

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

June 2021

Family time

For many of us, this is a family-focused time of year. We're between Mother's Day and Father's Day, honoring and remembering



the people who brought us into life, loved and cared for us for many years, and helped to shape us into the people we are today. If young adults really understood how much giving and loving it takes to be a parent, perhaps few of them would have the courage to bring new life into the world. No one is perfect, so of course our parents have had some failures and mistakes, but most of us can still be grateful for their place in our lives.

We call God our Father. If it takes courage for a young couple to bring a few beautiful new lives into the world, how much courage did it take for God to bring all of us to life! That's an incredible commitment of love, of paying attention, of nurturing, of listening, of teaching! Our Father's love and care never fail us. He is always with us. We have so much to be grateful for!

Many families experience change at this time of year. There are graduations, moving to new schools and new jobs, and weddings. We cel-

brate such events as signs of a job well done, an accomplishment. We use them to peer forward into our future and wonder what the next stage of our lives will be like. And we make some adjustments in our family relationships, recognizing growing independence and responsibility.

Jesus knows what it is to grow and change, to take on new responsibilities, and to need to make adjustments. The gospels give us a glimpse of this in the story of his being found in the temple (Luke 2:41-52). It seems His parents had to adjust to his growing independence. He said to them, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But Luke goes on to say, "They did not grasp what he said to them." Misunderstandings happen in the best of families! So when you find

see **Family** on page 6

Cellar-to-Garret news!

The Women of St. Patrick's annual Cellar-to-Garret garage sale is the group's big annual fundraiser. The money it brings in funds the many activities and contributions the WSP makes to the parish and parish life. The sale is also a service project that helps parishioners and community members find affordable clothing and household goods. It was disappointing for everyone – would-be donors, volunteers, and shoppers – that the 2020 sale had to be canceled due to the pandemic. It was not clear whether there would be a 2021 sale or not.



Well, good news! The WSP has tentatively set August 8 (set-up) through August 21 (end of sale) as dates for the 2021 Cellar-to-Garret garage sale. Please note that this could change! The final decision on whether the sale can be held will be made sometime in mid-June. It will depend on what the latest rules for gatherings will have been established by the Diocese of Peoria

see **Cellar-to-Garret** on page 6

Come help us grow

Calling all gardeners, want-to-be gardeners, and anyone willing to learn and help out: the SVDP Food Pantry garden needs your help!

How much do you enjoy fresh-from-the-garden veggies in the summer? How would you like to help share that enjoyment – and healthful eating? Your work in the Food Pantry garden helps provide homegrown produce for our Food Pantry guests.

As another growing season gets underway, Garden Coordinator Anna Fedders is looking for volunteers to help with weeding, watering, harvesting, and other maintenance tasks in the garden, which is located in Urbana's Meadowbrook Park Organic Garden plots. Anna and her

crew have high hopes for a good season this year. Thanks to fence repairs and reinforcements, as well as new garden boxes built by former pastoral associate Jim Urban, they hope the rabbits will not be able to eat more of their fair share of the produce this summer!

If you are not able to help in the food pantry garden but have a garden of your own, would you consider planting an extra row to donate to the food pantry? The food pantry is happy to take any surplus harvest you may have.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Anna (anafedders@gmail.com).



Congratulations, graduates!

On Saturday, May 5, the annual Graduation Mass was held at 5 p.m., celebrating St. Patrick's graduating eighth-graders and high school seniors. The recipients of the parish scholarships were announced, as follows:

