

An oil painting of a rocky, grassy landscape. In the background, a large, light-colored rock formation rises, textured with vertical brushstrokes. The foreground is filled with green grass and scattered rocks, painted with more varied and expressive brushwork. The overall style is impressionistic and textured.

*Go!*  
**AND SIN  
NO MORE**



# 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, April 5

4:00 p.m. †Linda Blickhan .....SP  
5:30 p.m. †Joey Harris .....SM

### Sunday, April 6 - 5th Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Bill & Joyce Murray .....SP  
9:00 a.m. For the Intention of the Celebrant .....SM  
11:00 a.m. †Virginia Holley .....SP

### Monday, April 7

7:00 a.m. †Mary Beth Schaefer .....SP

### Tuesday, April 8

8:30 a.m. †Charlotte Ruppe .....SP

### Wednesday, April 9

7:00 a.m. †William Jeff Sexton .....SP  
5:30 p.m. For the Intention of the Celebrant .....SM

### Thursday, April 10

8:30 a.m. †Edith Schultz .....SP

### Friday, April 11

7:00 a.m. †Delores Knoblauch .....SP  
5:00 p.m. †Connie Yeagle .....SP

### Saturday, April 12

4:00 p.m. †Jacob DiCiaula .....SP  
5:30 p.m. †Charlene Wilkens .....SM

### Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

7:30 a.m. Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....SP  
9:00 a.m. †Erma Robke .....SP  
9:00 a.m. For the Society of St. Vincent de Paul .....SM  
11:00 a.m. †Joseph Reitter .....SP

SP - St. Patrick Church of Merna

SM - St. Mary Church in Downs

## Collection Summary For March 23, 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 .....\$30,057  
Online Giving .....\$20,971  
Total Sunday Collection .....**\$51,028**  
Weekly Avg as of March 23 .....\$43,121

Capital Improvements .....\$7,767  
Parishioners Helping Parishioners .....\$391  
St. Vincent de Paul .....\$1,238

## 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 [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### Sunday, April 6

#### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 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

### Monday, April 7

Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62

Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Jn 8:12-20

### Tuesday, April 8

Num 21:4-9

Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21

Jn 8:21-30

### Wednesday, April 9

Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

Dan 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

Jn 8:31-42

### Thursday, April 10

Gen 17:3-9

Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Jn 8:51-59

### Friday, April 11

Jer 20:10-13

Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7

Jn 10:31-42

### Saturday, April 12

Ez 37:21-28

Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13

Jn 11:45-56

### Sunday, April 13

#### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Lk 19:28-40

Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Lk 22:14-23:56 or Lk 23:1-49

## 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

New Parishioners

Please join us in welcoming the following new parishioners:

**Justin and Mary Weber & Family**



It is with great joy that we announce the following Baptism:  
**Ellie Ann Falasz**, daughter of Zachary and Laura (Endsley) Falasz



Remember in your prayers **Cynthia Gammelgard**, mother of Ryan (Amy) Gammelgard. May God give her eternal peace and fill her surviving family and friends with the strength of His consolation.



## Easter Flower Dedications

We will have Easter lilies and other flowers to help decorate our churches for the Easter season. If you would like to make an offering in memory of a loved one, a \$10 donation is suggested. There are envelopes in your monthly packet or pick one up in the parish office or at the Welcome Center. You can also make your offering through online giving by visiting our website or scanning the QR code. **The deadline to turn them in is Monday, April 14th.**



## Lenten Penance Services

You are invited to attend at any church;  
all services begin at 6pm

Tuesday, April 8th:  
Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday, April 9th:  
St. Mary Church,  
Bloomington

Thursday, April 10th:  
Epiphany Church

Monday, April 14th:  
St. Patrick Church of  
Merna





## 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!

## 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



## PURLS Prayer Shawl Ministry

**What:** Prayer Shawl Ministry - gather together to pray, socialize, and knit/crochet prayer shawls

**When/Where:** Tuesday, April 8th (2nd Tuesday of each month); 10am or 6:30pm; meet in Room 9

**Who:** Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels (even wannabes)

**Questions:** Contact the parish office at (309) 662-7361

## RE students continue to strengthen their relationship with JESUS during Lent!

As we enter our final weeks of Lent, we strive to strengthen our faith and relationship with Jesus. Can we stay focused on the blessings from God which surround us in both obvious and subtle ways?



**THIS WEEK:** APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> and 9<sup>TH</sup>

► **GRADES 1, 3, 4 & 5 STUDENTS:** Pull out your folder! Check the weekly schedule on page 8 to be prepared for class this week. Are you working to keep your Lenten promise? Can you remember to thank God every night in your prayers?

► **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE STUDENTS:** Work on SESSION 5 in our BLESSED workbooks (SEASON 11 online). **It is important for ALL students to rewatch the episodes at home!** You should have completed through page 56 in your Book of Faith Words. Help your child practice the steps on how to receive Jesus in the host at communion. Did you turn in your placemat?

► **RE6: Meets in-person!** You've been off for a while. Be ready for your last class and a year-end competition! **REVIEW:** all faith words, people from the Scripture stories and the classroom timeline. **FINISH STRONG!**

► **CONFIRM1: Meets in-person this week!** 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 this work along with your service hours which are due this week. This is CONFIRM1's last class. **PERSEVERANCE!**

► **CONFIRM2: Off this week!** Rewatch online Season 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 online. Complete thru WK295 including the crossword. Refer to the RECAP you took home! **Service hours and reflection due today April 6! On Monday, April 7, all assignments and forms will be past due.** Please drop off at church. **Do NOT email.** Pray to your Saint to help you persevere!

