

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

May 2021

The fire of the Holy Spirit

In the story of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire over the disciples who were gathered in Jesus' name. The image of fire tells us a lot about how the Spirit can work in us.

As fire on a cold day warms us to our bones, so does the Spirit enter into our lives. As fire thaws what is frozen, so the Spirit melts whatever in our hearts is stiff and unresponsive to God. As the fire of the sun gives life to the earth, so the Spirit breathes life into us. As fire gives light, so the Spirit pushes away the darkness of confusion and fear.

As fire draws many to its warmth, so the Spirit draws us into community. As fire helps us to see the people around us, so the Spirit helps us to know, understand, and love others. As fire gives us a place to tell stories, so the Spirit helps us to hear and understand the Word of God. As fire makes food more nutritious for our bodies, so the Spirit leads us to the Eucharist. As a single spark spreads to all the firewood, so the Spirit helps to spread the light of faith among us.

As fire transforms fuel and oxygen into light and warmth, so the Spirit

transforms us, making us more like what God knows we can be. As fire purifies metals, making them stronger and more beautiful, so the Spirit transforms us. As fire gives comfort in cold and dark times, so the Spirit comforts us in the difficult times of life. As fire must be handled with care, so the Spirit teaches us wonder and awe at the work of God.

A person "on fire" is filled with joy, the joy that the Spirit gives. A person "on fire" is full of enthusiasm, ready to work hard and take risks to serve others. A person "on fire" is using his talents to the best of his ability. A person "on fire" knows that she is deeply, unconditionally loved by God and responds to God with love.

These are gifts that the Spirit gives. When the disciples were young, they knew that God dwelt in the Temple. As they came to know Jesus, they learned that God also walked beside them. With the coming of the Spirit, they understood that God was intimately part of their lives, knowing them, loving them, standing by them in every way—as we too are assured, now and forever.



A springtime flora resurrection

In preparation for the Easter Resurrection this April, St. Patrick's Grounds Committee has cleaned up the flower beds from their winter hibernation. Phil Davis, the chairman of the Grounds Committee, said that the committee surveyed the grounds and dug up and disposed of anything that died during the winter.

Phil is working with Craig Goad to lay down new mulch this spring. Until the building debt for the rectory is paid off, the grounds will only be maintained, no new flora added. In fact, Phil Davis is maintaining the grounds by buying leaf bags and chemicals, and paying for recycling fees as a donation to St. Patrick. So, check out the flower beds to see the perennials and bulbs bursting into bloom this spring.

Thank you Phil and everyone who volunteers to help him keep our grounds looking beautiful!



Knights of Columbus continue Lenten fish dinner tradition

The Knights of Columbus Urbana Council 5752 were happy to offer Lenten Fish Dinners in 2021. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, only curbside pick-up was available. While everyone missed dining together in the parish hall, the Knights still provided tasty food! The meal options were a fried fish sandwich or baked fish tacos, both coming with sides of cole slaw, mac and cheese, chips and salsa, and a dessert.

All proceeds went toward supporting disabled children in the area and the Fr. Charles Martell Scholarship for High School Seniors of our parish.



The St. Patrick's Day celebration was safe and a success!

On March 17 we honored our patron saint with our Safe and Social St. Patrick's Day Celebration. This was the first real social our parish has had since the pandemic began over a year ago. The celebration was very enjoyable and we had a good turnout in spite of the rain, which we preferred to think of as being authentic Irish weather.

At 4 p.m. Fr. Anthony celebrated Mass both inside and outside the church. Those who preferred to participate from their cars were able to be in the parking lot and listen to Mass on the radio. Fr. Anthony was outside visible to the car attendees during the Liturgy of the Word and Homily. Everyone sitting inside the church sanctuary could hear him over the speakers. Then he returned to the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist and Consecration. Due to the rain, those who attended in cars came inside the gathering space to receive communion.

After Mass the rain thankfully tapered to a light drizzle, so people did not at all mind lining up to order from the food truck of the Smith Burger Company, to enjoy delicious hamburgers and other fare. As they waited in line Fr. Anthony brought desserts around and encouraged everyone to pick a dessert to enjoy as an appetizer! Children and adults had fun with the Leprechaun Leap cake walk. Our parish bakers did an outstanding job of creating beautiful Irish-themed cakes and cupcakes for the cake walk and treats for dessert. Irish dancers from the Shamrock Academy performed for the appreciative crowd. Those who had

registered ahead of time picked up a bag of goodies, and at the end of the evening people were delighted to win door prizes.

Thank you to parish staff and Mary Tate of Parish Council, who organized and put on the event. Our parish business manager Jackie Grandone wins the endurance prize for being last one standing at the end of the evening wearing a boot on her broken foot! Thank you to all the volunteers who staffed the dessert table, gift bag table, cake walk, and who set up and cleaned up. We appreciate the part each of you played to make this a great celebration. It will be nice to try an outdoor social again in better weather!





