

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

April 2020

## Many facets

Have you ever looked closely at a diamond or other gem? Then you know how the light dances around the stone. Sometimes one facet flashes, sometimes another, but it's always the same gem and the same light source.

Holy Week is like that. As we recall the days of Jesus' glory, his suffering, death, and resurrection, there's so much to savor that we can't take it in all at once. So the Church spreads out the memory and reflection over several days and lets us slowly turn the gem in our hands so now one facet, now another, flashes brilliantly.

What would it have felt like to be one of Jesus' closest followers in these days? Imagine the excitement of the crowd as he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Perhaps you would have felt that Jesus was about to make a big move to increase his power and the reach of his teaching. You would have been right, but would you ever have guessed how he would do it?

Imagine the security of the Passover supper, those rituals that, more than anything, expressed your

confidence as a member of God's chosen people. Would you have been perplexed by the twists of meaning in Jesus' words? Imagine the shock and helplessness of seeing Jesus arrested, given a sham of a trial, and sent to an ugly death.

Imagine the even greater shock of encountering the risen Lord, and coming to understand that his teaching, death, and resurrection have changed everything. All of these emotions are ours to ponder as we tilt the gem from side to side.

There are so many events to recall, so many ideas at the center of our faith. The gift of Jesus' body in the Eucharist on Thursday shifts into the gift of his body on the cross the next day. The shouts of acclaim and the shouts of "Crucify him" are both silenced as his body lies in the tomb, and then are followed by the silence of awe and wonder on Easter.

The community of faith, peaceably gathered on Thursday and shredded by fear on Friday, comes together at the Vigil to welcome new members.

**Many facets** .....Cont. Pg 2



## See what's happening in the Peace and Justice Ministry!

The St. Patrick Peace and Justice Coalition met in February to brainstorm about 2020 and activities that promote social justice. Here are some of the activities being planned in the coming months.

In **April**, there will be a letter-writing campaign on environmental issues. It is also the start of the growing season! SVDP Food Pantry

**Peace and Justice** . . . . .Cont. Pg 2

### Read *In Focus* online

Did you know you can read *In Focus* online at the parish web site? Click on the image of *In Focus*, or go directly to <http://www.stpaturbana.org/focus/>. From there you can

- Read recent issues
- Subscribe to receive an email when future issues are available
- Review our complete archive of issues going back to 1981
- Search the archive

It's a great resource for history buffs, genealogists, and people who love the story of our parish!

*For those who prefer to read In Focus in print, copies are available at the church doors.*

## Many facets

Continued from Pg 1

By living these days together, especially by celebrating the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, we have the time to play with this gem in the light and to be changed by its beauty.

These days are a single gem, the gem of God's love for us, of Jesus' work for our salvation. It is illumined by the Spirit's gift of growth in faith and understanding. How blessed we are to have these days each year to savor the many facets of our faith!

## Peace and Justice

Continued from Pg 1

Garden coordinator Anna Fedders needs many volunteers to help out over the spring and summer with watering, weeding, harvesting, and maintaining the garden, which helps provide our food pantry guests with fresh produce. If you enjoy gardening, please consider helping out now and then!

A job fair/educational forum for formerly incarcerated people and potential employers is planned for **May**.

Members of the coalition are working on a voters' guide that supports the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church, to be distributed in **Jun**.



**July** is always a good month for an ice cream social. The LGBTQ+ Ministry will host one!

In **August**, some members of the LGBTQ+ Ministry hope to attend a national conference of LGBTQ+ ministries from Catholic parishes.

A voter registration drive is scheduled for **September**. If you are a certified registrar, your help would be much appreciated!

Do you ever wonder how to be a good ally to our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers? An ally training workshop will take place in **October**.

Of course, **November** is the time for the SVDP Food Pantry's annual distribution of Thanksgiving baskets.

Events not yet scheduled include the SVDP Food Pantry Friends Dinner and a guest speaker on *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment.

