



Saint Patrick

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MERNA

PARISH NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A Note From Fr. Schultz



We continue to reflect on our parish mission statement. I pray you are staying with me as we continue to reflect on how God is calling us to a life of stewardship as parishioners of St Patrick's.

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 turn to the familiar idea that we are called to serve others, rather than ourselves. We can all be self-serving, self-centered, and put our own needs before others'. Saint Paul reminds us in his letter to the Phillipians, "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves."

This is actually hard to do and not often how we think. What percentage of the time do you think you are right in an argument? Likely, it is a high percentage because we often see ourselves as better than others or at least put ourselves first. God-willing in our vocations we deeply strive to put our spouse, children, parents, friends before ourselves. We could all admit that we could do better in this category!

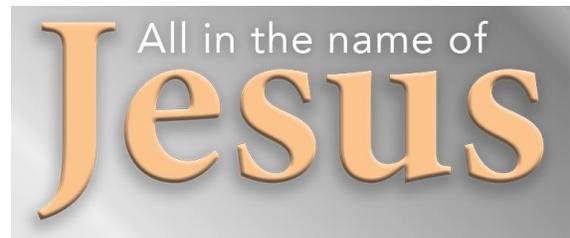
Now how often do we put a complete stranger in front of ourselves? You and I are called to direct our hearts, and thus our actions, outward in a full and complete way in serving others. Beautifully, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass makes present the sacrifice of Christ, His gift of Self to us. We are not only given the opportunity to unite the sacrifices we make to Christ's, but strengthened to love in the manner that God loves us through our reception of the Holy Eucharist.

God bless,
Fr. Schultz

Annual Diocesan Appeal

This weekend, the 2021 Annual Diocesan Appeal begins in our parish and throughout the Diocese of Peoria. It is time for us to do what we can to support not only our Diocese but the programs and ministries that benefit our parish and our Catholic community.

The ADA supports the education of our future priests and deacons as well as the Office of Catholic Schools. It also supports many ministries that change lives for the better. We are blessed with much; this is our opportunity to be a blessing to others. Remember that any funds raised above our goals will be returned to our parishes.



If you wish to make a donation on your pledge or to pay your contribution in full, please make your check payable to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Donations may also be made online through the Diocese's website at <https://cdop.org/ada2021/>. May God continue to bless our Diocese and the services and programs provided by the ADA.

Upcoming Events



Recovering From Divorce for Catholics

This 13-week program is specifically designed to support and help divorced or separated Catholics address the most pressing challenges of divorce. The next session **begins September 22nd**. Classes will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in Room 11 through December 22nd. Brochures with more information are available at church entrances. For questions, contact Pam

Goode at nursery@stpatrickmerna.org or call 309-310-3490.

Grace Within

Grace Within is a small group spiritual growth process for women of all ages utilizing personal journals and led by peers. It's an empowering journey rooted in prayer and a great way to bring the companionship of other women into your busy life. Take a "time out" from the to-do list to nourish and regenerate your soul! A new session will be meeting on **Thursday mornings at 9:30am, beginning September 16th**. Registration is required and can be done online at www.stpatrickmerna.org/grace-within. For questions, contact Jana at the parish office at 309-662-7361 or email jana@stpatrickmerna.org.



Habitat for Humanity House Build

Your help is needed as construction is underway in the building of St. Patrick Church of Merna's Habitat for Humanity House at 707 W. Locust St., Bloomington. Every Saturday from 8am to 12pm, now through the end of December, members of our parish age 16 and over are needed to help assemble the Habitat house. For any questions please contact Jeff Lopez at jeff@stpatrickmerna.org or 309-585-1707.

K of C Tootsie Roll Drive

The Intellectual Disabilities (ID) Fund Drive commonly known as the "Tootsie Roll Drive" will be conducted the weekend of September 17, 18, & 19th. This is one of the most popular and successful programs conducted by all Knights of Columbus Councils for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities. This year Knights will be collecting after each Mass and at the following businesses: McDonald's and Avanti's across from the airport.



SAVE THE DATE for our Fall Parish Picnic!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 3rd from 12-2pm** (immediately following the 11am Mass) and join us for a fall parish picnic! This is going to be a fun event for the entire family - lunch will be provided, as well as inflatables for the kids and a few other fun surprises! Keep your eyes out for more information coming soon!



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