

# St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

May 2026

## Easter Joy

This time of year holds many things that give us joy. There are flowers everywhere, new life is peeking out of the earth, green colors trees and fields. There are bird songs that we haven't heard for months and young creatures peering at the world for the first time. With apologies to those who suffer from allergies, these are beautiful things



to see. They remind us that God is constantly renewing life.

Many young people are taking bold steps into life. Some are graduating from school or starting their first jobs. Some are trying new sports or other activities. Some are marking growth in faith with their First Communion or Confirmation. Some are preparing for marriage. We don't all have young people in our lives, but we can all see the joy they take in their growth, and we can

remember our own growth. These things remind us that God is with us in every stage of our lives.

Perhaps you can look back at your Lenten practices and take satisfaction in your small acts of fidelity to God. Perhaps the joy of the Easter liturgies is still reverberating in your heart. Perhaps your faith gives meaning to the things you read, the

people you serve, the way you pray. These things remind us that God is close at hand.

God is with us in every season of the Church Year and every season of our lives. God renews us and gives us growth at all times. God is faithful always. Especially in this Easter season, let us remember and rejoice in God's goodness. This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

## The Stations of the Resurrection

This year the Stations of the Resurrection, also called the *Via Lucis (The Way of Light)*, will



be on display in the office lobby for devotion. As this is a somewhat new devotion, you may be curious as to where and when it originated. In the summer of 1988, Father Sabino Palumbieri, Professor of Anthropology at the Salesian University in Rome, proposed the creation of a new set of stations focused upon the Resurrection and the events following from it. While the Stations of the Cross, the *Via Crucis*, emphasizes Christ's suffering for our salvation, the *Via Lucis* completes the story of salvation. It provides a beautiful format for meditating on the triumphant Christ.

The first major public celebration of this devotion was in 1990,

see **Stations** on page 8

## St. Patrick's is a fertile ground for vocations, Part 3



Here we are at last, remembering the many women who left St. Patrick's for religious life. We will look at them from the communities they entered.

**Sisters of St. Benedict (Nauvoo/Rock Island, IL, and Yankton, SD):**  
**Sister Geraldine Gallivan, OSB,**

lived to be 100 in her chosen way of life as a Benedictine, the religious community in Nauvoo that she entered in 1916. She studied at DePaul University and Rosary College, and taught at several schools in Illinois and Peoria, as well as the Academy in Nauvoo. Hers was a long life given to share what she was given.



**Mother Ricarda Gallivan, OSB,** followed her sister's example, entering the Benedictines in 1917. She is perhaps



best remembered as prioress, serving in that capacity from 1943 to 1955. She provided leadership for parochial schools in the Diocese of Peoria and represented them at the White House Conference on Education. A teacher herself, she ensured that her Sisters also acquired advanced education.

She was known for living by "accepting life as it comes bit by bit from the hand of God."

**Sister Clarisse Fallon, OSB,** entered St. Mary Monastery in 1927, making her final profession in 1932. She served her community as prioress from 1960 to 1972, taught at St. Mary Academy for young women for several years, and served as community archivist for 15 years, making the most of the giftedness she received from God.



**Sister Gregory Marquardt, OSB,** entered the Benedictine community in 1925 and made her final profession in 1930. She earned her degrees at the U of I and taught English, French, Spanish, Latin, and biology throughout her career. She gave her life to God as a religious and served him to the best of her ability for 69 years.



**Sister Marianne Burkhard, OSB,** became a Catholic and two years later, in 1987, entered the Benedictine community in Nauvoo, where she made her final profession in 1990. She made the most of her graduate degrees in German, translating works about her community's history. Her licentiate in canon law enabled her to serve in the Diocesan



Marriage Tribunal in Peoria for 25 years, beginning in 1993 as defender of the bond, a year later as judge, and finally as director and judge, the first woman to do so. Retired now, she serves God and her community in whatever ways are open to her.

**Sister Julie Peak, OSB,** a St. Patrick's parishioner active in many ministries, entered the Benedictine community at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD, and made her solemn profession there in 2012. She has served her community as archivist and also served as a board member of the American Benedictine Academy, a national association to cultivate and support the Benedictine heritage. She "feels blessed that God has called me to follow this way of life with these Sisters in this monastic community!"



**Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary (Kankakee, IL)**

**Sister Mary Robert, SSCM,** entered her religious community in 1957 and made her final



profession in 1960. She was dedicated to Provena Covenant (formerly Mercy) Hospital and held many highly responsible positions there, including food service director, dietary supervisor, pastoral care chaplain, director of pastoral care. She also served as provincial councilor for her religious community. She worked tirelessly in her several roles but always had time for anyone who sought her out.

