

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

July-August 2025

Where there is love

Many in our parish have begun a new focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the past few weeks. Inspired by the final encyclical of Pope Francis and by the life of prayer of many holy people, they are exploring the richness of this image. The Heart of Jesus understands you better than



you understand yourself and loves you better than you love yourself. The Heart of Jesus suffered for your salvation and is with you when you suffer. The Heart of Jesus wants everything that is for your good and helps you in every good thing that you try to do when you live by his example. It speaks of a very personal, intimate relationship in which God wants you to grow.

But the Heart of Jesus is not only personal. It has a communal dimension as well. As deeply as Jesus understands you, so he understands every person he has made. The intimate relationship that he longs to have with you he offers to everyone.

We sing the hymn “Ubi Caritas” fairly often at St. Patrick’s. You know the refrain, “Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.” “Where there are charity and love, there is God.” At first glance, this seems to say that we make God present when we love one another. But, of course, we can’t make God do anything! The verses, which we don’t often sing, turn this notion on its head. Here is a very literal translation of the Latin:

1. Christ’s love has gathered us together in one company. Let us then rejoice and take delight in him. Let us fear and love the living God. Let us love one another without any reserve or deception.
2. And so let us see that, whenever we are gathered together in company, we are not divided from each other in our minds and hearts. Let spite, quarreling, and strife give way, and may Christ, our God, be in our midst.
3. Christ our God, in company with the blessed may we see your face in glory – immeasurable happiness through unending ages of ages.

See **Where there is love** on page 2

Welcome back, Fr. John Pham!

In July, we will welcome Fr. John Pham back to St. Patrick’s. Fr. John was born in Hue, Viet Nam, in 1974. He studied for the priesthood there, and was ordained in 2002. After several years of ministry, his bishop sent him to the U.S. for advanced studies.

During part of that time, from 2016 to 2017, he served as parochial vicar here, and then moved on to serve other parishes in the diocese. In 2021, he returned to us for a couple of months while he was making arrangements to return to Viet Nam, a process complicated by pandemic restrictions.



Many of us remember him warmly as a gifted preacher. He was always present at parish events with a warm smile. One of his special interests is spiritual direction.

See **Fr. John Pham** on page 2

Where there is love

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The hymn emphasizes that Christ's love is at work. Because he loves each of us so dearly, he brings us together. He knows that faith grows in community. He knows that we need each other. This is our preparation for the community that we will have in heaven. Not that it's easy to live in community here! As Jesus teaches us to respond to the love that he has for us, we also learn to cast aside anything that could divide us. And so, the evidence that God is present with us is the love that we have for each other. "Where there are charity and love, there is God."

Fr. John Pham

from page 1

Last year, Fr. John was officially transferred to the Diocese of Peoria, so we can hope that he will be with us for a longer period this time.

Welcome back, Fr. John!

Father Jack Watt



Remember Deacon Jack Watt, who served at St. Patrick's last summer? He is now Father Jack Watt. On May 25, 2025, he celebrated his Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at Epiphany Catholic Church in Normal, Ill. Principal concelebrants at the Mass were Rev. Msgr. Philip Halfacre, VG, Rev.

David Richardson, Rev. Lee Brokaw, and Rev. Chase Hilgenbrinck, with Bishop Louis Tylka in attendance.

Music celebration and summer break

With the music of the Easter Season completed at Pentecost, St. Patrick's Adult Choir is now on break for the summer, and parish musicians have celebrated the end of this year of choral singing. Music Director James Rossi and his wife, Rita, hosted a potluck celebration at their clubhouse, offering delicious food and music-themed games.



Summer is a relatively quiet time for the musicians, but the Congolese choir will continue to sing at 10:00 a.m. Mass on the last Sunday of June, July, and August. The bell choir will also provide music for several Masses during the summer. And Masses will continue to have music led by cantors.



The Summer Music Camp for parishioners aged four through twelve will take place July 14 through July 18. Several musicians will assist Director Rossi in introducing youngsters to a variety of instruments, singing hymns, reading music, and playing recorders. The Youth Choir will resume after the beginning of the school year.

