

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

February 2020

The tiny flashlight

Imagine being in a dark room with a friend and a small flashlight – a tiny one such as you might have on your key ring. Sometimes you pick out your friend’s face with the light. Sometimes you illuminate her hands and the task she is working on. Sometimes the light wavers and picks out a shoulder or a foot. You see your friend a bit at a time, but you always know she’s completely there, all of her, body and spirit.

The liturgical year is like that. As the year goes ‘round, different aspects of Jesus are highlighted. Sometimes we ponder Jesus as an infant, sometimes as a king, sometimes as a teacher, sometimes as the Son of God. But we always know that he is completely there, every bit of him. Good Friday is a day of glory because we know its role in our salvation. Easter has great depth, in part because we know the suffering and love that preceded it.

As the year goes ‘round, we also ponder different aspects of ourselves. Sometimes we find ourselves fondling the baby Jesus. Sometimes we sit listening to the Teacher. Sometimes we can see that we are growing closer to him, and sometimes we find it hard to pay attention.

This year the great season of Lent begins on February 26. As it approaches, we might be thinking about how we can grow in faith and service, what things we need to



turn away from and what things will help us grow into a deeper relationship with God, with one another, and with creation. Your tiny flashlight might pick out an area of sin that you want to leave behind. If it does, remember the whole picture, that you are deeply, personally, passionately loved by God. The reason to turn from sin is to grow in love for him. Or maybe your tiny flashlight picks out a troubled relationship that you hope to repair. Remember the love that God has for both of you and the capacity for love and compassion that he gives to both of you.

The full light of day is wonderful, of course, but the tiny flashlight has its uses too. It can help us to focus, or maybe even to see something that we would have overlooked. But always remember the whole picture: Jesus loves you, is always with you, will always help you to draw closer to himself and to others.

From the staff of *In Focus*:



Happy Valentine’s Day!

The Super Bowl Breakfast is a winning tradition

The winner of the Super Bowl is irrelevant compared with the winner of the St. Patrick’s Parish Super Bowl Breakfast.

Since 1998 the proceeds from the breakfast extravaganza goes toward the Father Charles Martell Scholarship Fund, a special Knights of Columbus account that provides college scholarships to deserving high school students who have attended St. Patrick’s.



This year’s Super Bowl Breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, in the parish center. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and make a freewill offering to support the event and the Martell Scholarship Fund.

You’ll get more than a great breakfast of salmon, scrambled eggs,

see **Super Bowl Breakfast** on page 2

Thanks for sharing a mug of Christmas cheer with our neighbors!

A very big thank you to all of the parishioners who had a part in the 2019 St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Mug Give-away. Many contributed items to fill the mugs (the socks were popular and appreciated) and a nice cohort came to fill the mugs. All in all, there were more than 150 beautifully wrapped gifts for our SVDP Food Pantry Friends. Thank you to those who took time during the week before Christmas to greet people and hand out the mugs. Thanks to all of the people at St Patrick's for sharing the joy of Christ's birth with others. See you next year!



Parishioner Sarah Acklin helps distribute the last of the Christmas mugs.

Super Bowl Breakfast from page 1

biscuits and gravy, omelets, pancakes, waffles, ham, mixed fruit, beignets, sweet rolls, and coffee, milk, and juice. You'll also get warm fellowship on a cold winter's morning, the opportunity to support a great cause, and the chance to debate which team will win the big football game. (Spoiler alert: It won't be the Chicago Bears.)

The St. Patrick's Super Bowl Breakfast began modestly one morning in January 1998 when Knights of Columbus members Steve Beckett and the late Jim Risatti were discussing at Sunday morning coffee shop the possible Super Bowl contenders. Risatti was pulling for the Denver Broncos while Beckett backed the Green Bay Packers.



Risatti suggested turning their partisanship into a friendly breakfast competition.

His team would be the Denver Broncos Omelets versus Beckett's Green Bay Packers Biscuits and Gravy.

Beckett and Risatti recruited other Knights to prepare and serve the breakfast, which was offered after both the 7:30 and 9 a.m. Masses. The Packers led after the 7:30 Mass but the Broncos came from behind and won the first-ever Super Bowl Breakfast (although the Packers won the real Super Bowl later that evening).

