



Saint Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MERNA

PARISH NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A Note From Fr. Martin



I wish to express my profound appreciation and gratitude to Father Dustin Schultz, the parish staff, the Knights of Columbus, Parish Hospitality Directors, and the entire parish communities of St. Patrick Church of Merna and St. Mary Church in Downs: for your love, kindness, generosity, and prayers! It has been a great joy to celebrate twenty-five years as a priest. I have received a double portion of love and joy celebrating my priestly Silver Jubilee with you. For the surprise picnic, cards, the gifts, the notes, the prayers; I heartily thank you.

May the love, joy, and peace that comes from Our Heavenly Father descend upon all of you and your families.

God bless you all,
Fr. Martin

Upcoming Events



GriefShare Support Group

A new 13 week session of GriefShare begins Thursday, August 19th, 6:30-8:30pm. The sessions will be held in the Conference Room at St. Patrick Church of Merna. 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. Please visit the Knights of Columbus website at www.kofc15175.org for more information.

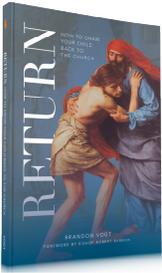
Golfers are also needed! The cost is \$140 per person and includes green fees, cart, lunch and dinner, beverages during lunch on the course and at dinner, mulligans, on course side game, five 50/50 raffle tickets, awards, and prizes. To register yourself or a foursome visit the Knights of Columbus website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



Seeking Heavenly Dusters

We are seeking more "Heavenly Dusters" to help keep St. Patrick Church of Merna looking its best! Heavenly Dusters are volunteers that clean and dust the church, chapel, and gathering space on Thursday mornings. Individuals are assigned to teams that serve approximately once a month for 1-2 hours. No heavy lifting required! For more information, or to sign up, contact Jana at jana@stpatrickmerna.org.

Upcoming Studies



The statistics are troubling: 6.5 people leave the Catholic Church for every 1 that joins, and 50% of young people who were raised Catholic are no longer Catholic today. If you are one of the many wondering how you can keep your child from the leaving the Church or how to get your child, niece or nephew, grandchildren, or friend to return to the

Church, this is a book for you. Please join Fr. Schultz as we unpack the book “Return: How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church” by Brandon Vogt.

When: Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm; September 2nd through October 21st

Where: St. Patrick Church of Merna; room TBD

Book/Order Information: The book can be ordered from amazon.com or wordonfire.org. Please read the introduction and chapter 1 prior to the first meeting.

Registration/Questions: For planning purposes, to reserve your spot and with any questions, please email Marylynn Meredith at meredithmarylynn@yahoo.com.



Following Jesus takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us – he wants you to be his disciple and friend. *Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the*

Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Him.

When: 2 options are available:

Tuesday mornings– 9:15-10:30am (after Mass); August 31st – October 19th **OR**

Thursday evenings– 6:00-7:30pm; September 2nd – October 21st

Where: St. Patrick Church of Merna; room TBD

What to bring: Materials are part of this study. Visit ascensionpress.com to order your study guide which allows for video access.

Registration and Questions: To reserve a spot for the study, please email indicating the session you want to participate in, contact information, and any questions to Marylynn Meredith at meredithmarylynn@yahoo.com.

“Rate Your Lent” Spiritual Growth



In the July newsletter, the Stewardship Council’s Time and Talent teams provided ideas to carry Lenten Spiritual Growth and fasting into our daily journeys. This month’s newsletter features the 3rd and final pillar of Lent: Almsgiving/Acts of Charity.

While people often associate almsgiving with monetary donations, there is much more to almsgiving. According to scripture, “Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet that need...in whatever he lacks.” Deuteronomy 15:8. Note that Scripture does not specifically state money but “what he lacks”. According to the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), charity is a frequent theme in the Gospels and “we are asked to focus more intently on ‘almshousing,’ which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity.”

Below are prompts to help when pondering how you can provide for the needs of others by performing Acts of Charity or Almsgiving...

- Acts of charity can be both invisible (patience, ‘paying it forward’, generosity, humility) and visible (donating blood, participating in food drives, taking food to someone in need).
- God will place opportunities in front of you; you just need to watch for and act upon them! It helps to develop the practice of pivoting your head, looking for blessings and opportunities to serve others. A simple act of kindness, no matter how small, may make someone’s day (picking up grocery items for a neighbor, smiling and saying hello, being there when a person just needs someone to talk to).
- Be vulnerable and accept acts of charity others wish to bestow upon you, graciously displaying your gratitude and appreciation.
- Demonstrate patience. The virtue of patience is an act of charity you can bestow upon someone who is lacking in understanding or struggling in some way. Patience symbolizes Christ’s love and shows others you care about them as a person.
- Speak the truth, even when it seems a difficult task. Our recent young Blessed Carlos Acutis recognized that charity also means speaking the truth, especially when the truth is necessary to bring someone back to being authentic, faithful, or true to life.
- You are Christ to others as He is in all of us. Remember, you may be the only Bible someone reads today!



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