

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2020

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

If there was ever a time when we needed the Holy Spirit, surely this is it! These past few months have been so strange and stressful for many of us. Our routines have been upended. Many have lost jobs, temporarily or for a long time to come. Isn't this a good time to seek the Spirit's gift of wisdom? Maybe we can use this time to consider the priorities that we used to live out in daily life. Do we need to strike a new balance among conflicting priorities? Is there a way that we can go, not back to where we were, but forward to something new?

Fortitude! We can use a lot of that! We're not sure how long the situation will drag on. Some of us have had to postpone special events, Confirmation or First Communion, graduation, and prom. Some of us are very, very lonely for friends, family, and daily human contact. The gift of fortitude can strengthen us so that we come out of this in a good place.

On the other hand, some of us feel we have absolutely too much togetherness! If you're trying to keep the kids engaged in learning, and

maybe working from home at the same time, if it seems like everyone's getting on someone's nerves, ask the Spirit for the gift of understanding. Maybe you'll find a way to deal with the real issues with love and gentleness, and not to sweat the small stuff.

Some of us are deeply afraid of the danger of the virus to ourselves and our loved ones. Some of us are living in a home that isn't a safe place. The Spirit's gift of counsel can help us when we deal with our fears and complex situations. It can

help, too, when someone trusts us and tells us of their fears. When we share another's burdens and offer a different perspective, when we listen with love, the gift of counsel is at work.

Is the internet driving you crazy? Is it hard to tell truth from hype so you can make good decisions? We need the gift of knowledge so much! This gift is the Spirit's way of helping us to use our life experiences to discern the truth. It is the inspiration and guidance we need to make wise choices.

How is your prayer life holding up? Have you been struggling

see **Holy Spirit** on page 7



SVDP Food Pantry continues to serve

Although other parish activities closed down in mid-March, our SVDP Food Pantry has remained open. Food Pantry Coordinator Sally Czapar and her team of parish volunteers continually revised their practices to meet the evolving health department guidance and their own concerns for their safety and that of pantry guests. On March 30, the food pantry began opening only on Mondays and Thursdays, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Guests were served on the north side of the parish center, by the parking lot, with most driving up and others walking up.



Volunteer Diane Wilhelm describes the situation during the second week of May:

To be ready for Thursday's pantry distribution each week, Sally sends Linda [Weber] and me the "Monday Report." Today's report contained

see **Food Pantry** on next page

Food Pantry from page 1

only this: “12!!!”

Twelve was the number of guests served on Monday. When we began drive-through distribution on March

in need currently getting food? Extremely large crowds are being served through CU Better Together [a program that helps families with



Members of the Monday crew: Paul Nguyen, Marilyn Marshall, Anna Conner, Frank Modica, and Sally Czapar.

30, we were averaging around 30 guests, but the numbers continue to decrease. Our average now is in the very low 20s. “12” is our record low.

We have a great stable group of pantry volunteers. Our Monday and Thursday teams are composed of old-time regulars and temporary volunteers who are dedicated to helping during the virus. We continue to distribute fresh fruit, a variety of proteins, wonderful sweets, and overflowing grocery bags of non-perishables. For the past two weeks, we have also had a good supply of eggs and milk.

Even though the numbers continue to decrease, our guests are very appreciative. But where are people

school-age children]. Other programs have popped up. On May 6,



Lukas Grosse-Perdekamp and Jim Westervelt were ready to sign people in.

at the request of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, our pantry began to collaborate with the Channing-Murray Foundation, which has agreed to help deliver food to home-bound people from Cunningham Township. There’s reason to believe that some of the recipients of that delivery are former SVDP food pantry guests.

We have plenty, as well as a good variety, of food. We have two teams of excellent volunteers that arrive by 3:15 p.m. on their assigned day to prepare bags, and to set up the tables, signs, traffic cones, and carts of food in the church parking lot. We prepare, set up, take names, and distribute food while keeping a safe distance from guests and one another, wearing gloves and face coverings.

We are open to serve all who will come. Although the number of people coming now is low, we know that when the temporary food pantries and programs are no longer needed or must close down, St. Pat’s SVDP food pantry will continue to serve, as we have for many years.

