

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



www.stpaturbana.org

January 2023

Gathered by Jesus

When Jesus first came into the world, while he was still in his mother Mary's womb, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was likewise expecting a child. St Luke's gospel tells us that they praised God when they met, and that Mary sang her Magnificat. No doubt, Mary helped Elizabeth with the housework and assisted her during childbirth. And so we see that, even before he was born, Jesus did what he has been doing ever since, bringing people together in praise of God, in song, and in service.

His birth was not a big public event. It wasn't even a family event since Mary and Joseph were far from home. But look who Jesus brought together: the shepherds, poor, uneducated Jews, but on the edges of polite society; and the Magi, who were their opposite in every way, wealthy, learned, Gentiles, people of importance, but foreigners. Neither group understood exactly who Jesus was, yet they saw the hand of God in his coming and gave thanks for it. And each, in their own way, began to tell the story of this wondrous birth.

Throughout his public ministry, Jesus brought people together, all kinds of people, people of status

and outcasts, rich and poor, learned and illiterate, Jew and Gentile. They praised God for his teaching, healing, and love. They sang the Psalms and other songs of faith, as



the disciples did on the night before Jesus' death, as they walked together to Gethsemane. A few people stayed near Jesus and were formed by him into a community of faith and

mutual support. Others returned to their homes and told their family and friends what they saw in Jesus.

With the Resurrection and Pentecost, the work of Jesus rapidly expanded. He continued to bring together Jew and Gentile, slave and free, woman and man, and to draw them all into a community of faith. We see this very clearly at Christmas. We gather as family because of the birth of Jesus. We share our faith and sing songs together. We pitch in with the cooking and housework. We give rides and food and loving presence to those in need. We gather as a parish community, sharing our praise of God, sharing the work of worship, sharing our songs, our time, and our possessions.

Something special coming our way from the Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurses at St. Patrick's are excited to sponsor an educational program presented by the Faith Community Health program. This series on chronic health conditions will focus on heart and cardiovascular conditions, low-impact physical activity, healthy eating, and community resources.

The program is a series of four one-hour sessions. If you have been diagnosed with a cardiovascular health concern (i.e., hypertension, heart failure, congestive heart failure, recovering from a stroke), provide care for someone with a cardiovascular condition, or would like to learn more about heart healthy exercises and nutrition, please consider attending all or some of the sessions.

The sessions will be held at St. Patrick's in St. Brigid Hall every other week beginning Tuesday, February 7, at 1:00 p.m.



see **Gathered by Jesus** on page 2

Life wins! What now?

January 22 marks the 50-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision, which ruled that the Constitution of the United States affirmed a woman's right to have an abortion.

For the past 34 years, the Community Ecumenical Pro-Life Committee, formerly called the Rose Committee, has commemorated the passing of Roe v Wade with a prayer vigil. It began with St. Patrick's parishioner Lu Pillar and then-pastor Fr. Remm.

This year the tradition continues with a prayer vigil at Holy Cross in Champaign, featuring speaker Kristi Hofferber who will share her compelling pro-life testimony. All are invited to attend.

As committee member Megan Logsdon, stated, "We love to gather individuals from all backgrounds, faiths, and surrounding towns to join us in memorializing the babies who have lost their lives due to Roe v Wade. However, this upcoming year, with Roe v Wade overturned, we feel it is more important than ever to get our message out."

As Megan pointed out, Illinois is one of the states that had laws in place to protect from the Court's overturning of Roe v Wade in June earlier this year. This, Megan states, is even more reason to make the community aware of the pro-life services available to mothers, babies, and entire families.

The theme of this year's vigil is "Life Wins! What Now?" You can also attend virtually via the group's Facebook page. Further details follow:

- Community Ecumenical Pro-Life Prayer Vigil
- Sunday, January 22, at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 405 W. Clark Street, Champaign
- Theme: Life Wins! What Now?
- Speaker: Kristi Hofferber
- Facebook page for virtual attendance: facebook.com/prolifeprayervigilofcentralillinois
- Contact information: prolifeprayervigil@gmail.com, or call Shirley Kolb at 217-762-2953



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

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Why do you think bringing people together is such a fundamental part of the work of Jesus, of what he wants for us? Here and now, we need family and community as a place to learn about the love of God. We need it as a place of support for the days when believing is difficult. We need it as a place to learn-by-doing honesty, tolerance, kindness, and love.

One day, when the work of Jesus is fulfilled, he will gather us together in his kingdom. There we hope to find ourselves a part of the community of those saved by Jesus, a vast number and variety of people. We will be filled with God's praise and, no doubt, sing lots of songs together. And the good that we learned in family and in community will make us ready. As the carol says,

"Bless all the dear children in your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with you there!"

