! I think this parish will continue to be active and vibrant no matter how many priests are serving here!

Are there any changes on the horizon? At this point, I think there are some changes coming, although I'm not sure yet exactly what they will be. Unfortunately, the issues with my health have been more challenging than I anticipated and have definitely affected my availability to our parish family. I have asked the Parish Council to help me review the Mass and sacrament schedule for this fall to make sure we are doing our best to fulfill the needs of our people. I've also been working on adjustments to my

calendar, with the hope of a better balance of rest that will help me recover my health.

I'm so thankful for everyone's prayers and well wishes!

## ***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)) and click on the image of *In Focus*. The most recent issues are there as well as issues dating back to 1981, when it was first published.

- 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 which reads: "Want to receive an email when new issues of *In Focus* are available online? Click here."
- Here are some tips to help you search for specific information or articles in *In Focus* online:
- To find older issues of *In Focus* by date, click on "In Focus Issues from Previous Years."
- To search for names and events in all issues of *In Focus*, use the search box near the top of the page. (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.)

July 1996



### **Another Britsky work of art part of St. Patrick's**

**A** painting that St. Patrick's parishioner Nick Britsky created as a present for a Champaign doctor has come back to Urbana as a gift from the late doctor's estate. The painting, created in 1958 for the late Dr. Jack Brodsky—as a gift from his wife, Lois—now hangs in the parish center lounge.

It was given to the church by the estate of the Brodskys, both of whom died earlier this year. The Brodskys were not parishioners of St. Patrick's, but the gift was arranged by parishioner Barbara Peckham, who organized the Brodskys' estate sale.

Lois Brodsky took an art class for adults, taught by Nick Britsky, and became a great admirer of his work.

"She liked my stuff," said Britsky, "and she asked me to do something as a birthday present. She gave me free license. I don't know why she did that, but we had just returned from a year in



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

## Card and flowers from our Muslim neighbors



On Sunday, April 28, Imam Ousmane and 8 other Muslim friends visited our noon Mass to pray for and honor the victims (mostly Catholic) of the bombing in Sri Lanka. They brought beautiful flowers as well as a large card with signatures of many members of their mosque.

### 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/duJ1> 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*.

## In our parish library ...

As summer approaches we think about going on journeys. Here are some books in the parish library related to spiritual journeys.

***In the Footsteps of the Mystics***, by Henry C. Simmons (248 SIM). This introduction to the spiritual life consists of topically arranged quotations from the Classics of Western Spirituality series. It provides a guide to the series and its writers, as well as to spirituality.

***Journey into God: Meditations and Stories from Scripture That Deepen Our Relationship with God***, by Patricia Beall Gavigan (231 GAU).

***The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey***, by Henri M. Nouwen (248 NOU). This journal documents the author's journey from Ivy League professor to the priest of a community of people with severe disabilities. It recounts one man's struggle for personal and spiritual growth.

***The Trodden Road: The Stages of the Spiritual Life***, by Hubert Van Zellen (248.2 VAN).

***The Way of the Pilgrim: Complete Text and Reader's Guide***, by Dennis J. Billy (248 WAY). A version of the original book about a nineteenth-century peasant seeking the truth with simple humility, finding joy and plenty everywhere in life.

***The Way to Christ: Spiritual Exercises***, by Pope John Paul II (248 WOJ). Inspiring sermons Pope John Paul II preached during spiritual retreats he led while he was still a cardinal. The book is helpful for those who seek spiritual renewal; it could also be used as a guide for spiritual direction and retreats, both on an individual and communal level.

***A Way without Words: A Guide for Spiritually Emerging Adults***, by Marsha Sinetar (248 SIN). This guide presents a method for adult spiritual growth through dialog, either alone or with a small group. "A way without words" is a term that refers to the fragility of the spoken language in describing the feelings and issues brought on by befriending your spiritual side, and also the difficulties of sharing these ensuing feelings and new personal realities with other people.

***Your Mythic Journey: Finding Meaning in Your Life through Writing and Storytelling***, by Sam Keen and A. Valley-Fox (155.2 KEE 1989). This is a book for those who find journaling a therapeutic path. It is a guide to self-discovery through crafting the stories that make up one's personal mythology.

\* \* \*

If you need help locating materials in the library, please contact Megan Raab ([raab41987@gmail.com](mailto:raab41987@gmail.com)), parish library coordinator. She will be happy to help.



# Who is St. John Fisher?

You have all heard of St. Thomas More, but do you know his contemporary and staunch Catholic, St. John Fisher? Both men incurred the wrath of King Henry VIII, and at the same time.

John Fisher was born in Beverley in Yorkshire, England, in 1469, the son of a modestly prosperous merchant. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1487, and a Master of Arts degree in 1491, both from Cambridge University. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood on December 17, 1491. Fisher became the chaplain and confessor to Margaret Beaufort, the mother of King Henry II.

As a scholar, John Fisher promoted the growth of Cambridge University by assembling funds and attracting leading scholars from Europe. He promoted not only the study of Latin and Greek at Cambridge, but also Hebrew. The great Dutch philosopher, Erasmus, said of Fisher, "He is the one man at this time who is incomparable for uprightness of life, for learning, and for greatness of soul." In 1504, Fisher was elected Cambridge University's chancellor for life.

As a priest, Fisher was appointed the Bishop of Rochester, England, by King Henry VII, in 1504. Ironically, Fisher became the tutor to Prince Henry, the future King Henry VIII. Fisher was appointed to preach the funeral oration for Henry VII and his wife,

the Lady Margaret, both of whom died in 1509.

