

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS



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

March 2024

## Remembering Jesus

For the past week, this Holy Week, we have been remembering the days of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We've

been carrying palm branches, washing feet, sharing the Lord's supper, reverencing his cross, lighting a bonfire, and singing Alleluia. Why do we do these things? Why do we recall the events of

those days so vividly, so tangibly? We are not putting on a passion play. There is no audience. We are not simply remembering. Perhaps we are trying to find our place in these events.

Where would you have been on that first Palm Sunday, when the whole city was stirring because Jesus was coming? Would you have been one of those loudly singing his praises? Would you have been embarrassed by the exuberance of the crowd, standing back, not engaging? Would you have been scandalized because Jesus, a mere man, was receiving the kind of praise that should belong to God alone? Or would you have been fearful because of the threat that the Jesus fanatics posed to the political order?

Where would you have been on Holy Thursday, when Jesus said that he was giving his disciples his body

and blood? Would you have felt the weight of the love and sorrow in his heart and tried to understand what he was doing? Would you have

brushed it off as one of the Teacher's crazy rants? Or would you have stayed home with your own family rather than being there with him?

Where would you have been

as Jesus hung on the cross? Would you have stayed away to avoid the danger of being seen as one of his followers? Would you have been indignant over the treatment of an essentially harmless man? Would you have wished you could have done something to save him? Would you have been deeply ashamed that no one – not you, not anyone – was there to help him? Or would you have been near the cross to say goodbye to someone you loved and respected?

Where would you have been on the third day? Would you have been heading home, figuring that the excitement and hope that Jesus put in your heart was a thing of the past? Would you have been walking the streets of Jerusalem, still shocked by the events of the past few days?

see **Remembering Jesus** on page 4

## Come, O come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful ones

The Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist – are the foundation of the Christian life. In the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.



Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner, with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.

The two main signs of Confirmation are the laying on of hands and

see **Holy Spirit** on page 5

## Parents and Tots: Fun, formation, and support for families

by Anna Kinskey

Our family moved to Champaign in June 2020, which was possibly the worst time to move to a new community. I had known Fr. Anthony from his days at the Newman Center, so we were happy to join St. Patrick's quickly, even if it was primarily through virtual Mass. One year later, we went to our first event, the parish summer festival, where our now good friends Abigail and George Alberti asked to sit with us. Our kids (three at the time – five now) were about the same ages, and we were grateful to have our first new friends since moving. They introduced us to Emily and Peter Foertsch, another family with young kids.



Emily, Abigail, and I met to go out for what we called “informal moms’ nights out.” It was a great time to get together over a meal and share about the joys and challenges of motherhood, especially as Catholic moms. All three of

us had babies within a year of each other, and supported each other through advice, meals, and prayers. We would often invite other moms as we met them, but it wasn't until Fr. Anthony encouraged us to make an official ministry that things really got rolling.

We launched the group we now call “Parents and Tots” – but it's for parents and caregivers with kids of all ages! Since Abigail was preparing for the birth of her daughter, I took the lead on planning our first few events. Mary Tate has been a huge support and cheerleader for us, as has Fr. Anthony. At the next summer festival, I walked around with flyers and introduced myself to every parent I could find – there were many families there – and our official parents’ group was started!

Now we have events about every other week including faith formation nights, moms’ and dads’ nights out, and family playdates. Our goal is to provide community, support, and prayers with one another. We have moms’ and dads’ group chats. The moms’ group



chat has over 40 moms (and growing!), and our Advent Party in December had about 40 parents and kids come together.

We also recently received a grant from the Women of St. Patrick to create Mass bags with quiet, faith-centered activities for kids to use during Mass to help them better connect with what's going on during Mass and to allow parents a little extra time to pray.

My motto for our parents’ group is always “If it stresses you out, we’re not doing it right!” The goal is to provide support however you need it, whether it's through prayers, advice, encouragement, resources, a meal train, and/or opportunities

to have fun together. Many of my closest friends, and my kids’ closest friends, have come through our community at St. Patrick's.

