

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

July August 2024

## It's a big Church

**A**re you traveling this summer, or did you travel to come to Urbana? There's nothing like travel to allow you to experience how big our Church is. It's pretty easy to get involved in a parish. There are many opportunities to pray together, to celebrate together, and to



serve together. Sometimes it's a little harder to see yourself as part of the Diocese of Peoria, or the Church in the United States, or the universal Church. They may seem more distant. But we are part of a large and diverse Church, and it is part of us.

When you go to Mass during your travels, will it feel familiar to you? It might be in another language. There might be different customs or music. There might be a homily with a different emphasis. So many differences! And yet, the

structure of the Mass will be familiar. Even if you don't know the language, you will know what is going on, and be able to pray in your own language.

That's how it is in the Catholic Church. We are people of many nations, with different languages and customs. We are people raised



in



privilege and people raised in poverty. We are

people with different perspectives and priorities. We are people called to live out our faith, each in a unique way. So many differences! And yet, we are held together by our faith. We are held together by the love of God who has made us to live in community and support one another as we grow in faith. We are held together by the saving work of Jesus. We are held together by the Spirit, who inspires our differences

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## Summer Music Camp coming to St. Patrick's!

**S**t. Patrick's music director, James Rossi, is launching a new Summer Music Camp for our young parishioners. Campers will learn about music by singing joyful songs and trying a variety of musical instruments. They will sing together in a round or in a repeated refrain. Everyone will learn to play some notes on a recorder to help them learn about pitch. They will use percussion instruments (triangles, shakers, maracas, and small drums) to learn to understand rhythm and how it works.

Mr. Rossi has planned and will lead the activities with the children. The Camp will be in St. Brigid Hall and in Mr. Rossi's room. Campers will go outside where they can use chalk to practice drawing the musical symbols they've learned, and maybe even put some notes on a staff. Depending on the number of campers, small groups of kids with similar abilities will be able to work with volunteers to develop their skills.

Students will use *Singing Our Faith*, a song book geared toward kids, one of the books used by the Youth Choir. The book is lighter and

See **Music Camp** on page 4

## Saying goodbye to Father George Remm

Father George Remm's funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m. Hundreds of parishioners, past and present, were in attendance. Bishop Louis Tylka, his Vicar General, over thirty priests, including our past pastors, and our deacon attended. The full choir under the direction of James Rossi and accompanied by bass-baritone Ricardo Herrera, our cantor, sang melodiously.

After the prelude, the congregation was invited to stand and turn to the entrance of the church. Twenty priests, all dressed in white vestments, slowly walked up the aisle, followed by Bishop Tylka, his Vicar General, past pastors and deacon, and finally the casket of Father Remm, followed by his family members. On the altar now were Bishop Tylka, his Vicar General, Monsignor Doug Hennessy, Father Joe Hogan, and Deacon Cliff Maduzia. After the readings by parishioners, Deacon Cliff read the Gospel.

Father Joe gave the homily about Father Remm's life. Although there were several instances that prompted laughter from the congregation, the theme was serious and inspiring. Father Joe said that Father Remm considered the Eucharist to be the center of his life because it was the sacrament of love. The two words on the cornerstone of his life were gratitude and surrender.

Father Remm was grateful to God and the priests of St. Bede. He was grateful for his mother and father, his fellow priests, especially the retired ones who would help out at St. Patrick. He was grateful for the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary and all his parishioners. In fact he said that in his last years that he could feel the power of their prayers for him.



The second word on Father Remm's cornerstone was surrender, to the will of God. He accepted his illnesses and impending death. He was learning to let go for a deeper union with Christ. Finally on his last night, surrounded by fellow priests, he surrendered to God. Father Remm's dream of seeing God face to face came true that night.

Father Joe concluded his homily by telling us we all have one life, one soul, and one death. We are all going to die like Father Remm. We should pray for him, our great pastor, and pray for ourselves, that we may similarly surrender to God.