**Dominicans of Sinsinawa (Sinsinawa, WI)**

**Sister Pia Althaus, OP,** entered the Springfield (IL) Dominicans but left to care for her family after her mother's death in 1918, victim of the influenza epidemic. After the family moved to Urbana, she entered the St. Clara novitiate of the Sinsinawa Dominicans in 1933 and made her profession along with her sister Mildred, in 1934. She taught in many midwestern missions, kept up on world events, and was known for her gentleness, loving warmth, thoughtfulness, and efficiency.



**Sister Mildred Althaus, OP,** entered St. Clara Novitiate after graduating from high school, and made her first profession in 1934. She taught at schools throughout the Midwest, notably Kenosha, Oak Park, Peoria, and Urbana. And she served her community as province secretary from 1973 to 1984. She was known for her spirit of independence and faithfulness to promises made and kept.



see **Vocations** on next page

## Vocations from page 2

**Sister Marie Paul Kinder, OP**, entered St. Clara in 1935, and made her first profession in 1937. She taught Latin, English, and French, and was a guidance counselor for 45 years. She enjoyed her home visits and her trips with her priest brother, Fr. Paul Kinder. She was remembered as being “prayerful, thoughtful, kind, and fun-loving in community . . . . She lived simply and was generous with her time and talents.”



**Sister Gretchen Hessler, OP**, received her BA from the U of I and began graduate studies before entering St. Clara Novitiate in 1931. She made her first profession in 1933. She spent her life learning: She attended a Buddhist temple service to understand her Buddhist students better. She studied theology to be better prepared to work in the RCIA. She said, “God has gifted me with the chance to listen to the quiet within me to the messages of life I may not have learned yet. I am content, and I know joy.”



**Sister Laurianus D’Urso, OP**, stayed home after graduating from high school to help her mother with the younger children in the family, entering the Sinsinawa Dominicans in 1936 at the age of 22. She made her final profession in 1941. She was an elementary school teacher for 32 years, and school librarian for 24 years. On home visits she happily took back several quarts of ice cream for the Sisters, a welcome treat from her dad.



**Sister Mary Alice Hauersperger, OP**, entered the Dominican community in 1932 and made her final profession in 1938. Like her Sisters, she taught in many midwestern schools; her ministries included school secretary, business manager, and librarian. She had a wonderful way of calling upon the gifts of volunteers. She loved to laugh and sometimes laughed so spontaneously and heartily that she forgot why she was laughing. What joy!



### Daughters of St. Paul (Boston, MA)

**Sister Jackie Jean-Marie Gitonga, FSP**, entered the Pauline Congregation’s novitiate at the Boston motherhouse in 2011; in 2019 her final profession was made in her hometown, Nyeri, Kenya. Since then, she has traveled widely through the U.S. and abroad, on the Pauline mission to share our Catholic faith through



the printed word, digital and social media, and the like. She has visited St. Patrick’s several times with a selection of books, music CDs, and Pauline literature, and she frequently sends word of her adventures, which we share with you in In Focus. She is so happy – and grateful.

### Consecrated Virgin Living in the World

We know of only one woman from St. Patrick’s who has become a Consecrated Virgin Living in the World, and that is **Minette Sternke**. We’ve known Minette for her work with the deaf and hard of hearing in our parish and the local community, and her involvement in parish liturgies. In June 2015, after a time of formation in the Diocese of Peoria, she was consecrated by Bishop Jenky. “I am so grateful to St. Patrick’s for its support of my deaf ministry and the entire practice of inclusion that can be felt here. . . . Please pray for me,” she asks, “and know that I will always pray for you.”



\* \* \* \* \*

If you know of other parishioners who have been ordained priests or deacons, women who have entered religious communities, please do let us know (mmenches@illinois.edu or 217-333-1125). We will gladly gather them to share with you in a later issue of In Focus. We are happy to realize just how many have followed God’s call in this way!

## Baptisms at St. Patrick’s

We welcome the following into our faith community:

**Annette Nyawere**, baptized March 7, whose parents are Stephen Odara and Lillian Nabwiire


**Calix Matthias**, baptized March 22, whose parents are Jay and Kristine Jimenez

**Angy Tshidimba**, baptized March 22, whose parents are Patrick Ntumba & Melissa Mulanga

Let us celebrate baptism with Annette Nyawere, Calix Matthias, and Angy Tshidimba. It is the sacrament by which they (and we!) have become adopted sons and daughters of God.