Q: What is the Litany of Loreto? Someone mentioned it recently as her favorite prayer to Mary, but I don't find it in my prayerbook.

A: The Litany of Loreto, entreating Mary under some of her most beautiful titles, is named after the place where Mary is said to have lived her last years on earth.

We can recall some of the titles given to her: *Mother*

of Christ, Virgin Most Pure, Virgin Most Prudent, Virgin Most Faithful, Cause of Our Joy.

... Three new invocations were added to this litany in 2010 by Pope Francis: *Mother of Mercy, Mother of Hope, and Solace of Migrants.* They all entreat Mary to pray for us. If you don't find the Litany of Loreto in any of the prayerbooks you have access to, look for it on-line.

If you're drawn to pray this litany to Mary, you might consider using the beautiful titles by which Mary is addressed, but make up your own prayers with them as you talk with Mary in your own words. Here are a few examples to get you started:

Mirror of Justice, help me to look at myself and others with understanding and acceptance.

Seat of Wisdom, oh, please, more wisdom, quickly!

Mystical Rose, help me to bloom where I'm planted.

Tower of Ivory, help me when I'm immersed in the world's marketplaces.

House of Gold, keep me grateful for shelter, but not house-proud.

Ark of the Covenant, help me keep my baptismal promises.

You get the idea. Go on with *Gate of Heaven* (welcome the dying), *Morning Star*, *Refuge of Sinners*, and so on. Once you get started, you may find yourself in a very meaningful conversation with our Mother Mary!

Vocation Prayer

Father, look upon your Church with love and bless your people with generous single men and women, loving husbands and wives, understanding parents, trusting children, and consecrated men and women.

Help us to see our vocations as a journey toward you.

You have called us, not to set us apart, but to bring us together with others who need your love.

Make us signs of your loving presence in their midst.

One family at a time

Preparation for baptism, a sacrament of initiation into the faith, has been adjusted during the pandemic to provide for the personal safety of participants. Before the onset of Covid-19, baptism preparation classes were held the first Tuesday of each month, and four or more families, godparents, and other family members could participate. Now, however, only one family at a time participates in a class.

Parish secretary Patricia Fowler arranges a preparation class at a time mutually convenient for the parent(s) and for those who are doing the training. Much of the

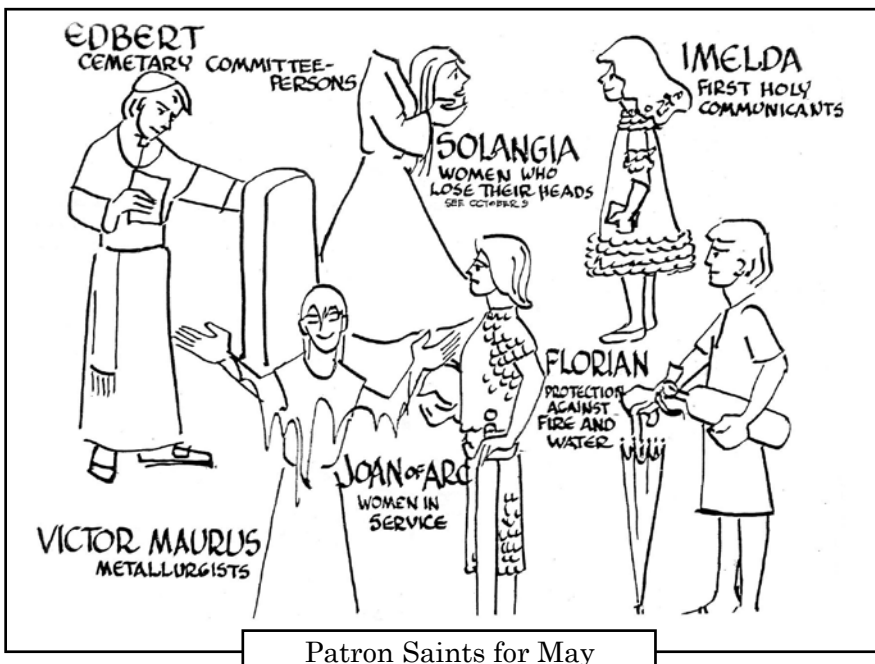


content is taught using a PowerPoint presentation developed at St. Patrick's; it has been translated into French and Spanish to accommodate parents who are more comfortable with content provided in their native language. Upon request, a baptism preparation class can be offered via Zoom, which enables godparents and other family members to take part.

You can arrange for the baptism of your child by calling the parish office (217/367-2665) to schedule your baptism preparation class. You might want to call a few weeks ahead of the date you prefer for the baptism itself, since other parents may be trying to make similar arrangements.