Now two more pastors, Father Anthony Co and

Father Luke Spannagel, joined those already on the altar to concelebrate the Mass. During Communion cantor Ricardo Herrera and the choir sang a rapturous version of "Quietly, Peacefully". Father Anthony, from the pulpit, invited everyone to the funeral luncheon, and most of the congregation accepted his invitation. Father then said that the choir did an amazing job; "Wasn't it beautiful?" The congregation applauded in agreement.

The luncheon was held in St. Brigid Hall and tears changed to conversations, especially between parishioners and their past pastors. The food was delicious, fried chicken and barbecue with all the sides, and homemade desserts by parishioners. Father Anthony was the greatest host, bringing plates of desserts around to tables and even wrapping up chicken in tinfoil for people to take home.

Father Remm's beautiful funeral Mass is on St. Patrick's website at [www.stpatrickbana.org](http://www.stpatrickbana.org). It's almost as inspiring on the website as it was in person. Seeing all our pastors together on the altar impressed upon us the love of God for St. Patrick Parish. From Msgr. Doug through Father George, Father Joe, Father Luke, to Father Anthony, God has given us the best of His creation. We thank You.

## Meet transitional deacon Jack Watt

From Walt Disney Imagineering to the priesthood could be a description of Deacon Jack Watt's life. He has always wanted to do something special with his life. In middle school, his dream was to work at Disney as a Walt Disney Imagineer designing theme parks. Jack loved being with his family, golfing, hanging out with friends, working out, and fishing. He comes from a fishing family. His great-grandmother was the first woman to explore the boundary waters of northern Minnesota. She was an avid fisherwoman. His family visited her summers and fished in the lake near her home.



Deacon Jack graduated with a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois. During his college years, he first felt the call to the priesthood. He says, "That definitely changed my life." He grew up a Catholic, and his family went to Mass, but he did not have a relationship with

the Lord. At the U. of I., he and three friends from high school stayed together at the Newman Center. One of his friends was a devout Catholic whose faith was important to him. His friend started a Bible study in their rooms. Deacon Jack says, "Because it was in our rooms, I couldn't say 'No'. I'm glad I went because it changed my life." His friend challenged everyone to read the Bible.

Deacon Watt says, "I had never read the Bible in my life. As I was reading the New Testament, I was blown away at Jesus' words. I had never heard anyone speak like that before. It drew me in. In my junior year at UI, I was attending a 9 p.m. candlelight Mass and during the homily, the priest said, 'Sometimes we hear the voice of God in our lives, but we want to play dumb. We don't want to listen to what he has to say.' Right before the priest said that, thoughts of the priesthood had come into my mind. I'd never thought about the priesthood before, but right when he said that it was like a bomb went off in my mind. I went up to communion and I was shaking.

"I told God, 'No'. This would mean I could never get married, never work at Disney. I can't do it. I tried to forget about it even though it was like nothing I had ever heard before. A month later, I was going to confession and a priest gave an unusual penance. I had not said anything to him about my thoughts, but at the end of confession, the priest said, 'For your penance today, I want you to pray for men who are discerning the priesthood'. As soon as he said that a bomb went off in my mind like it had the first time. I left that confessional and felt I needed to hear what God is saying and I needed to start thinking about this. Thoughts of the priesthood kept coming over and over again into my mind. What was so amazing was I never felt so alive before and yet I was so afraid.

"I reached out to the priest at the Newman Center and told him what had happened. He smiled and said, 'Jack, the same thing happened to me.' He gave me a book on discernment. I went to seminary. I felt the most peace I'd ever felt in my life. This whole journey to where I am now as a deacon has been a wonderful journey. I've never been happier in my whole life. It is an amazing vocation. I'm looking forward to the work to come this year. I'm looking forward to becoming a priest at the end of the year."

If Deacon Jack Watt could choose his future, he would become a school chaplain. He loves being around kids. Last year he was at St. Jude in Peoria, which offers K-8<sup>th</sup> grades and full and half-day preschool. He enjoyed getting to know the children and being at their homes to spend time with their families. He would like to be a chaplain working with children of all ages, sharing the faith with them, and knowing the kids were getting what they need spiritually.