Why do I volunteer? Because it is what fed my soul when I was exploring St. Pat’s for new outreach programs back in 2018, and it is what especially feeds my soul when most of “church” and everything else must remain virtual! Am I nervous or worried about the risks? No. The Holy Spirit takes care of that for me!

A message from the SVDP Food Pantry:

Our food pantry is open to all in the parish and the community. We especially encourage those affected by the changes brought by COVID-19 to come and pick up food during this difficult time. The process is simple and safe: drive-through pickup with socially distant registration and delivery. There is seldom a line. Hours are Mondays and Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., in the parking lot at St. Patrick’s. Please come by!

Can you help?

Our SVDP Food Pantry needs your plastic or cloth bags, toilet paper, personal hygiene products, and whatever else you find in your cupboard that you don’t need. Please call the office (367-2665) before dropping off items!

* * *

If you have a home garden, would you please consider planting “a row for the hungry” this year and donate the harvest to the SVDP Food Pantry or another organization? Your contributions will increase the amount of fresh, healthy food we can offer our guests.

What have you been doing?

How have you been spending your time during these past weeks with your ordinary routines or perhaps entire lives disrupted? On page 4 of this issue, Communications Committee member Judy Fierke writes about her experience of sheltering at home. Here, some members of the Peace and Justice ministry share a little about what they have been doing.

Richard Keane continued his usual routine of picking up bread donations from Panera Bread for the food pantry and other local ministries. He donated blood, and drove parishioners to medical appointments when requested. Jean-Philippe Mathy delivered groceries to a parish family



Toni D'Urso sorts donated sweets.



Judy Lubben repacks bread.

and applied to be a French translator for the public health department. Lorraine Kim and Eileen Mathy continued their work counseling isolated seniors through Catholic Charities.

SVDP Food Pantry Garden coordinator Anna Fedders was involved in food distribution through CU FAIR and the local PTA. She also reported that greens had been planted in the food pantry garden and that as the weather warmed up, she would be adding tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, squash, and herbs.

Some members helped in the food pantry. The "Bread Ladies," volunteers who come in weekly to sort and repackage Panera Bread donations for the food pantry, continued to do their work, wearing masks and gloves, and observing social distancing. Food pantry volunteer and "bread lady" Marilyn Marshall shared the following:

but the volunteers and the patrons at the Food Pantry have taken the recommended precautions very seriously and have been very strict to adhere to them. I admit it isn't easy being "distant" when I'm with people I know, when I'm used to working side by side with someone, but we are careful to conform to social distancing.

Our numbers of guests are a little down because there are more opportunities than usual for our clients to get food now. Still, I think it is important to maintain this ministry. Our guests tell us many times an evening how much they appreciate our being open.



Marilyn Marshall.

After Bread Lady duty, we would usually sit for a few minutes around one of the tables in the parish center for a cup of coffee and to talk. These days, we still gather around a table for coffee and conversation, but we are so spread out from the table that we can barely reach our coffee cups and we are virtually shouting at one another to be heard at that distance! The Bread Ladies are still at it...safely.

We invite you to share a reflection on your experience of these past weeks. What have you been doing? What has changed? What have you lost? What have you gained? Let us know. Please send your reflection to infocusstpat@gmail.com.

Wanted: Notary-Auditor

St. Patrick's Church is searching for a person to work with those seeking an annulment or desiring to regularize a marriage in the Catholic Church. The Notary's main responsibilities are to assist petitioners with the application process and explain the process to interested parishioners.

To be considered for the position, a candidate must be:

- 1) Catholic
- 2) a good listener, discreet, and nonjudgmental in accepting extremely personal and confidential information
- 3) available to meet with clients at times convenient to their work and home schedules
- 4) willing to be trained in diocesan procedures and Church law regarding marriage

Pay is non-existent; blessings are boundless! For more information, contact Barbara Wysocki (217-367-5014 or bwysoki15@gmail.com).

How my life has changed!

