

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

March 2020

Lenten Joy

God wants us to be happy. God made us so that our greatest happiness would be in him. Death and illness, depression and anxiety, troubled families and troubled relationships – these are all real things. And yet, there is potential in every day for joy, particularly in the joyful season of Lent.

The joy of Lent isn't the tender joy of Christmas or the exultant joy of Easter. It is the quiet joy of prayer, of finding yourself drawing gradually closer to the God who loves you. It's like the joy of a musician or athlete practicing his skills. Some days go better than others, but it he can trust that his abilities will grow over time. It's like the joy of cooking, cleaning, and doing the laundry, not necessarily exciting tasks in themselves,

but part of the satisfaction of making a home for yourself and the family that you love. It's like the joy of a student, working through readings and projects that are sometimes interesting (and sometimes not!) but knowing that she is working toward her goals.

When you think about how to keep this Lenten season, it might be a good idea to look for joy. The traditional practices of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving can help you spot new places to look. Look for something that takes your eyes off yourself and onto other people. Isn't that fasting? Look for something that draws you closer to God, even in a small way. Isn't that prayer? Look for a way that you can serve others. Isn't that alms-

Lenten Joy continued on pg. 7

WSP Offers Help on Our Lenten Journey



On Saturday, March 7, the Women of St. Patrick will offer a day of retreat for thoughtful reflection, prayer, and fellowship with other women of the parish. If you have been longing to make a retreat, this may be a great option that doesn't involve travel or an overnight stay.

The retreat director is Amy Penne, OFS. Amy is Professor of Humanities and Director of Professional Development at Parkland College and a Secular Franciscan and Certified Spiritual Director.

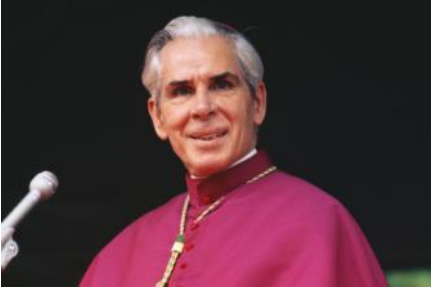
The retreat theme will be "Living in the present moment – what if the present moment disappoints? The challenge of the desert." Our culture's obsession with living in the now, breathing – all are meant to help us worry less about the past and future. But what does Jesus' time in the desert teach us?

The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., al-

Women's Retreat continued on pg. 8



Roman Catholic Saints and Illinois



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is the latest in a line of saints with Illinois connections. Fr. Sheen was born in El Paso, Illinois, on May 8, 1895. His youth and early seminary education was passed in Peoria and Bourbonnais. Most of Fr. Sheen's illustrious scholarly, writing, and media career centered on Washington, D.C. and both Rochester and New York City, N.Y. Although recently delayed, his canonization will be celebrated in Peoria's Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, where he was ordained and where his remains now rest.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was an Italian-American Roman Catholic nun, who was born July 15, 1850. Mother Cabrini dedicated her life to caring for immigrants to the U.S. Along with starting the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mother Cabrini founded over 60 schools, hospitals, orphanages, and charities. She was in Chicago visiting her order's Columbus Hospital in the Lincoln Park neighborhood when she died,

on December 22, 1917, after a brief illness. Her hospital room became a pilgrimage site and shrine. Columbus hospital closed in 2001 and was demolished in 2006 to make way for condominiums. However, the nuns and the builders carefully preserved the national shrine to Mother Cabrini which today holds many of her relics.



Another nun and foundress of an order worked in Illinois and Indiana in the mid-1800s. **Mother Théodore Guérin** was born in France on October 2, 1798. She overcame poverty and family tragedies to join the Sisters of Providence in 1825. Like Mother Cabrini, Sr. Theodore journeyed to North America to minister to immigrants. She arrived in October 1840 to what is now the Terre Haute, Indiana, area. Sr. Theodore and her companions founded schools and orphanages and the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She led her order through many trials, little money, and difficulties with the bishops to establish dozens of schools and the first Catholic liberal arts college for women in the U.S. Two of their orphanages and one school were founded in Illinois. Mother Theo-

dore Guerin died at St. Mary-of-the-Woods convent on May 14, 1856. She was proclaimed a saint on October 15, 2006.



