

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

[www.stpaturbana.org](http://www.stpaturbana.org)

July-August 2021

## Going forward

**D**o you find yourself hoping that things will soon be “back to normal”? That might be the wrong thing to hope for. We’ve all been through of a lot for the past year or so. You have grown and changed. So have your family and friends.

Amid all these changes, are you sure that “going back” is the right thing?

The pandemic has changed some of our habits. Things that you used to do may have become less important. Some new things have gained in importance. Maybe you’ve started a new hobby, or found time to get outdoors more. Maybe you’ve started keeping an eye on an elderly neighbor. Or maybe you’ve stopped exercising, or started doing something that’s just an unproductive time filler. It’s time to take a look at your old habits and your new ones. What do you want to keep?

Perhaps some of your relationships have changed. Maybe you’re enjoying spending more time with your family.



Maybe you’ve gotten out of the habit of visiting certain friends and relatives regularly. Maybe you’ve found that some of your relationships aren’t healthy and need to be changed or ended. It’s time to take a look at the relationships. Were they better before, or are they better now?

These aren’t easy questions to answer, but you don’t have to do it alone. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom as you work through them. Ask a trusted friend what seems to be most important. Listen to your feelings, because sometimes they are the place God speaks to us. For complicated decisions, make a list of pros and cons. Consider what is good for yourself, but also good for your family, your parish, your community, and the world. Be realistic about your time commitments. Journal about your options. Make a tentative decision and live with it for a few days of prayer and reflection to see if they still seem like a good idea.

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## Coffee Shop is back!

**S**usie McArthur, Craig Goad, Mary Tate, Steve Beckett, and the Coffee Shop Crew met to get Coffee Shop back for parishioners again after having been temporarily derailed by Covid-19. Jerry McArthur organized Coffee Shop for many years, and his family and friends are committed to carrying on his spirit of hospitality.

Coffee Shop had its start in the basement of the original rectory, a small frame house that was located near where the current parish center is now located. It moved into the parish center and eventually became the center of parish social life on Sunday mornings. Coffee Shop is back, for a few weeks in the beautiful outdoors.



On May 23, Coffee Shop opened following the 8:00 a.m.

See **Coffee Shop** on page 5

## Mother Mary, body and soul in heaven

On August 15 we celebrate the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. From early Christian times, believers have revered Mary's essential place in the incarnation and mothering of her son – and God's. The tradition that Mary was taken up into heaven at the end of her life on earth was widely commemorated by the devout.



In 1950 Pope Pius XII invoked papal infallibility in defining the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, which he declared as dogma: “[T]he immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven.”

With Pope Pius XII's edict, the feast of Mary's Assumption also became a holy day of obligation.

The feast of the Assumption has many customs around the world, including a summer harvest festival, sometimes called “first fruits,” with offerings of flowers and herbs at churches. Clergy often bless fields, orchards, and vineyards on Assumption Day. Other popular traditions include festivals with fireworks, special foods, and street processions with Virgin Mary statues, accompanied by the faithful singing hymns or reciting prayers.

Assumption Day is a public holiday in many European, South American, and Francophone African countries. Pope Francis said, in August 2020, that Mary's assumption shines “as a sign of sure hope and solace to the People of God during its sojourn on earth,” as the Second Vatican Council puts it. He invites us all to be like our Mother Mary and thank God for the love, forgiveness, tenderness, and the many other gifts God showers upon us.

If we forget the good,” the Pope warned, “the heart shrinks. But if, like Mary, we remember the great things that the Lord does, if at least once a day we were to ‘magnify’ the Lord, then our hearts will expand and our joy will increase.”

## Avenue of Flags – and more – for St. Mary's Cemetery

The Knights of Columbus are hard at work restoring the beauty of St. Mary's Cemetery grounds. The Avenue of Flags has been newly constructed for special holidays. The Knights are now clearing the grounds, mowing, and doing routine maintenance – along with repairing historic headstones and tuck-pointing the mausoleum.



