

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH



## A Letter From Our Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Now that I have dug myself out of the snow bank, I feel like a new man! This winter has been tough. But as I've said to different folks, "These are the winters I remember...when we used to build snow forts, walk on snow drifts as high as the neighbor's roof and parents used to worry whether the car would start or not!"



But be that as it may, it means to me that under good or bad weather, we need to keep going and doing the best with what we have been given. And if we are to live the life of Stewardship – the same thing is true...work with what we have been given, because the giver is the Lord himself!

To reflect upon the Giver and what we have been given, puts us on the road to living out the season of Lent with a spirit of thankfulness and generosity. What better way to make a return to the Lord than putting the gifts of our time, talent and treasure to good use!

In this edition of our newsletter, you will see how these gifts of time, talent and treasure are made real in the lives of our parishioners and friends. For they are a reflection not only of their personal relationship with Christ, but a reflection of the relationships they have formed with different folks who belong to our community of faith – St. Patrick Parish.

As we begin the season of Lent, the Church has always focused on three important elements to help us achieve a more perfect union with God and with our neighbor. And these are:

- Prayer – which keeps us on track with God
- Fasting – which keeps us aware of how dependent we are upon the Lord
- Alms giving – which remind us that everything we have is a gift and that we are called to share with our neighbor and the less fortunate.

This Lent in what way will you offer the Lord of your time, talent and treasure? In what way do you think you can grow in your prayer life, in your love of God and in your love and service of neighbor?

Hopefully by the time you read this, the snow banks will be gone, but if not, I will be exercising my Stewardship of time by shoveling snow!

In the meantime, stay warm, stay healthy, and most importantly - stay close to the Lord!

Sincerely,  
Fr. Rudy

## LENT 2014

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*For all regular monthly activities, please check the bulletin or website each week.*

#### March

- 1-2 Pot O'Gold Chances Available
- 2 Welcome Registration / Coffee-Donuts  
Pot O'Gold Donations DUE!
- 5 Ash Wednesday Masses
- 7 1st Friday Adoration  
Stations of the Cross
- 8 1st Saturday Mass  
Baptism Parent Class  
Stations of the Cross
- 8-9 Pot O'Gold Chances Available  
Operation Rice Bowl Begins!
- 9 Irish Breakfast
- 12 Over 50 Potluck  
Religious Ed Reconciliation Service
- 14 Stations of the Cross
- 15 KCans4Life
- 15 Stations of the Cross
- 21 Stations of the Cross
- 22 Stations of the Cross
- 28 Stations of the Cross
- 29 Stations of the Cross
- 30 UI Mobile Health Clinic

#### April

- 3 God's Helping Hands
- 4 1st Friday Adoration  
Stations of the Cross
- 5 1st Saturday Mass  
Stations of the Cross
- 6 Lent Coffee-Donuts / Registration  
UIHC Healthy Eating-Obesity Clinic  
Soup Supper  
We Were There Stations of the Cross
- 9 Over 50 Potluck
- 11 Stations of the Cross
- 12 Stations of the Cross
- 13 Weave the Word Coffee-Donuts / Registration  
Communal Penance
- 16 Tennebrae Service
- 17 Holy Thursday  
Adoration until Midnight
- 18 Good Friday
- 19 Easter Vigil  
Adoration Chapel Resumes
- 20 Easter Sunday / Egg Hunts
- 24 Regina Orchestra Concert

#### May

- 2 1st Friday Adoration
- 3 1st Saturday Mass
- 4 Welcome Registration / Coffee-Donuts  
1st Communion
- 10 Confirmation  
Baptism Parent Class
- 14 Over 50 Potluck
- 17 KCans4Life
- 18 HS Sr. Graduation Mass  
Spanish 1st Communion

# The Opportunity Within the Sacrifice

**What are you giving up for Lent?** This is a familiar phrase heard in the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday. Lenten sacrifice, what does that really mean? And, more importantly, how does giving up chocolate draw you closer to Christ?

When I sat down to think about Lenten sacrifice I ended up doing a little research and one of the sources indicated the focus of Lent should be to renew our faith, be sorry for our sins and celebrate the mysteries of our salvation. Then I started receiving emails for Lenten study series from various respectable sources. As I read them, the underlying theme was, and has always been, our relationship with Christ. It occurred to me Lent isn't about sacrifice but about opportunity. And, opportunities abound during Lent!

To renew your faith, you can take advantage of a multitude of study series. You can join a small group at St. Pat's or throughout the Iowa City Catholic community. You can do an individual study, either biblical or about a saint or the catechism. Take a retreat. It could even be you're only going to listen to 92.7 KOUR-LP for the 40 days of Lent. These are all opportunities to renew your faith which will draw you closer to Christ, thus building your relationship.