Finally, **Mother Teresa of Calcutta** had long-standing connections to Peoria, Illinois. Many parishioners remember her visit to Peoria's cathedral on December 10, 1995. The visit included Mass, the renewal of vows by seven of her order's Missionaries of Charity, and a widely reported talk to the gathered congregation. Her visit was also a final thank you to the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, who had contributed over \$300,000 to her causes starting in 1958. Long before Mother Teresa became a household name and won countless awards, the women of our diocese collected donations for her care of the dying, the sick, and the poorest of the poor. Mother Teresa died less than two years after her Peoria visit, on September 5, 1997. She was canonized on September 4, 2016.

Stay tuned for a future article on Fr. Augustus Tolton of Quincy, Illinois, and his cause for sainthood. Fr. Tolton (1854-1897) is the first Roman Catholic priest publicly known as an African American who was a former slave when ordained in 1886.

Have You Prepared for Your Funeral Liturgy?

If you have ever attended a funeral at St. Patrick, you may have noticed that many people are involved in making the funeral liturgy come together in a peaceful and reverent way. There are many different groups who work together to accomplish this.

Planning really begins when a person has completed the simple booklet “Funeral Liturgy Planning for Parishioners.” When a family meets with the funeral director and with the pastor to plan the funeral liturgy, this booklet is invaluable so that all concerned know the wishes of the deceased. Rather than wondering what scripture passages or hymns will be used, or which family members or friends will serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, or in other liturgical roles in the funeral liturgy, those questions will already have been answered by completing the booklet. At the time when family and loved ones are experiencing great sorrow it is a thoughtful gift to have this burden lifted. It is something that the deceased person can leave for the family at a time when it is most needed. The booklet is available from staff members or as a download from the parish website.

Final arrangements begin when a family notifies the parish that a loved one has died. The pastor arranges to meet with the family to finalize details for the funeral liturgy. If the deceased or family of the deceased have not identified someone to serve as lector or Eucharistic minister, servers, or someone to being up the gifts, these roles will be filled by members of the Consolation team, which also prepares the Mass setup. And if the family members choose not to place the pall on the casket, members of the Consolation team do that as well. Every funeral is different!



Meanwhile, someone from the parish staff advises the Consolation Ministry coordinator, Music Director, and Women of St. Patrick funeral dinner leader of the pending funeral. Each of them alerts their members: the Director of Music notifies the members of the funeral schola, arranges for a cantor, and prepares and prints the final liturgy program; the Consolation Ministers are notified and begin to prepare for the roles that they will carry out during the funeral; the Funeral Prayer Ministry members are alerted so that they can plan to attend the funeral Mass or pray from their homes; the funeral lunch coordinator alerts the team and a Doodle poll goes out to all of those who will bring food for the funeral lunch (as many as 15-20 or more depending on the number of people to be fed).

On the day of the funeral, the funeral schola members arrive early to rehearse the music that has been chosen for Mass and for prac-

tice with the cantor. Consolation ministers prepare the sanctuary, greet mourners, and provide liturgical ministers needed. If the visitation is held at the church, they assist the funeral director with setup and be present to assist the family as needed.

On the day of the funeral, the funeral lunch crew set tables, prepare and serve food, and clean up. These preparations begin early in the day and sometimes do not wrap up until mid-afternoon. Dedication – and a smile – are the hallmarks of these men and women. (Yes, there are men in the kitchen too!)

In the end, as many as 50 or 60 people may be involved in providing a loving and blessed final commendation for one of our beloved dead. The next time you attend a funeral Mass at St. Patrick's, say a prayer for the generous people who make it all possible!

Holy Cross Happenings

On January 29 the students in kindergarten, first, and second grades celebrated 100 Day at Holy Cross. This event helps the youngsters wrap their heads around a basic and foundational, yet somehow poetic, math concept: what does 100 of something look like? What if you were to combine bunches of 100s together – what would that look like? They get to find out in a delicious way as each student contributes 100 pieces of some sort of snack food, which then get blended together and divvied up into baggies for all to munch on.

As part of the 100 Day celebration, and by way of wrapping up the roller skating unit in P.E., the students got to enjoy an afternoon at Skateland in Savoy to showcase their newly acquired and/or honed skills. Some of those little ones can really zip around the roller rink!

Putting 100 Day in the books also means we're officially past the halfway point in the year (well past, actually – the school year is only 185 days), and it certainly feels as if things are already starting to wrap up. The boys' basketball season ended in February, and sometime around the beginning of March the girls' volleyball season will be finished for the year as well. In terms of sports, only one remains for the year: track and field practice will be beginning shortly.

