

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



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

October 2023

## What will your harvest be?

It is harvest time, the time when a whole season of work comes together in one last push. It gives our farmers a payoff for their months of work and provides us all with the food we need. We hope that our farmers get a fair price for their crops. We hope that our willingness to share and our skill at distributing the food will feed all who are hungry. But we also know that we're not as good at these things as we would like.

Jesus cast himself as a farmer. He said that he sows the seed of the Word of God in us. He wants to grub out the rocks and burn off the thorns that keep his word from growing. He said that a good tree is known by its fruit.



What has Jesus planted in you? Certainly he has given you life, time to learn of his love, time to grow, gradually and gracefully, in love and knowledge of God. He has given you a thirst for himself and a hunger for community and belonging. He has also given you talents and interests you can use in service to him and his people. We tend these talents

and interests and work to develop them. They grow like corn stalks: sturdy, green, and leafy ... but we don't grow corn for the stalks and leaves. We grow corn so that we can harvest the grain.

So as you think about your talents and interests and how you might use them to build up God's kingdom, it's reasonable to consider what you hope to harvest. There are a lot of possibilities. You might harvest a life drawing steadily closer to God, or a stronger practice of prayer, or a growing knack for seeing God in action. You might harvest a stronger parish community, or more vibrant worship, or a sense of welcome and belonging. You might harvest help for those in need, a chance to love

others and to be loved, a time to help others and receive their help.

These are valuable crops! These are crops well worth the time and effort that you put into nurturing the seed that Jesus has planted in you! As you consider how to use your time and talents in service to our parish family, know that it's worth it!

## Welcome newcomers!

Hebrews 13:2 says, "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels." The St. Patrick's Welcome Team seek to extend a warm welcome to newcomers and



visitors to our wonderful parish. Every month our parish secretary Patricia provides the team with the names and contact info of the people who have recently registered. Several people on the Welcome Team volunteer to contact newly registered parishioners and offer a parish tour or to meet them at Coffee Shop Sunday morning. It's always fun to treat them to coffee and donuts (thanks to the generosity of the Coffee Shop crew), and there the Welcome volunteer can introduce them to others. The welcomers meet some wonderful new people this way and love seeing them at Mass and involved in parish life.

Once or twice a year the Welcome Team hosts a table at Coffee Shop to greet newcomers and treat them to breakfast.

Newcomers often ask how to get involved in parish life, so the team shares welcome folders with information about parish

see **Welcome newcomers!** on page 8

## Parishioners making a difference



In each issue of *In Focus*, a parishioner or two will explain how they put their faith into action in the community by sharing their time and talents. By making the world around them a little fairer, a little kinder, a little healthier, they share their faith through their actions and sometimes through their words.

### Jesus lives in our prisons

By Stan Yanchus



From 2016 through 2019, I volunteered with the University of Illinois Education Justice Program (EJP) at the Danville Correctional Center (DCC). I served as a writing tutor and as a facilitator for the Community Anti-Violence Education and Impact on Victims programs, and I helped edit a newsletter and gave some public speaking workshops. Although EJP is a secular program, I felt Jesus' presence every time I visited the prison.

The men hungered for education and yearned to discover ways to make their lives meaningful. Preparing for their courses and group meetings, they eagerly shared their thoughts for applying their educational and life skills to help other incarcerated individuals.

These men also hungered for repentance. Talking painfully of the suffering they caused and of the fear they felt, they worried that they might not be able to make amends for their acts.

Many aspired to dedicate their lives to working with young people who struggle with the same hardships and temptations that paved their own paths to prison.

Despite their hardships and the daily challenges presented by the harsh prison existence, these men regularly gave thanks: for the families who had remained by their sides; for those who came into the prison to help them, saying how much it meant to them to be treated respectfully as human beings capable of growth and change; and for a merciful God who forgives and loves them.

Holy Cross parishioner John Deponai invited me to join the team that held a Prison Cursillo at DCC in September 2019, beginning my transformation from volunteer to

disciple. Over 30 men and women from DCC joined a large Cursillo team from many parishes. Subsequently, St. Patrick (Tolono) parishioner Jon Baker invited me to join him in teaching a Saturday morning Catholic Bible study at DCC. In January 2020 I transitioned from an educational volunteer who openly shared my faith and prayed with men at appropriate times to a disciple who came into the prison to worship Jesus and pray with my brothers in Christ, and to help lead study of scripture and the teachings of our Catholic Church.