Vincent O. Greene Scholarship

Joseph Acton (Illinois State University)
 Lisa Altaner (University of Illinois)
 Jakob Arend (University of Illinois)
 Calum Beckett (Berklee School of Music)
 Brooke Berry (Northern Illinois University)
 Jonah Borberly (Southern Illinois University)
 Karlee Feinen (Salve Regina University)
 Austin Ford (University of Oregon)
 Abigail Goad (Southern Illinois University)
 Emily Goad (Richland Community College)
 Kylie Hopper (University of Illinois)
 Madeline Michael (Washington University)
 Erinn Miller (Saint Louis University)
 Erin Minor (University of Illinois)
 Ketsia Nzeza (Parkland College)
 Sarah Perdekamp (Indiana University)
 Matthew Reeder (University of Illinois)
 Kayley Schacht (University of Notre Dame)
 Noelle Schacht (Butler University)
 Evan Schmitz (University of Illinois)
 Kathleen Sherlock (Butler University)
 Lucy Sherlock (Butler University)
 Sophia Solava (Parkland College)
 Molly Sweeney (Augustana College)

Hallee Thomas (Eastern Illinois University)
 Maris Wszalek (University of Illinois)

Jerry McArthur Scholarship

Kylie Hopper (University of Illinois)
 Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship:
 Emily Goad (Richland Community College)
 William Moore (University of Illinois)
 Evan Schmitz (University of Illinois)
 Sophia Solava (Parkland College)

Fr. Luke Scholarship

Vigo Etshitshi (High School of St. Thomas More)
 Jasmine Waite (High School of St. Thomas More)



Receiving their First Communion at a special Mass this May were Paulina Angrave, Brody Buhr, Carter Clark, Salomé Dallas, Dashiell Gaines, Tyler Hardy, Madeline Krogstad, David Surratt, and Rose Tranel.



Q: How does one get a prayer shawl for someone who is frail or ill?

A: That's easy – just come in to the parish center and pick one out! Prayer shawls are kept in the parish center lounge, stored in plastic bins located in the closet to the left. In one of the bins there is a book in which you can record the name of the person who is to receive the chosen shawl and the name of the person who made it.

Prayer shawls may be picked up during parish office hours, Tuesday

through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or during Mass times on Tuesday through Sunday.

Anyone may pick up a prayer shawl, whether or not a member of the parish. Past recipients include people who are seriously ill, undergoing chemo, recovering from physical injuries, in nursing homes, suffering from emotional or physical trauma, caregivers, new mothers, and those grieving the loss of a loved one.

A prayer shawl is a very special knitted, woven, or crocheted shawl – special because when the maker of a shawl is creating it, he or she is praying for the future recipient of the shawl. At St. Patrick's, the shawls

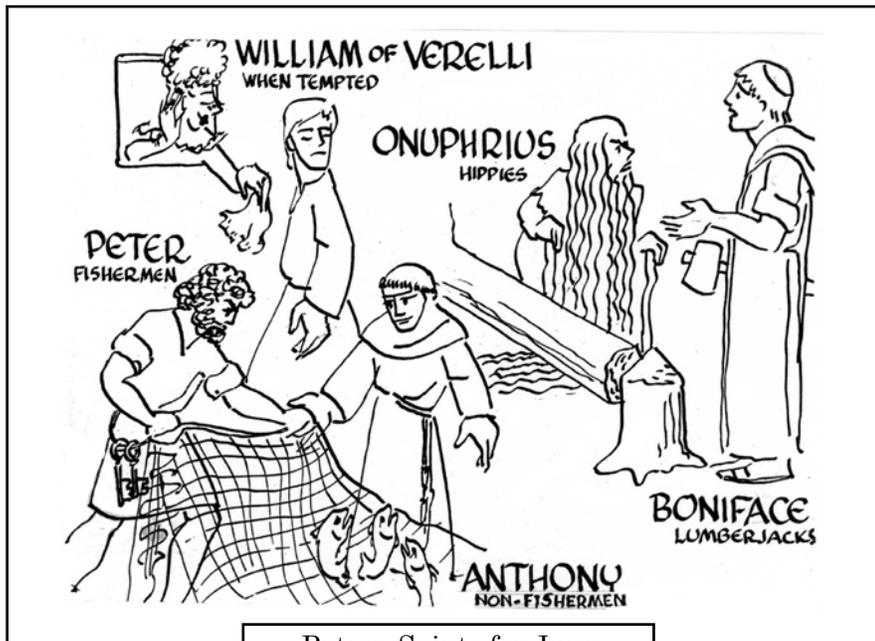
are gathered and blessed, sprinkled with holy water, and prayed upon by parishioners in a short ceremony.