There is one major all-school endeavor that is only starting, and that is the spring musical. This year students will be taking on *Into the Woods*, a twist on popular fairy tales. Plan to attend on April 29, 30, or May 1 at 7:00 p.m. The producers, directors, and student performers and their families always go out of their way to make sure the play is a top-notch experience!

On the academic front, congratulations to all St. Patrick's parish-

ioners who made honor roll for 2nd quarter, and an extra congrats to Phillip Withers-Sickles, winner of the 2020 Geography Bee! It was a hard-fought, double-overtime victory, of which he should be very proud. A hearty "well done" as well to the many St. Pat's youngsters who qualified and competed in the Bee this year. Our students really know their stuff!

Please 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 or corrections to report.

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



The eighth-grade basketball team took second place at the PVO tournament in January.



The seventh-graders also took second place for their grade level in the same tourney. There are a lot of St. Pat's kids on that team, and it's coached by Jon McCoy!



Eighth-graders attempt to recreate the dance they performed as kindergartners at the annual talent show.

(See more pictures on page 11.)

Annual Scholarship Offered in Memory of Jerry McArthur

To have met Jerry McArthur was to have known him, simply because he didn't seem to tolerate having people remain in the category of "stranger." A whole-face smile and a cheerful word or two, as if directed to the oldest and dearest of friends, were his default way of interacting with everyone. You couldn't leave a meeting with him, no matter how brief it was, without feeling like someone pretty great thought you were great, too.

It isn't easy to forget someone like that.

In the wake of Jerry's passing

in October 2019, his family and his fellow Knights of Columbus are working together to encourage in future generations of St. Patrick's parishioners the generosity of spirit for which he was so well known. The Jerry McArthur Scholarship will be given out annually, beginning at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, to a senior in high school who is going on to a trade/technical school, college, or university.

For Jerry's family, the decision to honor him in this way came about in discussions around the dinner table. All agreed that one thing he loved best was seeing kids involved in the parish and community, so it was agreed that a scholarship in his name, for the purpose of helping a young person with their post-secondary education, would be the way to go.

At the same time, members of Jerry's Knights of Columbus chapter were thinking about how they could honor his 45 years of service to them, his dedication to making Coffee Shop after Mass a warm, welcoming place, and the wonderful person he was. They were planning along the lines of offering an annual scholarship as well, and when they found out about the family's decision, they offered to make it a joint effort.

Jerry's family will raise the money for the scholarship (one annual \$250 award), and the Knights of Columbus will supply a plaque and nameplate. Jerry was perhaps especially well known for the graciousness with which he ran



Coffee Shop, and the family plans to collect a free-will offering at Coffee Shop once or twice a year to support the scholarship fund.

This year's application deadline is April 14. The scholarship application is on the parish website. It includes questions about what type of service the student has performed for the parish and in the community, and asks for letters of recommendation from an administrator or faculty member of the student's school, as well as a letter from a non-related St. Patrick's parishioner.

But perhaps the item on the application that best gets to the heart of the matter is simply this: "Describe a time you performed an Act of Kindness."

Jerry McArthur's sincere kindness is his legacy, and this scholarship in his name will help ensure that kindness will continue to inspire others for years to come.