When I began teaching with Jon, our Bible study group consisted of six or seven men. They were similar to the EJP students in age, background, and commitment to transforming their lives. Most were lifelong Catholics and possessed deep-rooted faith. Our study looked like most parish Bible studies: pray, worship, read, and discuss books of the Bible.

When we resumed after the long closures due to covid, however, the size of the Bible study grew to 25-35 men each week. There are as many non-Catholics as Catholics. The first language for many of the men is Spanish, and some speak no English. Most are in their 20s and 30s. Some are still affiliated with gangs. Many still see their lives only through a worldly lens. Transformation and walking with Jesus seem incomprehensible. We have been



*EJP students at DCC award ceremony in 2017.*

blessed with this opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those in great need.

Although we have adjusted our study content and teaching style, our prayer and worship remain the same. Each week's stand-alone lesson connects to the Church's liturgical year, annual cycle of seasons, and days of commemoration.

Praying with and for the men and their families has always been at the heart of my personal prison ministry. In response to prayer, I was led to assist Fr. Loftus, pastor at Holy Family in Danville, as he celebrates a weekly Mass at the prison. Before covid, fewer than



## Another successful Cellar-to-Garret Sale

Several hundred bargain hunters and enthusiastic shoppers descended on the rooms full of items looking for treasures and household necessities at the annual Cellar-

for Publicity, Wanpen Anderson and Shirley Splittstoesser for Food, Roxanne Munch and Janet Althausser for Set-Up, Eileen Schmidt and Marilyn Marshall for Tear-Down,

and many others who generously gave of their time during the two weeks of organizing, placing, and pricing the many donations.

St. Brigid Hall was filled with a variety of clothing of all types and sizes, housewares, sporting goods, linens, tools, holiday decorations, and pet and gardening supplies. Smaller rooms are devoted to books of all genres, children's items, shoes, and the "better room," where collectibles, vintage and designer clothing, and other treasures are offered. Furniture was available in the church garage.

may fill as they choose. On Thursday of this year's sale, the line reached



to-Garret sale, which is sponsored by the Women of St. Patrick each summer. This year's event took place August 10-12 in St. Brigid Hall and four adjoining classrooms. All items are donated, and funds are used to help support a variety of parish activities and needs.

This major event involves several weeks of planning and labor with dozens of volunteers involved throughout the process. Anna Conner and Bernadette Nelson have served as general co-chairs of the event and work tirelessly to coordinate each step.

Early in June, volunteers are trained as committee chairs or co-chairs and provided with folders with detailed instructions. This year's committee chairs included Linda Weber for Volunteers, Chris Whippo



The event follows a traditional schedule of Thursday evening hours with a door entry fee of \$2, a full Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. of open sales, and a Saturday morning special of \$2 bags which patrons



to the parking lot, and a steady flow of shoppers continued through Saturday.

Before the event begins, patrons of the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry receive a \$10 coupon in their food bags, and all children receive a coupon for one free book. All leftover items are then donated, with Salt and Light taking the bulk of the items and other social service agencies receiving the remainder. The goals of the event are to serve the community in an atmosphere of service and spirituality.

Final figures are not yet calculated, but this year's event brought in about \$11,000. Individuals and groups seeking funding from the Women of St. Patrick are advised to complete the Grant Request form, available electronically as a Word document through Mary Tate, Patricia Fowler, or Roxanne Munch. In recent months, the Women of St. Patrick have contributed funds for the Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen Pilgrimage and a book purchase for the Eucharistic Revival Committee. Another grant for the Parents and Tots is pending approval, and the WSP encourages others to submit proposals. They have also purchased new WSP t-shirts for the funeral dinner ministry and all volunteers at WSP events.



