

Dear Parish Family,

I am honored and grateful to serve as your pastor and witness the love of God each day in our parish community. It is thanks to the generosity of parishioners like you that our parish can continue to **worship, provide the sacraments, foster prayer, educate, evangelize, and serve** — in short, **to love one another as God loves us.**

On February 18th & 19th, we will be celebrating Commitment Weekend. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you are able to respond to the call to live and share God's love by making a commitment to financially support our parish through our **Rooted in Christ - An Invitation to Belong** program. With your help, we can continue living and growing in our love for God, love for our parish, and love for our neighbor, supporting the mission of Christ and His Church.

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis reminds us that "No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force" (279). As we continue to live God's love and surrender our lives to the Lord, **He will do amazing and beautiful things in our hearts, families, parish, and community.**

I sincerely thank you for putting your faith into action through your sacrificial giving.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Dustin Schultz  
Pastor

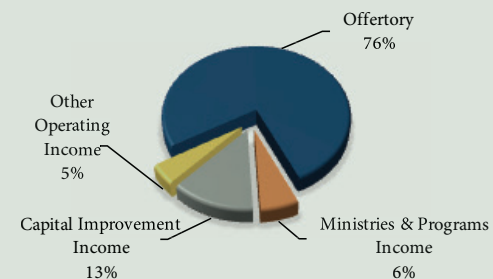


## Financial Snapshot: 2021/2022 Fiscal Year

### Operating Income

Offertory	\$1,875,245
Ministries & Programs Income	147,612
Capital Improvement Income	319,752
Other Operating Income	<u>111,252</u>

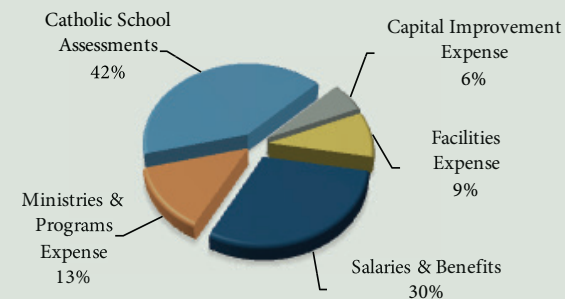
**Total Operating Income** \$2,453,861



### Operating Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$593,904
Ministries & Programs Expense	262,577
Catholic School Assessments	820,741
Capital Improvement Expense	117,107
Facilities Expense	<u>182,260</u>

**Total Operating Expense** \$1,976,589



## Making Your Commitment

Fill out the enclosed Commitment Card and bring it to Mass next weekend

or

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



## Fulfilling Your New Commitment

Three simple and secure ways to do so:



Sign up for **Online Giving** or update your current online gift amount at [www.stpatrickmerna.org/online-giving](http://www.stpatrickmerna.org/online-giving).



Use your **offering envelope** and bring it to Mass each Sunday or mail it to the parish office.



Explore using **tax advantaged charitable gifts** such as IRA Distributions, Gifts of Stock, or remembering the parish in your will. For more information, contact the parish office at **(309) 662-7361**.

**ROOTED IN  
Christ - AN  
INVITATION TO  
Belong**

**St. Patrick Church  
of Merna**

BLOOMINGTON, IL





# Living Our Faith

## Reaching Out to Our Youth

St. Patrick Church of Merna played an integral role in parishioner Lizzie Morris's faith formation. She grew up attending St. Pat's and now, after graduating college, has returned to be a youth minister.

*"It's really beautiful that I have the opportunity to serve at St. Patrick Church of Merna. This parish has shaped me to be who I am today. Through the Sacraments of Initiation and youth group, my first encounters with the Lord happened here at St. Pat's. Now I'm facilitating these same encounters with current high schoolers. The Lord has truly blessed me!"*  
— Lizzie Morris

## Helping Those Most in Need

In the past few years, many families in our community have fallen on very hard times. Our Parishioners Helping Parishioners Ministry has been there to help ensure that families in our parish seeking help are received in the love of Christ and provided with the support they need while they get back on their feet.

*"As a single mother, life can have many challenges and many blessings. The program of Parishioners Helping Parishioners has helped my children and I when we truly needed it and didn't have anywhere else to turn. I believe that God uses those around us to guide us back to him and show us the light we all need. I pray for you all and thank you for your support of PHP."*  
— A family in Christ

## Follow Us on Social Media!



**@stpatrickmerna**  
[www.stpatrickmerna.org](http://www.stpatrickmerna.org)  
**Subscribe to receive texts:**  
 Text spm-join to 55321  
**Subscribe to our email newsletters:**  
 Send an email to  
[communications@stpatrickmerna.org](mailto:communications@stpatrickmerna.org)

The Church's mission is to **proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, leading others to encounter and grow in His love.** Nourished by prayer and the sacraments, we are journeying on the path of missionary discipleship.

**1,697**

families in our parish

**65**

Baptisms

**88**

First Holy Communions

**74**

Confirmations

**28**

funerals

**410**

children attend our Catholic Schools

**276**

children in Religious Education

**10**

RCIA candidates and catechumens

# Our Mission

As a parish, we are called to build up a community of love, welcome the stranger, and worship in joy and gratitude. **United in God's love,** we are a visible sign of the body of Christ and together we do great things.

**533**

Masses celebrated in our church each year

**393**

hours of Eucharistic adoration offered

**1,831**

visits by Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound

**200**

parishioners serving in liturgical ministries

**1,350**

average weekend Mass attendance

# Our Community

**\$108,625**

in financial assistance provided to parishioners

**1,036**

volunteer hours spent on the Habitat for Humanity house

**690**

coats donated to our annual coat drive

**2,069**

hours volunteered by the Knights of Columbus

**2,985**

volunteer hours spent on Religious Ed

# Our Witness