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.

They came to do a job, and did it

Thank you to all you volunteers who braved the cold to help clean up our parish grounds and prepare it for winter. Your work included raking leaves, pruning plants, and picking up trash. Without your help, our parish wouldn't grow inside or out! So a special thanks to Joe and Chuck and Janet and Scott and Grace and Elise and Kelly Jo and Nathan and Phil and Marshall and Mike and Bob for a job well done.

You'll have good stories to share with your grandchildren one day, about the day your breath froze in the air and your mittens wanted to stick to metal objects and you couldn't keep up with wiping your nose and your eyes, it was so cold - but the church grounds looked absolutely spiffy when you were finished!



From Father Remm



Dear Parishioners and Friends,
Thank you for your prayers and concern for me since I was diagnosed with cancer in my

left lung. I have completed both radiation and chemotherapy treatments and have begun immunotherapy, which will continue for some months.

In late October I was hospitalized for four days with severe pneumonia, treated with strong antibiotics, and sent back to Brookdale with oxygen as an ongoing treatment for recovery from the pneumonia. I feel that I am doing well, recovering strength and stamina.

I am grateful to the many people from St. Patrick's who helped me to move to Brookdale Senior Living.

This is now my home, and I have adjusted well to it and to the health care it provides. You are welcome to keep in touch with me by phone, mail, or even an occasional visit, and especially by remembrance in your prayers:

Fr. George Remm
1706 E. Amber Lane, Apt. 248
Urbana, IL 61802
217-840-9068 or
georgefremm@comcast.net

May God bless you and your loved ones with a Blessed Christmas and a Hopeful New Year.

Fr. George Remm

St. Patrick's Special Funds and You

During his tenure as pastor here, Fr. George Remm sought to build up a fund in reserve to support the religious education of our young parishioners. He planned for a base of \$100,000 for investment, with only the interest accumulating from it to be spent. Generous parishioners were successful in meeting this goal, and the interest has been put to its intended use.

Since then, other funds have been established, each with its specific use, as you will see below. We are grateful to Jackie Grandone, St. Patrick's Business Manager, and Russ Courter, Director of Parish and School Finances in the Peoria Diocesan Office of Finance, who together provided information about these funds and described the interaction between the diocese and St. Patrick's in handling them.

A number of years ago, the Diocese of Peoria set up two financial programs that would interact with parish funds: The Diocesan Aids Savings Account and The Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund. The two programs have different features.

The Diocesan Aids Savings Account was established for parishes to have an investment option at low risk since it operates similar to a savings account at a bank. At one time St. Patrick's had money invested in the Diocesan Aids Savings Account, but it was withdrawn to pay off the remaining debt from the Capital Campaign for the 2015 church expansion.

The Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund is a diocesan program to manage the investment details of special

funds. All special funds at the parish level are to be bundled into the diocesan Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund. St. Patrick's has four special funds bundled into it: 1) The St. Patrick Education Fund provides financial support for its education programs beyond what the parish is able to budget. 2) The St. Thomas More Fund helps with tuition expenses for St. Patrick's students attending the High School of St. Thomas More. 3) The Vincent O. Green Scholarship is a college scholarship for St. Patrick's students who have shown steady involvement in parish life, shown academic merit or promise, and demonstrated leadership attributes. 4) The St. Patrick General Fund was created for future projects or anything that St. Patrick Parish would need.

The Elizabeth Ann Seton Funds are invested according to the guidelines set out in the Diocesan Investment Policy. There is an Investment Committee and Investment Advisor who oversee and monitor the portfolio. All the investments diocesan-wide are pooled into this portfolio. The policy spells out that the portfolio should be diversified into three broad categories: Equities, Fixed Income, and Real Assets. The portfolio also endeavors to follow the USCCB guidelines on Socially Responsible Investing: avoiding investments in corporations that deal with weaponry, abortifacients, pornography, tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Additionally, it avoids investments in countries that support racial or gender discrimination and that violate

human rights.

Separately, St. Patrick's has a General Operating Fund. This fund is for our day-to-day operating expenses – our ordinary income – and is managed at the parish level through Busey Bank. An unanticipated expense that may come from this fund involves the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA), which was established in 1986 and is the major source of revenue for the ministries and agencies of the Diocese of Peoria. St. Patrick's is required to send the diocese the entire amount set as the ADA goal for our parish. If parishioner contributions to ADA are insufficient, the shortfall is paid from our local General Operating Fund. St. Patrick's has not met its ADA goal for several years. As of this writing, without additional contributions made for 2022, St. Patrick's will need to take \$45,754 from the local General Operating Fund to fulfill this year's ADA responsibility.

