in the future

Luke 13:9



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 Phone: (309) 662-7361 Email: office@stpatrickmerna.org

Current Liturgy Schedule (Subject to Change)

Saturday4:00 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)		
Monday7:00 a.m.		
Tuesday & Thursday8:30 a.m.		
Wednesday		
5:30 p.m. (SMD)		
Friday7:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.		

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

ilable by appointment)
12:00 p.m 4:00 p.m.
.9:00 a.m 10:00 a.m.
.Following 5:30pm Mass
.Following 9am Mass

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 22

Saturaay, Marc	:n 22
4:00 p.m.	
5:30 p.m.	†Joe ToohillSM
Sunday, March	23 - 3rd Sunday of Lent
7:30 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist ParishSP
9:00 a.m.	tPinter & Reitter FamiliesSP
9:00 a.m.	tCorey SchoppSM
11:00 a.m.	tVirginia NiceSP
Monday, Marc	h 24
7:00 a.m.	†Hank Lopez, JrSP
Tuesday, Marc	h 25
8:30 a.m.	†Michael KrutkeSP
Wednesday, M	arch 26
7:00 a.m.	tShirley BeaverSP
5:30 p.m.	tRita ToohillSM
Thursday, Marc	:h 27
8:30 a.m.	†Deceased Members of the Pool FamilySP
Friday, March 2	28
7:00 a.m.	tElle ManleySP
5:00 p.m.	tMark KillianSP
Saturday, Marc	:h 29
4:00 p.m.	tDr. Robert McEntyreSP
5:30 p.m.	tDeceased Members of St. Vincent de PaulSM
Sunday, March	1 30 - 4th Sunday of Lent
7:30 a.m.	•
9:00 a.m.	tBen McAllisterSP

SP - St. Patrick Church of Merna SM - St. Mary Church in Downs

Collection Summary For March 9, 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 Online Giving Total Sunday Collection	\$22,157 \$34,458
Weekly Avg as of March 9 Capital Improvements Parishioners Helping Parishioner St. Vincent de Paul	\$5,833 s\$486

Writing Checks?

As of April 1st, please write donation checks to **Most Holy Eucharist Parish**, rather than to St. Patrick Church of Merna or St. Mary Church in Downs. However, when donating to St. Vincent de Paul please continue to write your check to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you!

Most Holy Eucharist Parish



Readings for the Week

Mass readings can be found in their entirety at www.usccb.org.

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

> Monday, March 24 2 Kings 5:1-15ab Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord ls 7:10-14, 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, March 26 Dt 4:1. 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

> Thursday, March 27 Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday, March 28 Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 Mk 12:28-34

> Saturday, March 29 Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab Lk 18:9-14

Sunday, March 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 2 Cor 5:17-21

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Scrutiny Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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



WELCOME Please join us in welcoming the following new parishioners: Bibianna Cornejo & Family Joey Mahon



Remember in your prayers Roland Grotbo, husband of Anne Grotbo and father of Andy (Karen) Grotbo. May God give him eternal peace and fill his surviving family and friends with the strength of His consolation.

Third Sunday of Lent TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn't miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you've ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand, or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be.

Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-lifetime possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking that the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

-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.



Human Life is a Good Gift

Please join local 40 Days for Life members in marking the closing of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Bloomington. The clinic's last day in operation was March 20th. Come hear from pro-life leaders as we give thanks and uphold human life. Light refreshments will be served. The event will be Saturday, March 29th at 5:30pm at Bloomington Christian Fellowship, 1009 Maple Hill Road Bloomington, IL.

3rd Sunday of Lent





Corpus Christi Catholic School News

CORPUS CHRISTI Appening by checking out the CCCS Facebook page or at 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. 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MIGHT BE ON SPRING BREAK BUT WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

NO CLASSES THIS WEEK! MARCH 25TH and 26TH

How can we keep our focus on Lent and Jesus over spring break? During this week...

...keep strong with your pledge to "fast from, feast on" during Lent.

... find time each day to read from your **Lenten activity book** or complete the activity on your **Lenten Calenda**r.

...increase our prayer time while off



from school or traveling. You might consider visiting a new church in a different town.

...consider attending Eucharistic adoration or Stations of the Cross if you are staying in town this week.

▶ 2nd Grade Students please rewatch the BLESSED episodes online. Check on page 17 of your weekly schedule for full details. We have completed thru Season 10 online. Complete through page 49 in <u>Book of Faith Words</u>. See you at Mass!

► **RE6 and CONFIRM1: Thank you for showing up with great energy this past week.** Spend some time catching up on chapter work and rewatching the DECISION POINT episodes. Great time to submit CONFIRM1 assignments via Google classrooms. FINISH STRONG on this journey!

► **CONFIRM2:** Use this time to rewatch DECISION POINT episodes and finish any missed assignments. Our next class is April 2! This is an important date for all forms and final Saint paper.

