



Challenges are  
**opportunities**  
**for** faith





# 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.mheparish.org](http://www.mheparish.org)

**Phone:** (309) 662-7361

**Email:** [office@mheparish.org](mailto:office@mheparish.org)

## Current Liturgy Schedule (Subject to Change)

### Weekend Masses

Saturday .....	4:00 p.m. (SPM)
	4:30 p.m. (SMD)
Sunday .....	7:00 a.m. (SPM)
	8:30 a.m. (SMD)
	9:00 a.m. (SPM)
	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 4:30pm Mass
Sunday (SMD) .....	Following 8:30am Mass

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, August 16

4:00 p.m.	†Louise Esposito .....	SP
4:30 p.m.	†Joey Harris .....	SM

### Sunday, August 17 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....	SP
8:30 a.m.	†Chris Wagner .....	SM
9:00 a.m.	†Blanche Bernardi .....	SP
11:00 a.m.	†Margaret Gimbel .....	SP

### Monday, August 18

7:00 a.m.	†Harold Kinsella .....	SP
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### Tuesday, August 19

8:30 a.m.	†John Cunningham .....	SP
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### Wednesday, August 20

7:00 a.m.	†David Guimond .....	SP
5:30 p.m.	†Carl & Katy Graf .....	SM

### Thursday, August 21

8:30 a.m.	†Patrick Milligan .....	SP
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### Friday, August 22

7:00 a.m.	†James Dee, Jr. ....	SP
5:00 p.m.	†Marion & Sharon Barr .....	SP

### Saturday, August 23

4:00 p.m.	†Rita Haefner .....	SP
4:30 p.m.	†John W. Lucey .....	SM

### Sunday, August 24 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m.	†Edith Kinsella .....	SP
8:30 a.m.	†Alan Maurer .....	SM
9:00 a.m.	Members of Most Holy Eucharist Parish .....	SP
11:00 a.m.	†Phyllis Cellini .....	SP

SP - St. Patrick Church of Merna

SM - St. Mary Church in Downs

## Collection Summary For August 3, 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 .....	\$16,130
Online Giving .....	\$24,959
Total Sunday Collection .....	<b>\$41,089</b>
Weekly Avg as of Aug. 3 .....	\$44,140

Capital Improvements .....	\$5,963
Parishioners Helping Parishioners .....	\$1,427
St. Vincent de Paul .....	\$2,536

## Solemnity of the Assumption Collection

This collection was taken up on Friday, August 15th, which was a Holy Day of Obligation. If you missed this collection, it is not too late to use the envelope included in your packet or contribute through online giving.



## Readings for the Week

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

### Sunday, August 17

#### Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18

Heb 12:1-4

Lk 12:49-53

### Monday, August 18

Jgs 2:11-19

Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44

Mt 19:16-22

### Tuesday, August 19

Jgs 6:11-24a

Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14

Mt 19:23-30

### Wednesday, August 20

#### Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Jgs 9:6-15

Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Mt 20:1-16

### Thursday, August 21

#### Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope

Jgs 11:29-39a

Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10

Mt 22:1-14

### Friday, August 22

#### Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22

Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10

Mt 22:34-40

### Saturday, August 23

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17

Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5

Mt 23:1-12

### Sunday, August 24

#### Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21

Ps 117:1, 2

Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13

Lk 13:22-30

## WELCOME

### New Parishioners

Please join us in welcoming the following new parishioners:

**Rita Garrett**

**Nick Aviles and Nallely Sanchez & Family**

**Jim and Lori Magee**

**Carl and Amy Powell**



It is with great joy that we announce the following Baptisms:

**Willow Jean Mester**, daughter of Luke and Elizabeth (Rainville) Mester

**Brooklyn Mae Steidinger**, daughter of Colton and Alexis (Lovell) Steidinger



Remember in your prayers **Angelita S. Regalado**, mother of Maria (Francis) Casella. May God give her eternal peace and fill her surviving family and friends with the strength of His consolation.

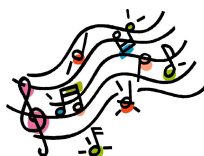
## OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is Starting Soon!

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring the Catholic faith? Our parish OCIA team would love to be a resource for you! Classes for OCIA will begin on **Thursday, September 11th at 6:30pm in room 7/8 at St. Patrick Church of Merna**. View our testimonial video by scanning the QR code or at [www.mheparish.org/grow-your-faith/learn-about-catholicism](http://www.mheparish.org/grow-your-faith/learn-about-catholicism) to hear from past OCIA candidates about their experiences. Call the parish office or email the OCIA team to let us know how we can help: (309)662-7361 or [ocia@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:ocia@stpatrickmerna.org).



## Mass and Munchies is Returning

Mass and Munchies is back beginning **Tuesday, August 26th at 9am after Daily Mass in Shamrock Hall**. Please join your fellow parishioners for egg casseroles, coffee cake, fruit, juice, coffee/tea, and conversation. It is a great time to socialize with others. Please join us!



