

*Listen*  
**TO THE LORD**



# Welcome to MOST HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

One parish, two locations:

**St. Patrick Church of Merna**  
1001 N. Towanda Barnes Rd.  
Bloomington, IL 61705

**St. Mary Church in Downs**  
108 E. Washington St.  
Downs, IL 61736

**Parish Office Located at St. Patrick Church of Merna:**

**Website:** [www.stpatrickmerna.org](http://www.stpatrickmerna.org) **Phone:** (309) 662-7361 **Email:** [office@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:office@stpatrickmerna.org)

## Current Liturgy Schedule (Subject to Change)

### Weekend Masses

Saturday .....4:00 p.m. (SPM)  
5:30 p.m. (SMD)  
Sunday ..... 7:30 a.m. (SPM)  
9:00 a.m. (SPM & SMD)  
11:00 a.m. (SPM)

### Weekday Masses (SPM, unless otherwise noted)

Monday .....7:00 a.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday .....8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday .....7:00 a.m. (SPM)  
5:30 p.m. (SMD)  
Friday .....7:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday 9am Mass at St. Patrick Merna will be live-streamed.**

### Eucharistic Adoration (St. Patrick Merna)

Tuesday .....9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday .....7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Friday .....7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Reconciliation (also available by appointment)

Friday (SPM) .....12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday (SPM) .....9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Saturday (SMD) .....Following 5:30pm Mass  
Sunday (SMD) .....Following 9am Mass

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 15

4:00 p.m. †Bob & Pat Wall .....SP  
5:30 p.m. †Deceased Members of the George Weber Family .....SM

### Sunday, March 16 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. †Ed & Pat Hassel .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Roger Swartz .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Patrick Robinson .....SM  
11:00 a.m. Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....SP

### Monday, March 17

7:00 a.m. †Robert Blake .....SP

### Tuesday, March 18

8:30 a.m. †Pauline Bonenfant .....SP

### Wednesday, March 19

7:00 a.m. †Bill & Joyce Murray .....SP  
5:30 p.m. †Sharon Schaefer .....SM

### Thursday, March 20

8:30 a.m. †James Kaiser .....SP

### Friday, March 21

7:00 a.m. †Gayle Eyre .....SP  
5:00 p.m. †Rich Bugajski .....SP

### Saturday, March 22

4:00 p.m. †Edward Ryan .....SP  
5:30 p.m. †Joe Toohill .....SM

### Sunday, March 23 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Pinter & Reitter Families .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Corey Schopp .....SM  
11:00 a.m. †Virginia Nice .....SP

SP - St. Patrick Church of Merna

SM - St. Mary Church in Downs

## Collection Summary For March 2, 2025

### Most Holy Eucharist Parish

We thank you for your support of our parish! Please remember to sign up for online giving or mail your weekly contribution envelopes on a regular basis.

**Prayerfully reflect on your gift back to God!**

Sunday Offertory .....\$31,496  
Online Giving .....\$24,708  
Total Sunday Collection .....\$56,204

Capital Improvements .....\$8,404  
Parishioners Helping Parishioners ....\$1,978  
St. Vincent de Paul .....\$2,948

## Attention Current Parishioners:

We would appreciate a call or email if any of your information has changed (address, phone numbers, marital status, email address, etc.). Please contact the parish office at (309) 662-7361 or [office@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:office@stpatrickmerna.org).