# Knights of Columbus, a leading force

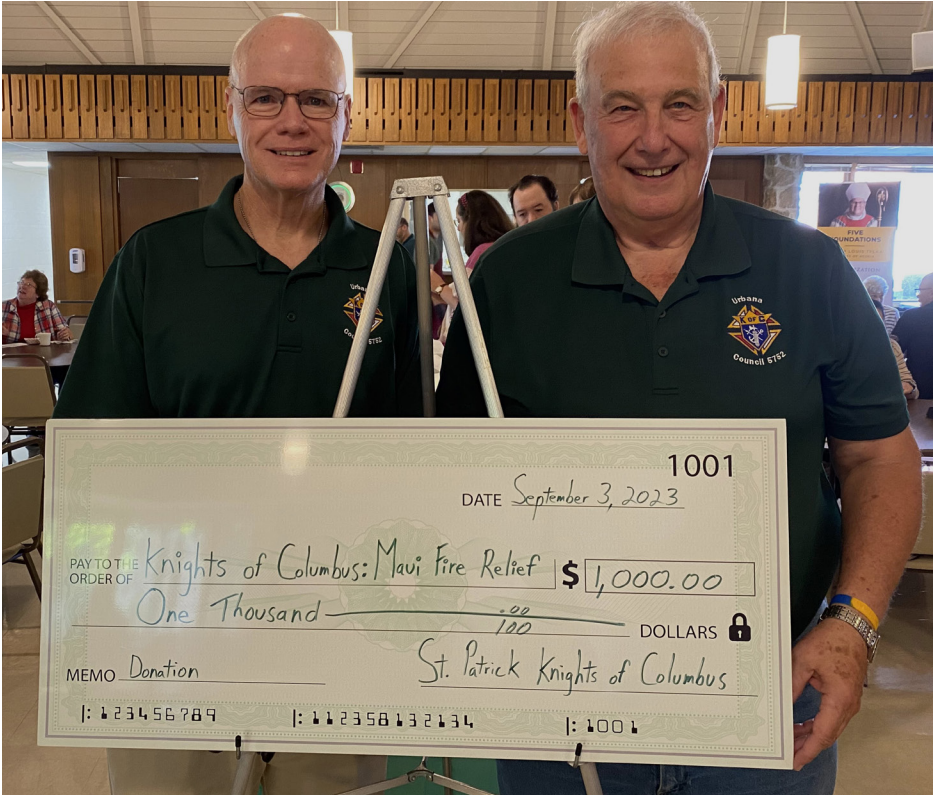
“My lifetime relationship with the Knights of Columbus is part of

begun hosting the Sunday morning Coffee Shop on the first Sunday

other parish young people who volunteer to assist. Many of the young volunteers in this activity receive Father Charles Martel Scholarships, open to all high school graduating seniors who have helped at one or more Urbana Knights of Columbus events.

The Knights of Columbus annually raise funds for the benefit of children with disabilities. They give away Tootsie Rolls after Mass, and sometimes also at a local store such as Walmart or Schnucks, for which they receive donations from the public. They provide funds to the Developmental Services Center (DSC), Camp New Hope, and other agencies that provide assistance to children with learning disabilities. Recently they organized a blood donation drive at the blood bank for the parish.

The Urbana Knights have worked with Champaign Council #891 on St. Mary’s Cemetery maintenance projects, and typically participate in the Champaign council’s annual



*St. Patrick’s Knights of Columbus donated \$1000 for Maui Fire Relief.*

my larger faith commitment to the Church. The Knights of Columbus has consistently enhanced my family’s journey,” says Steve Beckett, Grand Knight of St. Patrick Parish Knights of Columbus, Council #5752. He continues, “In 1974 I was inducted into the Knights of Columbus along with my lifetime best friend, Jerry McArthur. With Jerry and many other friends, I have enjoyed the fellowship and reward of service to St. Patrick’s Church and to our community at large.”

St Patrick’s Knights of Columbus has a range of benevolent, charitable, and fund-raising activities throughout the year. Some of the well-known activities that they organize and provide the workers to implement are the sausage and pancake breakfasts held on the fifth Sunday of each month; the annual Ladies’ Night Out, which involves serving dinner to the ladies of the parish along with live entertainment; and fish fries during the Friday evenings of Lent. The Knights have



*The Knights serve plenty of food at the Mardi Gras breakfast.*

of each month. The Super Bowl/ Mardi Gras Breakfast is an annual fellowship event for the parish.

Knights of Columbus events offer service opportunities to CREW and

lottery. They also participate in fundraising for Holy Cross School, such as its annual gala event.

see **Knights** on next page

## Knights from page 4

The Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, and a group of parishioners. Their intent was to bring financial aid and assistance to the sick, disabled, and needy members and their families. Membership is limited to Catholic men and is led by Patrick E. Kelly, the 14th Supreme Knight. It is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization, with more than 2 million members internationally.