By Judy Fierke

These are the activities of a 77-year-old widow who lives alone, with two and sometimes three cats. I used to drive nearly every day to my year-round OLLI classes in downtown Champaign, and then in March everything was cancelled, including a Parkland College trip to France in May. I had to plan activities to keep my mind and body active.

My son put me on his Netflix account, and my daughter ordered five books for me from her Amazon Prime account. I alternated this sedentary reading and watching with industrious activity. I cleaned out cabinets and closets that were stuffed with the detritus of fifty years of family life. Later I filled patio pots and window boxes with geraniums and ivy, impatiens and marigolds.

The first book I was eager to read was Erik Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile*, about World War II. It describes the splendid perseverance of Churchill and the British against the plans of Hitler and the Nazis. The other four books were by Bill Bryson, including his newest, *The Body, a Guide for Occupants* perhaps not my best choice of something to read during the pandemic, especially its last chapter entitled "The End."

Each evening I would binge on a series on Netflix. I watched the first three seasons of *The Crown*, about the life of Queen Elizabeth II. It was interesting to see these contemporary figures fleshed out by great actors. The next recommended series, *Ozark*, was cleverly written, brilliantly acted, and shockingly brutal in a Quentin Tarantino way. I needed something lighter after that, and *Grace and Frankie*, played by Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, filled the bill. It is hysterically funny and I could commiserate with their depiction of the physical and mental problems of growing old.

I have two semi-feral cats who live with me, and one feral cat who lives under my deck – he arrived the night of the Polar Vortex a year and a half ago. Each morning begins with refilling their food dish and water bowl on the deck; whatever is left from the day before is consumed by the two opossums who also live under the deck.

My beautiful four-year-old male cat is from the Humane Society, and my pretty little three-year-old female is from under the deck, where a mother cat raised four kittens. In December they all dispersed except for Eliza, who found her way into the warm shelter of my house. For two and a half years she would never let me touch or pet her. Now during the quarantine, she climbs up to my lap, and accepts my pets, and sleeps on me.

The high point of each day is at noon, when I watch Father Anthony Co celebrate Mass at St. Patrick Church on YouTube, Co To-Go. He brings peace to my stressed mind. Father Co is so welcoming that I feel as if he is saying Mass just for me. It is "up close and personal," and I can see and hear so much more than when sitting in a pew. Even during his daily Mass, he gives an inspiring homily. The only negative aspect of a Mass online is that I can't

physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Communion.

So that's my life under quarantine. Luckily I have wonderful neighbors who went grocery shopping for perishables for me during March and April. Soon I will binge on Longmire and finish my last book. Then there are windows that need washing and a glass knick-knack cabinet that hasn't been dusted in years, waiting for me.

But I'd rather visit my grandkids!

RCIA, pandemic edition

Many of us were saddened to forgo the Easter Vigil, but perhaps none more so than our RCIA catechumen and candidate. After preparing and looking forward to receiving the Sacraments for months, things were put on hold during the stay-at-home order. The RCIA team moved into Zoom mode and classes continued, but our catechumen, candidate, sponsors, and team all felt the loss of our in-person gatherings, and the let-down of not being able to celebrate the Easter sacraments together.

After Easter we have continued to meet via Zoom, praying over the Sunday Gospels using the *Lectio Divina* format. A special blessing occurred just a few weeks ago: our catechumen, Kim Stockon, had been preparing to join the Church in addition to preparing for her marriage in June at St. Patrick's. Father Anthony requested and received special permission from the diocese to be able to give her the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation, at Mass on Monday, May 4. Kim and her fiancé Mike's close family were able to gather with them for this special celebration.

We're still waiting for word about when our candidate can receive Confirmation. She's looking forward to that celebration, and we're all praying for the time when we can gather again.



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!

Holy Cross Happenings

Let's see . . . what's happened since our last edition of HHC?

That was, quite obviously, a joke. Everything since the March article came out has been, at the very least, unprecedented.

As schools were initially closed for two weeks by the order of the

to God that this need to self-quarantine did not happen even ten years ago, when it would have been much more difficult.

It would be interesting to know what teachers feel may have been some unexpected benefits of e-learning, and whether they plan to incorporate things they've learned from this model into their future lessons.