We want all parents and caregivers to know that they have a support system in our parish, and they can always reach out to me directly. It can be scary to be the new family, but we aim to be a community for all of our families, new and old.

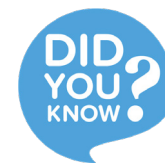
We have several events coming up this month:

- Moms’ Night Out, Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. at Dos Reales
- Family Playdate, Saturday, March 9, 10:00 a.m. at St. Brigid Hall
- Moms’ Faith Formation, Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick

To join the group chats, contact Anna ([anna.kinskey@gmail.com](mailto:anna.kinskey@gmail.com) or 309-530-9210).



The Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10 this year, is called Laetare Sunday because the opening antiphon in Mass begins with the words (in Latin) “Laetare, Jerusalem,” which is translated “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” It marks the halfway point of Lent's hopeful journey with Christ through his passion and death – and resurrection. Priests have the option of wearing rose-colored vestments to reflect the joy of our salvation.

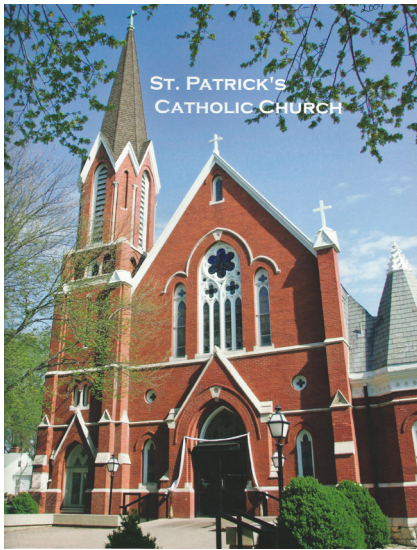


## How will you use your parish photo directory?

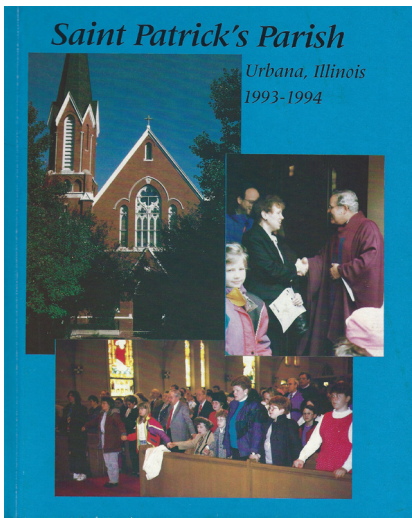
Every 6 to 8 years, St. Patrick Parish creates a photo director containing photos of many of our parishioners and families. Everyone who had their photo taken for the directory will receive a free copy. Here are some things you could do with your directory:

- Learn the name of someone you just met.
- See what a staff member or Parish Council member looks like so you can connect with them more readily.
- Find out if a parishioner who has died recently is someone you know by face but not by name.

All these things help to strengthen ties in our parish community. Enjoy!