As a national and statewide organization, the Knights of Columbus has a governance structure. Mike Tomlianovich is the District Deputy for East Central Illinois. At each meeting, he lets our council know of state activities and programs and makes recommendations for implementation.

As a membership-based non-profit organization, the Knights of Columbus has a national insurance program. The insurance program offers term, whole, and universal life insurance to its members and their families, as well as investment opportunities and IRA retirement plans. Every KC council has an insurance agent who provides information on these available financial services; the agent responsible for our council is Jacob Pruemmer. Each member has an opportunity for a basic insurance policy that pays a small benefit. About 50% of our members have insurance. For someone who is a practicing Catholic and eligible for membership, a plan through Knights of Columbus could be a cost-effective choice.

Current officers of St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus are: Grand Knight, Steve Beckett; Deputy Grand Knight, Richard Keane; Treasurer, Chris Sturdyvin; Secretary, Peter Buckley; Financial Secretary, Ed Clancy; and Chaplain, Jack Parisi.

Any Catholic man who wishes to join the Knights of Columbus may contact Ed Clancy at eclancy1210@gmail.com. The KCs meet on the third Sunday of each month in the parish center lounge at 9:30 a.m. Visitors may come to any of the meetings. Prospective members are invited to visit and join the current 73 members of St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus Council #5752.



**Don't forget:** *The Knights' next Pancake Breakfast is October 29. Can you make it? If not, you'll just have to wait until next year!*

## From St. Patrick's Business Manager Jackie Grandone: Annual Diocesan Appeal

Each year, our parish participates in the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA), an opportunity for all of us to support essential ministries and services that benefit many here at St. Patrick as well as those in our diocese. The theme of this year's appeal, Ready to Bring the Love of Jesus, calls to mind what we experience in giving and what others experience in receiving.

Last year, through the unbelievable generosity of our parishioners here at St. Patrick, not only did we meet our required ADA contribution, we exceeded it! We reached our parish commitment for the first time in over three years. This is definitely something to celebrate because any amount that we do not raise would come from our ordinary income. Any amount over the required amount comes right back to our parish!

Because of this generosity, many programs and ministries are impacted. This includes making Catholic School education affordable and accessible to our parishioners who need assistance. The ADA also funds ministries such as the Eucharistic Revival (when Fr. Luke came to our parish in May) Totus Tuus (which we have hosted here at St. Patrick), and Newman Centers (like the one at U of I). The ADA also supports Habitat for Humanity and Catholic Charities in its effort to promote the dignity of the human person. Finally, the ADA supports seminary formation programs and funds continuing education and pastoral care for active and retired priests and deacons.

This year, our required ADA commitment is \$138,776 (less than last year's \$140,082). Because of the generosity of our parishioners, I have no doubt we will meet our required amount for the second year in a row!

### 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.





**Q: What is a sacristan? What does a sacristan do?**

**A:** On the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website, at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org), there is mention of sacristans: “A liturgical function is also exercised by the sacristan, who

diligently cares for and arranges the liturgical books ... and other things that are necessary for the celebration of Mass” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #105a).

What is actually involved varies from parish to parish, depending on the needs of the pastor and the parish routines for the celebration of liturgies. We thought you’d be interested in knowing just what a sacristan at St. Patrick’s does.

With the onset of the pandemic and the retirement of Mary Ann Luedtke, who had served as parish sacristan for more than 45 years, this ministry was organized to allocate specific responsibilities to individual positions described in the new St. Patrick Sacristan Ministry Manual (2023). The names of parishioners now serving in these positions are included in parentheses.

The **primary sacristan** (Diane Wilhelm), the first contact with the pastor or guest priest concerning special setup needs for Mass and prayer services, is responsible for recruiting and training new ministers, updating the procedural manual and Mass checklists (in coordination with the pastor), ordering liturgical supplies, cleaning and maintaining holy water fonts, and coordinating the daily Mass liturgical ministers.

The **secondary sacristan** (Minette Sternke), in coordination with the primary sacristan, will also set up for Mass, adoration, baptisms, funerals, seasonal liturgies, and prayer services.

**Mass setup assistants** (Janice Parker, Marie Horn, Sherri Parris, and Duyen-Thi Nguyen) will, as their title suggests, set up once or twice a month for specific weekend Masses as scheduled and for daily Mass as available.