A view of the Holy Cross teacher/staff parade on White Street.

Governor of Illinois on March 13, Holy Cross staff and families prepared for, at a minimum, some extra time for spring break. As the closure was extended, and then extended



Mrs. Tate invoking the care of the saints.

again, building to an announcement that there would be no return to in-person schooling for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, plans to keep up Catholic education via e-learning were set into motion.

We are blessed to live in an era where distance learning is possible, if not ideal, and should give thanks

Teachers have been spectacular at researching and utilizing software programs that allow them to deliver their instruction remotely. One aspect of e-learning that has likely been the most difficult is deciding how much work to give. Teachers have solicited feedback regarding this from parents and students, and have been known to make adjustments to their lesson plans accordingly.

Hopefully, many families can likewise report that this time spent together has helped them grow closer to God and to one another. It has certainly given us all ample reason and opportunity to throw ourselves on God's mercy as well as to respond to one another lovingly and patiently and to seek new hobbies *A car decorated with a handmade sign thanking teachers and staff.*

and shared interests to enjoy together in the comfort of our homes.

Of course, it can't be understated how difficult, frightening, and even heartbreaking, this time has been for those in our school community and everywhere else. Please continue to pray that, if it be God's will, there will be an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, one that will reveal God's glory.



Miss Cain greeting a carload of Crusaders.

Please also pray for God's hand to be on the 2020-2021 school year, and that we will be able to return to the school building, the activities, and (most importantly, of course) the people we love.

* * *

Feel free to contact Rachael McMillan (rachmcmill@gmail.com) 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.

Interested in having your child attend Holy Cross School? Contact the school office at 356-9521 for information. Financial help may be available; contact the St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) for details.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL 3rd Quarter HONOR ROLL 2019-2020

Highest Honors

Emily Surratt
Natalie Pociask
Michael McCoy
Ian Peters

High Honors

Mia-Elise Amador
Alyson Clements
Anna Loftus
Natalie Caughlin
Grace Dimoke

Honors

Dereje Jahiel
Phil Withers-Sickles

St. Patrick Scholarships Awarded for the 2020/2021 School Year

As the historic 2019-2020 school year came to a close, at least one joyful end-of-year tradition remained (largely) unchanged: the awarding of scholarships to parishioners headed back to an area Catholic school or to college in the fall.

Four scholarships are available to the youth of our parish: two (the Fr. Charles Martell and Jerry McArthur scholarships) are awarded to incoming college freshmen; the Vincent O. Greene Scholarship is available to both incoming college freshmen and current full-time college students who qualify; and the Fr. Luke scholarship is awarded to a K-12 student deemed worthy through a nomination process.

The oldest of our annual awards, the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship, is overseen by St. Patrick's chapter of the Knights of Columbus. It entails \$500 to be used for any college needs. The Knights are proud to announce that this year, six awards were given to graduating seniors headed to college in the fall.

The inaugural Jerry McArthur scholarship, which is awarded by Jerry's family, is given to one graduating senior who has exhibited generosity of spirit in volunteering at St. Patrick's and/or in the community. With regards to the award, Susie McArthur stated: "Our family is proud to announce that Justin Smith is the first recipient of the Jerry McArthur Scholarship! We had six applicants, all very qualified, making our decision very difficult. We wish all of them much success in the future! And congratulations to Justin Smith!"

The Vincent O. Greene Scholarship is funded by an endowment from Mr. Greene, a parishioner who passed away in 2015. It can provide between \$750-\$5000 to any involved parishioner working towards an undergraduate degree or towards completing a community college program. A decision about the amount of each individual award is based on, among other things, any other scholarship assistance the student is already receiving. The total award amount comes to between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually. Congratulations to the 24 young men and women who received an award this year for their involvement in parish life, academic promise, and leadership!