Then you're moving toward the other focus of Lent: to be sorry for our sins. As you study, you realize what God finds offensive. Naturally, as our eyes are opened like Paul on the road to Damascus, we are truly sorry for our sins and want to repent. St. Pat's offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 3:00pm and the Iowa City community comes together to offer communal penance at four separate times the week before Easter.

We have multiple opportunities to be ready to celebrate joyfully the mysteries of our salvation. Plan to attend Mass...every Sunday. Attend the Easter Vigil and share in the grace of those joining our Catholic faith. Or be the example of our joyful Christian faith. Donate food on Pantry Sunday or to the Crisis Center. Offer your time to prepare or help serve at the Free Lunch Program. Make a meal for the Ronald McDonald House. Visit a neighbor. Shovel the drive for an elderly acquaintance. Bake cookies for the busy mom you know. Send a letter in the mail to a faraway friend.

Opportunities are everywhere AND recognizable once you start looking with eyes of faith. So give up the chocolate AND study to renew your faith. Give up the chocolate AND be sorry for things you've done Jesus would find offensive. Give up the chocolate AND celebrate something sweeter by sharing Jesus' love in service to others. AND on Easter morning, have some chocolate! It will be the best chocolate of your life because you made the sacrifice AND you focused on Christ.

So....**What are you giving up for Lent?**

Submitted by  
Michelle Yetley

**Fast Faith Formation**  
"Inspiration from Heaven" at  
**92.7 FM**  
**KOUR-LP**  
Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help  
Catholic Radio for the  
Campus Community



What  
Can  
You  
"Do"  
For  
Lent?

On a quiet day in October 2009, I was pondering ways in which I could help others. I was thinking about my blessings, but realizing I wasn't doing as much as I could to serve others. Being a quiet person by nature, it is difficult for me to break out of my shell to speak to others (although I enjoy helping others very much). That held me back for a while, but ultimately, I knew I wanted to help in some capacity at the church.

As Lent draws near we are asked to sacrifice, and sacrifice is sometimes looked upon as a negative term. Perhaps, instead of it being a sacrifice for us, we can look at it as ways to give service to others and add value to our lives through volunteering. In that thought, one has to think of ways in which they can volunteer, or an area they may be good at (or think they may be good at). Or, maybe one could volunteer in an area where you'd like to learn a particular skill or trade.

Five years later, I have found a calling in Noah's Nursery as a volunteer and I also help with the church's quarterly newsletter. But there are other areas in which we can be of service to others in the community. Take a look on the church website, [www.stpatsic.com](http://www.stpatsic.com) under the category "Stewardship" there is a good breakdown of options for the parish ministries and their descriptions. Another good website is [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). You enter your field of interest (i.e. Education), and the website matches you with different Educational volunteer opportunities in our community.

Volunteer opportunities are endless! But when you volunteer/do for others you will find that it really does make a difference. Plus, helping gives you so much satisfaction.

Submitted by  
Trina Surratt

## OPERATION RICE BOWL - CAN YOU HELP?

In supporting our blessed Pope and his love of the poor, Father Rudy and the Social Action Committee are asking every family to use this Lent to contribute part of their abundant blessings for Catholic Relief Services' annual Rice Bowl campaign. CRS uses the contents of the small collection boxes to fund emergency food and shelter services after natural disaster and during world conflict. In addition, CRS Rice Bowl Project Development continues to provide permanent water systems, shelter, farming education and assistance and other items of need for the poor and disenfranchised (they are still shoring up fresh water purification and housing in Haiti after the earthquake several years ago).



The boxes will be distributed during the first weekend in Lent and collected the weekend after Easter. A second collection for Rice Bowl Project Development will take place on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Seventy-five (75%) of the Rice Bowl box collections will be distributed worldwide. This year, the international spotlight will be: Kenya, Guatemala, the Philippines, Malawi and Haiti.

Twenty-five (25%) of this collection stays within the Diocese of Davenport to aid in our community's efforts to help our poor and underprivileged. Grants awarded from these monies have included holiday baskets, food pantries, after-school programs, senior programs, emergency food help and dinners served to the poor.