**Sacristan assistants** (Sharon Lawhead) are responsible for weekly dusting and cleanup of the sanctuary, the Saints chapel, and the confessional (Reconciliation room). They also collect votive candle donations and deposit them with the parish bookkeeper, pick up donated floral arrangements and care for them during their life cycle, and launder all altar linens and towels.

Mass vestments, which sometimes are also placed in a sacristan’s care, are currently being cared for at St. Patrick by the pastor.

What prompts this whole-hearted commitment to the ministry of our sacristans? Diane Wilhelm put it this way: “Being called to serve as sacristan has become my

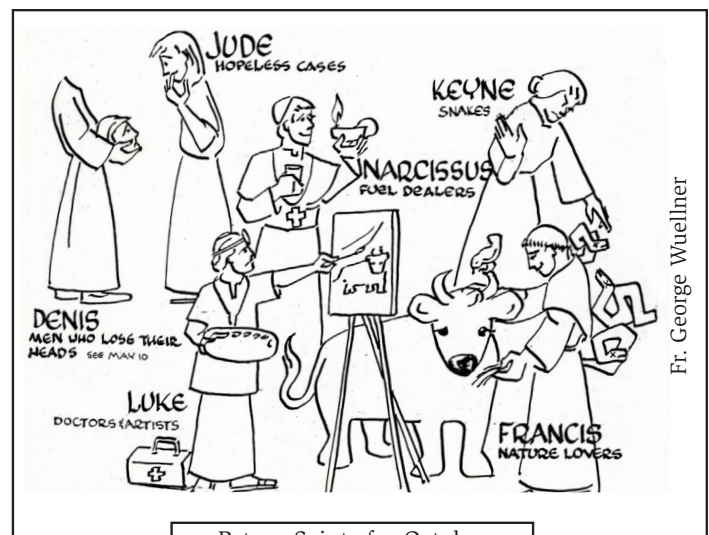
senior vocation, which I so love! I also see mini-vocations displayed by our ministry members. During a member’s illness or the need to be out of town on family affairs, we have never once had to worry about finding a sub. We work with each other.

“Sharon is committed to weekly work behind the scenes. If she were not there to do all her weekly tasks, I would never have wanted to take on this new sacristan position. Our ministry cannot exist without one another.

“What I hope to convey, what I’ve heard from all the members of this ministry, is that we are grateful to be able to serve. Most of us are also Eucharistic ministers, and being able to serve also as sacristans enhances the joy we get by serving in both.”

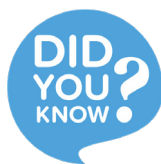
Diane refers to a book that has served as a guide for this ministry, Laughlin and Turner’s *Guide for Sacristans* (2021). We conclude with this quote from it: “The work of the sacristan is important for the seamless flow of the Church’s liturgies. Often working behind the scenes, the sacristan readies the things needed for liturgical prayer—the books, the vestments, the vessels, and other elements. Your basic work as a sacristan is to prepare for Mass, but you will be called on to assist with other liturgical celebrations as well. The sacristan works alone much of the time—polishing brass, cleaning and preparing vessels, tidying the sanctuary. But as the ‘minister to the ministers,’ the sacristan must also be a people person. While the sacristy can be a whirlwind of activity, especially on the big occasions of the year, the sacristan should be the oasis of peace, a calm presence in the midst of the bustle.”

Our thanks to all who contribute to the “seamless flow of the Church’s liturgies” as they fulfill their various commitments, and for the contagious joy with which they serve!



Fr. George Wuellner

Patron Saints for October



You can once again receive the Precious Blood of Jesus at Mass! This is possible just now only at the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass and the Friday 12:10 p.m. Mass—or at least until more Eucharistic ministers are available to help in making this precious gift available to us.

## October, a month of special occasions

The month of October is rich with feast days of saints familiar to most of us, and loved by many. But did you realize it also is marked by special devotions, “reminder” Sundays, and more?

**The entire month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary**, and on October 7 we celebrate a memorial in honor of the Rosary. In praying the Rosary, with its sequence of prayers and mysteries, we contemplate the Gospel in company with Mary. As St. Pope John Paul II wrote in 2002, “the Rosary is a prayer loved by countless



saints . . . The Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to experience the depths of Christ’s love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of our Mother, the Mother of the Redeemer.”

**Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October**, calls attention to the Church’s teaching about the whole spectrum of human life, “from womb to tomb.” The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that “whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction; whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; and all others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury. Moreover,

they are supreme dishonor to the Creator” (Gaudium et Spes, 27).

**World Mission Sunday, the second-to-last Sunday in October**, is a time for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church’s missionary vocation. Each year, the need for support grows as new dioceses are formed and new seminaries are opened in mission territories, as areas devastated by war or natural disasters are rebuilt, and as countries where the faith was suppressed begin to open to hear the message of Christ. More than a thousand dioceses around


the world receive annual assistance from the funds collected on World Mission Sunday.

**Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday in October**, is set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States and to reflect on and affirm the ministerial priesthood in the life of the Church. It provides an opportunity for faith communities to express appreciation for the priests who serve them faithfully and to pray for increase in vocations to the priesthood. The lay faithful of each parish, school, or other ministry are invited to develop their own ways to mark the day and to honor the priesthood and their own priests.

**Pastoral Care Week, the last full week of October**, was begun in 1985 as an initiative of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, and has since spread all over the world. The purpose of Pastoral Care Week is to honor and celebrate all who practice pastoral care, both clergy and lay, to raise awareness about the need for trained pastoral care ministers, and to educate us about the importance of providing pastoral care in hospitals, prisons, and other institutions.

Each of these observances deserves our full support and

participation, inasmuch as we are able. How long has it been, for instance, that you thanked your parish priest – present or past – for his homily, his participation in the life of your parish, his advice given on request, his celebration of the Sacraments that nourish us? And so much more. Well, your opportunity is coming up soon, for this and for so many other special days and weeks of observances during the month of October. Get ready!



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

## Jesus in our prisons from page 2

twenty men attended Mass; now there are thirty to forty. My responsibilities include distributing Bibles and Catechisms to those who request them, sharing fellowship before Mass while Fr. Loftus hears confessions, serving as a catechist to men considering or preparing for Baptism and/or Confirmation, praying with men individually or in a small group. preparing all the men to become peaceful and prayerful during Mass, and sharing with Fr. Loftus after Mass about the men’s prayers, Baptism, and Confirmation requests.

Remembering Jesus’ words, “*Amen, I say to you whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me,*” I am thankful that I have been blessed with these opportunities to serve our Lord. I feel the love of Jesus every time I witness the presence of the Holy Spirit in one of our brothers in prison.

\* \* \*

Anyone interested in Prison Ministry can contact Stan Yanchus at [stanyanchus65@gmail.com](mailto:stanyanchus65@gmail.com)

## Welcome newcomers! from page 1

activities. Each folder has a form for registering as a parish member. As they greet people in the gathering space, welcomers and ushers are always on the lookout for people who seem a little lost like they are new or visiting, and they help newcomers find the restroom or Coffee Shop, or share when Reconciliation or Eucharistic Adoration take place. Sometimes visitors remark on our beautiful church, so the welcomers give them a little history of our parish and our renovation.

We always welcome new members to the Welcome Team. Interested parishioners can contact Mary Long at yemmalong@yahoo.com.

### Vocation Prayer

O God, you wish all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of your truth; therefore send, we beg you, laborers into your harvest to speak your Word. May those of us called to be your laborers respond with generosity and a selfless spirit so that all may know you and him whom you have sent, your son, Jesus Christ

*We belong to music  
and to Him  
who is  
the Song of Songs.  
—Ruth R. Rains*

## St. Patrick 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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## Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Macie Brown

### Easy Fruit Cobbler

1/4 c soft butter or margarine  
1/2 c + 1 t sugar, divided  
1 c sifted flour  
2 t baking powder  
1/4 t salt  
1/2 c milk  
1 2-lb can of fruit  
1 c fruit juice



Cream together butter and 1/2 c sugar until fluffy. Stir in dry ingredients alternately with milk. Beat until smooth. Pour into 10" x 5" x 3" pan or 2-qt. casserole. Drain fruit (e.g., cherries, boysenberries, apricots, sliced strawberries, blueberries, sliced peaches, or apricots, etc., or any combination thereof) and set juice aside. Spoon fruit over batter, pour 1 c reserved fruit juice over top, and sprinkle with 1 t sugar. Bake at 375 degrees for 45-50 minutes. During baking, the fruit and juice go to the bottom and a cake-like layer forms on top. Serve warm with cream or whipped topping.