

# Information on the merging of ST. PATRICK CHURCH OF MERNA & ST. MARY CHURCH IN DOWNS

## Why are we merging?

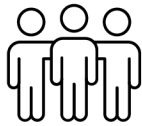
Two years ago, Bishop Louis Tylka initiated the Growing Disciples initiative with the goal of creating a sustainable structure of vibrant parishes that renews discipleship and enhances relationships with Jesus Christ in every corner of the diocese.

Through ongoing prayer, listening, and feedback from the entire community, a renewed pastoral plan was created for the Diocese of Peoria. As part of this pastoral plan, it was decreed that the parishes of St. Patrick Church of Merna and St. Mary Church in Downs would be merged into one parish. As part of this merger, the parish would take on a new name.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A “PARISH” AND A “CHURCH”?

### Parish

a community of the faithful within a diocese, established by a bishop and entrusted to the care of a pastor



### Church

the physical building where worship takes place; our church buildings will retain their individual names



While a parish is most commonly comprised of one church, it can have multiple churches for its use and under its care.

## Our new parish name:

# MOST HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

NEW  
LOGO  
COMING  
SOON!

## HOW was the new name chosen?

As directed by the Bishop, Fr. Schultz created a transition team comprised of four parishioners from each parish. **Through prayer, fruitful discussion, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit**, several names were chosen and submitted to Bishop Lou. He then chose Most Holy Eucharist Parish as our new name!

## WHY was this name chosen?

The transition team has had many discussions on ways to “**unify**” our two parishes, not simply “**merge**” them. The true presence of Jesus Christ – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the Most Holy Eucharist is what **unifies all Catholics** around the world. What better inspiration is there for uniting our parishes? The transition team also felt it was important to have a name that relates to our parish school. Corpus Christi translates into “**Body of Christ.**”