The shawls serve as a wonderful comfort to those who make them and those who bring them to recipients, but those who receive them are the most affected. As the blessed shawl is wrapped around a person, one feels the power of prayer and the knowledge of being loved and cared for by the Lord.

We are very grateful to the makers of the shawls, several of whom are not parishioners. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact the coordinator of the Ministry of Consolation, Nancy Olson (nancybolson@gmail.com).



After praying for the recipients and makers of the shawls, each member of the Tuesday noon Bible Study group signs her name to a greeting attached to the shawl.



Patron Saints for June

Fr. George Wuellner

Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, help the men and women of our parish to hear your call to serve in the Diocese of Peoria. Many priests in our diocese are serving two, three, or even four parishes, so have little opportunity to get to know their parishioners or to provide spiritual direction or companionship. In our own parish, we have experienced the loss of two Masses from the former schedule – although we are very grateful to have a priest! Too many people throughout the world are unable to celebrate Mass or receive the sacraments regularly. Loving Father, our needs are great and we thirst for your presence!

A Season of Sacraments

The Covid-19 pandemic has not kept the Holy Spirit from calling people to the faith. During the Easter Season we have welcomed several people into the Church. If you have the opportunity to meet them, please welcome them, and pray for our neophytes – those new to the Church.

At the Easter Vigil, two people received the sacraments of initiation, Ruth Hubbard and Nicholas Grove.

Ruth Hubbard was baptized and then received Confirmation and her First Communion. Ruth told us, “I joined the Catholic Church after years of reading theology of several types of Christianity and realized they always start with ‘we broke away from the Catholic Church.’ My family was Catholic up until the 1970s then left the Church. I am grateful to be coming back.

Nicholas Grove was confirmed and received his First Communion. Nick moved to Urbana to be near his grandparents, Sherry and Kent Paris (parishioners, and also converts).

In late April, at a Mass in French, Jeanne Bomesse and Jose Puati, of our Congolese community, had their marriage blessed, and Jeanne was confirmed and received her First Communion.

On May 8, Abigail and George Alberti, who moved here from Texas last year, had their marriage blessed, and Abigail received the Sacraments.

Still to come, Kia Tucker and Doug Kronaizl will have their marriage blessed, and Kia will be received into the Church. Kia shared a bit of their story here:

“2020 was quite the year in more ways than

just one! I’ll try to remember it by its upsides: it was the year I got married and the year I moved across the country to be closer to some of my best friends. My husband, Doug, and I moved to Champaign (with our two cats, Lentil pictured here!) around the middle of the year, right around the time of our courthouse wedding.



Ruth

“Once we got to town, we searched for a new church home and found St. Patrick’s. My husband was born and raised Catholic, and I attended a Catholic high school in South Dakota so I was familiar with the

faith – but I also desired to learn more. Fortunately, at St. Patrick’s, I was able to take part in the great RCIA program. Doug and I attended classes throughout the year and I will be receiving the Sacraments soon. Right now, we are working through our Sacrament of Marriage preparation.

“St. Patrick’s offered us a warm welcome, lasting friendships, and an incredible faith education. For that, we are so grateful! But we are moving back to South Dakota this summer so I can pursue a Master’s in Social Work and put my faith into practice in the world.”



Doug and Kia

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 4th Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Interested? Contact Cathy Salika at 367-78761 or csalika@illinois.edu.

*Dear God,
some days I’m always running,
sometimes toward you,
sometimes away;
but you slow me down
with flowers,
and teach me to study
your creation.
Don’t let me throw away this day.
Stick close by my side always.
Amen.
—Teenager’s Prayer*

*I cannot know
if what I choose is wise;
where wisdom lies
is mystery beyond where I can go;
but I am spared from dread,
believing I am led.
—Ruth R. Rains*



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, June 6.**

St. Justin Martyr's quest for God

Justin was born in 100 A.D. in the Roman city of Flavia in Samaria. His father was a Roman and his grandfather was Greek – neither were Christians. At an early age, Justin was seeking the meaning of life but failed to find it, despite much searching.

