

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

November 2022

Thanks for the sweater!

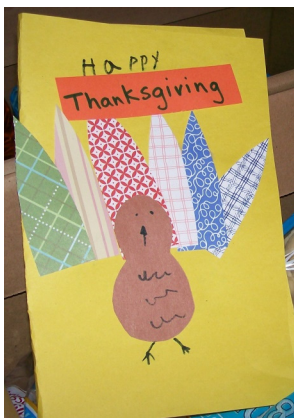
Imagine that you're a child again, and that you have an aunt who doesn't know you very well. She sends you a birthday present that you really don't like, a sweater, perhaps, a really ugly sweater. Next time Auntie comes to visit, your Mom tells you that you have to wear the sweater. Mom is right, of course, but why? If you don't wear the sweater, Auntie has every right to feel unappreciated. But Mom is probably looking at what this situation is doing to you. If you don't accept the gift, it's as though you had never received it. Worse still, you become a smaller person. You become a person who can't see the importance of the gift and of giving thanks.

And what if Auntie gave you a truly wonderful gift instead, something you treasured? You might not need Mom to remind you. You'd probably find your own way to say thank you and show appreciation. You would not only receive a gift, you would also grow in thankfulness.

We're coming up on Thanksgiving Day, a time when we easily remember to thank God for his gifts. It's a good thing to say thank you. It's a much bigger thing to use his gifts. Using God's gifts helps us to grow into people of gratitude, people responsive to the love of God. Using them also helps to build up others, perhaps by strengthening your family, perhaps by building

up your community, perhaps by making the world a more just place, perhaps by showing others how loving and generous God is.

This is why we hear a call to share our time and talents every fall. It's not that the parish needs enough warm bodies to accomplish tasks. It's that Mother Church knows the importance of accepting God's gifts and putting them to use. Some of your gifts might not be very useful in the parish. They might be more helpful in your family setting, or your workplace, or someplace that you volunteer. Nonetheless, it is good to look at your gifts and see if you are using them well. And as you grow in the use of your gifts and your gratitude for them, it's good for our St Patrick community too, because you are part of us!



God knows you far better than Auntie does. Sometimes God's gifts are always just what you need, and just what the world around you needs. Sometimes God's gifts are not very attractive at first. For example, a gift of restlessness might prompt you to reassess your life, and decide what to focus on and what to jettison. Sometimes God's gifts are given to help you deal with a difficult situation. And sometimes God's gifts are given in the simple joy and abundance of his love. We have much to be thankful for!

Can you help with Thanksgiving baskets?

Once again St. Patrick's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry will be distributing Thanksgiving baskets to families in our community who need help. Approximately 225 baskets will be given away. The baskets will hold regular holiday menu items: crackers and cheese, carrots and dip, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, rolls, stuffing mix, green beans, and, of course, some dessert. Recipients will also be given a food gift card so they can purchase their preferred entree.

One hundred baskets will go to Rosecrance, a local agency that provides mental health and addiction recovery services, which will deliver them to their clients. The remainder will be distributed at our SVDP food pantry, to both our regular food pantry guests and other community members. No sign up is required this year for those wishing to receive a basket; they need only bring a photo ID.

Many volunteers are needed to make this happen! On Friday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. people are needed to pick up food items from suppliers and deliver them to the parish center. At 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, many are needed to pack those 225 baskets. People are also needed to help with distribution, which begins at 10 a.m.

Because of the generosity of you, our St. Patrick parishioners, our parish family is able to help many other families put a festive meal on their table this Thanksgiving.

A sneak preview

Here's a future glimpse into one of your favorite St. Patrick events. On November 19, at 5:15 p.m., in St. Brigid Hall, the doors will be thrown open for this year's Ladies' Knight Out! This year, revealed by Joseph Youakim, LKO takes an entirely new shape. First off, it will only cost \$15.00 for each lady. Secondly, it will be a cocktail party, not a dinner. This cocktail party will serve all the wine you can safely drink. To accompany the wine there will be sliced cheeses and salamis, buns and crackers, vegetable trays and dips, mixed nuts, coffee and lemonade, and for the sweet tooth, cheesecake bites.