Baptism preparation class is offered at St. Patrick at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, or by appointment. Parents, godparents, and all are welcome.





Deadline for submission of articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* (June) is **Sunday, May 10.**

# 20 Years of International Festivals at St. Patrick's



As reported in the April 2005 *In Focus*, "Parishioners of all ages are invited to join in the first of its kind International Festival in the parish center on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 6 to 9 p.m. Parishioners representing approximately 15 different countries will have exhibits for your viewing

as well as cultural features of the country. Exhibits will include an opportunity to sample specialty foods and obtain recipes. The evening will also include demonstrations of folk dances from these countries and instruction on dances that the young, the old, and those in between can learn and enjoy."

The article continues: "The event was co-sponsored by the Social Action and Social Committees to help us learn more about who we are as a parish and about our neighbors near and far, and how Catholicism is expressed in these lands." Joseph Youakim recently said that his participation in starting the event was "to help highlight the presence of so many nations in our church. Everyone loved it!"

Because of the extensive preparations needed, the Festival became a biennial event. The July-August 2007 issue of *In Focus* reports, "This year's international festival drew a crowd of over 100 people and 20 exhibitors from Australia to Vietnam.

The food was excellent, with not a leftover to be found. If you missed this year's celebration of St. Patrick's ethnic diversity, you'll just have to wait for the next one, in 2009!"

The September 13, 2009 International Fair was a night to remember! Palestine was represented by Diana Youakim, Janet Handal, and Widad Handal; Vietnam by Ut and Bon Bai; Austria and Australia by Trudy and Richard Keane; Czechoslovakia by Eva Vlach; Poland by Sophia



Zeigler; Haiti by Amy Jobin; Congo by Suzanne Kayala; the Marshall Islands by Claude and Susan Cole; Ireland by Erica Heller; Spain by Maria Asuncion Sanchez Manzano; Lebanon by Carole Rebeiz; El Salvador by Jesus and Dawn Hernandez; the Philippines by Lilia and Ron Peters; Guatemala by Juan Mancilla – and, last but not least, the United States by Jennifer MacKiewicz. (Her table carried a Cubs theme, a fact not lost on parishioners who know it's Fr. Joe's favorite baseball team!)

World travelers also enjoyed dancing to Arabic, Congolese, and Czech music. Nick Koch set up the tapes, and a large circle was formed in the center of the hall. Everyone held hands, and the dance began. They danced the night away! As Sophia Zeigler observed, "Throughout the evening there was that feeling of "peace on earth and good will toward men!"

Stan Yanchus commented on the June 13, 2015 International Festival at the Champaign County Fair Grounds: "I

am overwhelmed and feel very close to the wide diversity in our church. The fairs bring us together with the uniqueness of our heritages and there is a certain bringing us together. There was a real partnership that was built then and is now flourishing with the guidance of the Lord."



Frank Rosser brings us up to date: "Current festivals came out of a post-COVID desire by Father Co and the Parish Council to do a big church event to regain pre-COVID parish participation. I suggested an International Festival, as our demographics were so diverse." Frank went on to lead in organizing Festivals on September 30, 2023, September 28, 2024, and October 12, 2025.

Poland  
Italy  
CONGO  
Caucasus  
Australia  
KENYA  
Guatemala  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
UKRAINE



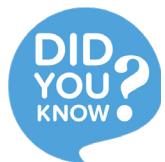
see **Festivals** on next page

## Festivals from page 4

Regina Lawhead says, “I have participated in the International Festival the last two years. It’s wonderful to see so many cultures that make up our St. Patrick’s Parish come together and celebrate our diversity. It really is what makes us special.”



Mary Long sums up the 20 years of International Festivals at St. Patrick’s: “It is so wonderful to see the joy on the faces of our brothers and sisters from other countries, who share their delicious food and their culture with us at the festivals. Events like this unite us all in food and friendship and better understanding of where we come from. We have enjoyed music and ethnic dancing, amazing food – even a whole pig from our Filipino friends! I look forward every year to this amazing event!”



In 1932 pew rent was initiated to increase parish income: a family paid a yearly fee for a pew and always used that pew for services. On the arm of the pew was a metal tag with a number corresponding to the family’s church envelopes. Pew rent was discontinued in 1935.

