

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

July – August 2020

## The rhythm of parish life

There's a rhythm in the life of our parish. We come together on Sunday to be nourished by the Word of God and to be supported in our faith by one another. Then we disperse to our homes and communities to live out the gift of faith and to love as Jesus loved. And the following Sunday we gather again, grateful for what has been done well, seeking forgiveness and strength for what could have been done better.

Time and again we are fed by the Word and the Body of Jesus, we support one another in the faith, and we are sent out to do his work, just as Jesus sent his disciples, two by two, to prepare the towns that he was planning to visit. They did their work and returned to him rejoicing because, with the help of God, they had been able to heal the sick and prepare the way for Jesus.

**The rhythm of parish** Cont. Page 4



## Thank you, Karen!



Our parish bookkeeper and business manager, Karen Barnes, will be leaving us at the end of June, when she will move to rejoin her husband. In the four years that she has been at St. Patrick's, she has done a tremendous job of bringing order to our financial systems. Her work has made us better stewards and decision makers of our financial resources. She has helped us make progress on our parish debt, implement procedures for our various scholarship funds, and streamlined workflows. Karen's successor, Jackie Grandone, will inherit a smooth-running operation!

More than that, Karen has been friendly and welcoming to all who come to the parish center. She has been approachable and easy to work

**Thank you, Karen** Cont. Page 4

## Presenting the 2020-21 Parish Council

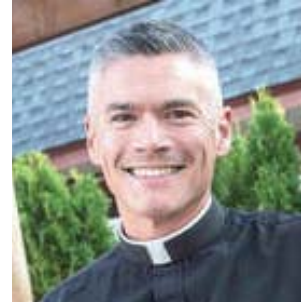
Every spring, upon completion of their terms, some members of the Parish Council rotate off, creating vacancies to be filled by new members.



*Mary Tate  
2019-22, President*

During their discussions of the revision of Council by-laws, membership terms were extended for continuity's sake, with the result that several members rotated off the Council at the same time, with

new members chosen to fill those vacancies. The Parish Council, serving as a consultative body for the pastor, meets on the third Thursday of most months, with the agenda set by Council officers in conjunction with the parish trustees and the pastor. All will be grateful for your interest, communication on matters of concern, and (especially) your prayerful support.



*Fr. Anthony Co  
Pastor*



*Jesus Sarol  
2019-22, Vice-President*



*Bridget McGill  
2019-2022*



*Kathy Cimasky  
2018-21*



*Mary Schmitz  
2019-22*



*Becky Billman  
2019-22, Secretary*



*Chuck Schmitz  
2019-22*



*Sarah Bonson  
2019-22*



*Richard Keane  
2019-22*



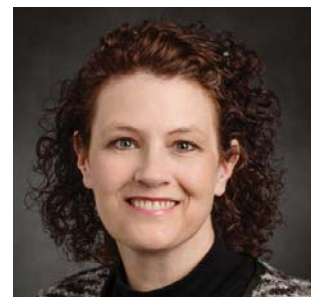
*Jasmine Waite  
2020-23*



*Pat Justice  
2019-24, Trustee*



*George Fahey  
2019-24, Trustee*



*Mardia Bishop  
2020-21, Ex-officio*



## Meet our newest Council member

Hello! My name is Jasmine Waite. I will be a sophomore at Saint Thomas More in the fall. Several members of my family have been parishioners at St. Patrick’s during the past 20 years, and I was blessed to be baptized here at six months of age and grow up in this wonderful community. After I experienced a life changing conversion during my school’s March for Life pilgrimage in January, I deeply desired to turn my heart over to serve God and live in His loving presence.



I was a member of the St. Patrick’s children’s choir for three years and have been an altar server for five years. At school, I am an active member of the Yearbook Club and the Interact Club, a community-service group. In the fall, I hope to be trained as a House Captain, inducted into the National Honor Society, and sing in the Adoration Choir.

I look forward to representing the youth of our community on the Parish Council, helping to bring young people closer to our Lord, and assisting the Council to the best of my ability.

\* \* \*

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

—Isaiah 41:10

## Parish Council News



Like everyone else at St. Patrick’s these past few months, members of the Parish Council have been busy finding ways to continue serving the parish.

On the weekend on May 16-17, the Council awarded the Fr. Luke Spannagel Scholarship for its second year. The scholarship is given to a St. Patrick’s parishioner who attends a Catholic elementary school or high school. This year’s scholarship went to STM sophomore Christina Pembele. Through the magic of video, Fr. Luke himself was able to announce the recipient, as well as express his gratitude to Christina for her service to St. Patrick’s. Also, he recognized Jasmine Waite, the scholarship’s first recipient, as she completed her freshman year at St. Thomas More. The announcements were made following the graduation Mass that weekend.