Ladies may indulge their appetites for one hour, until 6:15, when the curtain rises on another episode of The Cath'lic Boys' zany musical variety show. Jim Mayer reveals

that this year's episode is entitled "Cath'lic Boys at Sea." Our Cath'lic Boys consider these shows to be musical greeting cards to the ladies of St. Patrick, a combination of thank-you cards, valentines, and thinking-of-you cards. In the past ladies have complimented the performances and said, "I laughed, I cried, it was better than 'Cats'"; "I thought they were joking when they bragged that they could sing, but some of them can actually carry a tune, I even caught myself singing along and tapping my feet!"

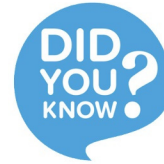
So don't miss the congenial cocktail party and the Cath'lic Boys' hilarious performance. See you on Saturday, November 19, for a funny and heart-warming performance.



First Reconciliation Prayer

Loving Father, help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally.

Help us to encourage them to grow in love for you and to learn how to say "I'm sorry," knowing that you always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together.



Before we can resume altar server ministry

at Mass, a server coordinator is needed to recruit, train, and schedule altar servers. If you can volunteer for this essential ministry, please contact Mary Tate, Director of Ministries

(217-367-2665 or mary.tate@stpaturbana.org).

The Eucharist is far more than just a meal; it has cost a life to provide it and the majesty of death is present in it. Whenever we hold it, we should be filled with reverence and love in the face of this mystery.

—Pope St. Benedict XVI

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 7:00 p.m. Interested? **Contact** Cathy Salika at 367-7861 or csalika@illinois.edu.

On October 8, St. Patrick hosted Encountering Christ Across Cultures, an event to explore and celebrate the richness and diversity of our parish.



BACH at St. Patrick Church

St. Patrick's has long been filled with wonderful music and musicians and now the church resounds with the beautiful music-making of BACH – the Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana. On Monday evenings, St. Patrick's serves as home for the rehearsal of the BACH choir, some 30 singers from the CU area.



structions, and they can hear ourselves. The things they used to take for granted! The works BACH performs are often written for 4, 5, 6, and even 8 voice parts, so being able to hear each other is critical with the polyphony (simultaneous melodies) inherent in Baroque music. Plus, in the acoustics of St. Patrick's, BACH singers can ring a large, full chord to end a piece or float a whisper at a resting place — thrilling for performers and audiences alike.

BACH is an organization founded in 1996 to bring the music of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries to the community. Now it performs and presents a diverse range of repertoire from its roots in Baroque music to today's exciting living composers. The BACH choir is led by Sarah Riskind who also serves as the director of choral music and assistant professor of music at Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois.

Masks can be a real challenge in singing and hearing, but the arrangement of the choir space and the acoustics of St. Patrick Church are wonderful for the still-masked BACH choir. In this space, the choir can hear their director's in-

BACH is preparing for the choir's first concert of the season, which will be held at St. Patrick's on November 6, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. This is the first concert BACH has performed at St. Patrick Church — one was planned in June 2020 then cancelled because of cCOVID. St. Pat parishioners who have sung recently with BACH include Taylor Hanson, Marilyn Marshall, Jim Mayer, Roxanne Munch, and Mora Novey.

BACH presents five concert events in its season. The first was by the

guest artist, The Bach and Beethoven Experience, in October at the Rose Bowl Tavern.

The season follows with:

To The Hands: Music by Buxtehude and Shaw

November 6, 2022, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Patrick Church

Messiah Sing-Along

November 27, 2022, 4:00 p.m.,
First Baptist Church at Savoy

Young Baroque Artists Competition, Durant's Magnificat, and Riskind's Oz Cantata

March 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m., location TBA

The Three B's: Music by Bonds, Burleigh, and Boulanger

March 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m.,
location TBA

The Three B's: Music by Bonds, Burleigh, and Boulanger

June 4, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Faith
Methodist Church in Cham-
paign (June 3 in Bloomington-
Normal

All saints, all sorts

You don't have to search far for heroes and saints. They are in our midst – or have been. Most will probably never be canonized, and all would probably say that they're just doing what they know to do, or what they should be doing. What brings us all together? Love of God, love of neighbor, a willingness to sacrifice time, abilities, energy, self for others. Saints already with God and saints still witnessing to God's love among us are easily discovered. Just look around you! *Ora pro nobis*, pray for us, you beloved of God, that one day we may all be made worthy of the promises of Christ, that one day we may all rejoice together in his kingdom.