If you have youngsters already restless during summer break, give the parish office a call (217-367-2665) to see if there's still time to register them for this excellent and totally satisfying learning experience!

A call to share our faith in and love for God

The Religious Education ministry is seeking volunteers to teach 1st grade, 6th grade, 7th-8th grade and the confirmation class. It is also seeking a leader for the high school group. Religious Education is at the heart of the mission of Christianity; the last command of Jesus to his disciples, which is also incidentally the motto of Bishop Louis: "Go make disciples."

Before setting out for the mission comes the Holy Spirit – the comforter, the counselor, and the one who helps us through difficult moments and guides us into the unknown. In addition to the many unique gifts given to each of us for the sake of the Church, like evangelization, discernment, teaching, service, among others, the Holy Spirit gives each of us the gift of God's prescient knowledge. This allows us to be able to recognize the unique path he has destined for us as we journey to our eternal home.

For the Apostles, the Holy Spirit also gave knowledge for those under their care. We see the Apostles listening actively to the Holy Spirit on behalf of the Christians of Antioch (Acts 15), and giving them unique instructions suited to their community.

The Apostles were able to recognize the Spirit leading them and speaking to them because they had been instructed and guided by Jesus during his public ministry, as Jesus followed the voice of the Spirit. Their disciples too, in time, will learn to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit and to follow him. By the help of the Holy Spirit, the

Church has weathered storms the Apostles could not even imagine in their lifetime as a problem. Issues, they simply would not have understood. This unique gift given to the Apostles for the sake of the Church is also given to parents for the sake of children still learning truths about the world and about God. Children depend on their parents and take their walk of faith from their parents, just like Jesus did in obedience to Joseph and Mary.



By holding their hands and leading them to the truth, parents help the Church in her job of evangelization. The parents of St. Therese and St. Augustine have given the Church treasures beyond measure. Parents have an obligation to help their children learn of the love and grace of God; to help them paint a picture of God that is faithful to his goodness; and, most importantly, to help them learn to listen and to recognize the voice of God speaking to them in their hearts.

Helping our children to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit is an obligation that we share as a community. It is one that goes beyond our children, reaching out to those who do not yet know about God or those whose picture of God is not faithful to the goodness that God is. In his homily for Ascension Sunday, Fr. Anthony reminded us that the best and most effective way of helping others to know about God is by living out our faith. Even an act as simple as making the sign of the cross can be an invitation for

someone to experience the love and grace of God. This is an obligation we also must meet by actively teaching our children about our faith.

We ask that all of you prayerfully consider helping the children in our community learn about the great love and grace of God by teaching Religious Education. Classes usually take place on Sundays from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. The high school group meets on Sundays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The group leader is responsible for managing activities that include, for instance, Christian-based movies followed by a discussion or a Bible discussion. They also can plan service activities as well as times their students can hang out with Fr. Anthony.

Please do consider helping our youngsters grow in faith. Take your questions and considerations to Jon McCoy, the coordinator of Religious Education, or any other member of the parish staff, even to Fr. Anthony if the opportunity arises. You can send an email to jon.mccoy@stpaturbana.org for more information. Helping others is also incidentally a great way to learn and is a sure way to help you grow in your knowledge and journey of faith. And you can always count on the help of Jon McCoy and other members of the parish. May God bless you!

This is what the Church is supposed to be doing – acting as prophet to the world, reminding people of what they are, and therefore what they are failing to be, what they should be, can be and will inevitably suffer if they are not.

—Rosemary Haughton

Parishioners resume Meals on Wheels ministry

We continue Kevin Martindale's legacy by helping others – and find that we help ourselves.

Diane Wilhelm, a St. Patrick's volunteer and a



member of the Parish Council, currently coordinates St. Patrick's

participation in the Meals on Wheels program. The Council reviewed the Parish Ministry Directory and found that Meals on Wheels was not up to date since long-time coordinator, Kevin Martindale, had passed away. Diane had participated in delivering Meals on Wheels when they picked up the foods from Betsy's Bistro, which is no longer on the site. But her sleuthing discovered that the contract to prepare food for Meals on Wheels is now through Clark-Lindsey.