Finally, the Fr. Luke Scholarship, funded by St. Patrick's parishioners, is awarded to a student in an area K-12 Catholic school and entails \$1000 towards tuition for the upcoming school year. Normally, nominations are sought from the principals of the schools. This year, however, the decision was made (under the guidance of Fr. Luke) for the scholarship committee to select a recipient on their own, as area principals had the added stress of aiding their families and staff to switch to a distance-learning model. The committee is pleased to announce that incoming STM sophomore Christina Pembele is the recipient of this year's Fr. Luke Scholarship!

Congratulations to all our parish students on putting another year in the books, and many blessings on your

future endeavors! Let's continue to pray for God's hand of protection to be on the upcoming school year, and for wisdom and guidance for those in charge of planning our young folks' education.

Fr. Charles Martell Award Recipients

Austin Ford
Erin Minor
Abigail Goad
Noelle Schacht
Justin Smith
Molly Sweeney

Jerry McArthur Award Recipient

Justin Smith

Vincent O. Greene Award Recipients

Acklin, John	Nzeza, Ketsia
Acton, Joseph	Nzeza, Syntyche
Altaner, Lisa	Perdekamp, Sarah
Arend, Jakob	Reeder, Matthew
Feinen, Karlee	Schacht, Kayley
Ford, Austin	Schacht, Noelle
Goad, Abigail	Schaefer, Jenna
Hardimon, Emily	Sherlock, Kathleen
Herzog, Luke	Sherlock, Lucy
Kneer, Courtney	Sweeney, Hannah
Miller, Erinn	Sweeney, Molly
Minor, Erin	Wsalek, Maris

Fr. Luke Scholarship Award Recipient

Christina Pembele



Congratulations to former St. Patrick's Music Director Chris Angel. On May 18, Chris successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame University. His topic was "Ritual and Identity in the California Missions." Well done, Chris!



Q: In these stay-at-home days we're encouraged to follow the Mass online and to

make a "spiritual communion." What is this, and how is it done?

A: Spiritual Communion is a Christian practice of desiring union with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist by individuals unable to receive Holy Communion, especially in times of sickness and during persecution by states hostile towards religion.

The present coronavirus pandemic rendered it necessary to move Mass to online formats for the common good, and the practice of making a Spiritual Communion during the pandemic has been suggested by many Church authorities, including Pope Francis.

Here is a prayer that could be used as a way of communicating with Jesus when you are unable to receive the sacrament for whatever reason. You might find a different version of this prayer online.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my

heart. I embrace you as already there and unite myself wholly to you. Permit not that I should ever be separated from you. Amen.

* * *

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

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, me to know you better and to understand how best I may serve you in serving others. Open my heart to hear your call. Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Give all of us the energy and courage we need every day to follow where you lead.

Did you know...

In a recent homily, Fr. Anthony mentioned his cousin and "big brother," Ronald Lucius Salazar, whose service was recognized by a Chicago street being named in his honor. For more about him, check this out: www.honorarychicago.com/blog/ronald-lucius-salazar-way-chicago

Holy Spirit from page 1

to find a way to keep the Sabbath holy? Have your efforts to pray every day fallen by the wayside? Ask the Spirit for the gift of piety to keep you steadfast in prayer and growing in God's love.

Perhaps you find relief these days by taking a walk or sitting outside. The spring days have been so beautiful! Have you had time to enjoy the greening and blooming and warming around you? The beauty of this world is just a spark of the beauty of God, and the care with which God created the world is just a hint of the loving care that God has for us. That's the Spirit's gift of awe of the Lord at work, giving us hope and refreshment.