Pope Francis asks us to love the poor with open arms, doing for them what we would hope would be done for those we love if they were so in need. Please join us by taking home your box on March 8th and 9th. As an individual or family, there are many ways you can 'create the excuse' to save for the CRS Rice Bowl Campaign. Here are some ways:

\* If you have a monthly budget for food, decide on the percentage of that budget you will give to the Rice Bowl, or save up your receipts and give at the end of the pay period;

\*If you get a food allowance, do without that cookie and donate that \$.50-\$1 two or three times a week to the Rice Bowl, or skip a Java House or two or seven;

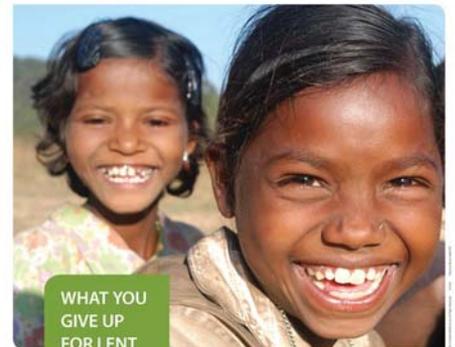
\*If you go out to eat once a week, skip a week and donate that amount to the Rice Bowl. At the same time you can eat a simple meal of soup or rice and spend the time talking about those less fortunate.

By the Grace of God, we can all donate something. Lent is a time to look at ourselves and our lives, giving thanks for our blessings and promising to give our very best to God. Please make sure you print your name on the Rice Bowl box and indicate how much is inside the box when you turn it in - then you will get credit for your generous donation.

Our blessed Pope asks us to pray for him. As you do so, pray also for the poor, the hungry and the refugee.

Thank you, and God bless you!

**FOR LENT FOR LIFE** 



WHAT YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT CHANGES LIVES

JOIN CRS RICE BOWL TODAY!  
crsricebowl.org

- Patricia Ulrich

## St. Pat's Respect Life Ministry Invites You to Transform Hearts

40  
DAYS  
FOR  
LIFE

In the Bible, 40 days is a transformational period of time for God's people. From Noah and the flood, to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and Jesus in the desert, 40 days represented a time of spiritual testing and conversion. God continues to call us to transform our hearts to combat the sin of today.

In Johnson County, *40 Days for Life* has been a prayerful witness and has been instrumental in saving the lives of many unborn children, as well as bringing peace, healing, and Jesus' love to women and men in our community.

For 40 consecutive days, from *Wednesday, March 5 through Sunday, April 13*, our community will join hundreds of cities around the world to pray for peace in the womb, and for God's mercy on mothers and fathers who need His love and healing.

*40 Days for Life* is a peaceful, prayerful and effective pro-life campaign that has helped save 8,245 babies from abortion, led to the conversion of 88 abortion workers and seen 44 abortion facilities close, with four clinics right here in Iowa. This campaign features 3 components:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** Join together with other believers for 40 days of prayer and fasting to end abortion.
- **Peaceful Vigil:** Stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness in the public right-of-way outside the Emma Goldman abortion facility- Iowa City
- **Community Outreach:** Bring a positive pro-life message to every corner of our state through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility.

**Pray to End Abortion.**  
40 DAYS FOR LIFE  
www.40daysforlife.com

### Join our Prayer Vigil

**WHERE:** Emma Goldman abortion facility  
227 N. Dubuque St. Iowa City

**WHEN:** March 5-April 13, 8am-8pm

Sign up for a time slot at:

<http://40daysforlife.com/iowacity>

Contact Sheryl for more information (319) 855-8475

### St. Patrick's "Irish Breakfast"

Sunday, March 9th  
8am-2pm, Social Hall



Come for the wearing o' the green and to honor our Patron Saint! Feast on a delicious assortment of breakfast foods served with Irish hospitality! Freewill donations accepted. Win a Pot o'Gold! Parish ministries are sponsoring several themes. Chances \$1/each or 6/\$5 available on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and at the party. More information in bulletin and the Kiosk!

### Senior Epiphany Party 2014

Parish senior members and friends were treated to a fun time at the annual Epiphany Party! Three Kings reminded us of the Reason for the Season. Fr. Rudy anointed everyone at a brief service, and then we enjoyed scrumptious munchies with delicious cider punch and coffee served by committee members. We had fun as each guest sang their assigned verse of 12 Days of Christmas and played King's Bingo. The committee was very generous with the types and amount of gifts given. It's hard to believe we'll celebrate it again in about 9 months! Party Committee:



Betty Hanson, Joan Ehret, Clara Oleson, Katherine Weiner, Mary Fowler, Julie Jensen, Kelly Wulf, Joann Page, Cynthia Gillham, Jerri LoTempio, Dan Daly and Cheryl Schropp.