## Youth Choir Registration

MHE Youth Choirs begin in September and rehearse weekly through the school year. Each choir sings one Mass per month, Christmas Eve and Easter. Rehearsals are held in the Music Room at St. Pat's. All are welcome!

Con Spirito Choir (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Tuesday nights from 5:00-6:00 pm  
Jubilate Choir (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Tuesday nights from 6:05-6:45 pm



Contact Lindsey Adams at [lindsey@mheparish.org](mailto:lindsey@mheparish.org) with questions. Register by scanning the QR code or visit [mheparish.org/youth-choir](http://mheparish.org/youth-choir).

## R.E. REGISTRATION

for classes at St. Mary in Downs  
**is up and running!**

- Go to our new parish website! Click on the GROW YOUR FAITH drop-down, then click Religious Education. The specific link to register will be found on this page.
- Previously enrolled families will also receive an email with the link.
- Class sizes are limited. Families previously enrolled in St. Mary Downs program will have a priority.
- **Grades 1-8** meet weekly on Sundays 9:45-10:45am following the 8:30am Mass
- Payment is required at registration. Discount for multiple students within each program. Fees will increase Sept. 8; classes begin Sept. 21.
- Teachers receive a discounted fee.

### PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

**The Diocese requires 2 adults in each classroom. Without a teacher & an aide present, we will need to reconsider offering R.E. classes.** Thank you to all who have answered the call to volunteer! We are still in need of a 7th grade teacher and aides for grades 3-6. Volunteer training will take place at St. Pat's; see info in box to the right.

Questions, email Jennifer at [jennifersmd@mheparish.org](mailto:jennifersmd@mheparish.org)

## Don't forget

## R.E. REGISTRATION

**It's time to register for ALL St. Patrick's fall Religious Education classes. A few sections are already full!**

- Go to our parish website to find the online registration under GROW YOUR FAITH tab. Just click on the Religious Education drop down where you will find the link for each program.
- Limited space. Classes begin Sept. 9/10.
- **Grades 1-5:** weekly; Tuesdays 5-6pm or Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm
- **Grades 6-8:** bi-weekly; Wednesdays 6:30-8pm
- Payment is required at registration. Discount for multiple students within each program. Fees increase on August 24.
- Teachers & small group leaders receive a discounted fee.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE ANSWERED  
THE CALL TO VOLUNTEER!**

Most pressing needs:

Wed. 5:30-6:30pm; teachers & aides, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5th grades

Wed. 6:30-8pm; small group leaders; CONFIRM1 & CONFIRM2

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING COMING:

- **GR. 1-5:** August 27; **Aides** 5:30-7:15pm and **Teachers** 6:15-8:00pm
- **CONFIRMATION LEADERS:** September 3; 6-7:30pm prior to Encounter Night

Bobbi at [bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:bobbi@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 said to his disciples: "I came to set fire to the earth, and I surely wish it were already on fire! I am going to be put to a hard test. And I will have to suffer a lot of pain until it is over. Do you think that I came to bring peace to earth? No indeed! I came to make people choose sides. A family of five will be divided, with two of them against the other three. Fathers and sons will turn against one another, and mothers and daughters will do the same. Mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law will also turn against each other."

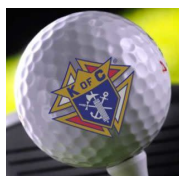
**Challenge:** Luckily, Jesus wasn't saying he wanted to actually burn something in this weekend's Gospel. Many times in the Bible, Jesus spoke symbolically. In this case, fire is used as a way to purify something. Jesus wanted the people to be cleaned out of their old thoughts about God and to start thinking about Him in a new way: a way of love, forgiveness, and kindness toward God and one another. He wanted to show them that God could be known to them personally. By teaching in this way, Jesus knew that some people would accept this new way of being with God and some people would not. The difference between these ways of thinking is where the fighting in this Gospel reading began. Our Church teaches that tensions among people are inevitable. However, there is always hope. God's grace shines like a beacon of peace and strengthens us while we journey together. *God is goodness itself and he loves those who share his goodness with others by their words or actions. He will surround them with his love and always watch over them. (Psalm 11:7)*

**Most Holy Eucharist Parish**



## Helping Neighbors in Need

We are so grateful for the generosity of Most Holy Eucharist parishioners. Our St. Vincent de Paul ministry helps so many families in our community. **We are in need of:** cereal, soup and feminine hygiene products. You can drop these items in the bins across from the Welcome Center at St. Patrick Church of Merna. Please check expiration dates before donating. **We thank you for your support & generosity!**



### LAST CHANCE! Register Today!

Attention Golfers: sign up NOW for the 2025 Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham Memorial Golf Outing. 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](http://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.



### GriefShare

The next 13 week GriefShare program at Most Holy Eucharist Parish will begin on **Thursday, August 21st at 6:30pm** at St. Pat's in Room 6. Each participant receives a personal workbook and access to 13 great grief healing videos. There is no cost to participate! If you have any questions or want to get registered, please contact Rich Gordon at [richgordon13@yahoo.com](mailto:richgordon13@yahoo.com) or call the parish office at (309) 662-7361. You can also go to [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) to signup and/or to get more information about this excellent grief healing non-profit organization.