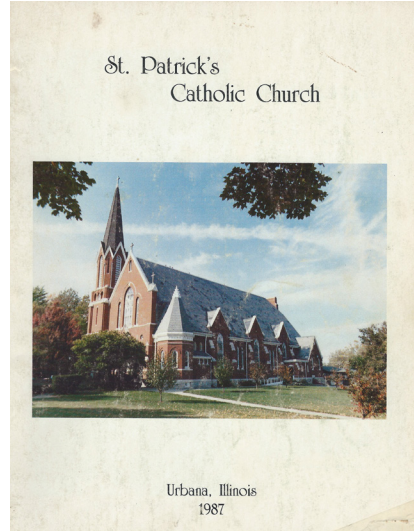


ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Saint Patrick's Parish

Urbana, Illinois  
1993-1994

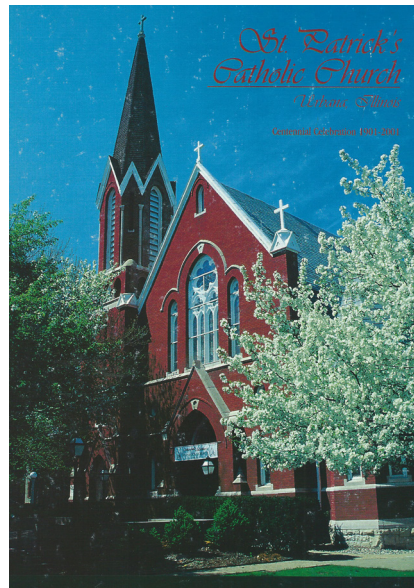


St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Urbana, Illinois  
1987



St. Patrick Catholic Church  
708 W. Main St.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-367-2665



St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
Urbana, Illinois

www.stpatrick.org 2015

## Parish Council News



During their January meeting Council members discussed a parishioner's request that the Council consider setting up a Marian grotto, perhaps on the order of the one at St. Matthew's. However, recalling that the parish is \$55,502 short of its ADA goal of \$138,776, and noting that the cost of St. Matthew's grotto was about \$10,000, Council members felt it was imprudent to go ahead with this suggestion.

Parishioners have been slow to sign up to have their photos taken for the parish pictorial directory. To date only 132 signups, representing 307 people, have been made. (The 132 signups equal slightly more than 10% of the roughly 1200 registered parish households.) It was suggested that Jon McCoy contact the religious education families to encourage them to sign up.

There was further discussion of the book *Four Ways Forward*. (We hope to give a fuller report on *Four Ways Forward* in the next issue of *In Focus*, identifying the primary themes of the book and the Council's purpose in discussing it, to provide some context for these discussions.) Comments included the following: (1) to tell our conversion stories outside the Church, we need more opportunities to share our stories in the Church; (2) our witness needs to be loving community service; (3) the nature of the Nones that live in our community seems poorly explained; and (4) the Four Ways were not all appropriate, the most important element is a loving attitude toward the Nones in our community.

## St. Joseph

Joseph was a Jewish man of Nazareth who was married to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and was the legal father of Jesus. It is believed he was born in 30 B.C. and died in 20 A.D. at age 49.

The Bible portrays Joseph as a compassionate, caring man. When

he discovered that Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was not yet aware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly so as not to expose her to shame or cruelty. An angel came

to Joseph in a dream and told him, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” He did as the angel instructed and took Mary as his wife.

Following the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, an angel appeared to Joseph, telling him to take the family to Egypt to escape the massacre of the children of Bethlehem planned by King Herod. After Herod died, an angel told Joseph to return but to avoid Herod’s son. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to settle in Nazareth, in Galilee.

Because Joseph does not appear in the Bible after the story of finding Jesus in the temple at the age of 12, Christian tradition represents Mary as a widow, although Joseph’s death is not mentioned in the New Testament.



St. Joseph is a patron saint of many countries and cities. It is said that St. Joseph (San Giuseppe in Italian) saved the people of Sicily from a famine during the Middle Ages. During a severe drought, people prayed to St. Joseph to bring them rain. In return, they promised

to make a large feast to honor St. Joseph and God. The rain did come, and the people of Sicily prepared a large banquet. Because the fava bean was the crop which saved the Sicilian people from starvation, it is a traditional part of Saint Joseph’s Day altars and traditions. The faithful might carry dried fava beans that have been blessed, or put them on home altars. Other customs include attending Mass and wearing red clothing.

Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church in 1870. Since according to Catholic tradition, Joseph died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, he is the patron of a happy death. He’s also the patron saint of virgins, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, craftsmen, engineers, workers, and house sellers and buyers.

In a novena invoked before his feast day, intercessions are asked of St. Joseph for employment, daily protection, vocation, happy marriage, and a happy death.

In artwork, St. Joseph is shown with the attributes of a carpenter’s square or tools, the infant Jesus, a staff sprouting lilies, two turtle doves, or an aromatic herb called spikenard.