*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



Fr. George Wuellner

St. Joseph a model for all of us

St. Joseph the Worker, whose feast is commemorated on May 1, has never had such a friend as in Pope Francis, who announced that from December 8, 2020 the Church would observe a special Year of St. Joseph to honor “the man



who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet, and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

There are only five episodes involving Joseph in the gospels: the Annunciation, the Nativity, the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple, as a refugee to Egypt, and the loss and discovery of the boy Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. He is not recorded as ever saying anything in the New Testament – not a word. He should be the patron saint of shy, hard-working people who say little but do a lot.

Joseph is a dreamer; that’s how God communicates with him. In the gospels, Joseph has a quartet of dreams: when he is told not to fear taking the pregnant Mary as his wife, when he is warned to flee to Egypt to escape Herod’s plan to kill Jesus, when he is given the all-clear to return to Israel, and finally when he is told not to settle in Judea but to go to Galilee.

The flight into Egypt portrays Joseph’s transformation from being a dreamer to being one of history’s most famous refugees, fleeing a murderous dictator and saving the Savior of the world. We can see the parallels in our own lives. In being tender, open to the demands of faith, obedient, creatively courageous, and humble, Pope Francis says St. Joseph is a model for all of us.

Like the Scriptures, dreams need careful interpretation and discernment, but Joseph, the silent partner within the Holy Family, is testament to how a few words and great actions can save ourselves, our family, and even the world.

When Pope Francis announced the Year of St. Joseph, he also gave us a new prayer:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.*

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.

*Come, Holy Spirit! Adorable Spirit,
may the rushing wind of your mercy
blow away all trace of sin within us;
and may your unquenchable fire
purify our souls.*

*We believe that you comfort
those who mourn,
uplift those who are depressed,
calm those who are angry,
guide those who are confused,
console those who are lonely,
reconcile those who are estranged,
and bring joy to all who confess
Jesus Christ as Lord.*

*We pray that you will live
in our simple and humble hearts,
and so make us truly
temples of your glorious love.*

—Desiderius Erasmus



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, May 9**.

New film depicts the miracle at Fatima

On May 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared to three young children near Fatima, Portugal. A new movie “Fatima” tells the story of their visions and their impact on Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

Then 10 years old, Lucia, Francisco age 9 and Jacinta age 7 were tending the peasant family’s sheep herd. Suddenly the blessed Mother appeared to them as a glowing woman in a white mantle edged with gold, and holding a rosary. She asked them to pray for peace despite World



War I raging on and to return to the same hillside each 13th of the month for six months.

Their families, the local priest, their bishop, and government authorities all argued that the children

were imagining or lying about the visitations and related miracles. They pressured the children to deny their experience. Soon pilgrims gathered to watch for Blessed Mother’s appearance each month, culminating in the “Miracle of the Sun” on October 13, 1917. Hundreds of witnesses described a multihued sun breaking through the clouds after a dark, heavy rain, dancing around the sky, and drying their wet clothes immediately.

The film opens with the adult Lucia, now a Carmelite nun, talking with a scholar about her visions decades before. Due to the pandemic, 2020’s “Fatima” was not widely seen in theaters but is now available on Netflix. For a fuller discussion see the Paulist review:

<http://media.pauline.org/reviews/ArticleID/4465/A-Movie-with-a-Message>).

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.



Did You Know?

- Regrettably, St. Patrick’s popular annual Cellar-to-Garret Sale will not be held this year—another pandemic casualty. If you can manage to store your give-aways for another year, they will be valued by next year’s treasure seekers. If not, you might gift Salt & Light or Goodwill with them, knowing that all will find a good home!
- Kudos and many thanks to the St. Patrick’s parishioners who made it to Community Blood Services during the parish’s recent blood drive. Your blood donations will save up to 21 lives!

More photos from the St. Patrick's Day celebration!



Wanted: Notary-Auditor(s)

St. Patrick's Church is searching for a person or persons 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 Catholic;
- be a good listener, discreet, and nonjudgmental in accepting extremely personal and confidential information;
- be available to meet with clients at times convenient to their work and home schedules;
- be 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 bwysocki16@gmail.com).



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.

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Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Jill Blanck

1-2-3-4 Coffee Cake

- 1 c butter
- 2 c sugar
- 3 c flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 t salt
- 1 c milk
- 1/2 t vanilla
- 3 t baking powder



Topping:

- 1/2 c flour
- 1 c sugar
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1/4 c butter

Mix all ingredients together and put into ungreased 9 × 13-inch pan. Mix topping ingredients well and sprinkle over top of batter. Bake at 300° for 30 minutes, or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.

* * *

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!

This is the first and last vocation of every Christian, to love, and all other vocations are only a shell in which this vocation, to love, is protected.

—Caryll Houselander