Questions: Bobbi <u>bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org</u> OR Claire <u>REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org</u>

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



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 told the people this parable: "A man went to check how much fruit was growing on a tree in his orchard, but he found that there was none. So he sent for his gardener and told him, 'This tree has grown no fruit for the last three years. Cut it down and plant another tree in its place!' But the gardener said to him, 'Master, give the tree one more year, so I can feed and care for it. Then if it still has no fruit on it, cut it down.'"

Challenge: The master of a house wanted to cut one of his trees down because it had grown no fruit for three years, and he wanted to plant another tree in its place. But the gardener asked his master to give the tree one more chance to prove itself. What was the gardener willing to do to help the tree to produce some fruit? The gardener would feed the tree and make sure it was well watered and cared for. The gardener was ready to do whatever he could to help the tree to grow some fruit and save it from being destroyed. What do you think the message of today's parable is? God is always ready to give us another chance to change and to grow the fruits of His love. Just as the gardener was ready to care for the tree and help it to grow fruit, so Jesus will help us to be kind, loving, generous, and forgiving, and able to bear the fruits of God's life and love in us. Lord, take my hand and show me the way. Help me to get up when I fall and to try again, knowing that you will always give me another chance. 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:

- Walleve
- 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 2nd at 7:30pm at St. Patrick Church of

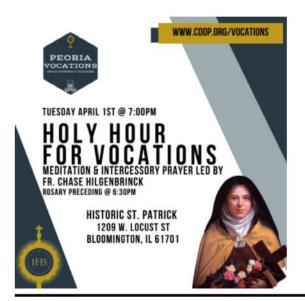
Merna. Phil Olinger will share his witness with Jesus in the Eucharist, and prayer teams will be present for anyone who would like to receive prayer.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our parish's summer ministries to help kids grow in their faith:

- Vacation Bible School: June 2-5
- Totus Tuus: June 21-27

More information coming soon!



Foundations of Marriage: Challenging Topics

Marriage is a beautiful aift 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 4th, 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 iessica@stpatrickmerna.org with questions. Scan the QR code or visit stpatrickmerna.org/foundations to RSVP.



Sharing the Grief Journey

All those continuing to grieve the loss of a loved one are invited to attend a monthly gathering with other parishioners on a similar journey. Join us on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30pm in Room 6. These gatherings are designed to encourage healing through connection and shared experiences. This is open to all in our community. No registration is required. Contact Dianne Lerman at lermandianne@gmail.com or call the parish office with questions.

Mass & Munchies

Mass & Munchies will take place this Tuesday, March 25th, following 8:30am Mass. Come to the Shamrock Hall for a time of food and fellowship! Goodies will include egg casserole, coffee cake, and more. All are invited! Looking forward to seeing you on the 25th!

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 <u>awilson@corpuschristisaints.org</u> or (309) 662-3712.



CCHS Employment Opportunities

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

ATHLETIC POSITIONS

- Boys Golf Head Coach
- Girls Tennis Head Coach



March 23, 2025

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

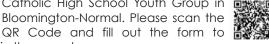
3rd Sunday of Lent



High School Youth Ministry

Ianite 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



register and join the group!

Upcoming Events

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.

MERCIFUL **AND GRACIOUS IS THE LORD** Psalm 103:8

Incoupled

UnCoupled Catholics

Join us for our Lent events:

•3/28: 5:15pm Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity; Knights of Columbus Fish Fry off of Main Street to follow

• 4/11: Stations of the Cross will immediately follow the 5pm Mass at St Patrick's of Merna; Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at St Mary's in Downs

Contact <u>uncoupledcatholics@gmail.com</u> with questions.

Your child can attend a **Catholic School:** Financial Assistance is Available!

Tuition assistance scholarships from the endowment fund named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2025-2026 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Parents can find the online application at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2025-2026 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is April 25th. Notification of grant awards will be made in June of 2025.

Pastor.....Fr. Dustin Schultz frschultz@stpatrickmerna.org

Deacons

St. Patrick Church of Merna

Dcn. Gayle Cyrulik Jr., O.F.S. Dcn. Mike Pool Dcn. Dan Froelich Dcn. Troy Morris

Religious Education (Grades 1-5)

bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org

Religious Education (Grades 6-8)

Ms. Claire Martens585-1705 REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org

Religious Education - St. Mary Church in Downs

Mrs. Jennifer O'Brien.....please email jennifersmd@stpatrickmerna.org

Youth Ministry

Mrs. Julia Nalewajka......585-1712 youthministry@stpatrickmerna.org

Development & Stewardship

Mr. Jeff Lopez585-1707 jeff@stpatrickmerna.org

Finance

Mrs. Sandi Remmes......585-1701 sandi@stpatrickmerna.org

Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Matt Deptula frmatt@stpatrickmerna.org

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

Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Derick Mwesiga frderick@stpatrickmerna.org

St. Mary Church in Downs Mr. Dale Marshall & Mr. Glenn Levingston

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