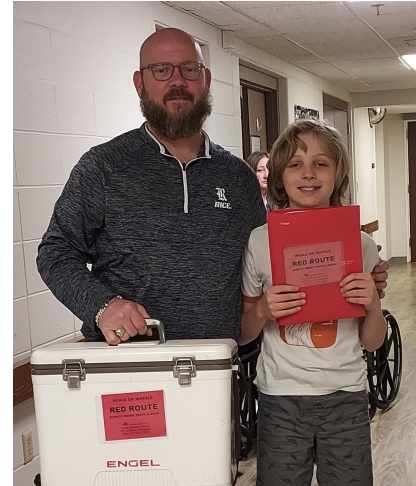
Meals on Wheels for the Champaign-Urbana area is coordinated by Family Service of Champaign County. Family Service member Esther Hood, who coordinates Meals on Wheels, had not talked with St. Patrick's since Kevin's passing in January. The parish would normally have delivered meals during February but missed that time. Esther is working on the yearly schedule and will let the parish know when our delivery dates will be.



Family Service of Champaign County, located at 405 S. State Street, Champaign, is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that has served the Champaign-Urbana community since 1911. Its mission is supporting

people across generations by providing quality human services.

There are two routes that St. Patrick's follows in delivering Meals on Wheels. Twenty volunteers are



needed to take care of those delivery routes. Diane sent a request to parishioners who had volunteered with Kevin and also to the parish's Eucharistic Ministers and got the needed volunteers to fill the routes. "We have wonderful volunteers at St. Patrick's!" she

exclaimed.

Our parish was scheduled to deliver meals the week of June 2 through 6, and this commitment was met. Diane noted that "We go out in teams of two with different volunteers every day. During our scheduled five days, St. Pat's did the pink and red routes." Accompanying photos show just how organized the system is.

The volunteers are thrilled to continue helping with Meals on Wheels because it is such a wonderful program. They were also thrilled to continue the legacy that Kevin Martindale built with Meals on Wheels. He was a wonderful leader. Parish volunteers worked the week of June 2-6 in his honor.



From Diane: "Kevin, we just finished doing Meals on Wheels on June 2. We know we helped a lot of people, but we did this in memory of you and your legacy. Fifty percent of St. Patrick's volunteers this week were mentored by you. You called us to Meals on Wheels. We love you."

About six weeks before our parish is scheduled for the next delivery, an announcement will be put in the bulletin. Contact Diane Wilhelm (wilhelmd@earthlink.net) if you're interested in helping.

Thank you – and farewell!

From Minette Sternke



I started attending St. Patrick's about 1997-98 and stayed because of the warmth and compassion of the people of this parish.

Father Remm, and all the pastors we've had since, have supported our ministry to the deaf and hard of hearing. We've hosted days of reflection and retreat, buried members of our deaf community, and provided access to many Masses through interpreters and other access aids. I deeply appreciate how St. Patrick's has welcomed the deaf community. Listening aids and the homily notes provided by Fr. Anthony show support for our hard of hearing parishioners as well.

Our last Day of Reflection for the deaf and hard of hearing was held in November 2024, when Fr. Joseph Mulcrone came from Chicago to discuss how to make our lives holy and how to prepare for the Jubilee Holy Year. We discussed holy people from the Bible – Moses, David, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, Dismas (the Good Thief), and, yes, Jesus. Many of those people had periods in their lives when they were not so holy, but they can be models for our own lives. We also talked about holy people in our own lives, both past and present. Many participants mentioned people who had supported them. We concluded that holiness isn't just a one-day thing, it's a constant decision each day of our lives to turn towards God and his love.

This year I am also celebrating my 10th anniversary as a Consecrated Virgin Living in the World. As part of the Rite of Consecration on June 20, 2015, Bishop Jenky asked me three questions, one of which was "Are you resolved to follow Christ in the spirit of the Gospel, that your whole life may be a faithful witness to God's love and a convincing sign of the Kingdom of Heaven?" I try each day to meet this resolution more faithfully. I have enjoyed serving St. Patrick's parish – in the WATCH program, as sacristan, as Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and as a parishioner supporting other parishioners. This is a special parish.