As we grow in personal faith and in evangelization to help others grow in faith, let's grow as well in understanding and fulfilling our financial responsibilities to our parish and our diocese. A diocese is, after all, a union of parishes presided over by a bishop and organized to fulfill Christ's mission in a given geographical area. While the work of Christ is done chiefly in the parishes, there are many tasks that require the administration and efforts of the larger Church, the diocese. Let's help our priests and our bishop with our prayers – and our financial support.

Did You Know

Our long-awaited parish mission has been canceled, at least for now, because the mission facilitator, Fr. Pete Schavitz, CSsR, had been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Fr. Pete in your prayers

On Friday, January 1, 1773, Pastor John Newton wrote in his diary, "I preached this forenoon from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17." He explained that he would adapt these verses from King David's life "to our own use as a proper subject for our meditation on the entrance of a new year. "They lead us to a consideration of past mercies and future hopes and intimate the frame of mind which becomes us when we contemplate what the Lord has done for us."



*John
Newton*

*past mercies & future hopes
Oh, amazing grace!*



250th anniversary

1 January 1773 – 1 January 2023

*Olney . 1773
New Year morning
1 Chron. 17. 16, 17.*

Amazing Grace

Faith's review and expectation

1 Chronicles 17:16,17

for New Year's Day 1773

Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

The original (and only) words by John Newton
Olney Hymns, Book 1, Hymn 42



The
*John
Newton
Project*



Q: What is our relationship to the Diocese of Peoria?

A: The Church consists of local parish churches gathered administratively into a diocese, or see, governed by their bishop. These bishops are in communion with one another and with the Church of Rome, whose bishop is the Pope. So the local Church is part of the larger Church, comprised of many such local gatherings of the faithful, and this regional

amalgamation of Churches is only one of many others the world over who together make up the Church of Rome. We are indeed many churches, yet an integral part of the one Church.

At each level there is someone with administrative responsibility for the faithful in its province. At the local level, it is the pastor; at the diocesan level this responsibility resides in the bishop; and at the holistic level it is the Pope. Each has governing responsibility for the faithful in his care and each of the faithful has responsibility to provide prayerful and financial support to enable those with governing responsibility the ability to fulfill it, to give the prayerful and financial support needed in the care of the body of the faithful we call the Church.

At the local level, then, we help our pastor by sharing something of our largess in support of local programs established for the care of others. At the diocesan level our local church contributes something of our parish's largess in support of programs established for the care of local parishes (education of seminarians who will one day serve in local churches, for example) and the needs of administrative support of these programs. And at the local and diocesan levels the faithful provide prayerful and financial support for the works of the Pope and his staff as well as the programs serving the worldwide community of the faithful.

Our relationship to the Diocese of Peoria, then, is that of the local gathering of the faithful, the parish church, to the regional Church, the amalgamation of the local churches we know as the Diocese of Peoria, which has administrative responsibility and pastoral care for all the faithful in this region. Our response to the Annual Diocesan Appeal is one way we satisfy our financial obligation, and the collections that care for the needs of the Church everywhere is another. But the most important of these is prayer.



Patron Saints for January

St. Genevieve, visionary

On his way to Britain, Bishop Germanus of Auxerre (St. Germaine) stopped at Nanterre, France, where crowds flocked to receive his blessing. A seven-year-old peasant girl named Genevieve confided to him that she wanted to live for God. He predicted that she would live a holy life and led her to a church where he consecrated her to God as a virgin.



After the death of her parents, Genevieve went to live with her godmother in Paris, where she led a prayerful life, performing works of charity and fasting.

God bestowed upon her the gifts of prophecy and miracles. She had frequent visions of saints and angels, which led some people, jealous of her power, to accuse her of being a hypocrite. They even conspired to drown her in a lake. When Germanus sent the holy child some blessed bread as a token of esteem, the naysayers were silenced and she became revered as a saint.

In one of her numerous prophetic visions, she is said to have predicted the invasion of the Huns. In 451, Attila and his Huns were sweeping over present-day Europe, and the inhabitants of Paris prepared to flee. Genevieve encouraged them to pray fervently and perform works of penance, stating that if they did so, they would have the protection of heaven and the city would be spared. They listened, and Attila's army marched on to Orléans instead, leaving Paris unharmed.

Several years later, the Franks, a

see **St. Genevieve** on page 8

What an exciting (K)night out!

From beginning to end, Ladies Knight Out in St. Brigid Hall on Saturday, November 19, was familiar, yet different – and better than ever. The ladies still received a long-stemmed rose as they purchased or showed their tickets, and the price was \$15 rather than \$25.