He first had a Stoic teacher who knew nothing about God. Then Justin hired a philosopher who was only interested in getting paid. Later Justin had a Pythagorean teacher, who urged Justin to study only music, astronomy, and geometry. His fourth teacher was a Platonist who, while he was intellectually stimulating, could not fill Justin's hungry heart searching for God.

Finally in 130 A.D. Justin met an old man walking by the sea and they fell into conversation. Justin's life was transformed and a fire kindled in his soul. He studied and fell in love with the prophets, the men who loved Christ. He had finally found a philosophy that fulfilled his quest and met his needs!

Justin began traveling and teaching wherever he stopped. In 132 A.D. he landed in Ephesus, which is now a part of Turkey. Justin had a debate there with Trypho, one of the most famous Jews of the time. They argued about the true interpretation of Scripture. That nearly 2000-year-old debate is still preserved in "The

Dialogue with Trypho," a second-century text that is usually agreed upon to be dated between 155 and 160 A.D.

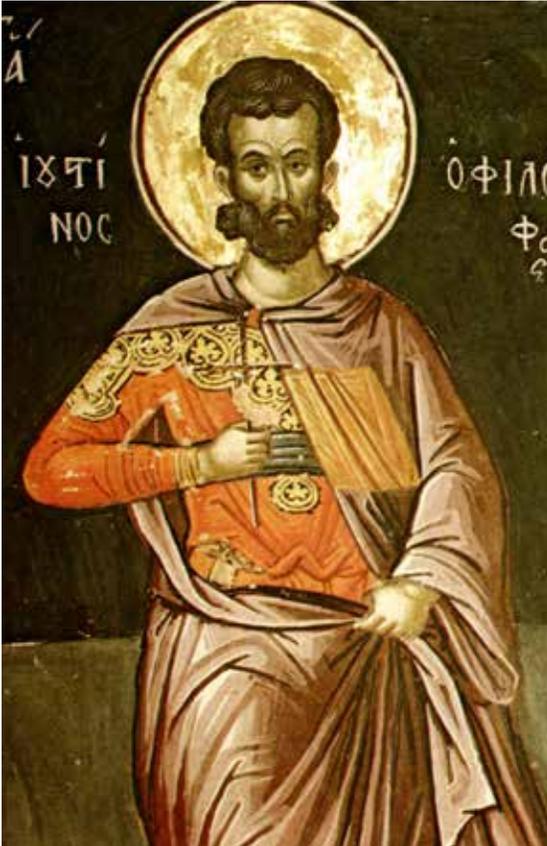
Justin then moved on to Rome where he founded a Christian school and wrote defenses of the Christian

faith. Two of Justin's "Apologies on Christianity" still exist. Justin described the two aspects of Christianity that moved him – Christianity's moral beauty and its truths. He discussed the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist and the New Testament. He was the first known writer to quote from the Acts of the Apostles.

In 165 A.D. Justin and six of his disci-

ples were arrested. When the Roman Prefect Rusticus asked them to sacrifice to the Roman gods, Justin said, "No one in his right mind gives up piety for impiety." When they were told that they would be mercilessly tortured, Justin replied, "If we are punished for the sake of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we hope to be saved." The six companions said, "Do as you wish, for we are Christians, and we do not sacrifice to idols." So they were scourged and then beheaded.

St. Justin Martyr was an Apologist and philosopher and an early Doctor of the Church. He was canonized by the Pre-Congregation for the Causes of Saints. His feast day is June 1.



Family from page 1

yourself struggling with growth and change in your family, call on Jesus. He understands, and he will always lend a hand.