The competition spawned much good-natured jocular-ity, with references to "Heart Attack on a Plate" biscuits and gravy and "Foo-Foo" omelets. But it has been such a great success that this will be its 23rd year. It's no longer a competition but a diner-take-all event with a great assortment of items, organized and presented by "Master Chef" Tom Costello, with the support of a dozen or more other Knights.

Don't miss this opportunity to continue a winning tradition that supports an important parish fund, named for the late pastor of St. Patrick's from 1957 to 1977.

Make a difference in a child's life: be a mentor

Champaign-Urbana One-to-One Mentoring seeks adults to meet with students from the public schools and become a caring person in that student's life. New training dates:

- January 30, 6:30-8:30 pm at Urbana Middle School, 1201 S. Vine, Urbana
- February 4, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Champaign Mellon building on New and John streets, Champaign
- February 12, 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Champaign Mellon building on New and John streets, Champaign

Interested persons must complete a mentor application and be registered for one of these training sessions. Please contact parishioner Paula Partin (partinpa@U4sd.org or 217-351-3807) for more information and an application. Sign up today—you can become that someone special!

Many hands make a work of art

Did you notice the beautiful new banner on the south wall of the church this Christmas season? The St. Patrick’s Art and Environment team decided it was time for a new Christmas banner, as the old one was showing wear. The process of creating a new banner began when a team member saw an image on Pinterest, a design inspired by a Christmas card featuring a painting by artist Cass Moore. In October, the team bought the pattern from Elsie Quilts in Canada, and selected their fabrics, mostly batiks, which they purchased from Sew Sassy, a sewing supply store in Urbana. Then they were ready to begin work.

The original 35- x 35-inch pattern had to be increased to approximately 90 x 90 inches in order to fit nicely into the space in the church. Pattern pieces were traced, using a lightbox, onto a fusible material, then fused to their respective fabrics. Marcia Raab, Marilyn Pollard, and Susan Reese worked together to cut out



Pattern pieces.



Assembling “the puzzle.”

685 pieces of fabric, which Becky Billman then arranged and fused to a black fabric background. (She says it was much like doing a large puzzle.)

Each panel of the triptych was quilted by Becky on a long-arm quilting machine,

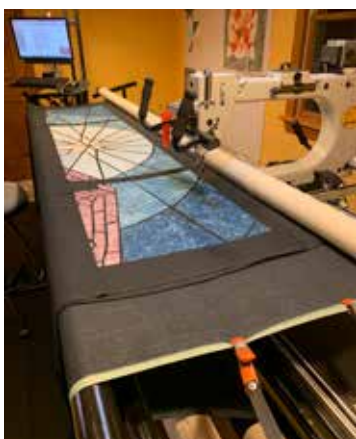
after which Tina Colombo finished the edges with a facing, including rod pockets at top and bottom. The Women of St. Patrick paid for the pattern, the materials, and the rods.

The resulting work of art was blessed by Father Anthony on the Third Sunday of Advent, and it was hung on the wall after the last Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Our talented Art and Environment team is responsible for seasonal banners and other hangings in the church. A consistent challenge for them is hanging these decorations. For this new banner, new hooks and new rods had to be purchased to accommodate its size in the available space. The team’s next project will be to consult with an expert to develop an efficient hanging system that would allow them to put up a variety of sizes of banners, possibly by way of a pulley system rather than having multiple sets of hooks on the wall. Donor support for this project would be welcome and very much appreciated.



Hanging in the church.



On the quilting machine.



Edges being finished.

No foothold sure
in time’s quick sand—
but handholds,
and a holding hand.
—Ruth Rains

St. Josephine Bakhita's feast day raises awareness of human trafficking

On February 8, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to create greater awareness about human trafficking. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General have declared the World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action Against Human Trafficking to be



observed on the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita.

The girl who would become St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Darfur around 1869. As a child, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Too traumatized to remember the name her parents had given her, she used the name the slavers gave her, Bakhita, which means "fortunate." After years of suffering cruelty and abuse at the hands of a succession of slave owners in Sudan, Bakhita ended up in Italy, where she eventually obtained her freedom. Baptized as "Josephine" in 1890, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated the rest of her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a saint in 2000.