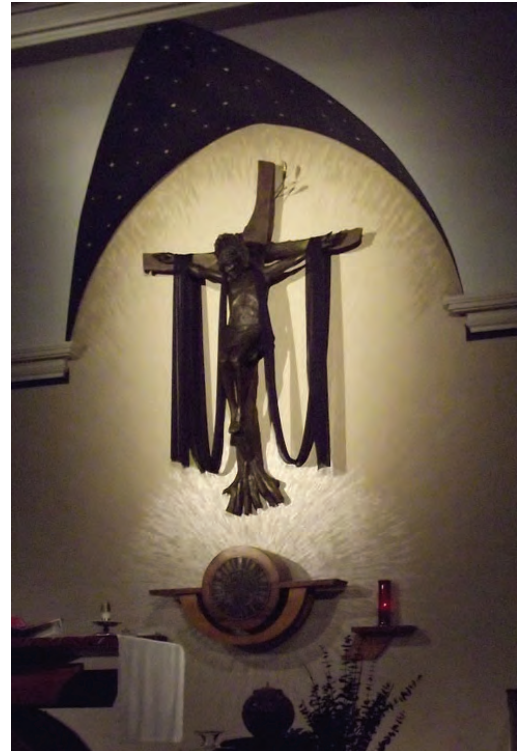
Finally, there is an immediate need for a volunteer who can organize and coordinate a group of St. Patrick's parishioners to take part in upcoming Habitat for Humanity builds.

Are you interested in getting involved in any of these activities? Please contact pastoral associate Jim Urban (367-2665 or [jim.urban@stpaturban.a.org](mailto:jim.urban@stpaturban.a.org)) or Peace and Justice Coalition

member Eileen Mathy ([emaryu@gmail.com](mailto:emaryu@gmail.com)).

Peace and Justice Coalition meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. Come join our ministry! All are welcome.

**On Fridays in Lent, we pray the Stations of the Cross, then come together to share a Lenten Supper.**





## A saint who inspired the poor and the popes

Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort was born on January 31, 1673, in Montfort-la-Cane, a small town in Brittany, France. As a child Louis de Montfort possessed a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and was intimately devoted to the Blessed Virgin especially through the Rosary. He took the name Marie at his confirmation.

As a teenager Louis-Marie de Montfort showed a love for the poor. In school he joined with other young men who ministered to the poor and sick on school holidays. When he was 19 years old, he walked 130 miles to Paris to study theology. Along this journey he gave away all his possessions to the poor. He arrived in Paris penniless in old clothes and no shoes.

While studying in Paris at the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, he delighted in researching the writings of Church Doctors, Church Fathers, and saints as they related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was ordained in June 1700 at the age of 27. By the age of 32, he discovered his great gift for preaching. He drew thousands to hear his sermons in which he encouraged frequent communion and devotion to Mary.

He met with opposition in France from the heretical Jansenism movement. They professed predestination in which only a

chosen few were saved and the rest damned. Even some bishops succumbed to this heresy and banned Louis-Marie de Montfort from preaching in their dioceses. Some Jansenists went so far as to poison him, but he survived, although he suffered ill health the rest of his life.

While recuperating from the effects of the poison, Louis-Marie de Montfort wrote his masterpiece of Marian piety, *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. It has inspired millions of people and many popes. Pope John Paul II chose for his

papal motto “Totus Tuus,” the first two words of this total consecration to Jesus through Mary. “Totus tuus ego sum” means “I am all yours.”

Under Mary’s inspiration, Louis-Marie founded the Divine Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. These were women dedicated to the care of the

destitute. He also founded the Company of Mary, a missionary congregation of men popularly known as Montfort Fathers. He inspired the congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel, committed to the education of youth.

Louis-Marie de Montfort died on April 28, 1716, at the age of 43, in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre, France. He was beatified on January 22, 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He was canonized on July 20, 1947, by Pope Pius XII. The cause for his declaration as a Doctor of the Church is now being pursued. His feast day is April 28, and he is venerated as a patron of preachers. Over 25,000 pilgrims each year visit the place of his birth and his tomb.



## Vocations: what can we do to help?

When we look around us, we see people dedicated, consecrated, to service of God’s people: priests and religious men and women. We see married couples of all ages, some new to that life, some settled in for their lifetimes together. We see single men and women focused on making the world more habitable for others – the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized. But what of others?

If you know someone who seems somewhat unsettled, or young enough to not yet have explored what God may be calling them to, pray that they stop and listen for God’s input. Suggest that they find a confidant who may be able to help them hear God’s call. Invite them to consider all their options: not just a state of life but ways that a state of life may enable them to serve God’s people. Explain the importance to them of silent prayer, of taking time to listen to God’s voice in their hearts.