Parish Council members continue to write letters to parishioners that are homebound or who reside in nursing homes. It is a goal of the Council to keep all members of our parish family close during this time of separation.

Some members have been busy helping Fr. Anthony and the staff with the church reopening. It takes many hands to make the process as safe and smooth as possible.

The Council extends a huge thank you to Mardia Bishop for her tremendous work as president during this challenging year. She will continue as an ex-officio member for the coming year, and her wealth of knowledge will be a great benefit to the Council. Also moving on is Jack Parisi. Jack has given several years to the parish as a member of the Parish Council, and his work is much appreciated. The 2020-21 council will be led by Mary Tate as president, Jesus Sarol as vice-president, and Becky Billman as secretary.

The Council looks forward to continuing the projects that were interrupted this spring by the pandemic, as well as tackling new ones. We are grateful for your prayers, as we worked out many new ways to serve you, and we hope for your continuing prayerful support as the new Council year begins.



On May 28, Fr. Anthony Co celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. In the year he has been with us at St. Patrick's, he has brought new energy to many aspects of parish life.



On May 29, Fr. George Remm celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination – 75 years of service! He was pastor at St. Patrick's from 1986 to 2004, and he still stays in touch, helping with weekday Masses and funerals. We are blessed to have had his leadership for so many years.

\* \* \*

No foothold sure  
in time's quick sand –  
but handholds,  
and a holding Hand.

—Ruth R. Rains

## The rhythm of parish life

... Continued from Page 1

Jesus taught them some more and then, of course, he sent them out again. So it is with us!

This rhythm has been disrupted by the pandemic for the past few months. We've been less able to come together and perhaps have less of a sense of being sent out. Yet it's still been happening. Like a good shepherd, Jesus always finds a way to feed us when we look to him.

What have you found in these days? Has your personal prayer been easier or harder? Has Jesus taken you somewhere you've never been before, giving you experiences to reflect on his love or opportunities to share his love? Have you found different ways to keep the Sabbath holy? What have you learned about yourself and your priorities by reflecting on what you have gained and what you've missed during these days?

At first glance, it may seem that our life as a parish has been dormant, but that's really not so. You've been praying for others and others have been praying for you, whether you're aware of it or not. Each of us has been trying to live out our faith in whatever situations we find ourselves. The parish staff has done wonders by enabling our shared prayer and our shared service. Our food pantry volunteers still feed the hungry. Our tithes still support the work of the parish. We are still sharing our faith with our children. We continue to find ways to support one another by telephone and other acts of kindness. In dozens of ways, people have found things that they could do to ease the burdens of others. And because we are all held together as the Body of Christ, our parish and our shared lives of faith have been very lively indeed!

Now the rhythm is beginning to reestablish itself. We won't be going

back to the way things were before the shutdown. We'll be going forward with the experiences that we've had and the relationships that have deepened and the insights we've gained over the past few months. We'll be going forward trusting in the other members of the Body of Christ at St. Patrick's to be there when we need support. We are held together by the rhythm, the heartbeat of Jesus.

## Thank you, Karen!

... Continued from Page 1

with, always responsive to suggestions and questions. Articles about parish finances that you've seen in *In Focus* have usually been written by her or, at the very least, were based on information that she provided, for which we can all be grateful.

Thank you, Karen—may your move be easy and your future bright with happiness!

\* \* \*

## Praying

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

—Mary Oliver



## How did our pastor keep the sacraments available for his parishioners during the quarantine?

The first thing that Father Anthony Co did to keep the sacraments available and to keep us informed was to establish a web site on YouTube, Co To-Go. On this site was a choice of videos for us to watch. There would be short messages from Father about what changes were happening in the parish during the quarantine. His daily Mass would be added each day and it would be retained for later viewing.

Father Co's daily Masses were so inspirational. The video close-up of Father at the altar made one feel he was celebrating Mass just for you especially because his smiles were so welcoming and comforting. The words of the liturgy never sounded clearer and more poetically descriptive. Even though the daily Mass was only twenty minutes long, Father took time to create a short homily to guide us through our day.

On a May 1 video on Co To-Go, Father showed us the temporary tabernacle he set up in the north window of the Confessional Room overlooking our parking lot. Near this tabernacle was a large candle burning in a red glass container and a spot light to illuminate the tabernacle. One could stay in a car yet see the tabernacle in this window with the body of Christ inside.

Permission was granted by the Peoria Diocese to have Communion service for Catholics in their cars as long as it would be held with reverence and safety. The first time Father announced this new service was after noon Mass on May 20. Father said he would distribute the Blessed Sacrament in a half hour at 1:00 p.m. for those who could quickly drive to church. Only three cars made it in time, but how wonderful to finally receive the

body of Christ. On the following day, between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m., Father held the Sacrament of Penance at the church doors.