Future projects include construction of a Columbarium for the respectful storage of funerary urns and improvements to the Children's Area in the southeast corner of the cemetery, all underway in June. A new granite angel monument will be installed to honor and watch over the children, and granite corner markers will be installed designating this area. In addition, communal grave headstones will be installed.

Those who wish to volunteer their help may contact Denny Santarelli (d.santarelli@comcast.net, 217-778-0575). Also welcome are contributions to offset some of the expense; these can be sent to Twin City Council 891, Knights of Columbus, Attn: Cemetery Improvements, PO Box 3548, Champaign, IL 61826-3548.



## Women of St. Patrick celebrate Spring with salad luncheon

The Women of St. Patrick were delighted to gather for their spring potluck at Crystal Lake Park on Saturday, May 22. The luncheon included a variety of salads and



desserts, and the opportunity to socialize after a long year of pandemic restrictions was welcomed with enthusiasm! The gathering included a brief business meeting and the blessing of the beautiful prayer shawls that had been knitted or crocheted by members of the prayer shawl ministry.

The Women of St. Patrick awaited diocesan directives for pandemic restrictions in June, but they tentatively scheduled the annual parish Cellar-to-Garret “garage” sale for August 19-21. Many helpers are needed for this event. Anyone willing to volunteer to assist with accepting and sorting donations, setup, pricing, organizing, sales, and final cleanup should email the Women of St. Patrick or one of the co-chairs: Bernadette Nelson ([bernelson@comcast.net](mailto:bernelson@comcast.net)) or Anna Conner ([annaconner2@gmail.com](mailto:annaconner2@gmail.com)). As soon as they can confirm that the event will take place, more details on donating and volunteering will be publicized.

All women of the parish over age 18 are automatically members of the Women of St. Patrick, and notifications of the calendar of events and opportunities

for the group are emailed once a month. There are no dues or reservations required for any events, and new members are always welcome.

A Board provides leadership. At this time, the Board is seeking additional members since the by-laws state that nine members are needed. Nancy Olson, current Chair, has stepped down but will remain on the Board. Roxanne Munch assumed the duties of Chair beginning in June. Remaining officers are Eileen Schmidt, Vice Chair and Social Chair; Bernadette Nelson, Secretary; and Anna Conner, Treasurer. Additional Board members are Anne Allegretti and Donna Rinckenberger.

We are blessed to be a part of a dynamic and diverse parish and to pursue our stated objectives:

- To foster **Spirituality** in the spirit of Mary among the people of St. Patrick’s.
- To provide **Service** to our parish and community and make the church a fitting sanctuary for God’s people.
- To organize, support and host **Social** gatherings for the St. Patrick’s community.
- To promote cooperation with other parish ministries as a part of the Women of St. Patrick’s commitment to the ministry of Parish Community Life.

We pray that we are returning to a healthy “new normal” that will

allow all of us to participate and share in these objectives once again.

Good-bye, Sir, excuse me, I haven’t time.

I’ll come back, I can’t wait, I haven’t time.

I must end this letter—I haven’t time.

I’d love to help you, but I haven’t time.

I can’t accept, having no time.

I can’t think, I can’t read, I’m swamped. I haven’t time.

I’d like to pray, but I haven’t time.

—*Michel Quoist*

# Holy Cross Happenings

And just like that, the unquestionably unique 2020-2021 school year is in the books.

If you ask (and you should!) five different children what it was like to go to school during a pandemic, you're likely to get five different answers.

If you're asking Holy Cross Elementary students whose families chose in-person instruction, you might hear that although it was hard to have to spread out, wear masks, and be constantly reminded not to hug friends or share food with them, they were still able to do a lot of normal things. For starters, having the option to attend school in person every day was in itself a blessing to many of our families (even if the kids themselves might not describe it with that word).

Students whose families chose virtual instruction would likely tell you about the different software programs they had to master. No doubt they learned to budget their time in a way that will give them a leg up when they're in the higher grades! And they would likely inform you that they still had *so much* work to do.

