

**ROOTED IN CHRIST
CALLED TO LOVE,
SERVE & GIVE**



**St. Patrick Catholic Church
of Merna**

BLOOMINGTON, IL

We are Changing Lives because of You

We Spread the Gospel

- Children's Liturgy of Word/*Faith@Home**
- Vacation Bible School*/*Totus Tuus**
- Bible Studies*/Small Groups*
- RCIA*
- Religious Education Grades 1 – 8*
- Support of Corpus Christi Elementary & Central Catholic High School

We Celebrate the Sacraments

- *Livestreaming of Masses**
- *Drive Up Confession Opportunities*
- *Drive Up Communion*
- *Weekly Adoration**
- *Baptism Preparation Class**
- *Anointing of the Sick*

We Exercise Charity

- *Parishioners Helping Parishioners**
- *Reverse Collection**
- *Coat Drive*
- *Annual African Mission Appeal*
- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *St. Vincent de Paul*

We Offer Works of Mercy

- *Calls & visits to shut-ins: Keeping Parishioners Connected*
- *Support Ministry for those that are Divorced*
- *GriefShare**
- *Prayer Network Ministry*
- *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
- *Nursing Home Ministry*

NOTE: *Ministries currently offered virtually
New ministries in italics



How & When Will We Make Our Commitment?

Commitment Weekend is January 16th and 17th. There are a few ways in which you can make, increase or renew your committed amount which include:

- Online - Complete the online Commitment Card
- In Person - Complete the enclosed Commitment Card and place in the collection basket in the gathering space of the church
- Mail - Complete the enclosed Commitment Card and mail to the parish office

Your new commitment will begin at your earliest convenience. If you are giving recurring payments online, please update your committed amount by going to the parish website under the 'Give' heading. Log into your account and select 'View or Update My Current Gifts' and select 'Edit' to update your amount. If you are using church envelopes, simply begin including the new amount in your envelopes.

Thank you for your generous support of our parish! Please know that your commitment will be kept confidential.



Online Giving

Are you one of the 428 parishioners who each week:

...are not scrambling around looking for their checkbooks?
...have scheduled recurring gifts on a regular basis?
If you are, then you have signed up for online giving!

God's generosity does not change when our schedules do. He continues to pour out His blessings upon us. Sign up for recurring online giving to ensure that you continue to thank God each week for those blessings.

Online giving has been a profound blessing to our parish. COVID restrictions, vacations, weather conditions, sickness, etc. can take a toll on church finances as attendance varies. Online giving can help mitigate these fluctuations.

In the past year, many parishioners have moved their weekly giving online. This has helped so much during this time of limited church attendance. We also greatly appreciate those that have made an extra effort to bring or send their envelopes to the church.

If you have not already, please consider simplifying your lives and joining those that give online. Our parish is striving to have at least 75% of our givers do so electronically. You can sign up by visiting www.stpatrickmema.org and clicking on the green circle labeled "Give". If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Lopez at jeff@stpatrickmema.org or 309-585-1707.



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.

Dear Parish Family of St. Patrick Church of Merna,

I think you would agree that the coronavirus pandemic has affected us in ways we could never have imagined, not the least of which has been a radical departure from how we typically engage in our life of Faith. **While we have had to find different ways to stay close to Christ** and to one another, one thing has not changed and never will: Christ is always with us. He never abandons us.

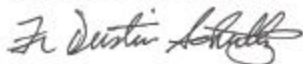
I am so proud to be the pastor of St. Patrick Church of Merna! During this most challenging time, our parish came together to serve those within our community. We found **ways to continue many of our ministries amidst COVID** including in-person worship, live streaming Mass, and drive up Communion and Confession. New ministries this year have included Parishioners Helping Parishioners, Ministry for those that are Divorced, and calls and visits to shut-ins. I am in awe of the generosity of the parish community of St. Patrick Church of Merna, and I thank you!

The reality, though, is that the emptiness of our church in recent months has also meant an emptiness of our collection baskets. Many of you have given generously via online giving or by sending money directly to the parish, and for that I am very grateful. Like most Catholic parishes, we rely on the offertory collection to fulfill the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel and caring for those in need. We also have the necessity of paying bills, maintaining infrastructure, and running essential programs. **Without your generosity, it would be impossible for us to fulfill our mission, which is needed now more than ever.**

With all of this in mind, I invite you to join our parish community in responding to our *"Rooted in Christ- Called to Love, Serve & Give"* program. A special **Commitment Weekend will be held on January 16th and 17th** to allow parish family members the opportunity to make a prayerful sacrifice. I ask that you please review this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can help St. Patrick Church of Merna by financially supporting our ministries, furthering our mission, and reinforcing our future.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to St. Patrick's!

With Peace and Prayers,



Fr. Dustin Schultz
Pastor



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Statement of Income & Expenses

	July 2018 to June 2019	July 2019 to June 2020
Income		
Sunday Collections	\$1,532,273	\$1,673,666
Memorials & Bequests	16,755	3,600
Income Totals	\$1,549,028	\$1,677,266
Expense		
Salaries & Benefits	\$494,523	\$465,481
Repairs & Maintenance	74,340	77,794
Materials & Supplies	161,650	166,604
Insurance & Utilities	103,313	100,284
Catholic School Assessments	843,321	704,194
Expense Totals	\$1,677,147	\$1,514,358
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$128,119)	\$162,908

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

The balance of the building loan is \$255,791 as of June 30, 2020. In addition, we have \$2.5 million in capital improvement projects planned.