There were two weekend communion distribution services, held at 11:00 a.m., on Sundays. The first took place on May 24, with more than four rows of cars lined up in the parking lot spaces. A young priest with Holy Water sprinkled and blessed each car. Then at 11:00, Father and the other priest distributed the Blessed Sacrament to those in the cars.

By the second communion service, Father had received the FM broadcasting equipment he had ordered. Each car would tune their radio to 89.7 FM to hear the service. Many arrived at the parking lot early so they could participate when Father led the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary at 10:30 a.m. Then at 11:00 a.m.

everyone sang "How Great Thou Art" and Father read the gospel and gave a short homily. After saying The Our Father together, Father distributed the blessed Sacrament while religious music played from the radio.

Finally on Saturday, June 6, Mass was held in the church at 5:00 p.m. Everyone wore masks and used copious amounts of hand sanitizer. St. Bridget Hall and Holy Trinity Hall were set up with chairs and large video screens for overflow from the church where sections were taped off and only every other row of pews was used. This made it easier for

communion to be distributed to parishioners who were to stay in their pews while Father and Eucharistic Ministers would come to them walking through the empty pews. Our Music Director, Frank Gallo, was there to play the piano and lead us in singing. It was so fulfilling to be back in our church, but strangely, the church wasn't even filled. Where were you?



**Even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with your whole heart;  
for I am gracious and merciful.**

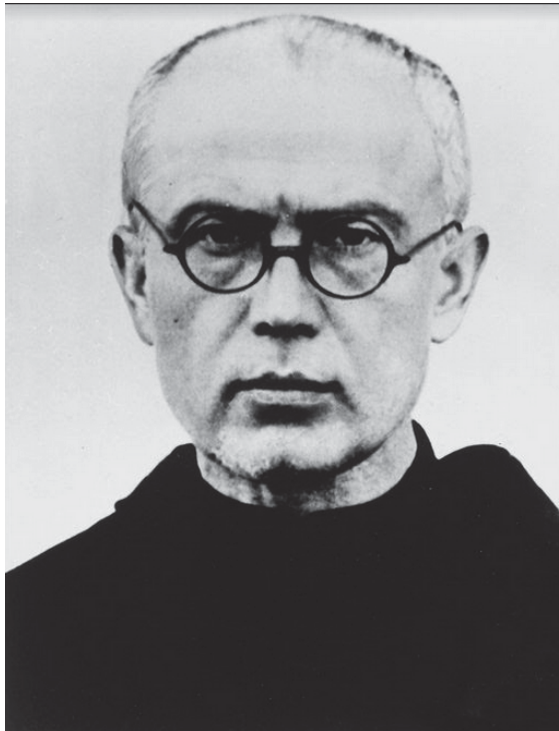
## St. Maximilian Kolbe: priest, martyr – and publisher

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan who volunteered to die in place of a prisoner in Auschwitz in 1941. For this gift alone he is to be remembered, but he managed to do much more in his 47 years of life.

He had a strong devotion to the Virgin Mary, who appeared to him holding two crowns, one white and one red, and asked if he would like to have them – one was for purity and the other for martyrdom – and he chose both. After that he was never the same.

He entered the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans, and at 16 became a novice. Ordained at 24, he saw religious indifference as the deadliest poison of the day and set about to combat it. He dreamed of and then founded *Knight of the Immaculata*, a religious magazine, under Mary's protection to teach the Gospel.

For the work of publication he established a "City of the Immaculata," which housed 700 of his Franciscan brothers, and later founded another in Nagasaki, Japan. The magazine ultimately reached a million members and subscribers.



In 1939 the German Panzers overran Poland. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, but were released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. In 1941 he was arrested again because he was found to be hiding Jews from the Nazis in his monastery. He was eventually transferred to Auschwitz.

After three months of terrible beatings and humiliations, a prisoner escaped. The commandant announced that ten men would die and randomly chose them. As they were marching away to the starvation bunkers, Kolbe stepped forward and said he'd like to take the place of one he knew had a wife and children. The commandant kicked the other out of line and ordered Kolbe to go with the nine.

After two weeks of slow starvation, Maximilian Kolbe was still alive and a guard finished him off with an injection of carbolic acid. His body was burned with all the others. It is important to realize that his death was not the result of a last-minute act of heroism; his whole life had been a preparation.

Maximilian Kolbe was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982 and was declared a patron saint of journalists, amateur radio operators, and prisoners. He is often shown wearing the striped clothing of a death-camp inmate.

Loving Father, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of your son, Jesus. Call from among us more men and women who will dedicate their lives to serve you. By their way of life may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world.

Help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve. Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence in the Eucharist. Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated priests, sisters, brother, and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance, and grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

Be with us as we try to discern our life's work. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, to work for justice for the downtrodden, to help all to rejoice in your steadfast love. We realize our call to serve, help us to know how.