We remember . . .

Mary Miller | Jean Daly | Nicholas Koch | Anna Hill | James Judth
Charles Daly | Michael Martin | Tom Harpst | Jane Sloman | Lois D'Urso
| Kathy Jobin | Wilma McClain

In the year past, we have said a prayerful good-bye to loved ones and friends, as our loving Father called them home. May the choirs of angels lead them into paradise, and may they forever know the peace

and joy of his loving embrace.

The program for the November 6th concert will appeal especially to members of St. Patrick's. The first work the choir will present, *Membra Jesu Nostri*, is based on the suffering of Jesus, each movement speaking to a part of Christ's crucified body. That composition by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) is paired with a very recent piece (2016) by Caroline Shaw, *To the Hands*, which she drew from the third movement of the Buxtehude work. In it she asks us to consider human suffering, especially that of refugees. It promises to be a beautiful and meaningful experience.

Hear the new music making at St. Patrick Church in BACH's first choral concert of the season on November 6 at 7:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, see BACH's website, www.baroqueartists.org.

Update on parish nurses

Are you aware of the parish nurses at St. Patrick's? They haven't been as visible since blood pressure screenings were suspended during the pandemic. However, they certainly have not forgotten the parishioners and those in need of information and resources! Individuals with health-related questions, as well as those needing connection with community resources or assistance navigating the healthcare system, are encouraged to contact the parish office (217-367-2665) to be put in touch with a parish nurse who can provide assistance.

Parish nurses have resumed meeting as a group as well as meeting with other ministries at St. Patrick's. In August and September, they held CPR training for ushers and other interested parish staff members. They partnered with the Faith Community Health Program at Carle to provide oral hygiene kits to guests of the St. Patrick's food pantry.

All parishioners are encouraged to stop by the bulletin board in the north corridor of St. Brigid Hall. One of the nurses provides health-related information on a monthly basis about a variety of issues.

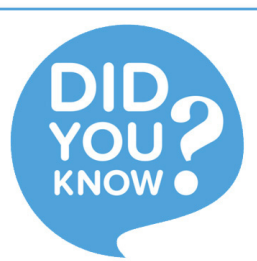
A survey of parishioners was completed at the end of August to determine interest in a chronic health condition education series. The feedback indicated several parishioners were interested in a program to learn more information about heart and vascular health. It would be conducted over the course of four consecutive weeks, with each session being about one hour in length. Topics to be covered during the four weeks include:

- Living with chronic conditions such as heart failure (congestive heart failure) and stroke.
- Low-impact physical activity exercises in relation to healthy living.

- Importance of low-sodium diets in relation to heart and vascular health. Healthy eating and nutrition in relation to chronic conditions
- Importance of CPR/AED training
- General information related to healthy living connected with chronic condition.
- Community resources available for healthy aging

Facilitated group discussion in relation to living with or preventing chronic conditions

The classes originally scheduled for October were postponed. The nurses hope to be able to schedule sessions in early 2023. The parish nurses would also like to know if any parishioners are interested in this program or programs with information about managing diabetes, kidney disease, or respiratory issues. Parishioners are encouraged to share suggestions with the parish nurses of what other chronic conditions or health information would interest them. Please reach out to Roxane Lowry (217-649-2978, rmlowryster@gmail.com), Marie Horn (217-621-8126, Mrctboz@comcast.net), or Carla Kurtz (217-369-6676 dcckurtz08@comcast.net)



Prayer requests have been reduced to a small trickle now that we're using the new procedure for forwarding them to waiting pray-ers. Perhaps you've merely forgotten where to send them; the address is prayertree@stpaturbana.org. If you really prefer to connect with someone about a prayer request, you can contact Mary Lou Menches (217-344-1125 or mmenches@illinois.edu).

