



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	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.

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, June 28

Saturaay, June	28
4:00 p.m.	tEdward RyanSP
5:30 p.m.	tKen & Mary DuncanSM
Sunday, June 2	9 - Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
7:30 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist ParishSP
9:00 a.m.	tWalter & Diane LightleSP
9:00 a.m.	tAlan MaurerSM
11:00 a.m.	tGerald PetersonSP
Monday, June	30
7:00 a.m.	†Bill KnoblauchSP
Tuesday, July 1	
8:30 a.m.	tWendell CooperiderSP
Wednesday, Ju	ıly 2
7:00 a.m.	tMargie SimmonsSP
5:30 p.m.	tJoan TormenoSM
Thursday, July	3
8:30 a.m.	†David BeslerSP
Friday, July 4	
9:00 a.m.	tPat CollinsSP
Saturday, July	5
4:00 p.m.	tRon SchultzSP
5:30 p.m.	tBruning FamilySM
Sunday, July 6	- 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 a.m.	tDaniel TeckenburgSP
9:00 a.m.	tRoger SwartzSP
9:00 a.m.	tLyle & Dorothy SchoppSM
11:00 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist ParishSP

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

Collection Summary For June 15, 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	\$10,957
Online Giving	\$25,509
Total Sunday Collection	\$36,466
Weekly Avg as of June 15	
Capital Improvements Parishioners Helping Parishioners St. Vincent de Paul	5\$303

Peter's Pence Collection

This collection will be taken up on June 28/29th, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father through the Peter's Pence Collection are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.



Readings for the Week

Mass readings can be found in their entirety at <u>www.usccb.org</u>.

Sunday, June 29 The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19 Mass During the Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

> Monday, June 30 Memorial of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome Gen 18:16-33 Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11 Mt 8:18-22;

Tuesday, July 1 Memorial of Saint Junipero Serra, Priest Gn 19:15-29 Ps 26: 2-3, 9-10, 11-12 Mt 8: 23-27

> Wednesday, July 2 Gn 21:5, 8-20a Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Mt 8: 28-34

Thursday, July 3 Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle Eph 2:19-22 Ps 117: 1bc, 2 Jn 20: 24-29

Friday, July 4 Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24: 1-8, 62-67 Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 Mt 9: 9-13

Saturday, July 5 Memorial Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest and Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29 Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:14-17

Sunday, July 6 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 66: 10-14c Ps 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 Gal 6: 14-18 Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

4th of July Schedule

Please make note of the following schedule changes for Friday, July 4th:

Daily Mass will be held at 9am at St. Patrick Church of Merna. This is in place of the typical 7am Mass. Adoration, Confessions, and the 5pm Mass are canceled for the day.



The parish office will be closed on Friday, July 4th.



New Parishioners

Please join us in welcoming the following new parishioners: Kaitey Sheldon & Family Conor and Sara Coyle Michael Natoli Joe Rolfes & Family Frank and Kathy Waterstraat



It is with great joy that we announce the following Baptisms: Leo Jacob Kink, son of Shaun and Kelly (McFadin) Kink Kaylee Marie Spencer, daughter of Matthew and Andrea (Solis) Spencer Maren Jane McGarry, daughter of Andrew and Jennifer (Birdoes) McGarry



Please remember in your prayers the couple married at our parish: Matt Schopp & Chelsea Gross

Mass Schedule Changes Coming July 5th & 6th

As a part of our two parishes merging to form Most Holy Eucharist Parish, our Transition Team was directed to look at the current liturgical schedule to see if any changes should be made to better serve the needs of the parishioners. After gathering input, and much prayer and deliberation, we have decided to make a few changes to the schedule:

St. Patrick Church of Merna: Saturday - 4pm; Sunday - 7am, 9am, and 11am St. Mary Church in Downs: Saturday - 4:30pm; Sunday - 8:30am

These changes will take place the weekend of July 5th & 6th. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time of transition.

Traveling Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon

Every few years the Knights of Columbus select a Catholic icon. This year the Knights have selected an icon of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is the aim of this program to foster greater devotion to the Sacred Heart. The Bloomington-Normal Knights will have this icon available at various churches in June (additional dates to be added): • 6/28-30: Icon on display at Holy Trinity



Individuals and families are encouraged to pray the Litany of the

Sacred Heart of Jesus. Copies of the Litany along with a prayer card will be available at each location. Individuals and families that aren't available to visit the

icon can setup an enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their home. For more information, contact Jeff Lopez at (309)585-1707/ jeff@stpatrickmerna.org or scan the QR code request materials be sent to you electronically.