On that note, can we take a moment to appreciate the Herculean task our teachers and staff had set before them at the start of the school year? It is safe to say it has never been more difficult to make sure every child has the individual support he/she needs to get in a full year's learning, but they did it. God, we thank you for these amazing men and women and pray that you will bless their lives abundantly!

Naturally sports schedules, beloved annual field trips, and Holy Cross's signature event – the Spring Musical – had to be drastically changed or eliminated altogether.

However, classes resumed trips to Daily Bread Soup Kitchen to deliver fruit and milk, Field Day still took place minus the long trek to Hessel Park, and although the musical was shelved, Mrs. Woolwine redoubled her efforts to keep our music program strong.

Also, as the semester wore on, our various sports teams began to resume their normal competitive intensity. Speaking of which, congratulations are in order to the track and field team: the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade boys won their sectional championship, and the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade girls won second place overall at sectionals. Nicely done!

Major events, such as First Holy Communion and eighth-grade graduation, also took place, but with limited attendance and social distancing protocols observed.



Congratulations to St. Patrick's parishioners Anna Loftus, Michael McCoy, Phil Withers-Sickles, Alyson Clements, Kyan Pope, Isabelle Jordan, Pillar Martinez, Tsheri Tembo, J.J. Schmidt, and Dereje Jahiel for completing their years of instruction at Holy Cross Elementary! May God bless their high-school years with every grace!

And may God bless our upcoming school year, which (per state mandate) will take place without a virtual option. With no approved vaccine yet for

many Holy Cross students, it is unclear which cleaning/ PPE/social distancing measures will need to be in place at the start of the school year.

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings we've enjoyed this year, and we ask that you provide mercy, grace, and protection for the year ahead. In all things, draw our hearts closer to yours, and help us to bear your light to others.

St. Patrick, pray for us!

*Please feel free to contact 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 children attend Holy Cross School? Schedule a tour of the school by calling Principal Greg Koerner (356-9521). Financial help may be available; contact the St. Patrick's parish office (367-2665) for details.*

## Holy Cross School 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Honor Roll 2020-2021:

Highest Honors  
Grace Arend  
Eireann Byard  
Natalie Pociask  
Anna Loftus

High Honors  
Elizabeth Withers-Sickles  
Peter Samu  
Alyson Clements  
Michael McCoy  
Pilar Martinez

Honors  
Elia Pope  
Love Samu  
Emily Surratt  
Phil Withers-Sickles



## Going forward

From page 1

These are things that can help you decide between the way things were in the past and the way they are now. You can also use them to imagine a new future for yourself. Whatever you do, invite Jesus to be part of your decision making. This doesn't guarantee that you will make the best decisions, but it still makes sense to include the person who loves you better than you love yourself, knows you better than you know yourself, and knows the needs of all the people around you.

## Coffee Shop

From page 1

Mass outdoors (weather permitting) just outside the church doors. Beginning on June 13, Coffee Shop moved back inside to St. Brigid's Hall. Donuts and unlimited coffee refills are available, each item just a dollar.

One of the lessons we've learned during the pandemic is the value of being with one another. The love of God is visible in our interactions with friends and new acquaintances; Coffee Shop provides a setting for that.



## Can you help In Focus happen?

Many people contribute their time and talents to help *In Focus* come out each month. We're happy to have all kinds of help, but we have two special needs right now.

**Page Layout:** Three or four times a year, you would receive files of edited articles and photos, lay them out using whatever software you prefer, and create a PDF.

**Committee Member:** We meet monthly (virtually, for now) to brainstorm articles for the next issue. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-78761 or [csalika@illinois.edu](mailto:csalika@illinois.edu).

I will sing to the Lord  
as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God  
while I have being.

—*Psalms 104:33*

## Abby, summer intern

St. Patrick's has acquired the services of a summer intern. The intern, parishioner Abby Goad, is helping out in several areas, including religious education. For Jon McCoy, religious education coordinator, she is preparing four or five students for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, teaching a one-hour class once a week, with four sessions scheduled for each sacrament.



