



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”. 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.*

There are different approaches to a relationship with God, but I am inviting our parishioners to see their relationship with God through the attractive lens of stewardship. At the heart of living a life of stewardship we strive to recognize EVERYTHING as a gift from God. I don’t know about you, but when trying to live this life, it’s so easy to get caught up in focusing on the disappointments, disagreements, and taking what we have for granted. These thoughts often lead to a negative, naggy, and unhappy demeanor. Despite our desire for happiness we are

almost drawn to this way of thinking. Gee, thanks concupiscence! In stark contrast to this inaccurate and misleading perception, is the life of stewardship. This is where we are invited to daily reassess the gifts God in His benevolence shares with us, His children. As we strive to recognize these gifts, we share with God our gratitude and endeavor to be good stewards of them. God shares these gifts not only for our own benefit but more fittingly that we might use them and share them for His purposes. They are most properly His gifts after all. I pray that we may strive fervently to live the attractive life of stewardship.

God bless,
Fr. Schultz

“Rate Your Lent” Spiritual Growth

Last month The Parish Stewardship Council’s Time and Talent team shared an overview of the feedback received from “Rate Your Lent”. The ‘Word Cross’ was created based on the comments received, with those words used the most being in the largest font.

To help with your daily journey, whether now or for tucking away for next year’s Lent, we offer some of the many inspiring ideas from the area of Spiritual Growth that we received:

- Daily prayer (To learn one method of prayer, pick up your free copy of “I Heard God Laugh” by Matthew Kelly from the parish office)
- Attend Stations of the Cross
- Attend Mass on Friday
- Attend morning Mass twice a week
- Attend a Bible study
- Say the rosary daily/weekly (try while taking a walk)
- Read the Lenten Little Black Book
- Read the Word Among Us daily devotional
- Read the “Passion & the Cross” by Ronald Rolheiser



Watch for more inspiring ideas in next month’s newsletter from “Rate Your Lent”!

Upcoming Events

Habitat for Humanity Wall Build

In conjunction with Habitat for Humanity of McLean County, St. Patrick Church of Merna and the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Wall Build" on Saturday, June 26th in the St. Patrick's Church parking lot. The walls built will be for a 3 Bedroom Habitat Home in our community, helping a local family become first time homeowners. This is the first stage of the St. Patrick Church of Merna "House Sponsorship."

To make the "Wall Build" a success we need your support. Volunteer opportunities include: Wall Assembler, Group Leader, Snack/Drink donation, Prayer Vigil volunteers, or additional Financial Supporter. All volunteers must be 10 years and older (10-18 years of age must be accompanied by legal guardian), and will need to complete a diocesan waiver form. If helping assemble walls, you will need to bring along a claw hammer. No power tools will be used or required to assemble walls. Volunteers will also receive a free t-shirt commemorating the event.

Visit the Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084aa4ac2da31-2021> or contact Jeff Lopez at 309-662-7361 to volunteer your time, talent, and/or treasure to this great cause!



Blood Drive St Patrick Church of Merna

Parish Hall
1001 N Towanda Barnes Rd.
Bloomington, IL 61704

Wednesday, June 30, 2021
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For your appointment contact Jana Schopp @ (309) 662-7361, Ext. 217 or jana@stpatrickmerna.org

Bring a friend and help save lives together.
All donations tested for Covid-19 antibodies. Results in 1-2 wks.
RedCrossBlood.Org/AntibodyTesting

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give June 14-30, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together.

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St. Pat's Welcomes New Home School Ministry



We are a community of homeschooling families coming together to thrive as a joyful, vibrant, authentically Catholic group for the purposes of meaningful enrichment for our school-aged children and the fostering of their social development, but most essentially for common worship and growth in the Catholic faith that binds us together.

We offer an online communication platform through which our members can network, support each other, and plan independent events such as regular park dates and outings. We also offer an educational enrichment cooperative that typically meets at St. Mary Church of Downs. In the past, we have offered a variety of classes, including art, science, chant, among

many others, that provide a structured environment for our children to learn together and socialize with each other, while supplementing the education they receive at home.

For more information, email caritashomeschool@stpatrickmerna.org.



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