Parish Council news



At their last meeting, Parish Council members laid their final plans

for the October 8 event celebrating the ethnic diversity of St. Patrick Parish. Most loose ends were tied up and last-minute tasks sorted out among the members, led by Frank Rosser.

The proposal that St. Patrick's sponsor a refugee or immigrant family has been declined by the council. Pam De Ley had volunteered to study the matter since she had experienced how it was implemented before.

However, she reported that the proposal would encounter serious logistical difficulties: permissions, funding, and accommodations. The parishioner who made the proposal thanked the council for its deliberation on the matter and indicated that she would direct her efforts in support of another local church that is taking up a similar project.

The council is still seeking four new members to fill vacancies, and has not yet filled the positions of vice-president and secretary. If you are looking for a stimulating role in a body that works for the parish as nothing else can, or if you know someone you can encourage to consider it, contact Mary Tate, Director of Ministries (mary.tate@stpaturbana.org or 217-367-2665). As a former council member and president, she can answer any questions you may have.

St. John Berchmans, patron of altar servers

John Berchmans (1599–1621) personifies the ideal that ordinary deeds done extraordinarily well may lead to great holiness. Like St. Therese of Lisieux, he died very young, at 22 years of age. Also like St. Therese, he had devout parents who watched with the greatest solicitude over the formation of his character. He was naturally kind, gentle, and affectionate, a favorite with his playmates, brave and open, and attractive in manner, with a bright, joyful disposition.

What distinguished him most from his companions was his piety. At hardly seven years old, he would rise early and serve two or three Masses with great fervor. He attended religious instructions and listened to Sunday sermons with deep recollection. He made pilgrimages to the sanctuary of Montaigu, a few miles away, reciting the rosary as he went. His great desire to become a priest inspired him to live religious life fully.

When his family fell on hard times, the pastor of the Diest Béguinage offered to pay for his education in



return for his service as a servant; in 1612 he served Canon Froymont similarly in Mechlin. In Mechlin Berchmans met the Jesuits and decided to join them.

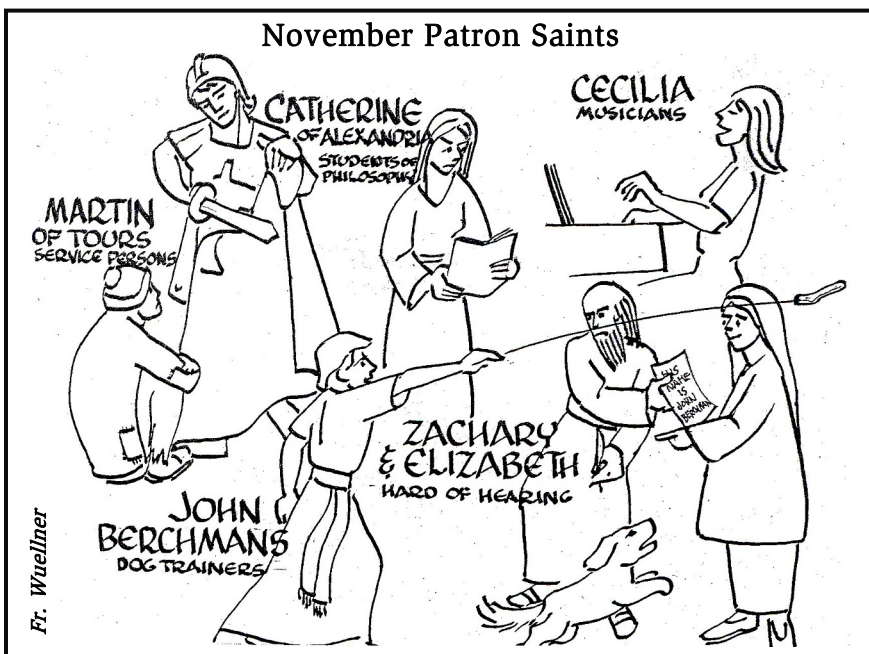
Berchmans entered the Jesuits in 1616 and performed all the novice duties with joy and exacting fidelity. Shortly after he entered, his mother died; his father entered the diocesan seminary and was ordained a priest in April 1618. On September 25, 1618, John pronounced the three vows of religious life. He went to Antwerp to study philosophy but soon was sent to Rome.

