

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How blessed are we to be able to walk this earthly pilgrimage with one another as members of St. Patrick Church of Merna! No matter what is happening around us — be it a pandemic, challenges in our culture, or social strife — **St. Patrick Church of Merna is our safe haven.** It is the place where we can come together, gathered around the Eucharistic table, to worship and serve our Lord.

St. Patrick's is also the place where we serve one another. **Here, rooted in Christ's love, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ, and together we can accomplish amazing things.** Nourished by prayer and the sacraments, members of our parish community are journeying on the path of discipleship and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ each day. We value formation in the faith and sharing our faith with others through evangelization. We also know the importance of bringing the love of God to our neighbors through acts of charity and service. Through our many ministries, our social and service-oriented outreach programs, and our emphasis on **welcoming all to our parish**, we put into action the truth stated so eloquently by St. John the Evangelist: "If God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

With this in mind, **I invite you to respond to St. Patrick Church of Merna's stewardship program: "Rooted in Christ – An Invitation to Belong."** Please review the contents of this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can play an active role in continuing the work of Jesus Christ through our parish community. Our goal is to increase our Sunday offertory contributions **in order to bring Jesus Christ to as many people as possible.** This is no easy task in today's climate, but I am confident that our dedicated parishioners are up to the challenge.

On January 15 and 16, the parish will be holding a special Commitment Weekend, inviting members of our community to join with one another and to make a financial commitment that will allow St. Patrick Church of Merna to continue its important work. **We are counting on you!** Please participate in our "Rooted in Christ – An Invitation to Belong" Program and help us respond to God's great gift of love by loving one another with the heart of His Son.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to St. Patrick Church of Merna!

In Christ,

Fr. Dustin Schultz
Pastor

**ST. PATRICK
CHURCH OF MERNA**



Connect with Us

Fr. Dustin Schultz
Pastor
frschultz@stpatrikmerna.org

Fr. Martin Mwongyera
Parochial Vicar
frmartin@stpatrikmerna.org

Parish Office
309-662-7361
office@stpatrikmerna.org

Ways to Support & Give to Our Parish



ONLINE

Visit our website to give electronically at www.stpatrickmerna.org and click the green "Donate" button.



MAIL

Mail to:

1001 N Towanda Barnes Road
Bloomington, IL 61705



STOCK OPTIONS

Make a Stock Gift. Call the parish office at 309-662-7361.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out your Commitment Card online.



www.stpatrickmerna.org

Rooted in *Christ* – An Invitation to Belong

**ST. PATRICK
CHURCH OF MERNA**
BLOOMINGTON, IL

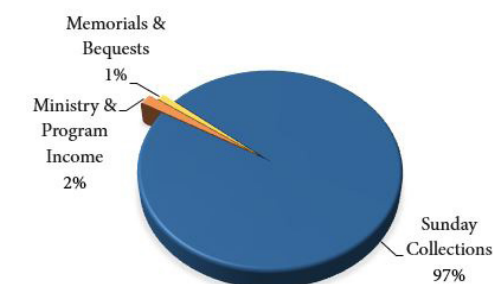


Financial Summary: 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

Operating Income

Sunday Collections	\$1,723,936
Ministry & Program Income	28,169
Memorials & Bequests	<u>17,589</u>

Total Operating Income \$1,769,694

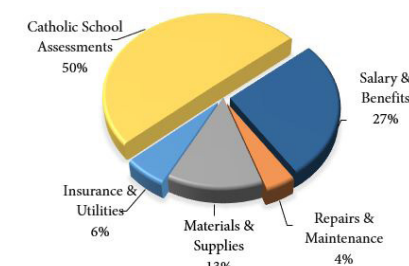


Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$458,315
Repairs & Maintenance	70,726
Materials & Supplies	223,429
Insurance & Utilities	100,800
Catholic School Assessments	<u>864,205</u>

Total Operating Expense \$1,717,475

Net Operating Profit \$52,219



The figures above do not include Income or Expenses associated with the Capital Improvement Fund and the Annual Diocesan Appeal

Here, rooted in Christ's love, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ and together we do great things. Nourished by prayer and the sacraments, the members of our parish community are journeying on the path of discipleship and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ daily. We value discipleship and evangelization.

1,640

Families in our parish

54

Baptisms

85

First Communion

63

Confirmations

22

Funerals

397

Children attend our Catholic Schools

323

Children in Religious Education

10

RCIA Candidates

Love Your Parish

Love Your Savior

As we strive to love one another better, good stewardship plays a key role. Stewardship isn't a code word for financial support. Stewardship is about doing the work of Christ and engaging our many resources to further the ministry and mission of Our Lord. Let us remember that everything we have is a gift from our creator.

529

Masses said in our church each year

520

Hours of Eucharistic Adoration offered

1,026

Visits by Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound

143

Parishioners serving in Liturgical Ministries

1,050

Average weekend Mass attendance

Love Your Neighbor

We know the importance of bringing the love of God to our neighbors. Through our many ministries, and our social and service-oriented outreach programs, we put into action the truth stated so eloquently by St. John the Evangelist: "If God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

\$160,000

Financial Assistance provided to parishioners

1,036

Volunteer hours spent on the Habitat for Humanity house

685

Coats donated to our annual coat drive

2,204

Hours volunteered by the Knights of Columbus

2,800

Volunteer hours spent on Religious Ed