His feast day is March 19.

## Remembering Jesus from page 1

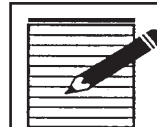
Would you have been praying to understand what it all meant and how you were going to go on living? Would you have been happily resuming your usual routines?

How you answer these questions may show you something about how you relate to Jesus now. Or, at least, it might show you how you wish you would have acted, had you been in Jerusalem in those days. Sometimes we’re a little too optimistic about what good disciples we would have been.

But the important thing to know is that we were there, in the heart of Jesus, as he fed his disciples with the only food that could sustain their faith, as he died to be our salvation, and as he rose to show that God would not be defeated by sin. We live out these days, year after year, to learn more deeply what God has done for us. We live them out together, because the gifts given to you have been given to every believer, and these gifts make us one. And we go on living, as a community of faith, to show the world the love of God. Alleluia!

With wars and violence headlining the news these days of Lent, may we find ways to accompany in spirit the nonviolent Jesus who walks from the desert – where he rejects the temptations to violence – to Jerusalem, where he confronts the structures of violence and gives his life for humanity through loving nonviolence. Somehow, we need to walk with him, share his spirit, take up his cross, and carry on his work of compassion and peace.

—John Dear, S.J.



Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (January) is **Sunday, March 3.**

## What does the Eucharist mean to me personally? by Frank Rosser



I am a lover of word meanings. We throw a lot of words around in life, sometimes carelessly, sometimes without thought. The Church is very careful about word choices and I have come to appreciate the Mass better because of it.

We speak of the Lord’s Supper with two terms: The Holy Eucharist and Holy Communion. Eucharist means “thanksgiving” and Communion means “to have an intimate relationship.” Not to be lost, of course, is the word Holy. Only God is Holy (Rev. 15:4). Therefore, we have this beautiful mixture of what is happening. God is present, we are humbled and overjoyed by his presence, and we enter into an intimate relationship with him. For a long time I felt snug and comfortable with this idea of a personal God with whom I could be in communion, (how often I substituted in my own mind, without thinking, the words “my” and “me” for “our” and “us,” when praying the Our Father), but God was not going to let me stay there.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments...This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you” (John 14:15,15:12). This statement is in Jesus’ discourse to his disciples at the Last Supper. He was trying to explain to them what they had just received and the obligation it creates. I had heard this message many times but never connected it to the Holy Eucharist. I knew I should love my neighbor. I even had the vague understanding that at Holy Communion we become one body in Christ, but somehow it had evaded me that everyone around me had, on receiving the Holy Eucharist, become tabernacles: temples

of the Holy Spirit. (Okay, I’m a little dense sometimes.) When this concept finally solidified in my mind, I began not only to look for Christ in others, but to see him there.

I could say more, but sometimes words fail me.

## The Eucharist is my life by Mary Ndungu



When I believed that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, that he is alive and present at the altar, I did not want to ever leave Mass without receiving him.

In every Mass, before I proceed to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, I always tell Jesus that “I believe you are alive and you are here with us. I thank you for agreeing to come to me to heal my weaknesses.”

When I go to adoration, I am going home to talk and listen to my heavenly father who is alive!

I have been fortunate enough, by the grace of God, to have visited the site of the Eucharistic Miracle at Lanciano, Italy. This was a powerful experience which became an affirmation for me that truly the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. I recommend reading about the Eucharistic Miracle at Lanciano, and about the Santarem Eucharistic Miracle in Portugal.

God bless you all as we come to the table together.

### Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, I pray for courage in times of uncertainty and self-doubt. I surrender to you my old notions of who I thought I should be or could be; I trust in your plan. Lead me safely on this journey so that I may be of service to you and your people in whatever way you open to me.

## Holy Spirit from page 1

the anointing with the oil of chrism. In earlier times we sealed precious and important things to protect them. In Confirmation our candidates are sealed in faith and love.

