



#### Welcome to



Saturday, March 29

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

Current Liturgy Schedule (Subject to Change)		
Weekend Masses Saturday	Sunday 9am Mass at St. Patrick Merna will be live-streamed.  Eucharistic Adoration (St. Patrick Merna) Tuesday	

#### **Mass Intentions**

salurady, Marc	:n 27	
4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	tDr. Robert McEntyre	
Sunday, March 30 - 4th Sunday of Lent		
7:30 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist ParishSP	
9:00 a.m.	†Ben McAllister	
9:00 a.m.	†Ambrogio CompostoSM	
11:00 a.m.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Monday, Marc	h 31	
7:00 a.m.	tJacob DiCiaula	
Tuesday, April	1	
8:30 a.m.	†Daniel Teckenburg\$P	
Wednesday, April 2		
7:00 a.m.	†Floyd Forcade	
5:30 p.m.	†Jim SoltysSM	
Thursday, April 3		
8:30 a.m.	tMr. & Mrs. Arturo Alvarado	
Friday, April 4		
7:00 a.m.	†Chuck Burns	
5:00 p.m.	tLiving and Deceased Members of the Courey FamilySP	
Saturday, April	5	
4:00 p.m.	tLinda Blickhan	
5:30 p.m.	tJoey HarrisSM	
Sunday, April 6	- 5th Sunday of Lent	
7:30 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist ParishSP	
9:00 a.m.	†Bill & Joyce Murray	
9:00 a.m.	For the Intention of the CelebrantSM	
11:00 a.m.	†Virginia HolleySP	

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

# Collection Summary For March 16, 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 Weekly Avg as of March 16	\$24,633 <b>\$38,480</b>
Capital Improvements Parishioners Helping Parishioners St. Vincent de Paul	\$348

# **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!



#### Readings for the Week

Mass readings can be found in their entirety at <a href="https://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>.

#### 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

#### Monday, March 31

Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b Jn 4:43-54

#### Tuesday, April 1

Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3,5-6, 8-9 Ps 51:12a, 14a Jn 5:1-16

#### Wednesday, April 2

Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

#### Thursday, April 3

Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 In 5:31-47

#### Friday, April 4

Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

#### Saturday, April 5

Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 Jn 7:40-53

#### Sunday, April 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent

ls 43:16-21 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

**Scrutiny Readings:** Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

#### **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:

Justin & Lauren Helle
Kiersten Rodman and Connor Boolman & Family
Wesley and Abby Gonzalez & Family
Gabe and Gabi White & Family
Dallas and Abby Askins & Family



It is with great joy that we announce the following Baptisms: **Reid Lee Lanham**, daughter of Bradley and Jennifer (Wolf)

Lanham

Evalynn Jane, Bryant Michael James, and Landry Matthew James Rettick, children of Matthew and Jacqueline (Otis)

Rettick

# Fourth Sunday of Lent TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today, "Laetare Sunday," breaks the somberness of Lent for a little rejoicing, and the readings all summon us to an awareness of reconciliation. One of the best-loved stories of our tradition is today's Gospel story of the runaway son and the prodigal father. Prodigal, of course, is an adjective meaning "spendthrift or extravagant to a degree bordering on recklessness," and although the boy maxes out the credit cards, it is really the father who is prodigal with forgiveness.

Part of the excitement of this Laetare Sunday is rooted in the ancient catechumenate. Long ago, midway through Lent, the "elect" were focusing more and more on the gift of reconciliation accomplished for them by Christ and about to be realized in the Easter sacraments they were preparing to celebrate. In some places, the elect were even bedecked with roses on this day. A person bedecked with roses sticks out in a crowd; a person formed by the Eucharist and committed to living a life of reconciliation does, too. That's you!

—James Field

# He answered me and delivered me FROM ALL MY FEARS

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** 



## Corpus Christi Catholic School News

CORPUS Stay up to date on what is happening 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.



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

#### ATHLETIC POSITIONS

- Boys Golf Head Coach
- Girls Tennis Head Coach

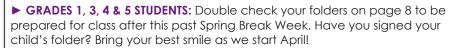


# WE CONTINUE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY! Where did you see Jesus while on Spring Break?

Were you able to stay focused on Lent and Jesus over spring break? As we begin this  $4^{th}$  week of Lent...

- ...revisit your "fast from, feast on" pledge!
- ...use your Lenten activity book or your Lenten Calendar!
- ...stay strong with extra prayer time!
- ...attend this week's **Encounter Night** (April 2 from 7:30-8:30pm)

#### THIS WEEK: APRIL 1ST and 2ND



- ▶ 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE STUDENTS: Check page 17 of your folder for full details.

  Rewatch Season 10.4, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 online plus Show What You Know and your Book of Faith Words. Bring your colored First Holy Communion to class with you this week!
- ▶ **RE6: Off this week!** Due to March 19 cancellation, please complete Chapters 19 & 20 at home. **REVIEW:** all faith words, people from the Scripture stories and the classroom timeline for a friendly year-end competition. See you on April 9 for your last class!
- ▶ CONFIRM1: Off week for you! Due to March 19 cancellation, make sure you have watched DECISION POINT 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3 episodes online and answered ALL discussion questions. Bring to class—you do NOT need to submit to Google classrooms. FINISH STRONG on this journey! Class April 9.
- ▶ CONFIRM2: Class this week! Are you ready? Rewatch episodes online Season 11.1, 11.2 & 11.3 and complete thru WK279. Most forms and assignments are due this week, April 2. Please bring to class. **Do NOT email.** You've been working hard. Persevere as we enter the homestretch.