*The heavens declare the glory of God  
and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.*  
—Psalm 18:2

## Parish Council News



The March meeting of Parish Council members was given to discussion of suggestions for the observance of St. Patrick’s May 24 anniversary of its dedication in 1903, and the celebration of the parish’s 125th anniversary on July 18.

For the former, suggestions have included a potluck picnic, a talent show of parishioners young and not so young, a parish quiz, and inflatables.

For the latter, ideas focused on the 4:00 Mass with Bishop Tylka, with multilingual worship aid and an Offertory procession with an international flavor, formal invitations sent to local priests, and a commemorative cake cutting.

Some thought was given to restoring the Archives Committee to deal with digitizing archival materials from these celebrations for preservation.

Decision making was deferred for the presence of a quorum, but plans are evolving meanwhile.

Have you not looked into the possibility of membership on the Council? You would surely be made welcome, and there is no end of matters to be considered and adopted! Questions? Contact Mary Tate, former Council president ([mary.tate@stpaturbana.org](mailto:mary.tate@stpaturbana.org)) or Kathryn Guy, current Council president ([wmelephant@gmail.com](mailto:wmelephant@gmail.com)).

### From the Pro-Life Committee

by Megan Logsdon

Being opposed to abortion isn’t about punishing the mother but about protecting the developing life inside her.

“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use violence to get what they want.” — Mother Teresa

## Pentecost

Come, O Holy Spirit! The sending of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples changed them. They were able to do and to proclaim wonderful things and spread the Good News to all the world. Without the Holy Spirit, the Church would have certainly faltered and perhaps faded away into history. The continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our lives gives us the daily “energy boost” we need to do and proclaim the Good News of Jesus to everyone we meet and see. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the Earth!



**Q:** I see that St. Patrick's is having a May Crowning again this year. Just what is a May Crowning? Why do we do this?

**A:** May Crowning is a cherished Catholic devotional tradition held during May—the month dedicated to Mary—when a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is crowned with a garland of flowers to honor her as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God. It typically includes processions, prayers, and hymns, emphasizing Mary's role in the Church.

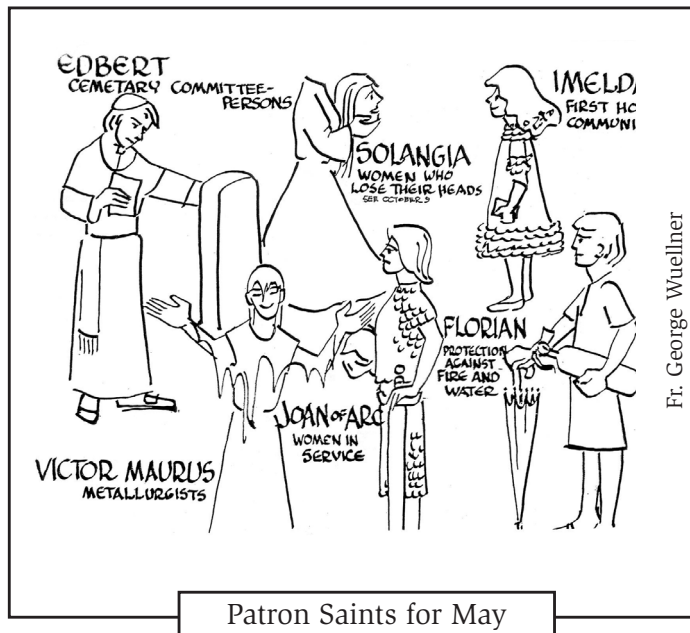
For many decades, the lovely words and melody of the hymn "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" have graced the traditional crowning of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The ceremony has been held in countless parishes, schools, and homes throughout the world.

Bring flow'rs of the fairest. Bring flowers of the rarest. ... We crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.

The crowning is symbolic of Mary as Queen of Heaven and of our mother, and we symbolize that with our May crowning.

The age-old tradition of showing the Blessed Virgin Mary wearing a royal crown stretches through the centuries. In "Ad Caeli Reginam" (Proclaiming the Queenship of Mary), Pope Pius XII mentioned that in the East and West the practice of crowning images of the Mother of God came into use in the early fifth century. By the end of the 16th century, the practice of crowning images of the Blessed Virgin became extensive, emphasizing her role as Mother of the Son of God.

A May Crowning is traditionally held on the weekend closest to Mother's Day; St. Patrick's will take place on May 9. We honor Mary at home, too, crowning the Queen of Heaven's statue in recognition of her maternal care of the Church, the Body of Christ, and our own families.