After 35 years of service as a bank examiner in the FDIC, I retired from federal employment June 29, 2024.

My life is still quite busy: I am the President of the Board of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf, which supports pastoral work with and for the Catholic deaf community around the U.S. I am halfway through a spiritual direction training course and pray that I can be useful accompanying people on their spiritual journeys. My twin sister, Marietta, and I have family in St. Louis, and Marietta is able to transfer her job to an office there, so we are moving to St. Peters in the middle of July. I'll probably be back to finalize the sale of our house here, but the St. Louis area will become our home. We will root for the Cardinals and spend time with our nephew and great-nephews and great-nieces.

I will forever have wonderful memories of the people and the spirit of St. Patrick's. May God bless you all, and may angels watch over each one of you.

Parish Council News

At their May meeting, held on Mother's Day, Council members began by remembering all mothers in prayer.

Attention was first given to the possibility of staffing a St. Patrick's table at the Urbana Farmers Market, a suggestion that had been proposed earlier. Some parish ministry groups have expressed interest in helping with staffing. (Additional groups may be contacted as plans develop.) Further discussion on this matter was tabled until the June meeting.

The Time and Talent ad hoc committee reported back with their recommendations. Conclusions: The period for volunteer recruitment will be expanded beyond a couple of weekends. At the end of summer, information on the various ministries will be distributed. Along with paper sign-up sheets, on-line options will be explored.

Also, the Parish Ministry Directory is currently being updated in preparation for this summer's Time and Talent campaign. Ministry clusters were sorted among Council members present to contact ministry leaders for any updates. Copies of the updated Parish Ministry Directory will be made available in Welcome packets, in the Gathering Space, in one of the plastic display mounts on the approach to the elevator, and perhaps for a time in the church pews.

Of course, you don't have to wait for the Time and Talent recruiting drive to volunteer for any of the parish ministries. On the parish website (stpaturbana.org) simply click on the tab "Get Involved in Parish Life" to see what ministries you might like to participate in and then contact the persons listed there, to get more information if you need it – or just to volunteer.

Volunteers, you'll find, are always happy to hear from someone eager to join them!

Jubilee pilgrimage drew us closer to Christ through Mary

By Mary Ndungu

I have always wanted to go on a pilgrimage during the month of May. When I was searching for a place I could visit, I came across the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, Wisconsin.



This is the first and only Marian shrine in the U.S. that is on the site of an approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Formerly dedicated as the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Hope, it is within the Diocese of Green Bay. This shrine, where Blessed Mother Mary appeared to Adele Brise in 1859, is one of the designated official Jubilee Holy Year pilgrimage sites where pilgrims have an opportunity to receive plenary indulgences.

The shrine offers different programs and events throughout the year. One of these is a twenty-two mile walk to Mary held every first Saturday. The walk begins at the national shrine of St. Joseph in Green Bay, Wisc., and ends at the national shrine of our Lady of Champion, in Brown County, Wisc.

Armed with this information, I invited Jesus Sarol and his wife and Dhana Sellan to join me for this pilgrimage. On Saturday, May 3, we started the walk

together with over seven thousand pilgrims. Led by pilgrims carrying the statue of Blessed Mary, we sang and prayed the Rosary. Confessions were offered at different points during the walk. Overjoyed and humbled, we experienced spiritual fulfillment and an increase of hope that the Lord Jesus Christ would take charge of our lives. We were truly Pilgrims of Hope!

Once we arrived at the Shrine, Masses were offered to accommodate pilgrims arriving at different times. For those not able to walk the 22 miles, shuttles were

provided along the way to assist the pilgrims get to the shrine.

Sunday's Mass was followed by a Rosary procession around the shrine property, led by young girls dressed in white who carried the statue of Blessed Mary. The procession concluded with the Crowning of Mary.

We met people who have participated every year in this pilgrimage. We heard about healings, conversions, miracles, and spiritual growth that occurred over the years.

We were happy to have chosen to participate in this pilgrimage!



At the blood drive on April 25, parishioners donated 13 units. This has the potential to save 39 lives. Thanks to all, especially the five first-time donors!