Abby is an example of living your faith. As a high school student, Abby went on the March for Life in Washington, D.C. For the past four years, she has taught religious education at St. Patrick's; has helped out with Coffee Shop going at 7 a.m. and staying for the morning. She also has helped with K of C fish fries and parish breakfasts.

In the fall she will be a sophomore at SIU Carbondale majoring in special education with a minor in sign language. During this summer, she has kept in touch with friends via Zoom.

# Prayer for frustrated Catholics

Dear God, sometimes I get so frustrated with your Church. I know that I'm not alone. So many people who love your Church feel frustrated with the Body of Christ on earth. Priests and deacons, and brothers and sisters, can feel frustrated, too. I'll bet that even bishops and popes feel frustrated.

We grow worried and concerned and bothered and angry and sometimes scandalized because your divine institution, our home, is filled with human beings who are sinful, just like me. But I get frustrated most of all when I feel that there are things that need to be changed and I don't

have the power to change them.

I need your help, God. Help me to remember that Jesus promised that he would be with us until the end of time, and that your Church is always guided by the Holy Spirit, even if it's hard for me to see that.

Help me to understand that there was never a time when there were not arguments or disputes within your Church. Arguments go all the way back to Peter and Paul debating one another. And there was

never a time when there wasn't sin among the members of your Church, going back to Peter's denial of Jesus during his Passion. Why would today's Church be any different than it was for people who knew Jesus on earth?

Help me to believe that your Spirit can do anything: raise up saints when we need them most, soften hearts when they seem hardened, open minds when they seem closed, inspire confidence when all seems lost. Help us to do what seems impossible until it is done.

Most of your saints had it a lot worse than I do. They were frustrated with your Church at times, struggled with it, and were

occasionally persecuted by it. If they can trust in your Church in the midst of those difficulties, so can I.

Help me to be peaceful when people tell me that I'm not a good Catholic for trying to make things better. You called me by name to be in your Church. As long as I draw breath, help me remember how the holy waters of

baptism welcomed me into your family of sinners and saints. Let the voice that called me into your Church be what I hear when other voices tell me that I'm not welcome in the Church.

Most of all, help me to place all of my hope in your Son. Give me only his love and his grace; that's enough for me.

Help me, God, and help your Church.

—James Martin, SJ



## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . An Unknown Parishioner

### Molten Chocolate Cake

4 oz butter  
4 oz baker's chocolate  
2 whole eggs + 2 yolks  
1/2 c sugar

Melt butter and chocolate together in double boiler. Whisk eggs and sugar together until smooth and sugar is absorbed. Add chocolate mixture to egg mixture, stirring constantly. Fill 4 small cake forms, generously buttered. Bake on cookie sheet at 450° for 6-8 minutes. Turn out onto plates, serve warm with ice cream. *This recipe can be doubled, of course, for a larger group of hungry chocolate lovers.*

\*

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, [mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)). The only requirement is that it be quick and easy to prepare!*



### Dear God,

Please keep my family, friends, and loved ones safe.  
Please watch over them always, and let good health, happiness, and your blessings be upon them. Amen.



# A day for honoring your grandparents!

Pope Francis recently announced the institution of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, to take place annually on the fourth Sunday of July. This year, it will occur on July 25, a date close to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

Pope Francis instituted this annual occasion because the elderly are often forgotten. Even today, he says, the Holy Spirit stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly, adding that the voice of the elderly is precious because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the people. The elderly remind us that old age is a gift, that grandparents are the link between generations – they pass on to the young the experiences of life.



Pope Francis is expected to celebrate the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly by presiding at Mass on the evening of Sunday, July 25, in St. Peter's. His theme for the inaugural commemoration is "I am with you always" (Mt. 28:20), illustrating the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person.

Not only are grandchildren and youth invited to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation, and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.