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**National Catholic Youth Conference.** In November, 16 youth traveled to Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference. It was a 3-day conference full of inspirational speakers, music and break-out sessions. Izzy Brandt, attending NCYC for the 2nd time, had this to say about the conference: “A very special, heart-felt thank you is sent to the parishioners of St. Pat’s church who generously supported our fundraising efforts towards this event!”



**Tenebrae Service.** Join us on Wednesday, April 16th at 7pm as the teens celebrate a Tenebrae Service. It will be a special night of reflection about the last words of Christ.

**Confirmation.** Please keep the 52 Confirmandi in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 10th at a special 6:30pm Mass with Bishop Martin Amos. Most of the class is shown in this picture taken at one of our first meetings.



## Elementary Youth Group



Elementary Youth Group is a happening place to be if you are in 3rd-6th grades! During this school year we’ve been studying the Ten Commandments along with many fun events. Our first “Trunk or Treat” in October was so successful it will become an annual event!



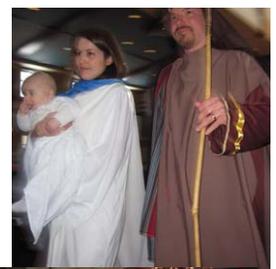
We’ve also been busy with many service projects in the community. The youth made placemats for residents of a local nursing home, raked leaves at a member’s yard, sang Christmas carols to residents of Bickford Cottage and made Valentines for Veterans. This spring we will make Birthday Bags for United Way.



## *Children’s Nativity*



Hark! The herald angels sing...the cattle are lowing...silent night... away in a manger. Keaton Connell directed the Youth Choir as they led people of all ages in song. The assembly watched as 50 youth portrayed the First Noel on Christmas Eve. Eric and Laura Aschenbrenner portrayed Mary and Joseph while their infant son Peter (Jesus) “no crying he made.” Grace Brandt shone brightly over the manger as The Star and Katherine Geerdes guided everyone as Lead Angel. Izzy Brandt and Mac Conlon did a great job of telling the Holy Story which included the 3 Kings, several manger animals, a flock of shepherds and a multitude of angels!



Many parents helped in the background under Director Liz Tracey’s guidance, while Jerri and Dan LoTempio made sure everyone wore an authentic costume.



## Spanish Traditions at St. Patrick



Existen costumbres y tradiciones ampliamente extendidas en Latinoamérica. Algunas de estas se llevan a cabo durante la temporada de invierno. Estas tradiciones de origen religioso datan de mucho tiempo atrás y reflejan la cultura y espiritualidad de los pueblos.

Algunas de estas tradiciones las seguimos en nuestra parroquia año con año con profundo respeto y alabanza.

El doce de diciembre celebramos las apariciones Guadalupanas. Nuestra comunidad reza una novena y ofrece flores a la Virgen, además, cuenta con un grupo de matachines, quienes simbolizan a los antiguos indígenas mexicanos que danzan para venerar a nuestra



Señora. Por su parte, el coro en español, ofrece también las tradicionales Mañanitas a la Virgen en la víspera del día doce de diciembre. La comunidad Latina se enorgullece de esto y ofrece una vasta comida a la cual están invitados a participar todos los feligreses de la parroquia.

Las posadas, es otra tradición ampliamente difundida en los pueblos latinos. Las posadas representan la preparación que los pueblos ofrecen antes de la llegada del Niño Jesús y representan el viaje que los peregrinos José y María hicieron antes del nacimiento de Jesús, cuando iban huyendo de la persecución de Herodes.

Las posadas generalmente se celebran durante los nueve días anteriores a la Navidad y consisten en rezos como el del Santo Rosario, asimismo se pide posada caracterizando a José y María. Todo esto se acompaña de cantos tradicionales. Finalmente se rompe una piñata, la cual representa nuestros pecados y la lucha que tenemos contra ellos, al caer los dulces, recibimos las gracias de Dios.



Por su parte, la comunidad Latina también goza de dos grupos especiales de oración, el grupo de Amigos del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y el grupo de oración que se reúnen cada mes y casa semana. Particularmente, cada año, generalmente en el mes de junio, celebramos al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en su día, se ofrece una misa y comida. Toda la comunidad está invitada a participar.

There are traditions widely extended in all Latino America which are celebrated during the winter season. These customs have an ancient religious origin and reflect the culture of the countries which are very rich spiritually. Some

of these traditions are celebrated year by year in our Parish. On December 12th, we celebrate the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe; this tradition holds a profound respect and veneration. Our Parish community prays the Novena and offers flowers to the Virgin. Also, the dance group called Matachines, representing the ancient Mexican indigenes, dance to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Spanish choral group offers the traditional Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe as well. It is at the beginning of December 12th. The Latino community is very proud of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration and offers a potluck to all the parishioners.

