



St. Patrick's Catholic Church

AN OLD BORDER TOWN PARISH IN ILLINOIS

119 NORTH MARKET STREET - MOMENCE, IL 60954-1415

☎ (815) 472-2864 - FAX (815) 472-3043 - WWW.STPATRICKMOMENCE.ORG

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Guadalupe Masses (December 12)

6:00 a.m. Mañanitas & 6:00 p.m. Mariachi Mass

Christmas Eve Masses in English at 3:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. (Engl) 12:00 p.m. (Span)



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

Monday - Friday
9:15 a.m. *in English*

Friday
7:00 p.m. *in Spanish*

Saturday Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m. *in English*

Sunday Masses
10:30 a.m. *in English*
12:00 p.m. *in Spanish*

ADORATION

Wed-Fri 10:00-11:00 a.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. *or by appointment; seasonal services*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE)

Sunday Classes 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Sunday Mornings 8:45 - 10:15 a.m.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM / EL SACRAMENTO DE BAUTISMO

Please call the Parish Office for more information. English baptisms normally are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at noon, Spanish Baptisms on the 3rd Saturday of the month at noon. / Por favor llame a la Parroquia para mas información. Normalmente, los bautismos están celebrando los tercer Sabado cada mes al mediodía.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY (MARRIAGE) / EL SACRAMENTO DEL MATRIMONIO

Please call the office before setting a date for your wedding. The diocese requires a six month preparation prior to the wedding. / Las parejas pueden llamar a la oficina antes de poner una fecha para su boda o de hacer otros compromisos. La Diócesis de requiera un tiempo de preparación de un mínimo de seis meses entre la boda.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK / (UNCIÓN) DE LOS ENFERMOS

Call the Office if you know of someone in need of the Sacrament. / Contacte la Parroquia si alguien en su familia necesita el Sacramento.

FUNERALS / FUNERALES

Contact the Parish Office before placing any obituary notices.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP / ASOCIACIÓN DE PARROQUIA

Registration Forms are located in the Parish Office or in Church. / Las formas de inscripción pueden ser encontrado en la oficina.

December 25, 2025: Special Christmas Bulletin



NEWS & NOTES

FROM FR. PETE JANKOWSKI

Join Fr. Pete's mailing list at
pjankowski@yahoo.com.

ST. FRANCIS AND THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE

From the website <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/st-francis-and-the-christmas-creche.html>

The story of the origin of the Christmas creche rests with the very holy man, St. Francis of Assisi.

In the year 1223, St. Francis, a deacon, was visiting the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. The people had cultivated the fertile area with vineyards. St. Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass. So he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar. However, this Midnight Mass would be very special, unlike any other Midnight Mass.

St. Bonaventure (d. 1274) in his Life of St. Francis of Assisi tells the story the best:

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, he called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis

embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only because of the sanctity of him that saw it, but because of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtlessly sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.

Although the story is long old, the message is clear for us. Our own Nativity scenes which rest under our Christmas trees are a visible reminder of that night when our Savior was born. May we never forget to see in our hearts the little Babe of Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin. We must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely would one day give way to the wood of the cross. May we too embrace Him with all of our love as did St. Francis. May God Bless You All on this Most Holy Weekend.

**PLEASE CONSIDER NAMING ST. PATRICK'S
CHURCH IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANNING!!!**



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

If you know of someone who is sick and in need of the sacraments or wishes a visit at a care facility, please contact the parish office at ☎ (815) 685-1359.



ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER LINE:

Please call Janice Gelino at
☎ (815) 263-6342

SANCTUARY CANDLE:

This month, the Sanctuary Candle is being lit in memory of Marleen, Terry & Jerry.



ST. PATRICK'S PEW & CHURCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



If you are interested in learning more about the pew dedication program (\$2,500 a pew), contact the parish office at St. Patrick's Church at ☎ (815) 472-2864 or email us at the address pjankowski@yahoo.com.

During my first year or two at the last parish I served, I was asked by my Director of Religious Education if the children in our program could decorate the rectory at Christmastime. Being the kind of priest whose idea of Christmas decorating is removing the garbage bag from last year's Christmas tree, I was more than willing to have the teachers and kids take care of all the necessities in preparation for our Lord's incarnation.

Amid the carols we sang and the hot chocolate and cookies we shared, the kids from the program decorated my office tree in honor of my favorite Baseball Team, the Chicago Cubs, replete with homemade decorations and a Cubs' Christmas hat. Since that fateful night almost twenty years ago, I have kept that beautiful tree, wrapping it with my infamous Christmas garbage bag each year and cherishing the wonderful experience the kids and their teachers enjoyed at the rectory.