Patron Saints for May

## Who was the Venerable Bede?

Bede was an English monk who lived in Northumbria, Angles, England, from 673 to 735 A.D. We can give his dates only because he himself invented yearly designation. He was the first to designate the birth of Christ as 1 A.D., which stands for Anno Domini, meaning the year of Our Lord. Now the Christian world dates events using Bede's calendar system.

In 836, a hundred years after Bede's death, he was declared Venerable, which means he led a life of holy virtue; this is the first step to sainthood. The second step is beatification, which occurs when a miracle is attributed to the intercession of a Venerable. The last step to sainthood is a second miracle that is approved by the theological and medical experts of the Vatican. Bede was declared a saint by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

Bede spent his entire life from the age of seven until his death in the Monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria, which is part of northern England and southern Scotland. This monastery had a huge library, which enabled Bede to become a scholar of natural philosophy, the philosophical principles of Aristotle, astronomy, arithmetic, grammar, ecclesiastical history, the lives of the saints, and Holy Scripture. All these subjects filled Bede's own writings with faith and learning. A Church Council ordered Bede's writings to be read publicly in churches.

Bede is called the Father of English History because he wrote the first book of English history, entitled "Ecclesiastical History of the English People." He completed this massive, five-volume set in 731. The history the work includes begins in 55 B.C., with Julius Caesar's invasion of England, and ends before Bede's death.

Bede wrote 78 books of which we have 74, 30 of which are commentaries on the books of the Bible. He also was a skilled linguist, translating many Greek and Latin texts into Early English. Bede had just finished the translation of the Gospel of St. John into English when he knew his life was also finished. On May 26, 75 A.D., he said his favorite prayer, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As in the beginning, so now, and forever," and died.

He is buried in Durham Cathedral in Durham, United Kingdom. When Pope Leo XIII declared him a saint in 1899, he also named him a Doctor of the Church, the first native of England to be named Doctor. His feast day is May 27, and he is fittingly named the patron saint of scholars, historians, lectors, and English writers.



## From our St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Tuesday, March 17, marked our parish feast day of St. Patrick. Parishioners, many in festive green, gathered for Mass followed by a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef and cabbage, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Attendees brought their own contributions – salads, soups, and an array of desserts – to share as well. Traditional Irish music set a spirited tone as guests feasted and enjoyed the fellowship.



## Stations from page 1

after which it gained greater practice around the world. In December 2001, the Holy See promulgated a *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, which commended the *Via Lucis*:

A pious exercise called the *Via Lucis* has developed and spread to many regions in recent years. Following the model of the *Via Crucis*, the faithful process while meditating on the various appearances of Jesus – from his Resurrection to his Ascension – in which he showed his glory to the disciples who awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14, 26; 16, 13-15; Lk 24, 49), strengthened their faith, brought to completion his teaching on the Kingdom and more closely defined the sacramental and hierarchical structure of the Church.

### Vocation Prayer

Loving Father, help us to know our vocation in life, and assist us to prepare for it. For your greater glory, and for the service of all your people, call many to be priests and religious. Give those whom you call the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully.

Mother Mary, show your maternal care for the Body of Christ in your intercession for us, that we may share the love of your son with all we serve.

*Scattered on the wind, seed carries life. It sows the meadow and the woods, the cleft in the rock, the roadside and the ditch, the dust heaps in the cities. Buried, it springs from the grave, a green herb of life, symbol of Christ and the Kingdom.*

—Caryll Houslander

## St. Patrick's Parish IN FOCUS

**St. Patrick's Parish In Focus** is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by the first weekend of the month for an upcoming issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to [info-cusstpats@gmail.com](mailto:info-cusstpats@gmail.com). You may also send them to any Communications Committee member (listed 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 . . . Helen Godfrey

### Cranberry Bread

2 c sifted flour  
1-1/2 t baking powder  
1/2 t soda  
1/2 t salt  
1 c sugar  
2 T shortening  
Grated rind and juice of 1 orange plus water to make 3/4 c  
1 egg, beaten  
1/2 c nuts (optional)  
1 c raw cranberries, halved

Sift together flour, baking powder, soda, salt, and sugar. Mix in thoroughly the shortening, orange juice and rind, water, and beaten egg. Fold in cranberries and nuts. Pour into greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

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Do you have a favorite quick and easy recipe to share? Maybe something your family and friends really enjoy? Please send it to Mary Lou Menches ([mmenches@illinois.edu](mailto:mmenches@illinois.edu)) — our readers are always looking for that great addition to a meal!