Once Henry VIII became king, disagreements arose between him and Fisher, his former tutor. Fisher criticized Henry's Parliament as it began encroaching on the Catholic Church's prerogatives. In 1532, Fisher preached publicly against Henry VIII's divorce from Queen Catherine of



Aragon. Others felt the same; Sir Thomas More resigned his chancellorship to Henry VIII in that year.

In 1533, Fisher was arrested to keep him from opposing the divorce and Henry's subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn and her coronation as

queen. In 1534, he refused to take Parliament's Oath of Succession acknowledging that any child born to Henry and Anne would be the legitimate heir to the throne.

Fisher was again imprisoned in the Tower of London, as was Thomas More. To ease the king's harsh treatment of Fisher in the Tower, Pope Paul III made him a cardinal. This infuriated Henry, who forbade the cardinal's hat to be brought to England -- he said he would send Fisher's head to Rome instead.

In 1535, Fisher was made to stand trial as a commoner for treason because he denied that Henry VIII was the Supreme Head of the Church of England. He was found guilty and condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Henry was made aware that a public outcry was brewing so he quickly had the sentence commuted to beheading. This took place on Tower Hill on June 22, 1535.

Thomas More was also executed on Tower Hill on July 6, 1535.

John Fisher was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 19, 1935, along with Thomas More. St. John Fisher's feast day is June 22, celebrated jointly with that of St. Thomas More.

## Vivo takes a creative approach to Easter

How do you celebrate Easter? Did you know that Easter is 50 days long, and we should celebrate every one of those days? That's the lesson learned at the Vivo end-of-year party, where they had a contest to recreate Jesus' resurrection with snack foods.

On the right in the accompanying photo are the three women (marshmallow bodies with fruit snack heads) at the empty tomb (complete with fruit beside the grave clothes), and the angel (recognizable by the Goldfish wings) saying that Jesus is not there. On the left is (marshmallow) Jesus



gathered in the Upper Room with the 11 remaining disciples (Goldfish).

Many thanks to Tatiana and the other U of I students who led Vivo this year. And Happy Easter!

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

Carm Walsh

### Cream Cheese Brownie Pie

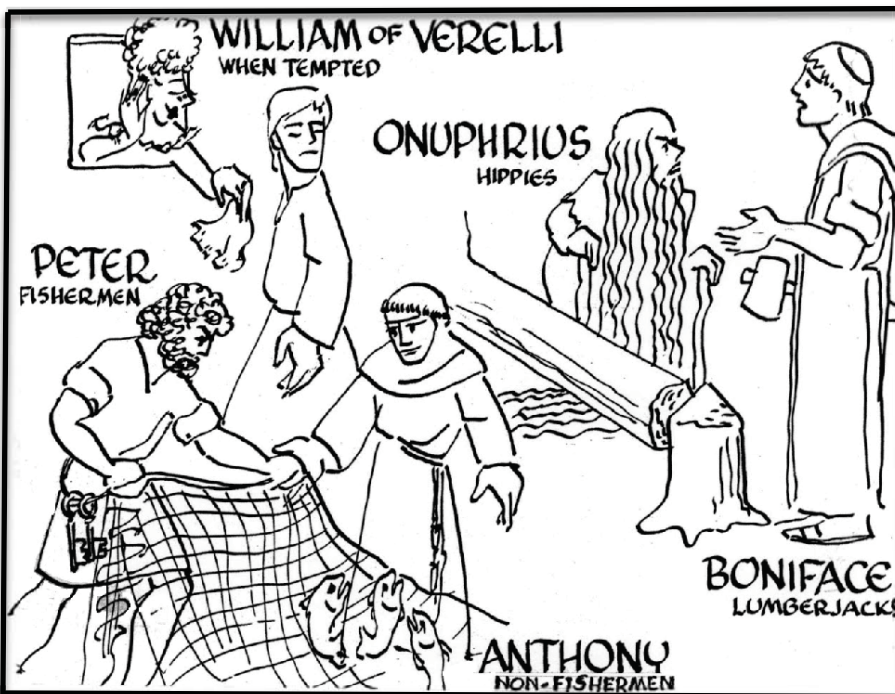
1 frozen deep-dish pie shell, thawed  
 1 8-oz pkg cream cheese, softened  
 3 T white sugar  
 1 t vanilla  
 1 egg  
 1 fudge brownie mix  
 1/2 c chopped pecans



Combine cream cheese, white sugar, vanilla, and egg, and beat until smooth. Set aside. In a large bowl, prepare brownie mix as directed on the package. Spread half the brownie batter in the bottom of the unbaked pie shell. Carefully spoon and spread cream cheese mixture over the brownie batter. Then carefully spoon and spread remaining brownie batter over the cream cheese layer. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Bake at 350° for 40-50 minutes, or until the center is puffed up and the crust is golden brown. For an additional treat, spoon hot fudge sauce over pie wedges before serving.

\* \* \*

*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!*



June Saints by Fr. George Wuellner



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

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

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**Articles, information, and photos** for this issue were provided by Paul Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Mary Kate Arend, Becky Billman, Mardia Bishop, Sarah Bonson, Judy Crull, Luis Cuza, Zac Dawkins, Ben Dyer, Maureen Elsbernd, Judy Fierke, Jose Garcia, Denise Green, Richard Keane, Jake Luffman, Bridget McGill, Susie McArthur, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Cari Ritchie, Sara Roskovic, Cathy Salika, Chuck Schmitz, Mary Schmitz, Jesus Sirol, Fr. Luke Spannagel, Mary Tate, Carm Walsh, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Shirley Splittstoesser.



The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (July/August) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, June 9.**