How long has it been since you broached the idea of the priesthood or religious life with a young person?

Most of all, pray.



### Vocation prayer

Father, hear the prayers of your people, and bring to maturity the seeds you have sown in the field of your Church. May many of your people choose to serve you by devoting themselves to the service of their brothers and sisters. Father, keep us all faithful to the call of the gospel that the world may see in us the living image of your son.

# My experience of the Cursillo

By Frank Rosser

I recently attended the Men's Cursillo retreat held at St. Patrick's. I was asked to reflect on it and write a few words about the experience. First I should point out what was told to me when I asked beforehand about what to expect. I was told it is almost impossible to explain but rather needs to be experienced. I believe this is true, for in trying to write about it I can see that words can only scratch the essence of it.



The retreat started on Thursday evening, February 20, and ended on Sunday, February 23. It was attended by 33 men from several local parishes. That in itself is one of the most powerful impressions I have of the weekend, one of fellowship, a shared spirit of a willingness to grow in our understanding of our relationship to God. Some of the men were attending as directors and organizers, others as discussion leaders, still others, like myself, as first-timers.

Unlike other retreats, the Cursillo was not a time of silent reflection to achieve individual growth. Rather, it was a steady progression of topics presented by both lay men and clergy in order to obtain growth in our shared responsibility as Church. Following each presentation, we were given time to review and discuss the material. When I say "steady progression of topics," I refer to the way the topics built on each other to slowly reveal to us a bigger picture of our faith and our duties as members of Christ's

body, the Church. In so doing, it also served to rekindle in us our love for God and neighbor.

Another impression I have is of the huge extended community that supported the retreat. From those working in the kitchen to feed us, to those working security around the clock, to those praying for us to have a spirit-filled experience (and writing us notes of encouragement), I walked away a bit humbled and inspired. Prior to the retreat I had viewed my role in the Church as a very personal thing, my faith was mine to deal with, and if I stepped outside myself to serve God, it was as an individual. I now see how ineffectual that is. The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit is where two or more of us are gathered. The Cursillo reminded me that this shared experience of God is the path forward to serving God effectively.

I have many more vivid memories of the Cursillo: time spent in church, in prayer, at meals, that added to this impactful weekend, but as I was told, it can't be explained. You have to experience it. So please be open to God's invitation to know him better and sign up for the next Cursillo. You won't regret it!

*In the dark night of my soul  
I long for someone's comfort  
and no one comes.  
There is no one to call.  
I imagine Jesus in the Garden  
praying until sweat become  
blood  
and even the disciples would  
not wake.  
This night is my garden.  
When will help come?  
The dark night passes  
and no one came.  
Or perhaps Christ was here all  
along  
Leading me into the dawn.  
—Naomi Faw*

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council has been busy with several projects. Here are updates on some of them.

**Fr. Luke Scholarship:** Due to the generosity of our parishioners, we raised \$13,598 to fund the Fr. Luke Scholarship to be given to a St. Patrick student who is attending a Catholic grade school or high school. In consultation with Fr. Luke and the staff, the Parish Council developed the criteria for the award, the selection process, and the scholarship amount. One student each year will be selected to receive \$1000 to be used for tuition.



In order to be considered for the award, students must demonstrate financial need as well as the following characteristics: friendliness and/or kindness to all, a commitment to grow in faith, and service to the church or Catholic activities at school.

We have asked each of the principals of the schools our students attend to nominate one student from their school. Currently, St. Patrick students attend Holy Cross, St. Matthew, St. Thomas in Philo, and The High School of St. Thomas More. Once the nominations are received at the beginning of April, Karen Barnes, St. Patrick's bookkeeper, and Jon McCoy, director of religious education, will select the winner.

Thank you to the many who donated to this fund in honor of Fr. Luke!

**Photo Directory/Registration Updating:** Get your smile on! During the month of April, members of the Parish Council, the staff, and CREW (the high school youth group) will be in the foyer after every Mass to take your photo and update your registration. We want to include all parishioners in the directory so that all of us can put a name to a face and a face to a name, thereby building an even more friendly community. On the same weekends, we want to update our list of registered parishioners. If you aren't on the list, we encourage you

to register; if you have a change in telephone or address or family members, we want to make those changes.