Helping Neighbors in Need

We are so grateful as you all answer our call for donations! The shelves of our little food pantry here at Most Holy Eucharist Parish for our St. Vincent de Paul ministry are showing signs of rejuvenation! **Please continue bringing:** canned veggies, protein items (7% or higher like chili or Chef Boyardee) and peanut butter & jelly. **Additional needs:** diapers in the bigger sizes and travel size toiletries. You can drop these items in the bins across from the Welcome Center at St. Patrick Church of Merna. <u>Please check expiration dates</u> <u>before donating</u>. Your generosity is a **beautiful sign of service to others**.

FAMILY + FAITH + ACTION = OUR MISSION Keep Jesus in your daily routine all summer long!

Just a few ideas for action:

- Start each day by asking the Holy Spirit to guide you every day!
- ♥ Talk to God at bedtime about your day!
- ♥ Thank God for family and FIREWORKS!
- Make a plan to celebrate the Eucharist at Mass as a family!
- Share an act of kindness with a sibling, a neighbor or someone new you meet.
- ♥ Write a real letter or email a message to someone special in your life!
- ♥ Hug each member of your family every day!

We are so grateful for all our families at Most Holy Eucharist! Send any questions our way to <u>bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org</u>

Mission Appeal – July 5th & 6th at St. Mary Church in Downs

The weekend of July 5th and 6th, our parish will host a Mission Appeal in support of the Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, located in the northwestern part of Tanzania, East Africa. This diocese serves a mostly rural and underserved population, where the Catholic Church plays a vital role in both evangelization and human development.

As part of its pastoral and evangelization strategy, the Diocese is promoting agroforestry and integrated farming projects to uplift communities, especially the poor. These projects support food security, environmental conservation, and provide meaningful employment. When you support this initiative, you become a partner in the mission of evangelization. Your contribution helps sustain families, educate communities, and witness to the love of Christ through practical, life-giving work. Faith and sustainable development go hand in hand in this mission.

It is also inspiring to know that four priests from the Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara are currently serving in the Diocese of Peoria, actively involved in parish ministry and evangelization. Supporting their home diocese is a beautiful way to show solidarity in our shared Catholic mission. Your support strengthens this beautiful bond of mission and communion between our dioceses.

Supporting this initiative means you are not just giving to a farming project—you are actively participating in the mission of evangelization. Through your generosity, the Church is able to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, offering hope and transformation to communities in need. We invite you to pick up a brochure to learn more about the farming project and the ongoing missionary efforts. Thank you for your generosity and prayers! God Bless you.





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: When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Philippi, he asked them, "What do people say about the Son of Man?" The disciples answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet." Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus told him: "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn't discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So I will call you Peter, which means 'a rock.' On this rock I will build my Church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you don't allow."

Challenge: Peter was one of the Twelve Apostles. We hear a lot about Peter in the Gospel readings because he was one of the first disciples that Jesus called to follow him. Peter is given the responsibility of leading the community of believers. This community grew into what we call the Church. Peter was given this authority so that he could share the right teachings about Jesus. Peter is often referred to as the first pope. Our pope today, Pope Leo XIV, has the same authority given to Peter by Jesus over 2,000 years ago. Jesus calls Peter the "rock" or foundation of the Church. The Church, all of us believers, will make sure the promise of salvation is offered to every person. Almighty God, you gave St. Peter a strong faith to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone he met. Give us the courage to follow his example and have faith like his. Amen.

Most Holy Eucharist Parish





K of C Annual Golf Outing

Attention Golfers: signup for the 2025 Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham Memorial Golf Outing is now open. This year's golf outing is **Thursday**, **August 21**, 2025 at Ironwood Golf Course. The cost this year is \$125/ golfer. Details and signup can be found at www.kofc15175.org or by scanning the QR Code. If you have trouble signing up electronically, you can also get paper forms at the St. Pat's Welcome Center. Contact Joe Klingler at (309) 838-7333 with any questions. Dear Beloved Parishioners of Most Holy Eucharist Parish,

As I prepare for my move to Mary, Mother of God Parish, a few select verses from the Gospels give me pause to reflect. When I arrived here in October of 2022, "I was a stranger, but you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). Now as I prepare to leave, Jesus' own words resonate, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also. For this I was sent" (Lk 4:43). Thank you for inviting me into your homes and into your lives, and please know of the special place in my heart for you. Your prayers, kindness and hospitality have sustained me during my time here. Let us continue to pray for one another.

> ~With gratitude, Father Matt

Help Us Wish Fr. Matt Farewell!

Sadly, this is Fr. Matt's last weekend at our parish. This **Sunday**, **June 29th from 12-1pm**, we will have a small reception for him in St. Pat's Shamrock Hall with light refreshments. Please join us in praying for Fr. Matt as he prepares to begin his new assignment.