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:** Jesus was teaching in the temple when the Pharisees brought a woman to stand before him. "This woman has been caught doing something wrong, and the law says that she should be stoned," they said. "What do you think?" they asked, because they were trying to trick Jesus. After a few moments Jesus stood up and said, "Let the person who has never done anything wrong throw the first stone at her." The crowd that had gathered began to leave one by one, until Jesus and the woman stood alone. Jesus said to her, "Has anyone thrown a stone at you?" "No, sir," she answered. "You are forgiven," he said. "Now go make a fresh start."

**Challenge:** Why did the Pharisees want to stone the woman? According to their law, stoning was the punishment required for her wrongdoing. How did the Pharisees mean to trick Jesus? They wanted to see whether Jesus would disobey the law and show the woman mercy. The crowd had been ready to punish the woman, but Jesus made them realize that no one is perfect and we all make mistakes. Jesus understood that people are often weak and do things wrong. He was always ready to give them another chance to change their hearts and their lives, and he does the same for us today. Often we see the mistakes and faults of other people before we notice our own. We should try to be more like Jesus and be ready to forgive others, just as we hope others will forgive our faults. *Merciful Jesus, help us to be understanding and forgiving; and to remember that we all make mistakes sometimes but that by turning to you we can make a fresh start. Amen.*

## Most Holy Eucharist Parish

# Prayer PARTNERS



A grateful "thank you" to all parishioners who have been praying for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Most Holy Eucharist Parish.

Next weekend we will invite parishioners to become prayer partners for our Confirmation candidates. These young people have spent the past two years preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be a display and individual student envelopes in the Gathering Space on April 12 & 13.

**We are BLESSED with a very supportive parish community.**



## Lenten Fish Fry

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

**When:** April 11; 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

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Please join us to pray at 3pm, the hour of mercy, on **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**, at St. Patrick Church of Merna. There will be Adoration, with Confessions available. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and hear excerpts from the Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul.

## New Parish Trustees

On behalf of Most Holy Eucharist Parish, we congratulate Angie Stine and Rusty Schopp for being appointed trustees of our parish. We are grateful for all they have done and will do in service to our parish as they fulfill this responsibility.



## Vacation Bible School Registration Going On Now!

**Theme:** True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

**When:** Monday, June 2 - Thursday, June 5; 6pm - 8pm

**Where:** Corpus Christi Catholic School, 1909 E. Lincoln, Bloomington

**Who:** All children age 4 years old by Aug. 31, 2025 through entering 6th grade

**Register Online:** [stpatrickmerna.org/vbs](http://stpatrickmerna.org/vbs) or scan the QR code



**Registration Fee:** \$45 for 1 child

\$55 for 2 children

\$65 for 3 or more children

Scholarships available!

More information about the schedule, drop-off and pick-up procedures, etc. will be available in your family packets which will be distributed at the end of May. Contact Jenny Cook at [jenny@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jenny@stpatrickmerna.org) with any questions.

**We also need teen and adult volunteers! Visit [stpatrickmerna.org/vbs](http://stpatrickmerna.org/vbs) for more information or to sign up to help!**

## Family Encounter Night: Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Our "May" Encounter Night is on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, due to Confirmation being on the first Wednesday in May. Please join us at 7:30pm for a family night of prayer, music, and a reflection with Fr. Chase Hilgenbrink. Children who just received their First Communion will be invited to be a part of the beginning procession in their special attire from First Communion. Please RSVP if your child will be participating by scanning the QR code. Contact Jess Elliott at [jessica@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:jessica@stpatrickmerna.org) with questions.



## Spring Senior Luncheon

The Parish Hospitality Directors are sponsoring the Spring Senior Luncheon on **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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!



## New Diocesan Vestments

As part of the Diocese of Peoria's 150<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.cdop.org/vestment) for more information.



## 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

**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.

## Blood Drive

The Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary & Central Catholic High School Interact Club will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, April 22nd from 7am to 1pm in the Central Catholic High School Gymnasium** (1201 Airport Road, Bloomington). By donating at this blood drive, you are helping one or more graduating Seniors earn a scholarship! For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

*The LORD has done great things for us;*  
**WE ARE GLAD INDEED**  
*FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT*

## A Prayer for Life

Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"



## 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 [uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com](mailto:uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com) with questions.

## Young at Heart

Join us at the Funk's Grove Sirup Farm on April 16th. We will meet for lunch at Cracker Barrel at 11:30am; 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. Young At Heart activities are open to everyone 50 years young and older. RSVP by 4/13. Email: [blm.normal.youngatheart@gmail.com](mailto:blm.normal.youngatheart@gmail.com) or call (309)452-7976.

**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**  
Mr. Rusty Schopp & Mrs. Angie Stine

### 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





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 <p><b>Evan Ibsen   Parishioner</b>              Commercial Loan Officer   NMLS# 2321139              502 N. Hershey Rd.   Bloomington  <b>309.663.6300</b>  <a href="mailto:eibsen@firststatebank.biz">eibsen@firststatebank.biz</a>     Member FDIC</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>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Carpet Weaver's</b>              FLOORING &amp; FURNITURE GALLERY</p>  <p>See our products              in your space</p> <p><b>Micah Hardy</b>              Sales Associate  <b>309-439-9080</b>  <a href="mailto:mhardy@carpetweavers.net">mhardy@carpetweavers.net</a>              820 Eldorado Rd. • Bloomington</p> </div>
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