Many families reconnect at this time of year. Some of us are breaking out of work and school routines to spend vacation time together. Some of us are traveling to reconnect with family, especially this year as we come out of our pandemic-related isolation. These are joyful times, but they can be stressful too. Sometimes there are disagreements, and we need to decide whether it's time to work toward a common understanding. Sometimes there are old hurts and we need to discern whether there's an opportunity for healing.

No one knows our hearts like the Holy Spirit. The Spirit can help us find ways to build bridges and heal wounds. The Spirit can prepare hearts to desire closeness, to be open to reconciliation, to be ready for forgiveness. Ask the Spirit to open your heart and the hearts of others. The Spirit will always respond, is always with us.

Whatever changes your family is facing, whatever opportunities for growth, whatever hopes for greater closeness, call on God for help. God is always with us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Glory be!

Cellar-to-Garret from page 1

at that time and whether St. Brigid Hall will still be needed for overflow Mass seating.

Hoping for the best, the WSP would like to begin planning. Many volunteers are needed to prepare and carry out this sale. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Women of St Patrick (womenofstpatrik@gmail.com). Keeping watching the weekly bulletin for the most up-to-date information.

Remember?

Congratulations to all St. Patrick's parishioners who contributed their time, treasure and support for the renovation of the church and the quick repayment of the renovation loan!



Did You Know?

- The diocese of Peoria used to do the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) collection in the spring. In 2020, because of COVID-19 it was postponed to the fall, and St. Patrick's is still working on meeting that goal. The ADA for 2021 will be held in the fall this year.
- When the church was expanded, all the roofs were replaced except for the roof of the tower. Since the tower roof is older, and because it had some hail damage, it needs to be replaced in the next few years.
- Despite pandemic restrictions, St. Patrick was able to offer religious education classes this year, with on-line and in-person instruction as needed. A special thank you to all our teachers who worked very hard to make this possible: Emily Goad, Emma Brunson, Emily Scherbring, Kari Surratt, Mary Kate Arend, Jasmine Waite, Christina Pembele, Ellie Porath, Roxanne Munch, Frank Rosser, Katie McCullough, and J.P. Childers.

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 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); Denise Green, 553-7110 (dgree1@gmail.com); Elizabeth Hendricks, 328-2184 (elizabethwahlhend@gmail.com); Mary Lou Menches, 344-1125 (mmenches@illinois.edu); and Cathy Salika, 367-7861 (csalika@illinois.edu).

Associates: John Colombo, Frances Drone-Silvers, Rachael McMillan, Nancy Olson, Rick Partin, Shirley Splittstoesser, Jim Urban, and Jerry Walsh.

Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Frances Drone-Silvers, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Long, Jon McCoy, Eileen Mathy, Mary Lou Menches, Cathy Salika, and Chris Whippo. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Rick Partin; page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Judy Fierke

Italian Beef

- 1 3-4 lb beef roast or pot roast
- 1 pkg dried onion soup
- 2 T dried oregano leaves
- 2 T dried basil leaves
- 1 t garlic powder
- 1 t dried red pepper
- 1 t fennel powder (or 1 T fennel seed)
- 1/2 c red wine (optional)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



Place all ingredients in a lidded casserole or soup pot, and fill with water to nearly cover the meat. Cook in a 350° oven for two hours. Remove the cooking pot and slice the beef, then replace the meat in the cooking pot and return it, covered, to the oven for another two hours, or until the meat is tender enough to pull apart with forks. Serve beef and sauce on buns or thick-sliced bread.

* * *

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!

When you walk, you might like to take the hand of a child. She will receive your concentration and stability, and you will receive her freshness and innocence. From time to time, she may want to run ahead and then wait for you to catch up. A child is a bell of mindfulness, reminding us how wonderful life is.

At Plum Village I teach the young people a simple verse to practice while walking: "Yes, yes, yes" as they breathe in, and "Thanks, thanks, thanks" as they breath out. I want them to respond to life, to society, and to the Earth in a positive way. They enjoy it very much.

—Thich Nhat Hanh