Quiet and rest are God's antidote when we feel he isn't there. —Colleen Dulle

You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own. —Flannery O'Connor

Baptism at St. Patrick's



We welcome to our faith community **Jackson Edgar Talbott**, son of Daniel Talbott and Katelyn (Brozak) Talbott. **Jackson** was baptized by Deacon Cliff Maduzia at St. Patrick's on May 11.

We welcome to our faith community **Lucas Gomez Arciniegas**, son of Robert Gomez and Andrea Arciniegas de Gomez. **Lucas** was baptized by Deacon Cliff Maduzia at St. Patrick's on May 25.

We welcome to our faith community **Madeleine Therese Kinskey**, daughter of Aaron Kinskey and Anna Slater Kinskey. **Madeleine** was baptized by Fr. Anthony at St. Patrick's on May 31.

We welcome to our faith community **George James Paul Alberti**, son of George and Abigail Alberti. **George** was baptized at St. Patrick's on June 1.

Let us celebrate their Baptism with **Jackson, Lucas, Madeleine, and George**. Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments. It is the sacrament by which we become adopted sons and daughters of God.

The baptism preparation class is offered at St. Patrick's at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, or by appointment. Parents, godparents, and all are welcome.

Help needed!

In Focus has been going strong for 43 years now, and we can do this because of the many people who pitch in. We have three special needs right now:

LAYOUT Two or three times a year, scheduled in advance, you'd receive a file of edited text, photos, and graphics. You'd have three days to do the layout and create a pdf using whatever publishing software you're already familiar with.

WRITERS Every couple of months, you'd receive a topic, knowledgeable contact people, and web resources. You'd have about 10 days to write 400–600 words on a topic.

PHOTO EDITOR Photos give vibrancy to *In Focus*, but it takes time to select them each month. You'd read the draft of *In Focus* and select photos to help tell the story of our parish life.

Can you help? Contact Cathy Salika at csalika@illinois.edu.



Q: I love the Sacred Heart window on the north side of the church. What can you tell me about it?

A: Most of our stained-glass windows date from around 1903, when the church was built. The Sacred Heart window was donated by Hugh Conerty (1840-1908), a veteran of the U.S. Civil War. His son, James P. Connerty (1870-1915), also donated a window, the one depicting a chalice and host. Long-time parishioners will remember his son, Jim, and his wife, Betty. This time context places our parish in the history of our country, doesn't it?



There are actually two other windows that depict the Sacred Heart. Before we expanded the church, the Main Street door was the main entrance. On either side of it are windows that depict the Sacred Heart. Because of the church expansion, one of these is now in the restroom, and the other is in the closet at the bottom of the stairs to the old choir loft. You may have to hunt a bit, but you can find them!

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord; bless the work of our hands.

—Psalm 90:17

Come and see: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Women of St. Patrick invites everyone to see the movie "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" on Sunday, July 13 from 1 to 3 in St. Brigid Hall. Movie popcorn will be served.

The movie is based on the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. The title of the film is from Francis' "Canticle of the Sun."

Francesco, spoiled son of wealthy textile merchant Pietro Bernardone, returns from fighting in the war between Assisi and Perugia.



Come and play ... Bunco

Women of St. Patrick extend an invitation to play Bunco on Saturday, August 23 from 5:14 to 7:15 in St. Brigid Hall. Take part in a dinner buffet.



Bunco is a dice game where players roll dice to score points and win rounds. The game involves rolling three dice in each round, with the goal of matching the rolled numbers to the round number. It's a game of chance and luck, with minimal strategic decision-making.

Quick Fixin's from the kitchen of . . .

Aldeane Norton,
Windsor of Savoy



Chocolate Bisquick Pudding

1/2 c Bisquick, packed
1/4 c cocoa
2/3 c sugar
3 c milk
1 t vanilla

Mix all dry ingredients well in saucepan, mashing as needed to eliminate any lumps. Slowly add milk a little at a time. When thoroughly mixed, heat until boiling; reduce heat, stirring frequently until thickened. Then stir in the vanilla. *The best dessert ever!* her son remembered.

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (217-344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). The only Requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare.

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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 focustspats@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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Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (September) is **Sunday, August 10.**