Second Quarter HONOR ROLL 2019-2020



Highest Honors

Natalie Pociask
Anna Loftus
Ian Peters
Josh Lofus

High Honors

Eilla Pope
Emily Surratt
Alyson Clements
Michael McCoy
Natalie Caughlin

Honors

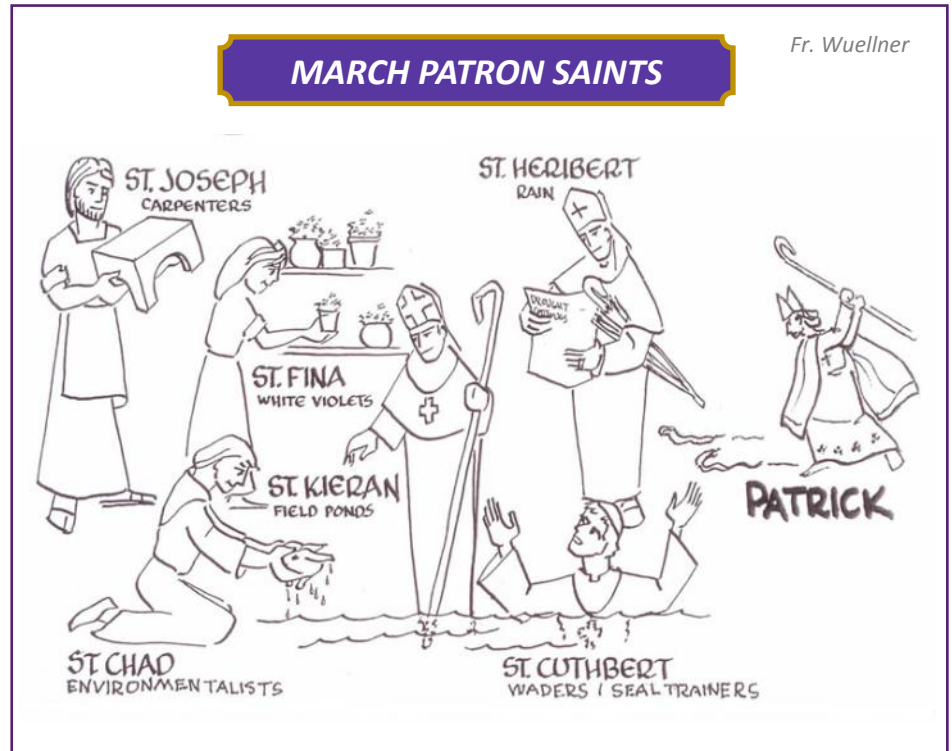
Phil Withers-Sickles
Grace Dimoke

Parish Hall Has Been Named for St. Brigid

The main hall in the parish center now has a name: St. Brigid Hall. Fr. Anthony blessed the hall in her name while many of us were gathered there for the Super Bowl Breakfast on Feb. 2. The date was especially appropriate because St. Brigid's feast day was the day before, on Feb. 1.



Brigid lived in sixth-century Ireland. She was a religious herself, and it is said that St. Patrick heard her make her vows. She founded a double monastery, one for both men and women, that was a center for the arts, particularly metal work and the copying of manuscripts. She is known for miracles of healing and feeding the poor. Because of her leadership in building up the Church in Ireland, she is counted as one of Ireland's patron saints – along with her friend, St. Patrick.



Our Prayers Rise Like Incense

St. Patrick's has a not very visible but extremely valuable resource, a prayer network called the Prayer Chain. "The greatest thing one person can do for another is to pray for him," writes Corrie Ten Boom. "If at this moment you pray for someone, even though he is on the other side of the globe, the Lord Jesus will touch him."

Whether the need for prayer support is for preparing for an exam, a happy marriage, test results, safe travel, the safe birth of a child, relief from tension or stress, recognizing one's vocation in life, a family member who is dying, a friend who is undergoing surgery, healing of mind or body or family relationships – whatever the need – ask to be remembered in prayer by the members of the Prayer Chain. Just call the parish secretary (367-2665) to place your request, and she will send it out through various Prayer Chain contacts, who will pass it on to others on their part of the Chain.

One parishioner who is a mem-

ber of the Prayer Chain expressed the personal satisfaction she experiences by being able to serve the parish community from her kitchen table, where she prays for these requests. Another, who has relied on the Prayer Chain often, said she felt great relief in knowing that she can call just one person and know that many others will be praying for her intention, regardless of how insignificant or noteworthy it might seem to anyone else.

Are there weekly or monthly meetings? Or a specific prayer to be used? Or a specific time of day for that prayer? No, no, and no. You too can serve the parish community from your kitchen table or from your bed or wheelchair. If you'd like to be on the Prayer Chain as one who prays for others in need, contact Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu) or any member of the parish staff.



St. Patrick's Seniors Are Making Plans

Everyone 55 and older is invited to attend the monthly gatherings of St. Patrick's parishioners known as the St. Jeanne Jugan Seniors. There are no dues to join, just participate at planned events. The group meets monthly for lunch, usually at a local restaurant with various speakers who talk about local community opportunities, spiritual growth, and just fun stuff.

The Seniors' meeting on Tuesday, March 3, will begin with Mass at 12:10 p.m. followed by a "getting to know you" salad luncheon in Trinity Hall. Fr. Anthony will introduce himself to the group and participants will learn fun facts about one another. For this meeting please RSVP by Sunday, March 1, so there will be enough food for all. Contact Linda (344-4884 or lindaweber@juno.com) with your RSVP.