**Q: I've been thinking about coming back to the Church. I've been away for a long time; what should I do?**

**A:** There is really no right way or wrong way to come back to the Church. Canon law requires only confession and a return to Mass and Communion. If that's all you want or need, you should be able to find a sympathetic and understanding priest in a parish, a local retreat center, or a Catholic hospital. Perhaps one of your church-going friends could refer you to a priest they know.

You shouldn't give up if you don't connect with someone on your first try – somewhere there's a priest just waiting to hear from you! He will be happy to talk with you and do his best to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

If you're not ready to talk with a priest, you might try going to Mass. It doesn't have to be on a Sunday, when the church is bursting with people; you could slip into a weekday Mass in the morning or on your lunch hour.

If you'd like to talk with someone first about why you left the Church, some parishes are offering outreach programs, informational sessions designed to identify needs, answer questions, and acquaint people with the Church.

St. Patrick's outreach program, Returning Catholics, is one of these. It is designed to help returning Catholics recognize why they left the Church – what hurt or anger or apathy, etc., may have prompted the break. It also facilitates the healing process and prepares them for the Church they will find on their return. If this sounds helpful to you, just call our parish office (217/344-1125) and leave your name and telephone number. Someone will contact you promptly.

This longing you feel is without any doubt an invitation from God. Coming back to the Church starts when you open yourself to the movement of God in your life.

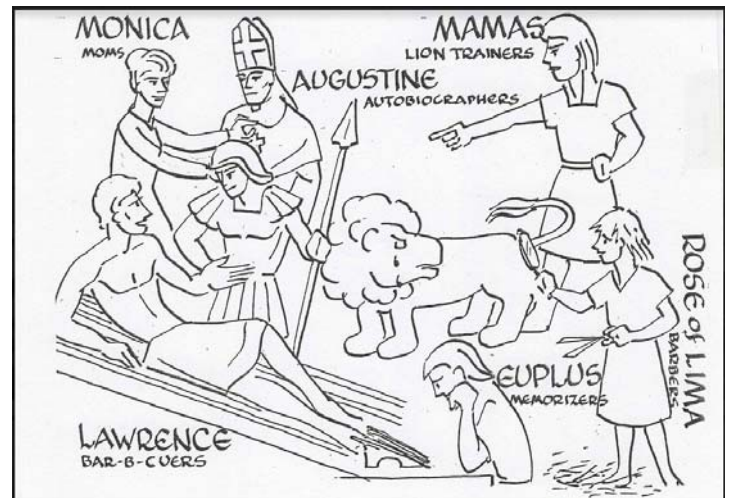
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*Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to any Communications Committee member or left in care of the parish office.*

## July Saints by Fr. George Wuellner



## August Saints by Fr. George Wuellner



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In spite of all  
you've been told,  
darkness  
inside-out,  
is gold.

—Ruth R. Rains



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

Cathy Rutledge

### Marbled Gingerbread

1/2 c shortening  
 1 c sugar  
 1 c molasses  
 2 eggs  
 1 t baking soda  
 1 c boiling water  
 2 c all-purpose flour  
 1 t salt  
 1/4 c unsweetened powdered cocoa  
 1/2 t ground cinnamon  
 1/2 t ground ginger  
 1/4 t ground cloves  
 1/4 t ground nutmeg  
 Sweetened whipped cream (optional)



Beat shortening, sugar, and molasses in large bowl until blended. Add eggs and beat well. Stir baking soda into boiling water to dissolve; add to shortening mixture alternately with flour and salt. Remove 2 cups batter to medium bowl; to this add cocoa, blending well. Add spices to remaining batter in large bowl. Alternately spoon batters into greased and floured 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Using a knife, swirl gently through batter for marbled effect. Bake at 350° 40-45 minutes, or until inserted wooden toothpick comes out clean. Cut into squares, and serve warm or at room temperature with sweetened whipped cream, if desired.

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*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!*

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## You can read *In Focus* online

Did you know you can read *In Focus* online at the parish website? Click on the image of *In Focus*, or go directly to [www.stpaturbana.org/focus/](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!



*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.

**Editorial board:** Judy Fierke, 352-7670 ([j-fierke@comcast.net](mailto:j-fierke@comcast.net)); Denise Green, 553-7110 ([dgree1@gmail.com](mailto:dgree1@gmail.com)); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 ([elizabethwhend@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethwhend@gmail.com)); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 ([mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)); and Cathy Salika, 367-7861 ([csalika@illinois.edu](mailto:csalika@illinois.edu)).

**Associates:** Carol Bosley, John Colombo, Frances Drone-Silvers, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Sue Schreiber, Shirley Splittstoesser, Adam Smith, Jim Urban, Ivanka Vlach, and Jerry Walsh.

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