## Most Holy Eucharist Parish



## Readings for the Week

Mass readings can be found in their entirety at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### Sunday, March 16 Second Sunday of Lent

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18  
Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14  
Phil 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3:20-4:1  
Lk 9:28b-36

### Monday, March 17

Dn 9:4b-10  
Ps 79:8, 9, 11, and 13  
Lk 6:36-38

### Tuesday, March 18

Is 1:10, 16-20  
Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23  
Mt 23:1-12

### Wednesday, March 19 Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16  
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29  
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

### Thursday, March 20

Jer 17:5-10  
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6  
Lk 16:19-31

### Friday, March 21

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a  
Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

### Saturday, March 22

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20  
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Sunday, March 23 Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15  
Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11  
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12  
Lk 13:1-9

**Scrutiny Readings:** Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

## Lenten Offerings

### Special Lenten Offerings at **St. Patrick Church of Merna:**

- Extra Adoration hours on Tuesdays, from 9am-8:30pm
- Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent immediately following the 5pm Mass
- Confessions on Saturdays, from 9-10am

### Special Wednesday Schedule at **St. Mary Church in Downs:**

- Stations of the Cross - 5pm
- Mass - 5:30pm
- Adoration - 6-7pm



## Second Sunday of Lent TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, many may have failed in Lenten discipline to some measure or another: the daily doughnut is simply too alluring, or a furtive puff on a cigarette is irresistible. There is meaning even in the failure, though, a kind of reminder that we cannot save ourselves. Part of the power of Lent is that we do it together, and although individuals decide on different ways to keep it, it is fundamentally the same journey. We fall, we get up, we keep moving. The desire to "give something up" for Lent is an age-old impulse in the Christian heart. We get better at it over the years, and move more deeply into the meaning and message of acts of sacrifice; so there is no shame in stumbling, as long as we are not discouraged by the failure and give up. We are clearing space in our lives, after all, and some of the things we desire to give up are worth rooting out completely anyway.

What do we do with the space we have cleared out by our sacrifice? The Lenten question of giving up is balanced by the Easter question of our response to Christ's embrace of us in love: "What are you taking on for Easter?"

—James Field

## Illinois Pro-Life March

The Illinois Pro-Life March in Springfield is on **Tuesday, March 25th**, located at the Lincoln Statue in front of the Illinois Capitol Building (401 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62701). The Rally is at 1pm, the March at 2pm, and lobbying at 3pm. Scan the QR code for additional events and information, as well as to RSVP. If you are attending and would like to connect, feel free to contact Jess Elliott at [jessica@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jessica@stpatrickmerna.org).



Check it out!  
March Spotlight

### God's Princesses

"God's Princesses" is a new series on FORMED from the creators of Brother Francis, with fun, faith-filled stories that remind all young Catholic girls that they, too, are part of God's Royal Household! Check out episodes on St. Joan of Arc and St. Josephine Bakhita.





## Corpus Christi Catholic School News

Stay up to date on what is happening by checking out the CCCS Facebook page or at [CorpusChristiSaints.org](http://CorpusChristiSaints.org).

- We have a few more spots available in our PreK 3's & 4's programs. Give us a call at (309)662-3712 to set up a time to learn more about Corpus Christi!
- Corpus Christi Trivia Night & Auction is coming up on **Saturday, April 5th!** Check out our website or scan the QR code for more info.
- We are looking for donations towards our Trivia Night. Would you or your business like to be a sponsor of our event? We appreciate financial sponsorships as well as delicious treats and items to add to our auction! Please contact us at (309)662-3712 or [advancement@corpuschristisaints.org](mailto:advancement@corpuschristisaints.org). We would be honored to include you as a sponsor for our night of fun and fundraising. Our goal this year is to replace outdated and broken classroom technology with Viewsonic ViewBoards.



## It's LENT! What's Holding You Back?

As families of faith, we continue our focus to follow Jesus! We try to identify what is holding us back from being the-best-version-of-ourselves! We remember to thank God every day for all of our blessings!

- † Pray more often!
- † Practice your "fast from, feast on" promise!
- † Use your Lenten booklet or calendar!
- † Participate in Mass & receive Jesus in the Eucharist!



### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO ALL!