On April 13, following several months devoted to their study of this sacrament and its effects, St. Patrick’s parish will present 28 young men and women for Confirmation by Bishop Lou Tylka. And so we pray:

God of all ages, you send out your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people. Look kindly on our candidates for Confirmation as they seek to hear your voice. We pray that you send your Spirit to enlighten, guide, strengthen, console, and open their hearts as they continue to seek a closer relationship with you. Help them to know the deep and abiding love you have for each of them, and fill them with the joy of your presence.

### What is your vocation?

Do you have a vocation? Of course you do! But how can you know what that is? Spiritual writer Henri Nouwen offers some sage advice:

“The Lord always reveals himself to you where and when you are most fully present. In your prayer, try to present your anxieties, struggles, and fears to him, and let him show you the way to follow him. More important than anything else is to follow the Lord. The rest is secondary. If you follow him, you can follow as a priest, as a lay minister, as a single person, or as a married person, but what really counts is that he is the center.”



**Q: What does it take to become a saint?**

**A:** Do you mean a canonized saint, someone with “Saint” in front of your name, officially recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church? There’s a process for that, involving several steps that begins with someone championing your cause, someone who is willing to go on record after a meticulous examination of your personal life

to state that everything indicates what a holy life you’ve lived, how charitable, how humble, how good you were. In the end it comes down to the miracles you perform after you die in response to people who pray to you for healing of mind or body, or relief from seemingly impossible situations. It can take centuries.

If you mean saint with a lowercase s, that’s much easier – in a way.

This correspondent almost always answered the question “What do you want to be when you grow up?” with “I want to be a saint.” And it was true – I wanted to be good, someone who loved everyone and showed it by doing nice things for them, someone who never argued or had a fight with anyone. (Although I was really a cranky kid, a trait I’ve not entirely lost as a grown-up.) And I loved Jesus. I wanted Jesus to cuddle me when I was sad and be happy with me when I was happy.

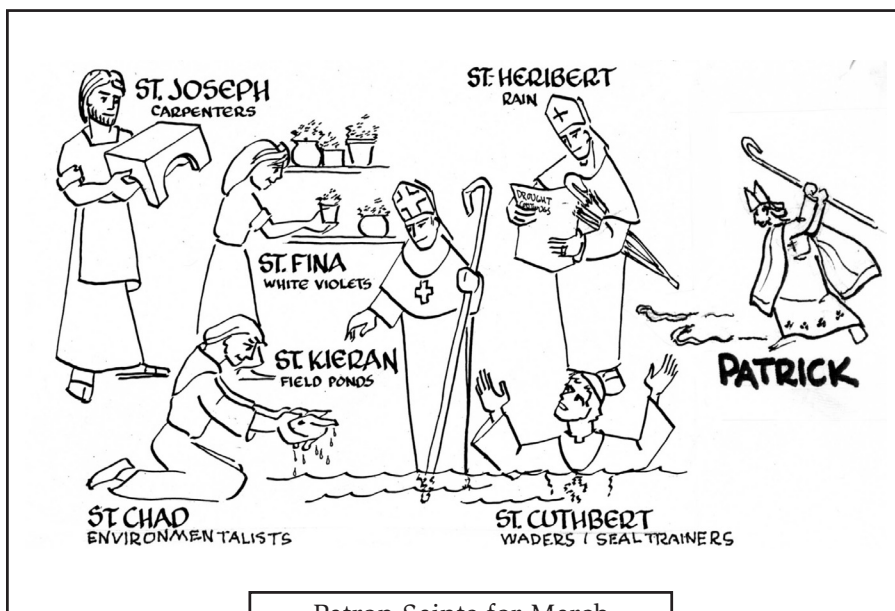
I think I wasn’t far off the mark, young as I was.

Jesus told us himself what we were to do: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31).

This means, of course, that you’re also to love yourself, otherwise the second commandment would have no real meaning.