## Our Lady of Good Health Feast Day

Mark your calendars for the celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Good Health - **Bishop Louis Tylka will be celebrating the Mass this year!** The event will take place on **Saturday, September 6th**. The Rosary will be prayed at 9:30am; Mass will begin at 10am with a Eucharistic Procession and meal to follow. Please RSVP to help us plan for food. Volunteers are also needed to make the morning a success! Find links to RSVP and volunteer on our website at [mheparish.org/OLGH](http://mheparish.org/OLGH).

## CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

We'd love to hear from your family! Whether traveling, enjoying time at home, or gearing up for the school year, we'd love to hear about your family!



**Just scan the QR code and print off the template.** Then fill out the **CELEBRATE FAMILY** page, add a family photo and return your family page to the Welcome Center or Parish Office during August. We will add you to the growing display of families!



**God has blessed us with wonderful Most Holy Eucharist families!**

Questions, Bobbi at [bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:bobbi@stpatrickmerna.org)

## September Encounter Night

Join us for a night of prayer, music, and silence on **Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:30pm at St. Patrick Church of Merna**. Joey Eells, our new Evangelization Lead, will share of his reversion to the Catholic Church through the Eucharist. Prayer teams will be available.

*"My first time attending an Encounter Night made me feel like it was a small glimpse of heaven. With the dim candle lights and the beautiful music I was so peaceful. I felt God's love for me. My life is crazy busy so feeling peace is a beautiful gift." - MHE Parishioner*

## Young at Heart

We will meet on August 21st at 10:30am at the Midwest Food Bank (2031 Warehouse Rd). Afterwards, we will have lunch at Imperial Buffet, 1950 E. College Ave. A liability waiver must be signed in order to tour the Food Bank. Everyone 50 years young and over is invited to attend. Reservation deadline is 8/17. Contact: [blm.normal.youngatheart@gmail.com](mailto:blm.normal.youngatheart@gmail.com) or call (309)452-7976.

## CCHS Employment Opportunity

Central Catholic High School is in need of a Cafeteria Assistant. The hours are helpful to adults with kids in school since work typically occurs during the school day, although the person may occasionally be asked to work evenings and weekends to prepare for special events. Please scan the QR code or visit [www.cchssaints.org](http://www.cchssaints.org) > About Us > Employment Opportunities for information about how to apply.





## 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

- **8/24:** High School Youth Ministry is back in session. Join us 6-7:30pm at Shamrock Hall for a back to school night of prayer, fun, games and snacks.
- **8/31:** Off for Labor Day weekend
- **9/7:** Fall Kickoff; 6-7:30pm at Shamrock Hall. Dinner, fellowship, worship and fun!

## Uncoupled Catholics

- **Saturday, August 23, from 2:30pm-6:30pm:** Uncoupled Catholics will meet in front of The Rock Restaurant to attend the Sweet Corn Circus followed by dinner at The Rock Restaurant at 5pm. Look for the Uncoupled Catholic sign to join other Catholic singles at this event.
- **Saturday, September 6 at 9am:** Uncoupled Catholics will meet at Lvl Up Coffee Bar for coffee, tea, cocoa, and other drinks and baked goods. Look for the Uncoupled Catholic sign to meet other area Catholic singles.

If you have any questions, please contact [uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com](mailto:uncoupled Catholics@gmail.com).

## BloNo Catholic Young Adults: Women's Small Group Study Opportunity

### *Becoming Women of The Word:* *How to answer God's call with purpose and joy*

*We will explore the lives of women in the Bible and learn how to follow God just as they did.*

- Young adult women ages 21-35
- Meetings occur 2-3 times per month
- Study starts in mid-September
- Sign-up link has more details and area to submit questions; scan the QR code



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

**Parochial Vicar...Fr. Ben Schoonmaker**  
[frben@mheparish.org](mailto:frben@mheparish.org)

**Parochial Vicar.....Fr. Derick Mwesiga**  
[frderick@mheparish.org](mailto:frderick@mheparish.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 1-8)

Mrs. Bobbi Hassel.....ext. 107  
[bobbi@mheparish.org](mailto:bobbi@mheparish.org)

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

Mrs. Jennifer O'Brien.....ext. 124  
[jennifersmd@mheparish.org](mailto:jennifersmd@mheparish.org)

### Youth Ministry

Mrs. Julia Nalewajka.....ext. 114  
Mr. Josh Miller.....ext. 115  
[youthministry@mheparish.org](mailto:youthministry@mheparish.org)

### Development & Stewardship

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### Finance

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Mrs. Jennifer Guimond .....ext. 105  
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### Liturgy & Music

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### Evangelization

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Mr. Joey Eells.....ext. 109  
[joey@mheparish.org](mailto:joey@mheparish.org)

### Nursery

Ms. Pam Goode.....ext. 116  
[nursery@mheparish.org](mailto:nursery@mheparish.org)