In Rome, John joined the community at the Roman College, where he excelled in his studies. At the end of his third year he was selected to defend the entire course of philosophy in a public disputation. The intense effort of preparation damaged his health. He hoped to rest when it was over, but he was also selected to represent the Roman College at another disputation, to be held in August at the Greek College.

On August 7, 1621, he fell ill. As he grew weaker, he spoke of Paradise as if he would soon be there. The Jesuit community came in procession bringing Viaticum to their dying brother. He asked for his crucifix, rosary, and rule book. He spent the night in prayer and died the following morning, August 13.

John offers us the type of saint who performs ordinary actions with extraordinary perfection. In his purity, obedience, and admirable charity he resembled many religious, but he surpassed them all by his intense love for the rules of his order. “If I do not become a saint when I am young”, he used to say, “I shall never become one.” When he died, a large multitude crowded for several days to see him and to invoke his intercession.

John Berchmans was declared Blessed in 1865, and was canonized in 1888. Pope Leo XIII declared him the patron of altar servers. The Church observes his feast day on August 13; the Jesuits, on November 26.



In Fr. Wuellner’s depiction of November saints, St. John Berchmans is shown throwing something for a dog to catch. A book of his life, published in 1921, relates the saint’s experience in training a dog: “The canon had a dog which he was training to retrieve in the marshes. The puppy had the usual prejudice of all young land animals against cold water, and John observed with lively interest how the pup’s reluctance was overcome by small bribes of sugared bread. ‘Watch that dog,’ was his reflection expressed to a fellow boarder, ‘conquering his natural inclinations just for a piece of bread. God ought to succeed in making us take some cold plunges for a reward of everlasting happiness.’” And for this he is also said to be the patron of dog trainers.



Q: Why is there a tabernacle in the Reconciliation room?

A: In 2020, St. Matthew's gave St. Patrick's an unused tabernacle that had originally been housed at St. Thomas More High School. During the COVID lockdown, Fr. Anthony wanted to make Jesus in the tabernacle available for people to view from our parking lot. He placed the tabernacle in front of the window in the Reconciliation room (confessional). Next to the tabernacle he placed a red electric candle, which remains on day and night.

We initially stored an extra ciborium of consecrated hosts in this tabernacle for easy access during our 2020-21 parking-lot Masses. As we began opening the church for

Mass, we kept that ciborium in the tabernacle so that Eucharistic ministers could easily serve those who chose to celebrate weekend Mass in Trinity Hall or St. Brigid Hall.

Once we were able to resume bringing Communion to the homebound, we decided to store a second ciborium, filled with consecrated hosts for the sick, in this tabernacle. The location continues to provide easy access for the pastoral Eucharistic ministers who call on them. Special arrangements no longer need to be made if consecrated hosts for the sick are needed during Mass or other services or activities in the church.

Today two ciboria continue to be stored in this tabernacle. The one with normal consecrated hosts is now used to serve those sitting in the back of the church or family room during crowded Masses. The ciborium containing our only consecrated hosts for the sick remains in its new home. Our second tabernacle is locked for safety.

The next time you come to Mass, drive slowly past the confessional window, visible from the parking lot. You will see the lighted tabernacle and its red light. On many occasions,

I have directed people to the parking-lot view of the tabernacle who had come to pray when the church is locked.

A story I love to tell concerns a police car I had seen several times parked facing the confessional tabernacle. Once when I was leaving after volunteering at our SVDP Food Pantry, I walked up to the police car and asked the officer if there was a problem or a situation that I needed to discuss with other volunteers. The officer smiled and said there was no problem; he was thankful that Fr. Anthony had placed this second tabernacle in a spot that was visible from the parking lot and he now often stops before his shift for a short prayer with Jesus.

I have also heard that occasionally health care workers and a patient's family members will park in front of the tabernacle before going to or after leaving Carle Hospital.

Our second tabernacle started out as a way for us to view and pray to Jesus when St. Patrick's doors were closed due to COVID. Today this second tabernacle has become a beacon of light and comfort for many. —Diane Wilhelm

How can we help our parish?