**Diminishing the Building Debt:** Currently, we need \$408,000 to pay off the loan we had to take from the diocese to complete our church expansion. The Parish Council will try a few strategies in hopes of eliminating the debt by the end of the summer. Stay tuned!

**New Bylaws:** Thanks to the work of our trustees, George Fahey and Pat Justice, the council approved new bylaws. They are on the parish website ([stpaturbana.org](http://stpaturbana.org)) if you would like read them. The bylaws identify the nominating and selection process of Parish Council members, as well as their responsibilities. In accordance with the new bylaws, the council is seeking new members to serve a three-year term. The new members will begin their term in May.



“Hands for Healing, Hands for Harming,” a work from the “Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church” art exhibition.

May our hands  
     be for healing  
     and not harm.  
 May our mouths  
     speak truth  
     and our hearts extend  
     transparency  
     until our church is restored  
     and the wounded  
     are brought back  
     into the fold,  
     renewed and strengthened  
     by the love of God  
     and others.

---from the “Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church”  
 project



# Why do we have In Focus?

St. Patrick parish has a weekly bulletin, so why do we also have *In Focus*, the monthly newsletter? The Communications Committee can answer that question by sharing an explanation of our mission statement.

Our mission is to build up the St. Patrick community by:

**Publicizing and reporting on events.** The weekly bulletin provides the basic information about an event, so we try to expand on that. Why should parishioners be excited about this event? What is its purpose? The inspiration? Who is involved? If it is an annual event, what is its background? We try to get readers excited about attending.

**Encouraging participation.** We strive to keep parishioners informed and aware of the spiritual, service, and social opportunities that exist in our parish through our many parish groups and ministries, and give them reasons why they might want to get involved.

**Chronicling parish life.** We report on parish events, note milestones, delve into the history of the parish, and explore parish developments. We interview every new pastor or parish staff member when they arrive, and again when they leave. To read past issues is to read a history of the life of our parish.

**Strengthening ties.** If you regularly attend one particular Mass or confine your activities to one parish group, there are many other people and groups you know nothing about. We work to bridge the gap between groups and communities by informing the entire parish about its different parts.

**Deepening faith.** Our seasonal reflection explores an aspect of our faith. The Q&A feature answers questions about Catholic practice

and Church traditions. Most issues feature a saint celebrated that month, as well as prayers. We include information about retreats and other aids to spiritual development.

The specific responsibilities of the Communications Committee are to:

**Publish *In Focus* eleven times per year.** We publish every month except for August. How we produce *In Focus* will be described in a future article.

**Serve as liaison to *The Catholic Post*.** Each month, one of our members sends information about upcoming parish events and activities to *The Catholic Post* so that readers around the diocese can have a glimpse of the vibrant parish that is St. Patrick, Urbana.

Would you like to take part in

this mission? The Communications Committee is open to all parishioners. The main work of the committee meetings is to propose ideas and plan articles for upcoming issues, so you do not need to be a writer to join. Your ideas and suggestions from your personal experience of the parish are a valuable contribution to our work.

Conversely, you do not need to attend committee meetings in order to write, take photographs, copyedit, or do page layout for *In Focus*. You can volunteer your time to fit your schedule.

If you would like to join the Communications Committee in our mission, please contact us ([infocusstpats@gmail.com](mailto:infocusstpats@gmail.com)).