In April the Seniors plan to meet in Trinity Hall for an afternoon of games – Scrabble, cards, and other board games. Other activities are still in the planning stages:

- Lunch and a play at the Myers Playhouse

Lenten Joy continued...

giving?

If there is joy in what you do, if there is the joy shared with others, if there is the quiet satisfaction of growth, you'll know you are on a good path. And when you come to the Easter Triduum, to remember the mysteries of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, perhaps you'll find that you have new love, new joy, or a new perspective to understand what he has done for you, and how great is his love for you.

Have a joyful Lent!

- A trip to Arthur with lunch at an Amish home
- A pie-baking class/demo by Shirley Splittstoesser.

Joyce Cryer has initiated Sunday brunch. On the first Sunday of the month Perkins is the place to meet and on the third Sunday brunch will be at Bob Evans. Meet at 12:30 p.m. – no need to call ahead, just come and look for Joyce or other parishioners. (This is open to all parishioners, not just seniors.)

Watch the bulletin for dates and times of various gatherings of the



Seniors group and for sign-up information.

Will you consider becoming part of this group? You can enjoy gathering with friends – maybe making new friends – and sometimes learning something new, like baking a pie. Hmm . . . who gets to eat that pie?

Observing 40 Days for Life

Will you be participating this year? Here are the essentials you need to know:

- ✂ *When:* Wednesday, February 26, to Sunday, April 5
- ✂ *Where:* Planned Parenthood, 302 East Stoughton Street, Champaign
- ✂ *What:* An international peaceful prayer collaboration to pray for help and healing for all affected by abortion. Prayers are welcome anytime during the 40 days, but especially welcome when the abortion clinic is open during normal business hours. Individual churches are encouraged to choose a day and time to come and pray.
- ✂ *Contact:* Renée at 217-607-0811, reneemullen1@comcast.net
- ✂ *Facebook:* www.facebook.com/40DaysCU/
- ✂ *Website:* 40daysforlife.com/champaign





Q: Do people get healed at a healing Mass?

A: God always hears our prayers and always responds with love, sometimes with a gift healing a broken heart or broken relationship, sometimes with a gift of renewed health or renewed patience.

Fr. Luke, when this question was put to him, remarked on two experiences shared with him by people who had received the sacrament: “We had a person with a cardio condition requiring medical treatment. After receiving the sacrament, the person no longer needed the planned treatment! We also had a person with chronic pain who had tried many different treatments and couldn't find relief. The day after receiving the sacrament, the person woke up and found the pain relieved!”

We usually don't hear about such healings – there may be many such or these may be rare occurrences. All we can do is to pray and receive the sacrament of anointing in faith and hope.

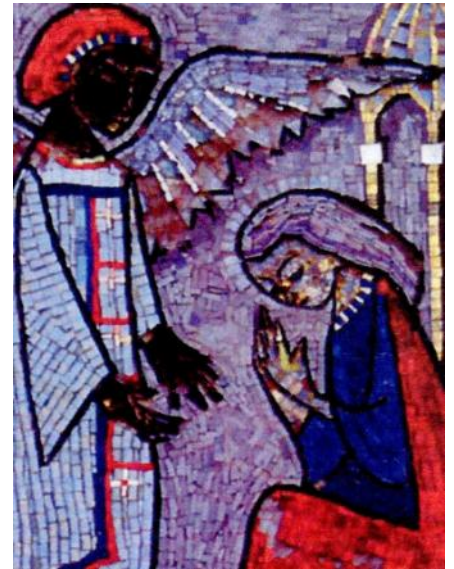
The next Mass of Anointing will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, followed by a light lunch in St. Brigid Hall. Anyone who is enduring physical, mental, or emotional suffering, or the infirmities of advanced years, are encouraged to receive the sacrament of anointing. If you need a ride to Mass or can provide a ride to someone in need, please call the parish office (367-2665).

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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.

Great good Shepherd of eternity,
 watch over these, my little sheep of thought.
 They gambol in the green hills in high glee
 all unaware of precipice.
 Untaught, they follow mindlessly at times
 some windblown piece of chaff,
 enchanted by some new green flavor,
 nibble themselves astray.
 Define for them with loving staff
 their boundaries, I pray.

—Ruth R. Rains



Small acts of consent create the field for deep change of heart.