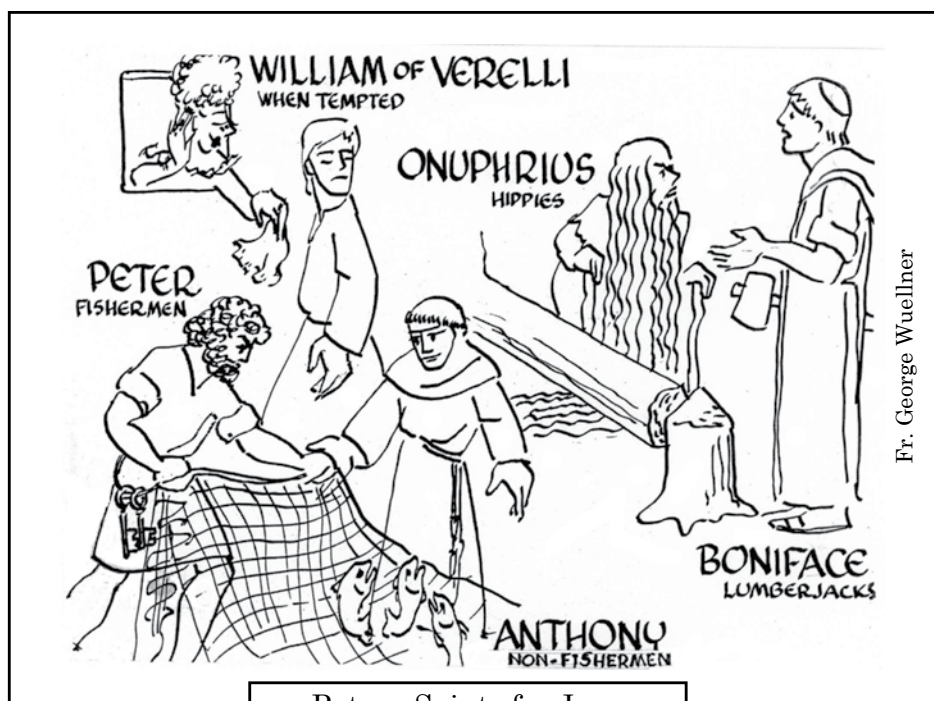
Of course, we need the Spirit's gifts throughout our lives. As the feast of Pentecost nears, ask the Spirit for the gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and awe of the Lord.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!



O thou eternal Wisdom whom we partly know and partly do not know; O thou eternal Justice whom we partly acknowledge but never wholly obey; O thou eternal Love whom we love a little but fear to love too much: Open our minds that we may understand; Work in our wills that we may obey; Kindle our hearts that we may love thee.

—Source unknown



Patron Saints for June

St. Norbert, a reformed reformer

Norbert was born c. 1080 in Xanten, Germany, to a rich noble family. As a young man he became a deacon in order to collect stipends and enjoy a prestigious chaplain's position at the court of Emperor Henry V in Cologne. Religion played little role in Norbert's life of socializing and courtly entertainments. He chose not to become a priest.



In spring of 1115 Norbert was traveling alone by horse when a thunderstorm suddenly arose. The spooked animal threw him to the ground. Over an hour later he awoke soaked, stunned, and – like Saul on his way to Damascus – forever changed. Norbert started a life of prayer, fasting, and religious study. He willingly sought ordination later in 1115. He gave his property to the poor and became a traveling barefoot preacher, living an ascetic life.

In 1120 Norbert founded a monastery near Laon in the valley of Prémontré. His religious order was called the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré, also called Premonstratensians, or Norbertines. Known for his reforming zeal as well as his devotion to the Eucharist, he devoted the rest of

his life to reforming and teaching canons (priests), nuns, and lay people.

Fr. Norbert played a role in the Holy Roman Empire's church affairs and councils. He became Archbishop of Magdeburg in 1126 and died there on June 6, 1134. Pope Gregory XIII canonized St. Norbert in 1582 and June 6 became his feast day.

Norbert was a great devotee of the Eucharist. His iconography usually shows him wearing the white habit of the Norbertines with the Eucharist in a monstrance.

St. Patrick's Parish IN FOCUS

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.

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

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Sally Czapar, Frances Drone-Silvers, Anna Fedders, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Marilyn Marshall, Eileen Mathy, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Diane Wilhelm, and Barbara Wysocki. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Nancy Olson



Quick and Easy Lasagna

- 2 18-oz packages frozen ravioli (meat and/or cheese)
- 2 24-oz bottles spaghetti sauce (your favorite brand)
- 2 1-lb packages shredded mozzarella or Italian blend cheese

Cook ravioli according to package directions. Layer in a 9 x 13 pan with sauce and cheese, starting with one cup of sauce. End with a layer of sauce and cheese. Bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes, until bubbling.

* * *

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!



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus is **Sunday June 7.**