**THIS WEEK:** MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> and 19<sup>TH</sup>

- **GRADES 1, 3, 4 & 5 STUDENTS:** Pull out and check your folder! Look under March 11/12 on page 7 for any work to complete before class. How is your daily Lenten journey coming along? Can't wait to see your smiling faces!
- **GRADE 2 STUDENTS:** Review SESSION 4 in our BLESSED workbooks (SEASON 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 online). Students to watch the episodes at home! Work on pages 37-44 Book of Faith Words. Please make Sunday Mass a priority as it is key to understanding all our preparation to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.
- **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Meets in-person! We are in the homestretch. Check page 7 of your weekly schedule to be prepared! **THINK:** Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy and St. Teresa of Calcutta
- **CONFIRM1:** Meets in-person! Rewatch Season 5.4, 5.5, & 5.6 online. WK124-139. Have you changed your opinion on the value of the Bible?
- **CONFIRM2:** Off this week! Our next class is not until April 2. Refer to the RECAP for papers and forms that are coming due. Perseverance may be needed at this point of your journey. Pray to your Saint for an assist!

Questions: Bobbi [bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org) OR  
Claire [REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org)



**BRINGING CHRIST**  
Into your home Into your family  
Into your life

Use the reading and reflection below to help your family better understand and dive a little deeper into this weekend's Gospel!

**Think:** One day Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to come and pray with him. He led them to the top of a steep mountain, where it was peaceful and quiet, and they could be alone. Jesus began to pray to his heavenly father when suddenly he appeared to change! His face and clothes shone with a brilliant light, as dazzling as the rays of the sun. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah on either side of Jesus talking to him. Peter jumped up with excitement and said, "Lord, this is wonderful! I could make three shelters, one for each of you!" At that moment, a cloud streaming with light appeared above them, and a voice said, "This is my son, whom I love very much. Listen to what he says." The disciples were so terrified that they threw themselves to the ground and hid their faces. Then Jesus said gently, "Get up my friends; do not be afraid." When they looked up, Jesus was standing alone.

**Challenge:** What did Peter, James, and John see on the mountaintop that day? Jesus was transfigured! If the sun shines in our eyes, we are dazzled by its brightness and the strength of its light. When Jesus was transfigured, the light shining from him was as bright as the sun. These rays of light were shafts of God's glory and a glimpse of his power and might. During the day, the natural light of the sun warms the earth and makes things grow. At night, we use artificial light so we can find our way. If there was no light in the world, it would be a cold and frightening place, full of darkness and gloom. Just as light chases away the darkness so that we can see, the light shining out from Jesus that day made the disciples see that he was, indeed, the son of God. Their lives had been touched by the brilliance of God's power and love, and they were filled with the light of faith. *Jesus, fill me with the light of your love and faith. Make me shine in the darkness and touch the lives of others with the light of your goodness. Amen.*

## Most Holy Eucharist Parish



## Lenten Fish Fry

**Where:** St. Mary Church in Downs; 108 E. Washington St., Downs

**When:** March 28, April 11

**Dine-In/Carry-Out:** 5-7pm

### Donation:

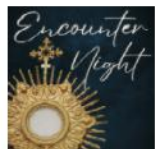
\$11.00 for Adults

\$5.00 for Kids (6-12)

FREE for Children 5 and under

### Dine-In/Carry-Out Menu:

- Walleye
- Pizza & Grilled Cheese
- French Fries
- Green Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Home-made desserts



## April Encounter Night

Come for a night of prayer and rest on **Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm at St. Patrick Church of Merna.**

Phil Olinger will share his witness with Jesus in the Eucharist, and prayer teams will be present for anyone who would like to receive prayer.

## Expanding Tuesday Adoration Hours

The season of Lent is an invitation for us to return more fully to the Lord. One of the greatest ways to grow in relationship with Him is through prayer, particularly in His Eucharistic Presence. **Our Tuesday Adoration hours are now 9am-8:30pm. We are still in need of coverage for the 12pm and 1pm hours.** If you are part of a group, consider signing up as a group and rotating coverage, or sign up individually. If this time frame doesn't work, consider signing up for any hour you are available. Sign up through the QR code or at [stpatrickmerna.org/adoration](http://stpatrickmerna.org/adoration). Reach out to Jess Elliott with questions, at [jessica@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jessica@stpatrickmerna.org).