I have kept that tree ever since and have adorned my office with that tree each year, in memory of the kids who remind me why this season is so important. When I brought the tree to the Border Town Parish and put a picture of it online, Joe Meyer from St. Pat's did an "AI" on my tree and turned it into a mortally sinful St. Louis Cardinals Tree. Joe will need to go to confession every year for the rest of his life in order to rid himself of such a heinous sin... GO CUBS!!!

Isn't this what Christmas is all about, having the kids share their innocence and good nature with an adult world that often loses that charism as the children get older? Isn't the joy of Christmas realizing that a Christ-Child has come into the world in the most innocent of ways and that as long as we hold on to that innocence, the spirit of Christmas remains in our heart for the rest of our lives?

This year, we all lament because of the plight of our baseball teams (possibly the Chicago Bears will

bring us out of the upper level of Hades). The joy for me each year is reliving that moment with the kids every time I unwrap that garbage bag at the end of November and place that same Christmas tree back into my downstairs office. The tree is a reminder of what the kids in this parish mean to me and mean to all of us. When we see the kids in Church, when we share the Christmas Season with those most innocent, we remind ourselves of the type of life all of us need to live if we wish to experience the joy of this season through the eyes of the divine.

Children of God! You, dear children, are sons and daughters of your parents. God wants us all to become His adopted children by grace. Here we



have the real reason for Christmas joy, the joy I am writing to you about at the end of this Year of the Family. Be happy in this "Gospel of divine sonship." In this joy I hope that the coming Christmas holidays will bear abundant fruit in this Year of the Family... What joy is greater than the joy brought by love? What joy is greater than the joy which

you, O Jesus, bring at Christmas to people's hearts, and especially to the hearts of children? Raise your tiny hand, divine child, and bless these young friends of yours, bless the children of all the earth! (St. Pope John Paul II, 1994 Christmas Message to Children)

May all of you have a most blessed, innocent, safe and holy Childlike Christmas Season. Please know we are praying for you, we love you and we keep you constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless and Merry Christmas! – Fr. Pete



The St. Pat's 31 Day Drawing has moved to March 2026. Tickets are \$20 each for 31 chances to win a total of \$10,000! The \$1,500 payout will be on St Patrick's Day. Call ☎ (815) 472-2864 for More Info or to Buy Your Tickets. Thank you for your support!



IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR FUTURE!

For over 150 years, the faithful at our border town parishes have dedicated themselves to serving the folks of our community in God's name. We ask you to consider the ways listed below that can help our parish. If you would like to discuss how **ESTATE PLANNING** can be used to make a gift to

the parish, please contact St. Pat's at ☎ (815) 472-2864 or St. Anne's at ☎ (815) 427-8265.

- ♣ **BEQUESTS** - Through your will you can bequeath to the parishes a fixed amount, a percentage of your estate or the remainder after other choices have been made. Example language might be: "To St. Patrick's Church of Momence, I leave the sum of \$XXX to be used at the discretion of the recipient." Any bequest to each specific parish you make will reduce the size of your estate and could reduce the estate taxes that may be due.
- ♣ **LIFE INSURANCE** - By naming your parish as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy your premiums may be tax deductible and it will help ensure the future of St. Patrick's Church.
- ♣ **TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN** - Money in an IRA or other similar plan is subject to income tax when withdrawn. If left in your estate, they may be subject to estate taxes. If you make to the parish the remainder beneficiary, neither of those taxes may be paid.
- ♣ A variety of **CHARITABLE TRUSTS & ANNUITIES** - There are a variety of giving options that can provide you or future generations' income, rights to property or assets with tax savings and generous support our parishes.



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St. Patrick's Church

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St. Anne's Church

230 N. 6th Avenue
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Upcoming Church Projects

St. Anne's Hall Chairs – \$10,600

St. Anne's Building Generators – \$50,000

St. Pat's Building Generators – \$50,000

Paving of St. Pat's Church Parking Lot – \$100,000

St. Pat's Academy Gym Parking Lot – \$275,000

JOURNEYS SONGS
JOURNEYS SONGS
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\$25 to Dedicate a Church
Hymnal for a Loved One!
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(815) 472-2864 or St.
Anne's at (815) 427-8265
for More Information.

\$1,000,000 to Dedicate
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ST. PATRICK'S PEW & CHURCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



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ST. ANNE'S PEW & CHURCH DEDICATION PROGRAM



The concept for our dedication program is simple - we are offering the opportunity to remember a loved one in a memorial dedicated for one of our church or chapel pews (\$2,500).

If you are interested in learning more about the dedication program, contact the parish office at phone ☎ (815) 427-8265 or email us at the address pjankowski@yahoo.com.



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