Check St. Patrick's bulletin for our commemoration of this event on July 25, and plan to take your grandchildren to celebrate this new observance with you. And children might like to invite their grandparents to this celebration. Just imagine, whole generations gathering in celebration to honor the elderly of their families!



**Q: I have been reluctant to be vaccinated against the Covid-19 coronavirus. Do I have an obligation to be vaccinated?**

**A:** Some people are skeptical of the vaccines offered, and for a variety of reasons, including incomplete or incorrect information and a lack of trust in their safety.

There is strong evidence that the speed of bringing them to market has not affected safety or short-term efficacy. Questions remain regarding long-term consequences simply because there hasn't been enough time to gather that data.

As a general rule, people should be vaccinated. Vaccines fight against infection and help keep people healthy. This is especially true regarding vaccines that help prevent infectious disease, when getting a vaccine protects not only your own health but also that of others.

There might be particular health reasons why a specific individual shouldn't be vaccinated. If you believe that you shouldn't be vaccinated, you still need to take seriously your responsibility to others. In the case of Covid-19, actions such as wearing masks and keeping social distance are examples of what we have owed to others. As St. Pope John Paul II wrote in *On Social Concerns*, "We are all really responsible for all of us."

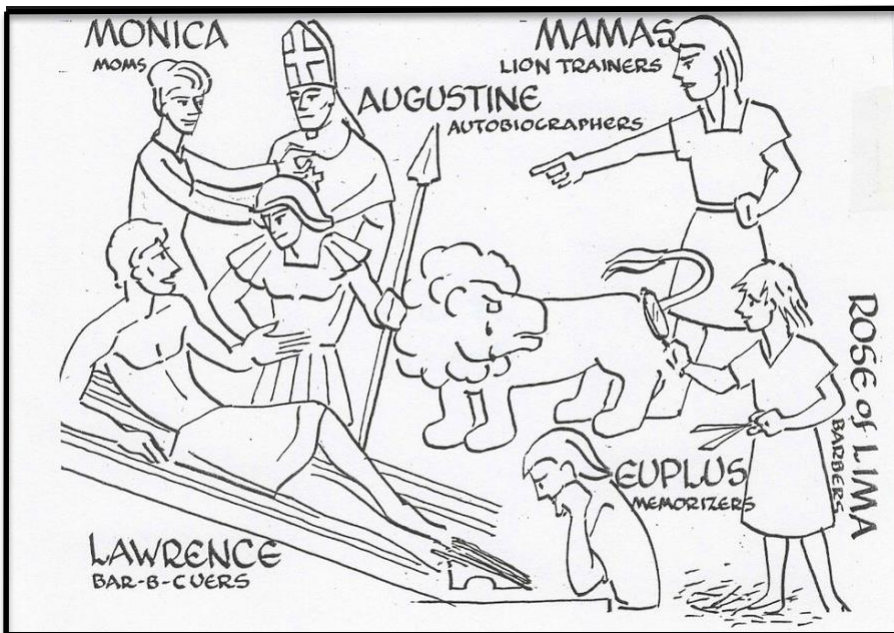
You might also weigh the benefits accruing from the increasing numbers of people who *have* been vaccinated – a relaxation of some of the restrictions imposed and a resumption of some long-deferred activities. How *nice* to be able to join others for a meal at a restaurant, to participate in a family celebration of a graduation or a wedding or a baptism, to visit a sick friend, to gather at Coffee Shop with family and friends, to hug and be hugged – oh, the list goes on.

O God who brought us to birth  
and in whose arms we die,  
in our grief and shock  
contain and comfort us;  
embrace us with your love,  
give us hope in our confusion,  
and grace to let go into new  
life, through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

—Janet Morlev



July Saints by Fr. George Wuellner



August Saints by Fr. George Wuellner

*Joy  
with glimpses sometimes rare  
among the clouds,  
like sun,  
is always there.  
—Ruth R. Raines*



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

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

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The deadline for submitting articles and news items for the next (September) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, August 8.**