Questions: Bobbi bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org OR Claire 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 told this story: "There was a man who had two sons. One day the younger one came to his father and said, 'Father, give me everything that will one day belong to me, so I can enjoy my riches now.' The father did this, and the younger son set off to look for adventure. He traveled to a distant land and spent all his money enjoying himself. But there was a famine in that land, and the young man found himself penniless and starving. 'If I stay here I will surely starve,' he thought. So he decided to return to his father and ask for his forgiveness. The father saw his son coming and ran to welcome him. As he hugged him, the young man said, 'Father, I am so sorry. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father told his servants to prepare a feast and to bring the finest clothes, and they began to celebrate."

Challenge: Jesus told this story because he wanted us to understand that whatever we do wrong, we can always come back to our heavenly father. If we ask God for his forgiveness, we know that he will welcome us with open arms. God feels sad and waits patiently for our return whenever we turn away. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we ask for God's forgiveness and help to become more loving and caring people. Like the son who returned to his father, we are filled with happiness and joy when we make peace with God. Lord, you gave your love and peace to us. Help us to make the world a happier place by sharing that love and peace with each other. Amen.



#### Lenten Fish Fry

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

When: 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** Niaht

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!

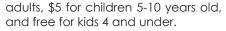
Mark your calendars for our parish's summer ministries to help kids grow in their faith:

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

More information coming soon!

# **Boy Scout Troop 20 Pancake** and Sausage Breakfast

The 55th Annual Scouts Pancake and Sausage Breakfast is right around the corner! Come and enjoy this all-you-can-eat meal on April 5th and 6th from 6:30am-12pm at St. Mary's school gym (600 W. Taylor St., Bloomington). Tickets are \$10 for



Troop 920 and Venturing Crew 2020, who host the breakfast, include members from all of our local parishes. This fundraiser helps cover costs for youth activities.

#### 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.ora/foundations to RSVP.



## **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 <a href="mailto:awilson@corpuschristisaints.org">awilson@corpuschristisaints.org</a> or (309) 662-3712.



#### Spring Senior Luncheon

The Parish Hospitality Directors are sponsoring the Spring Senior Luncheon on Monday, May 5th, at noon in Shamrock Hall at St. Pat's of Merna. Our theme will be Cinco de Mayo. The menu will include burritos, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips with guacamole, salsa, and queso, the option for taco salad, and ice cream and cookies. Lauren Booth, the Assistant Principal at Central Catholic High School who has been a Spanish teacher, will share

about the history of Cinco de Mayo and the culture. Please sign up at www.stpatrickmerna.org/luncheon, using the QR code, at the Welcome Center, or call the main office at (309)662-7310. Please join us for this fun event - ALL parishioners are welcome!



# **Knights of Columbus Council 15175 Recognizes CCHS Senior**

K of C Council 15175 would like to recognize parishioner Oliver Rohrig, a senior at Central Catholic, for winning the 12th grade division of the American Citizenship Essay Contest sponsored by K of C Council 574 earlier this year. The Knights also wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors! Congratulations, Oliver!



#### **New Diocesan Vestments**

As part of the Diocese of Peoria's 150th celebration, all diocesan priests will receive a newly-designed diocesan vestment. The diocese is excited to give you the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the new

vestments. It is a way of saying "thank you" to our priests. We also take this occasion to invite you to write a note of encouragement to your priest or all the priests of our diocese. \*Please note - you don't have to donate if you would simply like to send a note. Visit www.cdop.org/vestment for more information.

4th Sunday of Lent



#### High School Youth Ministry

lanite 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**

3/30: 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.

#### Young at Heart

Need something to go with your pancakes? Join us at the Funk's Grove Sirup Farm on April 16th. We will meet for lunch at Cracker Barrel at 11:30am. You will order from the menu. After eating, we will continue to Funk's Grove Sirup Farm to tour the Boiling Room and learn about the process of making sirup. Fresh sirup will be available for purchase in the gift shop. Enjoy a delicious meal and visit with friends. Young At Heart activities are open to everyone 50 years young and older. Come have fun with us! RSVP by 4/13. Email: <u>blm.normal.youngatheart@amail.com</u> or call (309) 452-7976.



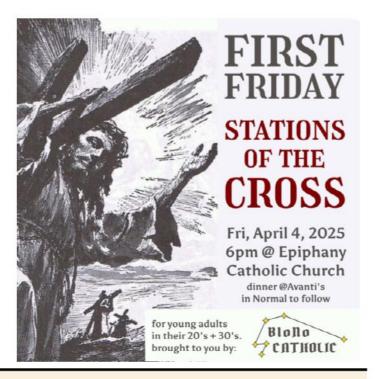
## **UnCoupled Catholics**

Join us for our Lent events:

•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 uncoupledcatholics@gmail.com with questions.



**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

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

Religious Education (Grades 1-5)

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

bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org

Religious Education (Grades 6-8)

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

REgrades678@stpatrickmerna.org

Religious Education - St. Mary Church in Downs

Mrs. Jennifer O'Brien.....please email iennifersmd@stpatrickmerna.ora

**Youth Ministry** 

Mrs. Julia Nalewajka.....585-1712 Mr. Josh Miller ......585-1712

youthministry@stpatrickmerna.org

**Development & Stewardship** 

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

<u>ieff@stpatrickmerna.ora</u>

Finance

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

St. Mary Church in Downs

Dcn. Gary D. Koerner Dcn. John Louie

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

#### **Parish Trustees**

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