**A Call to Stewardship**  
St. Patrick's Parish, Urbana, Illinois Fall 1981

**Show Me**  
"Words, words, words!" I'm sick of words," cried the Dredgite, frowning by her belittled actions in the market. My feet lay. "Don't talk of love. Show me!"  
In May 1979 our Parish Council approved our Parish Mission Statement. You had wanted to read it and would like to find words that would summarize our vision.  
The words are good. But they need flesh and blood and life. The Lord challenges us. "Show me! Show me you are striving to be the head of parish community you have said you are."  
The message tells you how we try to live by our mission. The page that follows outlines the various ways we answer the call to service and the call to community in St. Patrick's Parish. There are 8 chapters to follow available to you or you can contribute your own ideas to our ongoing life and mission.  
Our worship, our spiritual efforts, our services and activities have developed to this point in both quantity and quality because many of you have been generous with your time, talent and treasure. You are the people who have given your talent to serve on volunteer staffs, committees and groups. You are the people who have given your time to participate in liturgical studies, Guild meetings and other programs and activities. You are the people who have given your money to help pay the light bill, fund a worship and much too many expenses of a parish today.  
We are grateful to you who have given us generously in answer to God's call. We count on your continued generosity to help us live by our mission.  
If you are new to St. Patrick's, we welcome you. We invite you to join us in giving life to our mission. There are a wide variety of possibilities. Choose the ones that interest you and claim your share of our mission.  
If you have been here for some time, but have not yet set on longer to do much of anything in the life and mission of the parish, we urge you to become active. Find the people in which you can give your talents to sustain our life together.  
The 8 chapters are in brackets. It is an invitation from the Lord. It is an invitation to responsible stewardship, i.e. proper management of your gifts and proper stewardship of the mission of all good gifts.  
The Parish Council is asking for at least one hour of sharing for our life together. That is the minimum measure for sharing time and treasure with the parish. (That is much harder to measure!)  
At the time in your life when you will be able to do just that. A line of you will not be able to do more than what we understand and are grateful for whatever you can give to further our mission.  
Many of you are able and ought to do much more. In your discontinuous line of sharing is not an adequate

**St. Patrick's Parish Mission Statement**  
Our God is a loving, forgiving, faithful God, whose mission is to call "Father." He acts and reaches himself most fully in Jesus and continues his life activity through the work of the Holy Spirit. We, the people of St. Patrick's Church in the Urbana/Dredgite area, believe in this God and are committed to live and act out of this faith according to the Roman Catholic tradition.  
United by our common faith, shared hope and mutual charity, we are called to give more and more to a people who worship God through prayer and the sacraments, who study God's revelation in Scripture, tradition, and the signs of the times, who are called to be both men and women and who will of God's love by our deeds and our words.  
We acknowledge that we fulfill this mission together - at least. It is only by God's grace and the full participation of this mission only in the final establishment of the Kingdom.  
St. Patrick's Parish Council May 1979

**Hour of Sharing**  
Have you ever wondered who...  
Each one of us at St. Patrick's has been blessed by God with talents, skills, and abilities which we responsibly take to the parish. Because we consider them so valuable we may not use their talents for our parish. Consider for a moment, that best skill, reading, commonly accepted in our culture. The "talent" skill plays a significant part in our living as the reader's factors share with us the word of the Lord. Other "talent" skills are also important to the activities of St. Patrick's. It is all in the use of the talents. Who is it all in the use of the talents who can give. And who distributes the talents? The person who has an hour or so to share or an hour or so other parishioners to find God's word.

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The very first issue of *In Focus*



**Q:** “Why are catechumens received into the Church during the Easter Vigil instead of earlier at a special time of their own that day? The Easter Vigil includes so many other ceremonies that it doesn’t seem to need one more.”

**A:** Yes indeed, the Easter Vigil is packed full with readings, music, and initiations. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) actually calls for catechumens to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil as part of the glorious celebration of Christ’s resurrection. During Lent, catechumens are making their final preparations to be received into the Church, following the traditions of the early Church. We celebrate our own new life in Christ by welcoming them into our faith.

The Vigil has four parts: (1) the blessing of the fire and the Easter candle (usually followed by the procession into the church and singing of the Exsultet), (2) the liturgy of the Word – recounting salvation history, (3) the initiation of new members into the Church, and (4) the celebration of the Eucharist. Each of these parts reflects the resurrected Jesus, the new light, new life, and his new creation.