Deacon Jack concludes, "God has a specific plan for everyone in our lives. He has more in store for us than we could ever imagine."

Jack Watt was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on December 7, 1996. He attended Normal Community High School. His parents live in Bloomington and are retired from State Farm Insurance Company. He has one sister who has a two-year old and a nearly four-year old. Her husband is in the Air Force, and they live in Tuscon, Arizona. He says, "We were always close growing up. I look forward to seeing her once or twice a year."

As a transitional deacon, Jack began his work at St. Patrick's June 11 and will leave July 28 to Mundelein Seminary at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, for his final year of studies. He was one of three who participated in the transitional diaconate ordination May 18 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. Bishop Louis Tylka said, "This year their status is transitional. God willing, a year from now we will return here together again to witness their priestly ordination."

## Shop, serve, and enjoy fellowship at Cellar-to-Garret!

Cellar-to-Garret is our annual garage sale — a major fundraiser that supports the Women of St. Patrick. This year, the sale will run from August 8–10. There are plenty of ways to participate, but before sharing them, we'd like to highlight what makes this event so special:

- It offers affordable items to the community around us. But anyone can buy, and it's a great place to find just the right thing at an amazing price!
- Proceeds support the Women of St. Patrick's mission: to foster spirituality, provide service to our parish and community, and organize, support, and host social gatherings for the parish community.
- Yet another blessing is the people you'll meet and the laughs you'll have working with friends. During the second week, workers share a meal. It's a great time of fellowship with a spiritual dimension.

To make this sale a success, WSP needs your help. You can help before, during, and after the sale.

First off, several committees need volunteers to help with preparations. There is the Publicity Committee, the Volunteer Committee, the Food Committee, the Setup Committee, and the Tear-down Committee.

Before the sale comes the setup stage. On **July 28**, many things will need to be moved.

Men who can volunteer are especially helpful. We also need people with trucks to help haul items on those days. During the following sorting days, we need a lot of men, women, and teens to collect items and put them in their proper places.

During the sale itself, we need cashiers and people willing to help customers with their purchases.

And finally on tear-down day (**August 10**), we need men who can help move things and people with trucks to haul them.

If you want to help with Cellar-to-Garret, please call or text Bernadette Nelson (217-840-0764) or Anna Conner (217-649-1666). God bless you!



**Q:** Why are priests transferred every few years to another parish?

**A:** Many factors influence this, including the priest's growth and gaining of experience, the parish's needs, and the needs of the diocese. Sometimes a priest requests or is asked to take a special assignment, such as a hospital or school chaplain, and sometimes in response to a parish with a special need.

This year, with many changes to be made in the Diocese of Peoria to reduce the number of parishes that can be served by a growing shortage of priests, many more parishes and priests are involved. Changes are to go into effect in July 2024.

## Music Camp

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songs are easier to follow than in traditional hymnals. Younger kids will be able to sing songs from memory, while older kids will begin to read the words and music.



The overall goal is for campers to have a good time and learn something about music. And maybe some of them will decide to become involved in Youth Choir at church. Mr. Rossi plans to have the Music Camp students sing at a Mass so they can share what they've learned. Everyone will have a t-shirt to take home and wear when they sing at Mass.

The Summer Music Camp is 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 16–18. The fee is \$20. Camp is open to ages 4–12. Adult and teen volunteers are welcome whether or not they are musical.



## What does the Eucharist mean to me personally?

By Rita Rumbaugh

To me, the Holy Eucharist is the celebration of Christ's love for us transcending through time as evidenced by Jesus' words and actions at the Passover meal which Jesus celebrated with His apostles on the night before He died. According to the catechism (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition, #1341): "The command of Jesus to repeat His actions and words 'until He comes' does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what He did. It is directed at the liturgical celebration by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ, of His life, of His death, of His resurrection, and of His intercession in the presence of the Father."