## Foundations of Marriage: Challenging Topics

Marriage is a beautiful gift from God and maintaining a healthy, secure marriage takes a lot of hard work. Come learn strategies to help enrich your marriage from two Catholic Marriage and Family Therapists: Zoe Myers Solomon, ALFMT and Mia Teehan, LMFT, on **Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30p-8:30p (Q&A to follow) at St. Patrick Church of Merna.** This is the third of a four-part series for married and engaged couples; each talk can stand alone if unable to attend all four. Limited childcare is available for ages 9 months or mobile, through age 4. Refreshments provided. Please contact Jess Elliott at [jessica@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jessica@stpatrickmerna.org) with questions. Scan the QR code or visit [stpatrickmerna.org/foundations](http://stpatrickmerna.org/foundations) to RSVP.



## Congratulations to Our Children's Choir!

Last Saturday, the Jubilate Choir & Con Spirito Singers of Most Holy Eucharist Parish-St. Patrick Church of Merna were invited to St. Mary's Cathedral in the Diocese of Peoria to sing for the Rite of Election after they were snowed out of a previous date. The children worked so hard and sang so beautifully! They were a wonderful representation of our parish and we are so proud of them.



## Cubs vs. Cards Bus Trip

The annual Cubs vs. Cards Parish Bus Trip is to **Busch Stadium in St. Louis on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm.** The cost is \$100 per person, which includes group tickets in Section 235 on the first base side and first class coach bus with restrooms (bus parking will be across the street from Busch Stadium's right field). Donuts, coffee, and other refreshments will be served on the bus. The bus will leave from the St. Patrick Church of Merna parking lot at 8am, with enough time to get lunch in the neighborhood. Game time is subject to change; the bus will return the same evening. Contact Jeff Lopez with questions at (309) 585-1707 or [jeff@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jeff@stpatrickmerna.org). Use the QR code or visit [stpatrickmerna.org/cubscards](http://stpatrickmerna.org/cubscards) to get your tickets today!





## High School Youth Ministry

Ignite Student Ministry exists to reach all teens for Christ, and serves as the unified Catholic High School Youth Group in Bloomington-Normal. Please scan the QR Code and fill out the form to



register and join the group!

## Upcoming Events

**3/16:** All high school students are welcome to join us for a Game Night JFF (Just For Fun!) at **St. Patrick Merna** from 6-8pm. Come join us for fellowship, snacks, and games!

**3/23:** OFF (Spring Break)

**3/30:** OFF (Spring Break)

**4/6:** This will be our Mass and Meal Night, as we will celebrate the Mass together at **Epiphany** at 5:30pm. After Mass, all students are welcome to join us for dinner in Epiphany's Parish Hall while we hear a message from Fr. Jack.

## Save the Date - Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for the Central Catholic High School Blood Drive which will take place on **Tuesday, April 22nd** from 8am until 2pm in the Central Catholic High School Gym. More details to follow.

## UnCoupled Catholics

Join us for our Lent events:

- **3/21:** 6pm Stations at Epiphany's Church; Fish Fry in the Hall
  - **3/28:** 5:15pm Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity; Knights of Columbus Fish Fry off of Main Street to follow
- Contact [uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com](mailto:uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com) with questions.

## Advisory Commission on Education

Corpus Christi Catholic School is looking for parishioners who are not current CCCS parents to join our Advisory Commission on Education. Help guide key areas of technology, enrollment, and development by meeting with us 3-4 times per year. Additionally, we are seeking an at-large member and a secretary. Scan the QR code for further details. Let us know if you are interested by April 4, 2025, by contacting Principal Adrienne Wilson at [awilson@corpuschristisaints.org](mailto:awilson@corpuschristisaints.org) or (309) 662-3712.