Damascus Retreat Opportunity

More than ever, the world needs men and women of prayer who serve and lead like Jesus. Be renewed and strengthened in your call to be the person you were made to be. If you're hungry for a time of rest, prayer, community, and adventure, come and discover what God has for you at a Damascus Retreat this October!

What to Expect:

- **Prayer:** Mass, worship, personal prayer, and adoration
- Keynotes: Be strengthened in your identity and empowered for mission
- **Community:** Experience an environment of true brotherhood/sisterhood
- Adventure: Test your limits and enjoy the gift of God's creation

The women's retreat will take place October 3-5, and the men's retreat will take place October 24-26. Both will take place in Centerburg, Ohio.

For more information: <u>www.damascus.net</u>.

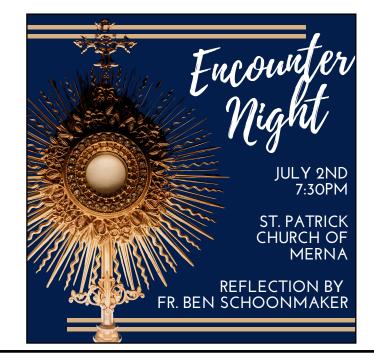
If you are interested in attending or have questions: for the women's retreat, contact Jess Elliott at jessica@stpatrickmerna.org or for the men's retreat, Phil Olinger at olingercjp@yahoo.com.



Summer TEC

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), is a 3 day, overnight, fun-filled, and spiritually exciting weekend that is open to teens of all faiths, from High School Sophomores through age 19. A TEC weekend provides you with an opportunity to experience the true love that Christ has for all of us. A TEC weekend can be

summed up in 4 words: FAITH, FRIENDS, FUN, and FOOD! The upcoming weekend is **July 12-14 and will be held at Corpus Christi School in Bloomington**. There will be 2 TECs running concurrently. TEC 161 for young ladies, and TEC 162 for young men. To sign up go to <u>bn-tec.org</u> to register. Get your application in early to secure your spot, and don't forget to invite a friend!



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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



QR Code and fill out the form to 🖁 register and join the group!

Upcoming Events

6/29: Speaker Night! All junior high and high schoolers are welcome to join us to hear a message from Nick Schell about finding your faith journey! 6-8pm at St Patrick Church of Merna



Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Matt Deptula

frmatt@stpatrickmerna.org

St. Mary Church in Downs

Dcn. Gary D. Koerner

Dcn. John Louie

7/6: Mass and Meal! Come join us at 5:30pm Mass at Epiphany and bring money for dinner at Fiesta Ranchera to follow!

PRAYERS UP! Small Groups

If you have a rising 7th or 8th Grader interested in participating in weekly small groups, please reach 🥵 out to <u>Igniteministrylead@gmail.com</u> for more info or scan the QR code to sign up.



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)

Mrs. Bobbi Hassel......585-1705 bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org

Religious Education - St. Mary Church in Downs

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

Youth Ministry

Mrs. Julia Nalewajka585-1712 youthministry@stpatrickmerna.org

Development & Stewardship

Mr. Jeff Lopez585-1707 jeff@stpatrickmerna.org

Finance

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

Building & Grounds

Mr. Rodney Becker......585-1708 rodney@stpatrickmerna.org

Uncoupled Catholics

Uncoupled Catholics will meet on Saturday, July 5th at 9am at LvI Up Coffee Bar for drinks and conversation. Look for the Uncoupled Catholic sign to join other Catholic singles. On Saturday, July 19th after the 4 pm Mass at St. Patrick of Merna Church, Uncoupled Catholics will meet in Room 11 for snacks and mingling. Stop by to meet other area Catholic singles. If you have any questions, please contact uncoupledcatholics@gmail.com.

Young at Heart

Join us at the McLean County Museum of History on July 8th at 10:30am. Meet at the main entrance of the museum (Washington Street); after touring the museum, we will go to BloNo Pizza, 1304 Cross Creek Dr, Normal, for lunch. Reservations due 7/2. Blm.normal.youngatheart@gmail.com or call (309)452-7976.

CCHS News

We have the following job openings: Spanish Teacher; Cafeteria Assistant. Visit www.cchssaints.org for information about how to apply.

Our summer office hours are: Monday - Thursday: 8am -12pm. NOTE: Construction in our Commons will be ongoing throughout the summer. After July 4, call ahead (309-661-7000) to make sure we are open.

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

> > COC 1710

Parish Trustees

Mr. Rusty Schopp & Mrs. Angie Stine

Front Office