It seems, then, that love is called for, love that shows itself in a multitude of ways each and every day, love that helps you try to love another as you are loved by God (as impossible as this is), love that can correct another if really necessary, love that sees God in others and cares for them accordingly. Think about it: what does it mean first of all to love, to love God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, even all your strength? Maybe the second one is easier – to love another as we love ourselves. You’d have to find many, many ways to love all those others out there, true enough, but it’s a really, *really* worthy goal, despite how hard it seems.

The short answer to what it takes to become a saint is love.



Patron Saints for March

## The “consistent life ethic” a seamless garment for all

In the early eighties Cardinal Joseph Bernardin helped publicize the consistent life ethic idea, initially in a lecture at Fordham University, December 6, 1983, where he spoke out against nuclear war and abortion. However, he quickly expanded the scope of his view to include all aspects of human life: “The spectrum of life cuts across the issues of genetics, abortion, capital punishment, modern warfare, and the care of the terminally ill.”

He added that although each of the issues was distinct, nevertheless they were linked since the valuing and defending of human life were, he believed, at the center of all of them.

Bernardin understood the consistent life ethic as implying a societal responsibility to provide adequate care for all, especially the poor, who are often unable to provide the necessities of life for themselves.

Others have sought to apply the pro-life ethic not only to care for the unborn child in the womb, but also to care for the elderly (especially though not exclusively those in danger of euthanasia), abusers of alcohol and other drugs, refugees starving on the border, LGBTQ+ youths tempted to suicide, and inmates being readied for execution on death row.

“There is,” Bernardin maintained, “a political and psychological linkage among the life issues – from war to welfare concerns – which we ignore at our own peril: a systemic vision of life seeks to expand the moral imagination of a society, not partition it into air-tight categories. As I have said, no one can do everything. There are limits to both competency and energy. But each of the life issues is related to all the others as if a seamless garment, yet distinct in its need for understanding and action.”

## Chicken dinner fed parishioners and the Education Fund

On Saturday, January 27, parishioners from both Holy Cross and St. Patrick gathered in the Holy Cross Parish Center for the annual Cluckin' for Catholic Education Chicken Dinner. Nelson's Catering prepared a delicious chicken meal for parishioners to enjoy in support of raising funds for Catholic Education. Of the 227 tickets sold, 67 were from St. Patrick's parishioners and 160 from Holy Cross parishioners. Total proceeds were \$1924.88, and each parish will receive an equal share to go towards their Catholic Education Fund. If you missed it this year, make plans to attend next January for a great meal, fellowship, and a good cause.



## Being Saved

After Mass we go to the parish hall  
to be saved again.

I arrive first, hold the door for others  
who joke about being first to the door,  
last to the doughnuts.

Inside is a long table of cakes and rolls,  
kids studying one, then another,  
before making a final choice.

“Oh,” I say, “that’s the one I wanted.”

They grin.

Blanca has chosen a table  
and gradually others join us—  
much small talk.

Then it happens.

Blanca laughs.

She tells a joke from Spanish TV  
in her pretty accent.

More tales and humor,

we have passed the narrows into open sea  
and are good for some time now.

We are not on Earth alone,

we have a calm horizon,

and it will be days before the cliffs

begin to close in on both sides.

—*Quentin Kirk, former parishioner*



## St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

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Materials must include the name  
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submitting them.

Please send news items to [info-cusstpats@gmail.com](mailto:info-cusstpats@gmail.com). You may also  
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## Quick fixin’s from the kitchen of . . . *Pat Doebel*

### Stuffed Acorn Squash

- 2 medium acorn squash
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/4 c brown sugar
- 1 c sour cream
- Parsley, chopped
- 1 t salt
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1 c bread crumbs
- 1/2 c melted butter



Cut squash into halves and bake until tender. Scoop out pulp carefully,  
saving outer shells for stuffing. Mix squash, onion, sugar, sour cream,  
parsley, salt, and cinnamon. Put mixture into shells. Moisten bread  
crumbs with melted butter and sprinkle over top. Bake at 350 degrees for  
30-35 minutes, or until heated through.