It is with this command that I, personally, reflect on Jesus' passion and His obedience to the will of our Lord God Almighty — to think that our Lord God Almighty loved us so much that He sent His only Son to give us a second chance at redemption. What a gift! Then, I ask myself, can I be this obedient and will I know what I am called to do?

Through faith, we believe that at the moment of consecration, when the priest holds up the host and chalice, transubstantiation (the substance of the bread and wine changes into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ) occurs. When this occurs, I bow my head, strike my breast, and say: my Lord and my God always and forever. Thank you dear sweet Jesus for redeeming us. After the Lamb of God, I pray: dear sweet Jesus, please cleanse my soul in preparation to receiving You. Please forgive me of my sins, past, present and future. Then I say the Act of Contrition. After receiving Jesus, I profess my gratitude by saying: thank you, dear sweet Jesus, for Your love, mercy, and tenderness that allowed me to receive You in the most Holy Sacrament of Communion. I also add the following: thank you Jesus for the gift of faith that allows me to say without hesitation that the graces bestowed upon me for attending this most Holy Mass, witnessing transubstantiation and receiving Your Body and Blood, I share those graces with the Holy Souls in Purgatory especially...(family names) and those

who do not have anyone to pray for them and for those Holy Souls who are one step away from entering Your Heavenly Kingdom. I end this with the Our Father prayer. Receiving Jesus gives me hope and peace.

Though I am a cradle Catholic, it has been a long journey to reach this phase of my life. It is not over yet but this time I am traveling with Jesus.

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## St. Patrick Parish Worship Committee

One of the great joys of being a part of St. Patrick Parish is working with a group of people who help in the planning of the details for our parish liturgies. This group, called the Worship Committee, is made up of representatives from various liturgical ministries. Mary Nelson, Usher representative, Susan Reese, Art and Environment representative, Diane Wilhelm, Sacristan and Extraordinary Ministers representative, Frank Modica, Lector representative, Cathy Salika, Music representative, and James Rossi, Music Director. The representative position for Servers is currently vacant. The group meets on a quarterly basis to review recent liturgies and to discuss upcoming ones. James Rossi found the group particularly helpful this past year, as the liturgies of St. Patrick were a "first" for him. "Their work helped me to know what had been done, what worked, what didn't work, and important details to remember," James says.

While the basic structure of the Mass is set by the instruction of the Roman Missal, approved by Rome, there are also options given. These options or choices allow each parish the opportunity to adapt the liturgy to fit the uniqueness, diversity, and needs of a parish. The Worship Committee is attentive to these factors to make each of our liturgies as beautiful, prayerful, and inclusive as possible. The committee shares their work with the parish staff, who help to facilitate many of the ideas.

We are fortunate to have a very active, alive, and participative parish that values the way we worship. The Worship Committee is always working to ensure this happens and always looking for ways to improve. While the committee is small with limited membership, they value parishioner comments, which may be sent to [james.rossi@stpaturbana.org](mailto:james.rossi@stpaturbana.org).

May our prayer together at parish liturgies always bring us into a closer relationship with the Triune God.

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# Big Church

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One person’s faith, if it is not shared with others, will grow cool. Together our faith is a light to the world.

When you travel, savor the differences that you find at Mass. Look for new perspectives. Hope to find something unique and distinctive. And likewise, when you are at St. Patrick’s, enjoy the differences among us. Seek out people with different insights. Receive the gift of their faith, and share your faith in return. We are, every one of us, God’s gift to the community of faith. and helps us to bridge our differences. We are held together by our shared prayer, study, and service.

It is a blessing that there is so much diversity among us. One person’s insights and abilities are not enough to make the love of God known to the whole world. But together, our insights and abilities, our time and resources, our faith, hope, and love can do that work.

# Musicians celebrate a good year

Our parish musicians gathered for a party hosted by music director James Rossi and his wife, Rita. Members of the Youth Choir, the Contemporary Ensemble, the Bell Choir, and the Adult Choir were present, along with cantors and occasional instrumentalists. A

few of our musicians serve in more than one capacity, so they know people from several groups, but there were lots of new people to meet nonetheless. It was wonderful to have some time to chat, since our weekend schedules don’t often overlap. James provided several games to encourage us to mingle and enjoy one another’s company. What a lovely way to wrap up our first season of music and worship with James!



## Celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi

This year the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated by a Eucharistic procession around the church parking lot, following the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 2. To complement the procession an Alfombra de *Aserrín* (sawdust carpet) was constructed by parishioners and friends from several Central and South American countries. The practice of adorning the streets with elaborately decorated carpets made of sawdust is practiced in Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America. The practice originated in Spain and Portugal in the Middle Ages and was brought to America and assimilated into the local culture. Although no longer practiced in Europe, the practice lives on in the Latin American Church with great exuberance in Holy Week and the Feast of Corpus Christi. The traditional carpets are made using sawdust that has been dyed into many colors.

We did not have access to dyed sawdust, so shredded colored paper was used and pasted to cardboard to create the alfombra. Assisting with its construction were Andrea Valdés (from Guatemala), Sofía Isabel Gonzales (from Panama), Grecia Romero (from El Salvador), Carlos Murillo (from Honduras), Luis Balderomar (from Bolivia), Anna Machak (from the US), and Alphi Velasco (from the US).





## Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Alice Dunn

### Fruit "Ice Cream"



- 3 oranges (juice from)
- 1-1/2 lemons (juice from)
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 1 #2 can crushed pineapple
- 3 c sugar
- 3 c water
- 3 eggs, beaten

Combine the juices from the oranges and the lemons, bananas, and crushed pineapple. Add sugar and water, and mix well. Add eggs, beaten until yellow. Mix all ingredients thoroughly and put in freezer. (This recipe makes a gallon, so be prepared with containers! And no, there is no milk or cream for this "ice cream"!)

*If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, [mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!*

*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](mailto:infocusstpats@gmail.com). You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (see below). All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. Bylines are generally omitted.

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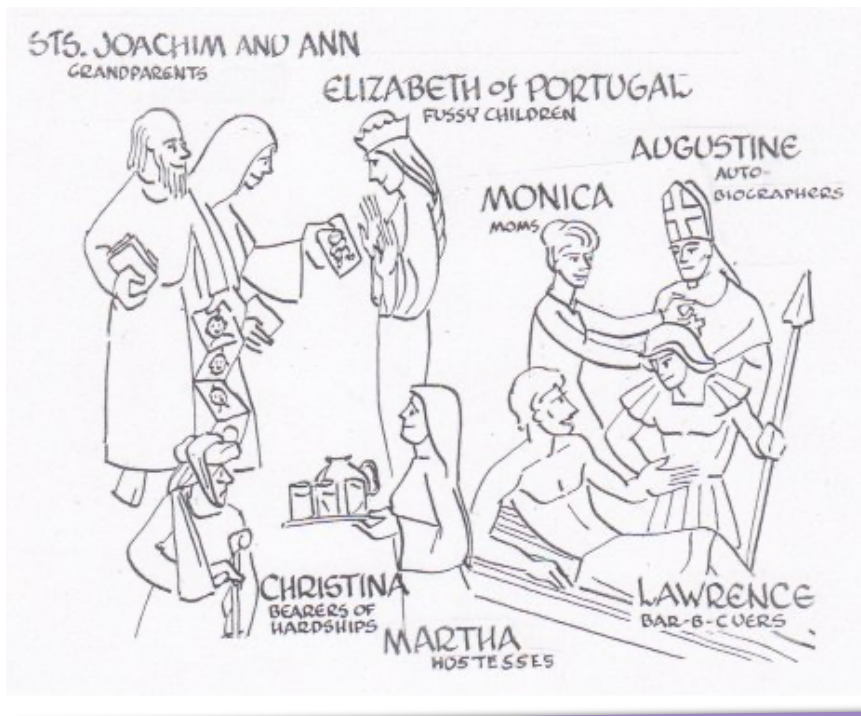
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Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (September) is **Sunday, August 4.**



July-August saints by Fr. George Wuellner