The Saints Chapel in our church includes a banner depicting St. Josephine Bakhita. You might spend some time contemplating her as you reflect on her sufferings and those of the many children, women, and men who are trafficked or enslaved in our world today. How might we comfort, support, and empower survivors of this affront to human dignity?

To learn more about the Catholic Church's initiatives against human trafficking, see www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/day-of-prayer.cfm and www.migrants-refugees.va/trafficking-slavery/.

Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf

so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

--From the Migrant and Refugee Section



Q: What is the Presentation of the Lord?

A: This event was originally viewed in terms of the purification of Mary. Under Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for forty days after she gave birth. To be purified, after the forty days she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice. This was also her first opportunity to present her child to the priests, and eventually the Presentation of the Lord took precedence over the Purification of Mary.

The feast, originally observed in the East on February 15, spread throughout the Church, but because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord was moved to February 2, forty days after Christmas.

In the eighth century Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession in celebration. The blessing and distribution of candles, which was part of the celebration, continues to this day in many parts of the world and gives the feast its popular name, Candlemas.

This year February 2 falls on a Sunday, and celebration of this feast (as with most others) is subordinated to the liturgy for a Sunday, recalling Christ's resurrection from the dead, a mini-Easter. Consequently, this year the Church does not help us to recall the Purification of Mary, the Presentation of the Lord in the temple, or even Candlemas Day.

Nor does the Church any longer officially recognize this day as the feast of St. Simeon, who with the widow Anna, acknowledged the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. But the old man who burst into a song of joy at the sight of Jesus is memorialized by the Church in the singing of his hymn of joy at day's end, each and every day.

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

Faith and Reason group supports homeschooling families

By Kathryn Guy

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth- in a word, to know himself- so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

—John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*

If you have been around St. Patrick's on a Monday this fall, you may have seen kids performing science experiments in the main hall, participating in discussions in one of the many classrooms, or running around burning off energy wherever their parents let them. This is a part of the Faith and Reason Learning Community. The brainchild of Liza Kaap and Ann Birchenough, Faith and Reason was developed to fill a gap they saw in their own homeschooling efforts and in those of others in the Champaign-Urbana area.

For a variety of reasons, some parents decide that homeschooling is the best option for their family. As their children's primary teachers, parents are ultimately responsible for their education. Groups such as Faith and Reason exist to support homeschooling families and provide shared resources.

The community aspect strengthens and builds upon what the parents teach at home. Faith and Reason currently serves 13 families whose 22 students attend one or more of the seminars offered. Topics include Catholic religion, math, multiple humanities, Latin, physics, and experimental science. Currently, enrollment is for students from 7th through 12th grade, with a program for 4th through 6th grades in English grammar and writing.



However, don't be surprised to see the program grow in future years!

How did a childless chemist working full time end up teaching a class with a homeschool learning community? The easy answer is that I have yet to learn how to say no. The deeper answer is that it was an answer to prayer. Burned out at work, I was looking for a way to reconnect to the excitement of science. I had also been searching for a way to spend more time with friends who were busy raising kids. Enter Faith and Reason.

As an added bonus, I even discovered there's another William and Mary grad out here in the cornfields. It's been a blessing to develop hands-on labs to bring biology concepts to life, to work with students discovering concepts for the first time, and to be an active part of this community.

So far this year, we've isolated our DNA, grown bacteria in petri dishes, dissected frogs, used yeast to blow up balloons, and studied photosynthesis.

During the second semester, we'll be solving a mystery using forensic techniques, learning about the human body, and exploring the natural environment. Thankfully, my boss allows me to rearrange my work schedule to make time on Monday afternoons to participate in this wonderful opportunity. God sure does answer prayers in unique ways!

The spring semester is soon to start, and Mondays at St. Patrick's will again be filled with activity. If you are interested in more information, email Liza or Ann at faithandreasoncoop@gmail.com.

Saint Mary Mackillop,

We ask your prayers and intercession for those abused by our shepherds.

Pray for strength for the abused to speak up.

Pray for listening and reception by those who hear.

Pray for those separated from the Church because of abuse and neglect.

Pray for healing for the victims, for the perpetrators, for the Church.

Saint Mary Mackillop, and all you holy women and men,

pray for us.