Baptism is deeply connected to the cross and

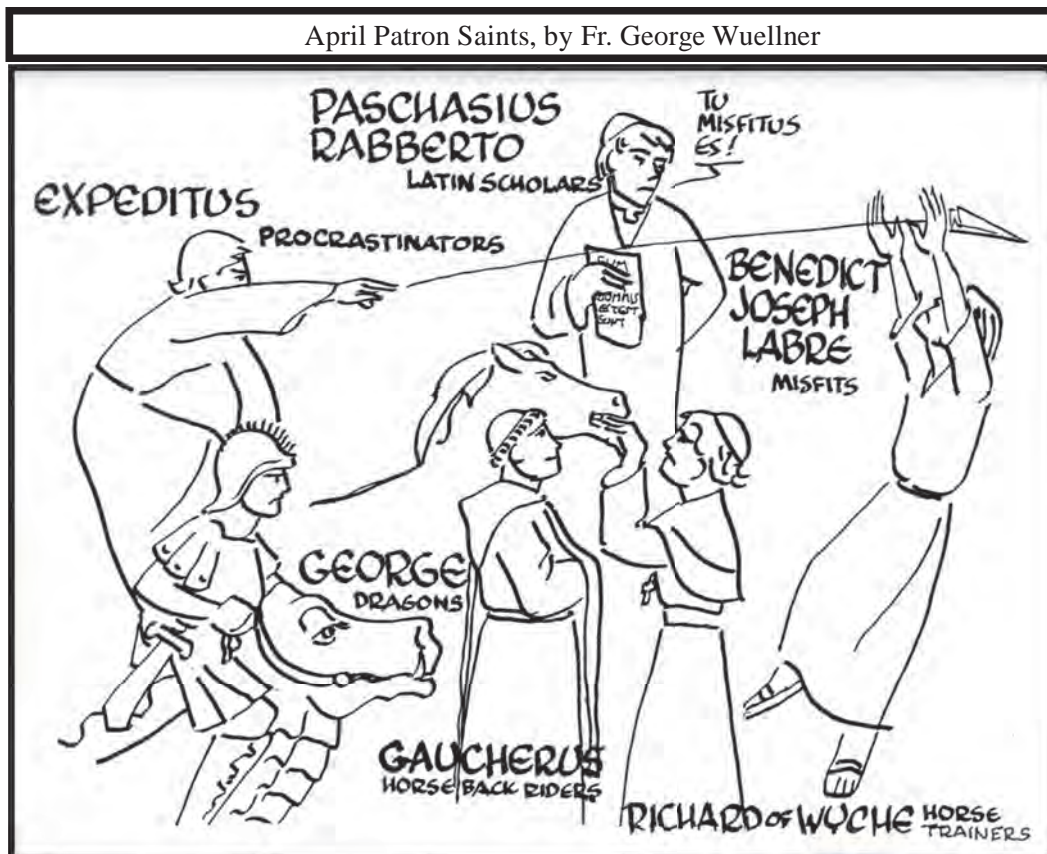
resurrection. We place our sin on Christ’s cross and come out of the water because of Christ’s resurrection. Those who are joining the Church are joining a community of believers that stretches throughout this world and beyond, into the communion of saints. As we witness the baptism of others, we can recall and renew our baptismal promises and pray for and encourage these new members of our faith.

Many converts see the Easter Vigil as the anniversary of their becoming Catholic, regardless of the shifting dates, and come to the Vigil every year to remember and celebrate with those who are receiving the sacraments for the first time. How better to celebrate Christ’s saving power than by praying for and welcoming adults who have found new life in Christ?

There are occasions when a person receives the sacraments of initiation at a Mass that is not the Vigil, but those are exceptional circumstances. And there may be times when a parish does not have anyone being initiated, thus eliminating that part of the Vigil. But that could also mean that the parish is not growing and spreading their faith—and that would be sad, wouldn’t it?

\*

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



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

- **Pan-Roasted Mahi-Mahi**

- 1/4 c all-purpose flour
- 4 7-oz mahi-mahi fillets
- salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 T fresh lime juice
- 3 T butter (divided)

Preheat oven to 350°. Season fillets with salt and pepper and lightly dredge in the flour. Melt two tablespoons butter in ovenproof skillet. Add fillets and cook until pale golden on one side, 2–3 minutes. Turn fillets over, transfer skillet to oven, and roast until butter is golden brown, 6–8 minutes. Transfer fillets to plates; keep warm. Immediately add lime juice and remaining butter to skillet and deglaze, stirring and scraping up brown bits. Spoon sauce over fillets and serve.

\*

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

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Did you know . . .

Worried about the coronavirus? Pray to St. Sebastian, the protector against the plague, a nasty contagious illness that wiped out millions of lives in Europe during the Middle Ages.



The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (December) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, March 29.**