You can still give to the Annual Diocesan Appeal until July 30, 2023, but, as they say, "Strike while the iron is hot." Our contributions are divided into four categories: 32% goes to Evangelization; 17% goes to Eucharistic Revival; 33% goes to Discipleship; 18% goes to Vocations. Our parish has benefitted from the monies allocated to each of these categories.

How has our parish personally benefitted? Many of our parish children attend Catholic schools which are aided by the ADA. Our parish events are publicized in the Catholic Post newspaper funded by ADA. Currently one of our parishioners is studying to become a deacon for

our parish and his education is paid for by the ADA. Our parish children were able to attend Totus Tuus this summer, supported by ADA. Two brothers of our parish got to attend Emmaus Days, as described in last month's *In Focus*, because of ADA.

Last year our parish was assessed \$125,116.00, for the ADA. Only \$106,428.80, was raised last year. Therefore we had to deduct \$18,668.20, from our Offertory collection to make up the difference. This year our Annual Diocese Appeal began on September 10. Our parish goal is \$140,000, which is \$15,000 more than last year's goal

and we have lost roughly 1/3 of our members because of COVID and other reasons.

This goal sounds daunting, but the charitable spirit of this parish should help us reach it. If you did not receive a letter at your home address, pick up an envelope in church and follow its instructions.

When we receive an update from our Diocese of Peoria, our business manager Jackie Grandone will post it for us in the entrance of our church. She will show us how much we have raised and how far we have to go. Let's keep offering money for our parish needs, and support the ADA this year!

Calling all young adults

The Champaign-Urbana Catholic Young Professionals (C-U CYP) group is a community of young adults striving to follow Jesus Christ through prayer, discipleship, and virtuous friendship, in faithful union with the Catholic Church. We welcome young adults from all local parishes, including graduate students, professionals, families, and not-yet-Catholics at any stage in the process of exploring the Church. We encourage undergraduate students to participate in the vibrant community of St. John's Catholic Newman Center.

C-U CYP began in the 2017-2018 academic year through the efforts of former parishioner Pamela Suresca, now Novice Sister with the Salesians, and former pastor Fr. Luke Spannagel. At the time, Pamela worked as a campus mentor for weDignify, the pro-life campus outreach and formation program headquartered at St. John's Catholic Newman Center. As a young professional with a deep love for the Lord, Pamela saw the need for ongoing faith formation and fellowship events among local young adults. With Fr. Luke's support, she organized regular adoration and faith formation evenings, board game nights, and other social and service events to build a community of young adults striving to imitate Christ.

By the time Pamela joined the Salesians and Fr. Luke was reassigned, C-U CYP had settled into a rhythm of potlucks every first Saturday of the month and Holy Hours (Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available) on weeknights around the third week of the month. These events help strengthen our spiritual lives, grow Christ-centered friendships, and connect parishioners and priests across parishes. Parishioners from every parish in the area attend CYP events, and we make an effort to rotate locations to include each parish.

After a disruption during the pandemic, we are back in our monthly rhythm. Also, we now offer weekly small-group Bible studies. As a volunteer-run group, we encourage members to suggest and organize events throughout the year; some highlights include an annual Advent cookie exchange, pilgrimages to the Ven. Fulton Sheen tomb and museum in Peoria, hiking trips, and board game nights.

To learn more or to join our email list, please contact organizers Ian Ludden (St. Patrick's) and Laura Suttentfield (St. Matthew's) at cucatholicyoungprofessionals@gmail.com. We would also like to hear from other ministries regarding opportunities for service projects.



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 the first weekend of the month for an upcoming 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 any Communications Committee member (listed with contact information below). 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 (December) issue of *In Focus* is **Sunday, November 6.**

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Alia Rdissi

Best Black Beans

- 1 16-oz can black beans
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 c chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 t cayenne pepper
- Salt to taste

Combine beans, onion, and garlic in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Add



cilantro, cayenne pepper, and a couple turns of the salt grinder. Simmer 5 more minutes, then serve. Enjoy!

+ + +

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 is easy and quick to prepare!