Las Posadas is another tradition from the Latino culture. Las Posadas represent the preparation which some communities offer before Baby Jesus arrives. It represents the journey of Joseph and Mary before Jesus was born during Herod's persecution. There are nine posadas, during the nine days before Christmas and consist of prayers, as the Holy Rosary, and the Representation of Mary and Joseph. Everybody sings traditional songs during the posada. A part of a posada is The Piñata, which symbolizes our sins and our fight against them. Once the piñata is broken, the falling candies represent graces from God.

The Latino community has special groups which meet each month or each week on Fridays to pray. One group is The Sacred Heart of Jesus, and another one is the Praying Group. Each year, The Sacred Heart of Jesus Group celebrates its holiday on June. There is a special Mass and a potluck. Everybody is invited to participate.

-Piedad Gómez Contreras



## WELCOME, NEWCOMERS (& THEIR FAMILIES)!

Matthew and Julie Barron  
Hugh and Katie Barry  
Gary and Carol Beckman  
Daniel Brandt  
Keaton Connell  
Anthony and Ninotchka De León  
Peter DeMars  
Shawn and Kerry Doyle  
Darlene Ehlers  
Nicholas and Jordan Fohey  
James Foy and  
Robin Densmore  
Tom and Lindsey Gorzelanny

Duane and Barbara Grenier  
Garry and Kathleen Hanson  
Jason Hemann and  
Lori Duit  
Luis and Maria "Lupita" Hernandez  
Patricia Hernandez  
Palmer and Sheryl Holden  
Nate and Samantha "Sam" Kaeding  
Beth Korleski  
Matt and Chloe Livaudais  
Marcelino Lopez and  
Maria Bahena  
Jim and Jean Mottet

Sidronio and Angela Mijangos  
Michael and Megan Nick  
Brian Pierson  
Nathan and Diane Platte  
Elias and Silvia Ramirez  
Ann Reisch  
James Sleichter  
Jill Stalzer  
Eric Tate and  
Mercy D'silva  
John Thomae

### Since Our November Newsletter

#### Deaths:

Mary "Irene" Baxter  
Richard "Dick" Pelechek  
William B. O'Malley  
William "Bill" Robinson  
Morris "Morry" Roberson  
John Harold Gatens  
Paul J. Cahill

#### Weddings:

Benjamin Thomas Witt  
and Jennifer Deahr

#### Newly Baptized:

Cormac Peter Keating  
Camila Rubi Aguirre  
Layla Olivia Lucas  
Denzel Skylar Alcantara  
William West Sucher  
Evan James Allen  
Luna Bridgtte Martinez  
Ian J. Martinez  
Connor Thomas Gorzelanny

#### Many Thanks!

To all who helped in putting up the decorations for the holiday season to make our parish so lovely. Thanks to those who took down and put away!



*Spend your Sunday night with us!*



## WE WERE THERE!

### A Way of $\dagger$ he Cross

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Soup Supper: 6-6:45pm, Social Hall

Service: 7-8:15pm, Main Church

Join us for this dramatic portrayal based on Pope John Paul's *Way of the Cross!* Each station focuses on a scriptural person who delivers a monologue & concludes with a prayer and a verse of "Were You There".

*Presented by St. Patrick's Liturgy Commission, Choir and parish members.*

### Free Lunch Program

On April 16, the Wednesday of Holy Week, St. Patrick will once again be serving free lunch - this time at the new social services 'campus' at 1105 Gilbert Court. The Free Lunch Program had its beginnings during Lent at another Catholic parish in Iowa City. In 1983, several therapists from the Community Mental Health Center spoke to a Lenten study group at St. Mary's about the need for a free meal for the needy in the community. The response was - "Let's do it". Today, Free Lunch serves over 41,000 meals a year, an average of 120 each time.

At the April lunch we will be serving chili, fresh fruit salad, other sides and desserts. This lunch will need about 25 food donations. The main dish or casserole serves 12 and typically costs \$15 to prepare. (We could use a larger number of volunteers who would be willing to prepare the main dish). In addition, we need 12 kitchen helpers/ servers. If you work near Gilbert Court, consider coming over on your lunch hour to help serve - or have lunch and visit with a guest. There are many ways to be a part of the Free Lunch Program and this Lenten season could be a good time to start.

**(Look for the sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board the weekend of March 30).**

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## ***Vacation Bible School!***

*Mark your calendars!!*

**June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at St. Pat's**

**9am-12pm**

**Registration begins in April!**