*Remember not
 the events of the past...
 See, I am doing
 something new!*

— Isaiah 43:18-19

Women's Retreat continued...

lowing those who wish to do so to attend morning Mass before the retreat begins. The first presentation will be given at 9 a.m.; all presentations will be in St. Brigid Hall, with other rooms open for quiet reading, creating art, journaling, or praying. The retreat will wrap up at 3 p.m.

The fee for the retreat is \$10, which will cover materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships are available. Registration (and requests for a scholarship) can be made via email (womenofstpatrick@gmail.com) or by calling Nancy Olson (359-6424).

All women of the parish and friends are invited to participate in this day of spiritual refreshment on our Lenten journey.

The Parish Council Looks for New Members



Have you read with interest about the many projects the Parish Council has undertaken in the last cou-

ple of years? Would you like to participate in discussions about forthcoming projects, and in helping to carry them out? Would you be willing to relay the questions and concerns of parishioners for consideration by the Council members?

New members will serve a three-year term and the new term begins in May. If you want to hear more about what membership on the Council entails, please contact

the current Council president, Mardia Bishop (mardiabishop@comcast.net), without delay. In addition, for even more information, check out the Council's new bylaws on the parish website.

This vital parish organization is hoping to hear from you – yes, you! Please give this invitation to serve your parish community your most prayerful consideration.

Did You Know?

- The diocesan Cursillo movement has a new “home parish” – St. Patrick’s! A convenient storage place has been found for their supplies, beds, etc., which were put to good use for the men’s Cursillo, Feb. 20-23.
- Our parish’s annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration will take place on Sunday, March 15, beginning at 1:00 p.m. As this issue of *In Focus* was being prepared, plans were still in the making, but we do know that the Shamrock Academy of Irish Dance will perform at 1:45 p.m. You’ll want to mark your calendars – you can be sure of a good time and good food, even the Irish-for-a-day know how to do it up right!

An Invitation



Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church because of a divorce or remarriage? Were

you raised Catholic but do not (or seldom) come to Mass anymore? Or do you come at Christmas and Easter to please your family? Are you hurting from an angry or thoughtless rejoinder from a parishioner, or distressed by the scandalous actions of abuser priests and bishops?

If you’d like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again, please contact the parish office (367-2665) to leave your phone number or email address, and someone will respond promptly.

VOCATION PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for all the many great and wonderful gifts you give to our parish family. Help us to live each day with joy and humility, and keep us totally dedicated to serving you. Teach us to recognize the many ways you make your Spirit known. Then help each of us to accept your gift – the grace to answer your call to form, strengthen, and expand the Body of Christ.

Have You Heard of St. Patrick's Safety Advisory Group?

The Safety Advisory Group was formed several months ago to keep you safe and secure while worshipping or meeting at St. Patrick Parish. It was conceived by Ken Horn, whom you may also know as the co-ordinator of our parish ushers. This group is studying everything from tornado and fire drills to unusual and unsafe situations.

There are many professionals on this safety committee: Roxanne Lowry, co-ordinator of parish nurses; Marie Horn, retired nurse; Don Happ, the fire chief of Homer; Pat Connelly, Urbana's retired police chief; and Pat Justice, parish trustee. Jim Urban is the staff liaison to the group.

How are they helping? The Urbana Fire Department walked through our facility last October and suggested that additional fire extinguishers were needed. They are now in place. Marie Horn, one of our parish nurses, checks the batteries on the three AED defibril-



lators each Sunday morning. One is located in the northeast corner of the sanctuary, another on the north wall of the parish hall (recently named St. Brigid Hall), and the third inside the door of Trinity Hall. The parish nurses have been trained in their use.

As you know, there is a new locking system on all the outer doors of the parish. They are preset to unlock at scheduled times for meetings and church services. During the day only the southwest door to the parish center is unlocked. On Mondays, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., the children in the Faith and Reason Learning Group meet in the parish center, so all the doors are locked, and secretary Patricia Fowler has to buzz you in after you ring the bell and she identifies you.

There are also indoor and outdoor cameras around the parish building. The Safety Advisory Group is studying their coverage of the building to determine whether there are any blind spots that need to be eliminated. They are currently developing tornado and fire procedures for use in these emergencies. Even the rectory is included with the new security measures.

The group meets monthly and will soon present their safety report to the parish. Look for their report in the Sunday bulletin. If you have any questions or ideas about safety measures, contact Ken Horn (kenhorn@comcast.net).

