



Saint Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MERNA

PARISH NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A Note From Our Pastor



I pray you are all enjoying summer especially as life is slowly getting back to “normal”. It’s exciting to see more and more of you getting back to Mass in-person. For those who haven’t been back yet: you no longer have to check-in when you arrive, but you are able to choose whether to sit in regular or socially distanced seating. Our wonderful, dedicated ushers are available to help you. I hope to see you ALL soon! Let us continue to reflect on our parish’s mission statement.

*Rooted in the Most Holy Eucharist and the other Sacraments, St. Patrick Church of Merna welcomes all to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through stewardship, **by loving** and serving others through our God-given gifts.*

We use the word love so often and in so many different ways. We say, “I love my mom’s potato salad”, “I love you” to our best friends and family, “I love you” to our spouse”, or “I love you” to Jesus. The Greek language can help us draw distinctions between these different types of love.

The first type of love is Storge or Affection which we would use in relation to things, places, or aspects of people. This also includes the people in our daily lives that we enjoy. The second is Philia or Friendship. This is the love that exists between best friends, and we are certainly blessed if we experience this love. The third is Eros or Romantic love which we know is experienced in marriage when spouses share the whole of life in this commitment which is much more than a feeling. Lastly, we have Agape or Charity which is the unconditional love that the Father has for the Son. This complete gift of self is the love that we speak of in our parish mission statement. My favorite image of agape is the mystery of God’s love for us in the crucifix. It is an image central to our faith and our worship. Every Mass makes Christ’s crucifixion present in an unbloody Sacramental way. In this prayer we unite our sacrifices and our attempts at agape love with Christ’s as it is offered to the Father. May we at St. Patrick Church of Merna strive to agape love as we are called.

God bless,
Fr. Schultz

Upcoming Events

WHAT is GriefShare? GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly for 13 weeks. There are 3 key parts to the GriefShare experience:

1. Video seminar: encouraging, information packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts
2. Support group: small group discussion about the weekly video content
3. Workbook: journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics

GriefShare is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. They understand how you feel because they've been in the same place and will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

WHO is GriefShare for: Anyone desiring help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. It may be a recent loss or a loss you've been struggling with for a time.

WHEN is GriefShare: Thursday, August 19th is the beginning of a new 13 week session, 6:30-8:30pm. The sessions will be held in the Conference Room at St. Patrick Church of Merna.

HOW do I register for GriefShare or learn more: Pre-registration is suggested, but not mandatory. To register or ask questions contact Jana Schopp at 309-662-7361 ext. 217 or email jana@stpatrickmerna.org or contact Rich Gordon at 309-533-2738 or email richgordon13@yahoo.com. There is no registration fee.





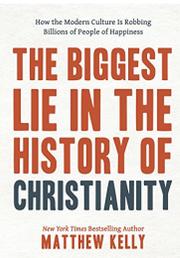
2021 Monsignor Gregory K. Ketcham Memorial Golf Outing

The parish golf outing will be held on **Monday, September 13, 2021** with a noon shotgun start at Crestwicke Country Club followed by dinner. With your generous support, we will make contributions to three charitable causes: the Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham Memorial scholarship, the athletes of the Miracle League, and the charitable works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Sponsorships are available this year for your consideration. Please visit the Knights of Columbus website at www.kofc15175.org for more information.

Golfers are also needed! The cost is \$140 per person and includes green fees, cart, lunch and dinner, beverages during lunch on the course and at dinner, mulligans, on course side game, five 50/50 raffle tickets, awards, and prizes. To register yourself or a foursome visit the Knights of Columbus website at www.Kofc15175.org.

Upcoming Studies



If you enjoyed the book *"I Heard God Laugh"* by Matthew Kelly, join us for another book discussion on his book *"The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity"*. This Matthew Kelly book is about making personal changes in the current state of the world we live in. This will be a one-time book discussion. We would love to hear your thoughts and questions and to share with other book-lovers! The one-time discussion will be **Tuesday, August 3rd, 6-7pm, at St. Patrick Church of**

Merna. The book is available on Amazon. For sign up and questions, contact Marylynn Meredith at meredithmarylynn@yahoo.com.



Late summer (early September) we will begin the study of John's

Gospel. More information will be forthcoming. Stay tuned... and if you have questions, contact Marylynn Meredith at meredithmarylynn@yahoo.com.

"Rate Your Lent" Spiritual Growth

In the June newsletter, the Stewardship Council's Time and Talent teams provided ideas to carry Lenten Spiritual Growth ideas into our daily journeys. *"Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness."* (Tobit 12:8). Thus, this month's newsletter features Fasting.

While fasting often brings up a sense of sacrifice and even discomfort, it can actually alleviate the burdens we endure. The discipline of fasting can release us from the clutter and distractions in our lives whether during Lent or throughout the year. We can give up a favorite food for one day within a week, for an entire week, or for a season. We can also give up worry and frustration or feelings that interfere with our capacity to give and receive the Love of Christ. Additionally, we can transform our sacrifice into an act of charity!

Consider a day of the week to fast from consuming:

- a favorite food
- a favorite beverage
- a dessert or snack
- all food for a day

Consider a day of the week to fast from:

- worry
- frustration
- envy
- any emotion that weighs us down

Consider transforming:

- money saved from fasting from food & activities into a donation to a charitable organization
- time saved from watching TV, social media & shopping into prayer, family time and volunteer efforts

We hope these suggestions inspire ideas on ways to incorporate Fasting into your daily journeys. Next month's newsletter will feature our third, and final, Lenten pillar: Almsgiving/Acts of Charity.



St. Patrick Church of Merna
1001 North Towanda Barnes Road
Bloomington, IL 61705

Contact us:
309-662-7361
communications@stpatrikmerna.org