## CCHS Employment Opportunities

We are hiring the following positions. Scan the QR code for more information:

### FACULTY & STAFF POSITIONS

- Wellness Counselor
- Social Studies Teacher
- Spanish Teacher

### ATHLETIC POSITIONS

- Boys Golf Head Coach (Fall, 2025)



**Pastor.....Fr. Dustin Schultz**  
[frschultz@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:frschultz@stpatrickmerna.org)

**Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Matt Deptula**  
[frmatt@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:frmatt@stpatrickmerna.org)

**Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Derick Mwesiga**  
[frderick@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:frderick@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Deacons

#### St. Patrick Church of Merna

Dcn. Gayle Cyrulik Jr., O.F.S.

Dcn. Mike Pool

Dcn. Dan Froelich

Dcn. Troy Morris

#### St. Mary Church in Downs

Dcn. Gary D. Koerner

Dcn. John Louie

### Parish Trustees

#### St. Patrick Church of Merna

Mrs. Brenda Seger & Mr. Rusty Schopp

#### St. Mary Church in Downs

Mr. Dale Marshall & Mr. Glenn Livingston

### Religious Education (Grades 1-5)

Mrs. Bobbi Hassel.....585-1705

[bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Religious Education (Grades 6-8)

Ms. Claire Martens .....585-1705

[REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Religious Education - St. Mary Church in Downs

Mrs. Jennifer O'Brien.....please email

[jennifersmd@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jennifersmd@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Youth Ministry

Mrs. Julia Nalewajka .....585-1712

Mr. Josh Miller.....585-1712

[youthministry@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:youthministry@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Development & Stewardship

Mr. Jeff Lopez .....585-1707

[jeff@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jeff@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Finance

Mrs. Sandi Remmes.....585-1701

[sandi@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:sandi@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Front Office

Mrs. Kristie Klingler .....585-1710

[kristie@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:kristie@stpatrickmerna.org)

Mrs. Jennifer Guimond .....585-1711

[officeassistant@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:officeassistant@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Liturgy & Music

Mrs. Lindsey Adams .....585-1703

[lindsey@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:lindsey@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Communications

Mrs. Jenny Cook.....585-1713

[jenny@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jenny@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Evangelization

Ms. Jessica Elliott .....585-1704

[jessica@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jessica@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Nursery

Ms. Pam Goode .....585-1706

[nursery@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:nursery@stpatrickmerna.org)

### Building & Grounds

Mr. Rodney Becker.....585-1708

[rodney@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:rodney@stpatrickmerna.org)

## Most Holy Eucharist Parish





**Kibler-Brady-Ruestman  
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 <p><b>Evan Ibsen   Parishioner</b>              Commercial Loan Officer   NMLS# 2321139              502 N. Hershey Rd.   Bloomington              309.663.6300  <a href="mailto:eibsen@firststatebank.biz">eibsen@firststatebank.biz</a></p>	<p><b>NOW HIRING Swim Instructors</b>              for classes beginning Aug. 19th              at 4 Seasons 1, Bloomington</p> <p>Rob Knight's Swim America              904 4Seasons Rd. Bloomington IL</p> <p><b>APPLY NOW ONLINE AT:</b>  <a href="http://www.robknightswimamerica.com">www.robknightswimamerica.com</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must be Dependable, Outgoing, Team Oriented and be familiar with the 4 competitive swim strokes</li> <li>• Flexible, part-time positions offering 1 to 3 times per week, afternoons to 7:15pm</li> <li>• Teachers needed for PreSchool and School Age classes, Baby N Me, Nervous Beginners and Adult classes</li> <li>• Start training now with a competitive hourly wage to become certified to teach lessons beginning Aug. 19th</li> <li>• Instructors receive a FREE 4 Seasons membership and earn their Instructor Certification through the American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>ADVERTISE HERE</b></p> <p>Promote your Business AND support your Parish.  <b>Dennis Dykstra - 616-916-9683</b>  <a href="mailto:ddykstra@diocesan.com">ddykstra@diocesan.com</a></p>
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