We can feel more secure knowing that many professionals and parishioners are mindful of our safety at St. Patrick.

Mmm Mmm Good...



Teen helpers Emily Elsbernd and Mary Hinrichs make beignets at the Super Bowl Breakfast on February 2.

*I know well the plans I have in mind for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe.
Plans to give you a future full of hope.
When you look for me, you will find me.
Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,
you will find me with you, says the Lord,
and I will change your lot.*

—Jer. 29: 11-14

Peace and Justice a Many-Faceted Ministry

St. Patrick's Peace and Justice ministry is always working to provide educational and service opportunities to parishioners looking to live out our Catholic faith. Some groups are seeking immediate volunteers, all welcome interested parishioners.

Would you be interested in coordinating and organizing a group of St. Patrick parishioners to participate in Habitat for Humanity Builds in the local community? The **Housing Ministry** needs you! Our SVDP Food Pantry guests greatly appreciate the fresh summer produce the **SVDP Food Pantry Garden** provides. Wouldn't

you like to help with that? Volunteers are needed in March to build raised beds for the garden. Many volunteers are also needed to help with weeding, watering, and other tasks throughout the growing season. Help out as your schedule permits – even just an hour now and then can make a difference!

Would you like to help in the **SVDP Food Pantry** but can't commit to a regular schedule? Volunteer as a substitute. There is a great need for people who can fill in when a regular worker can't be there. You need only accept a shift when your schedule allows.

No time to volunteer? You can also help the food pantry by donating toilet paper, personal care items, laundry detergent, and dish-washing liquid.

The **LGBTQ+ Ministry** works to make St. Patrick a welcoming place for our Catholic LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers and their families and to learn how best to accompany them on their faith journeys.

Outreach to Immigrants and Refugees is exploring ways to better reach out to the many immigrants and refugees in our own parish.

In *Laudato Si* Pope Francis emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship. The **Environmental Stewardship Ministry** is dedicated to raising Catholics' awareness of the vital task of caring for God's creation.

The **Peace and Justice Education** group is making a video describing their "Hear Our Prayers, Heal Our Church" project addressing the clergy sex abuse crisis, from the town hall held last spring, to the booklet of reflections and prayers published in the fall, the retreat for creating prayers and art, and the exhibit of art and prayers that took place in December. Mem-



bers hope this video will help guide other parishes in creating projects to help their own parishioners express their feelings about the crisis.

The newest Peace and Justice Ministry is devoted to the issue of **Incarceration**. The Know Your Neighbor Dinner last fall introduced the parish to First Followers, a local group that works with formerly incarcerated people as they re-enter the community. The dinner raised money for First Steps, the first transitional house in our area, but parishioners wondered what more they could do to help. Currently this ministry is planning to hold educational programs on issues affecting the formerly incarcerated, organize a group for a workday at the First Steps house, and hold a job fair.

What do you feel called to do? If you would like to volunteer or get involved in any of these ministries, contact pastoral associate Jim Urban (jim.urban@stpaturbana.org or 367-2665).

Holy Cross continued...



Mrs. Costello poses with the runner-up, Nate Farney, and winner, Phillip Withers-Sickles, of this year's Geography Bee.



Students in K-2 grades celebrate 100 Day with a trip to Skateland.

*You are precious
in my eyes and...
I love you.*

— Isaiah 43:4

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of...

Carla Simmering

Poor Man's Crab Casserole

16 oz frozen cod fillets, thawed and drained

2/3 c melted butter

1 c crushed herb-seasoned stuffing mix

6-oz can crab meat, drained

4-oz can mushroom stems and pieces, drained

1 egg

2 T lemon juice

Topping:

1/2 c crushed herb stuffing

2 T melted butter



Preheat oven to 350°. Place cod fillets in ungreased 8-inch square baking pan. Mix remaining ingredients and sprinkle over fillets. For topping, mix herb stuffing and melted butter, and sprinkle over crab mixture. Bake 30-35 minutes.

* * *

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!

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/. From there you can

- ✓ Read recent issues
- ✓ Subscribe to receive an emailed notice 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 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.

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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Maureen Elsbernd, Judy Fierke, Craig Goad, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Renée Mullen, Nancy Olson, Cathy Salika, Carla Simmering, Jim Urban, and Linda Weber. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by Yvona Vlach.



The deadline for submitting information, articles, and news items for the next (April) issue of *In Focus* is Sunday, **March 1**.