—from the *Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church* exhibit

Vocation Prayer

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

—Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte

Join in prayer for the 2020 World Day for the Sick

Pope John Paul II declared the feast day of the World Day for the Sick in May 1992, but since then it has been celebrated on February 11, the anniversary of the date that Our Lady of Lourdes first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858.



That a young, very poor country girl saw the Virgin Mary in a local grotto was controversial. Why would the Mother of Jesus suddenly appear while Bernadette was gathering firewood at the small Massabielle cave near Lourdes? Faith in her visions led Bernadette to find a spring near Massabielle. Many healing miracles are the result of the holy spring's waters, and Lourdes is a global pilgrimage site for the sick.

Join Roman Catholics all over the world in prayer for and sharing of one's suffering due to medical or spiritual ills. Pray also for the caregivers and medical personnel caring for the injured, ill, and dying in our world. Here are two prayers to help you get started.

Prayer for a sick person

I reach out to you, my God,
in this time of need.
Carry me on the difficult days
when I have no strength.

Wrap me in your love when I am discouraged.
May your grace wash over me and refresh me.
And as you hold me tenderly in the palm of your hand,
I ask for healing of all my afflictions.
Amen.

—Chaplain Daniel Doyon

Prayer for a caregiver

Dear Lord,
Please be within me today,
Calm my thoughts as I rest in you.
Prepare my heart to be open
To the pain and hurt of others.
Let your love be in my words,
As we walk the journey of healing.
Help me to be silent when words fail.
Let your healing voice be the balm
To comfort souls in need.
Comfort me, Lord, when my heart aches,
And let me bring compassion
To those who are suffering.
Guide my words and help me
To listen with my heart
So that others can hear your voice.
Use me as a vessel of your love
To bring peace to souls.
Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen me,
And let your presence bring me peace.
And may that same peace be the joy
That shines forth to touch all I encounter.
Amen.

—Sarah Burman-Smith



Patron Saints for February

SPYO offers its first Christmas concert

On Saturday evening, December 14, the St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra played their best to increase the



Christmas spirit of their large, approving audience. Their concert was held in St. Patrick Church, which overflowed with proud relatives and small children who were already filled with the holiday spirit.

The orchestra was led by conductor Lisa Altaner, a senior at Champaign Central High School, who directed six of the musical selections. Two assistant conductors, Grace VanRaden, a home-schooled junior, and Norah Kopolow, a freshman at Central High School, each conducted one musical piece. These young women are multi-talented, playing many musical instruments. Lisa plays flute and both baritone and alto saxophone, Grace plays violin and piano, and Norah plays trumpet. Another obviously talented member of the orchestra was Florence Lin,



who played the piano to set the tempo for "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." When not at the piano, Florence joined the trombone section of the orchestra.

The SPYO is unique in being founded and led by its student musicians, who come from middle and high schools throughout this area. Many past



members of this talented group have pursued music careers in college.

Though the orchestra is run by its students, there are parent sponsors each year. This year the parent sponsors are Stephen and Judy Altaner. Judy announced before the last musical selection that there were complimentary Christmas cookies and treats to be enjoyed at the conclusion of the concert. She also noted that the orchestra would accept donations from anyone wishing to be a SPYO sponsor.

The St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra has several concerts each year. Check the Sunday bulletin or St. Patrick website, www.stpaturbana.org, for information on upcoming concerts.



In Focus online? You've got options!

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Steve Beckett, Becky Billman, Deborah Feinen, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Kathryn Guy, Elizabeth Hendricks, Tom Kacich, Pat Mayer, Mary Lou Menches, Paula Partin, Cathy Salika, and Chris Whippo. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Judy Fierke



Tuna Loaf

8 slices white bread, cubed
 2 cans tuna
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 egg
 1/2 t salt
 1/8 t pepper
 1-1/2 t lemon juice
 1 can mushroom soup
 Chopped fresh mushrooms, if available

Combine all ingredients and form into a loaf in a bread pan or suitable casserole dish. Bake one hour at 325 degrees. Can be served with mayonnaise laced with dried tarragon leaves or dill weed.

* * *

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!

Sorrow
 seems dark's token
 to the heart's imaginings;
 yet from the broken chrysalis
 emerge
 bright wings.

—Ruth Rains



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **Sunday February 9**.