Instead of a served dinner of steak or chicken and all the sides, there was a buffet of platters of crudités with ranch dressing and platters of meats and cheeses with chunks of French bread and crackers. There were also hot trays of breaded or baked chicken and Italian meatballs. At the drinks table a Knight poured the Ladies either red or white wines; water, pop, and coffee were available. After dinner the dessert table was spread with boxes of bite-size cheese cakes. No one went away hungry!

All could feel the excitement build in anticipation of the Cath'lic Boys' production. Its reputation for fun has obviously grown because there were many non-parishioners in attendance. Fr. Anthony circulated around the tables to talk with everyone, sitting for a while at each



table if there was an empty chair.

At last everyone was called to the chairs set up in front of the stage. After several door prizes were given away, “The Cath’lic Boys at Sea” was launched on stage by Jim Mayer. The plot was simple: Jim had signed up the Boys to perform on a cruise ship, but had mistakenly enlisted them in the Navy.

The Cath’lic Boys sang 13 different songs based on the plot and the ports they visited. The songs were all “oldies but goodies” so the audience joined in the singing. Some of the songs were: “In the Navy”; “Yellow Submarine”; “Tie Me Kangaroo Down”; “Octopus’ Garden”; “Puff the Magic Dragon”; “There’s Nothing Like a Dame”; and “Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog.”

The props were ingenious. They included artificial palm trees, PVC pipe to evoke a submarine periscope, and artificial flowers and fish for an underwater garden. Several of the songs called for the Cath’lic Boys to wear blond wigs and grass skirts. The most laugh-generating prop was a giant red shrimp used as an octopus, a bullfrog, and a magic dragon.

The Cath’lic Boys’ voices sounded professional, every one of them. Accompanying music included three guitars, a piano, and drums, helping the audience to stay on tune and to prepare them for their next port of call. Dave Madden played the steel drums in all the tropical skits, transporting the audience to the Caribbean.

Everyone, including the Cath’lic Boys, had a really marvelous time – it was the best Ladies Knight Out ever!

St. Genevieve

from page 6

Germanic-speaking people led by Childeric I, took Paris. During the siege, Genevieve traveled by boat to Troyes, France, and brought back corn to Paris, which was suffering from a great famine. She pleaded to King Childeric for the welfare of prisoners-of-war, and he respected her, sparing the lives of prisoners.

Childeric's son, Clovis, later became king of the Franks, and was converted to Christianity by his holy wife. Genevieve was made his adviser. She conceived the plan to erect a church in Paris in honor of Saints Peter and Paul, which Clovis started shortly before his death. Genevieve died in 512 at the age of 89, and the small church was built over her tomb.

Over the years, the Normans destroyed the church several times,

but around 856 her relics were returned and miracles began to happen. The most famous of these was the miracle of Des Ardens: in 1129, a fever overtook the city and 14,000 people died. The shrine of Genevieve was carried in procession to the cathedral, and during the ceremony those who touched her shrine were healed.

During the French Revolution, her relics were burned in 1793 on the Place de Greve, the site of beheadings and other atrocities. Their remains were later enshrined in the Church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont in Paris, where pilgrims still revere them. She is often depicted with a loaf of bread, representing her generosity.

St. Genevieve is the patron saint of Paris; her feast day is January 3.

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 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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Articles, information, and photos for this issue were provided by Russ Courter, Jean Daly, Judy Fierke, Jackie Grandone, Elizabeth Hendricks, Roxane Lowry, Mary Lou Menches, Fr. George Remm, Alia Rdissi, Cathy Salika, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Tyler Sassine. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches; page layout was prepared by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Jean Daly

Ruth's Easy Blueberry Crisp

- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 c brown or white sugar
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 1 c flour
- 4 c frozen wild blueberries

Melt butter and stir in sugar. Add salt and cinnamon, and stir in the flour until the mixture is dry and crumbly. If it's not crumbly enough to pick up with your fingers, add some more flour; it should be very dry. You can also add chopped toasted almonds, chopped walnuts, or a handful of oatmeal to the mix. Liberally butter an 8-inch pie pan. Pour in the blueberries, sprinkle the topping over the berries, and bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes, until the topping is golden and the whole house smells so insanely delicious that everyone is standing by the stove waiting for the crisp to emerge. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.



We need a theology that teaches us that even though we cannot unscramble an egg, God's grace lets us live happily and with renewed innocence. . . Time and grace wash clean.

—Ronald Rolheiser



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of In Focus (February) is **Sunday, January 8.**