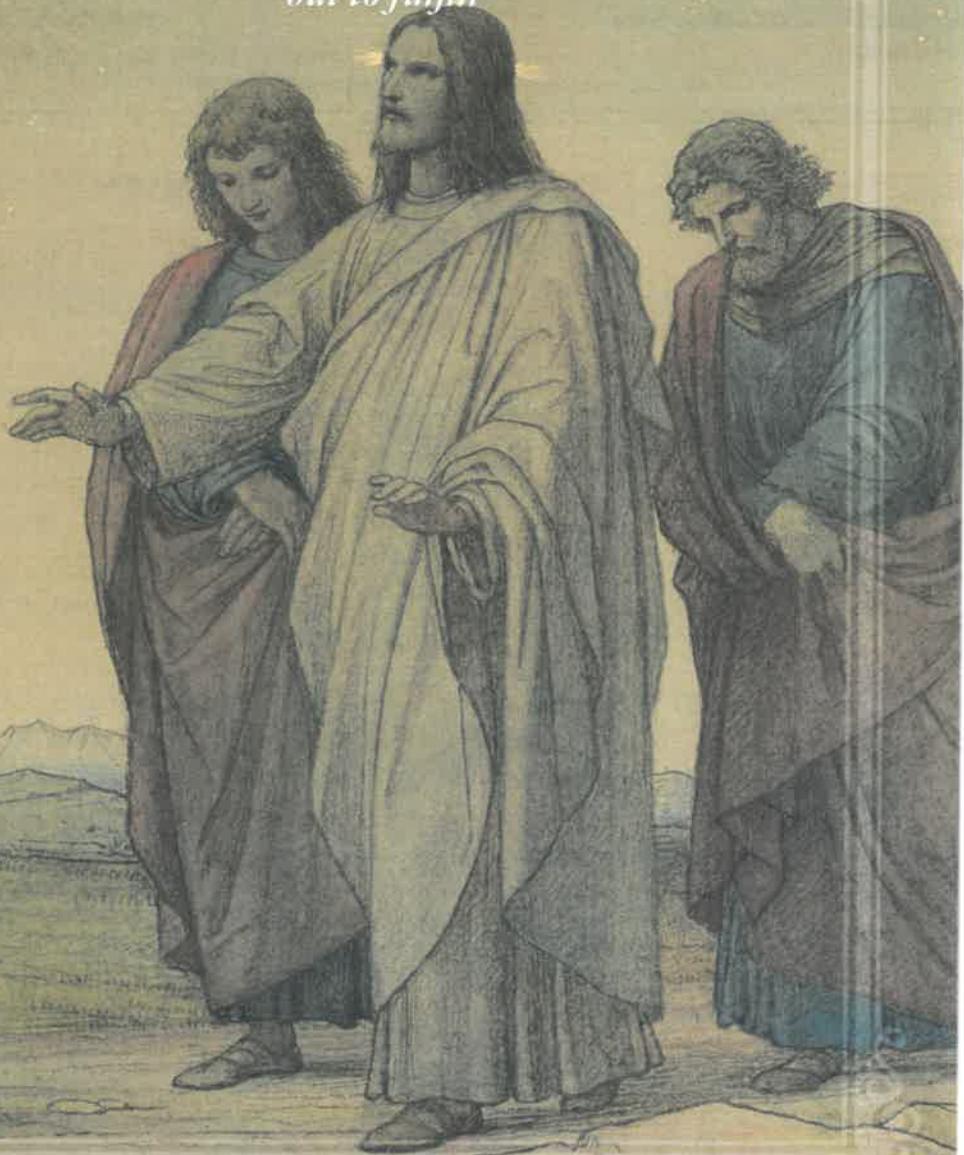


6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*I have come not to abolish  
but to fulfill*





# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.

Manhattan, Illinois 60442

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2026

Most Revered Bishop Dennis Spies  
Administrator

Office Phone 815-478-3440

Facebook St. Patrick Church of Wilton Center

Website: [www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org](http://www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org)

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening only

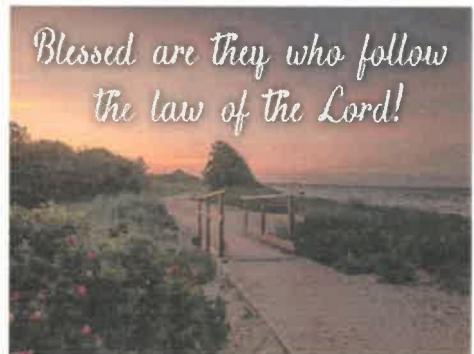
Feb. 14	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Dick Smerz req. by Joyce Gregory Parish Family of St. Patrick
Feb. 18	4:00pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by Cindy & Ken Smith +Mary McGowan req. by Linda Cakora
Feb. 21	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Poor Souls req. by Ed & Judy Phelan Parish Family of St. Patrick
Feb. 25	5:30pm	COMMUNION SERVICE
Feb. 28	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Noreen McAndrew req. by Marilyn Cieply Parish Family of St. Patrick

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Feb. 14 - 5:45pm	Jim Kreske	L. Cakora
Feb. 18 - 4:00pm	Sherrie Ashley	L. Cakora
Feb. 21 - 5:45pm	Mark May	P. Engler
Feb. 28 - 5:45pm	Sherrie Ashley	C. Smith

## SERVERS & USHERS

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending



**Scripture Readings  
For the Week of February 15, 2026**

**Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** Sir 15:15-20;  
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-  
37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

**Monday** Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76;  
Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday** Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19;  
Mk 8:14-21

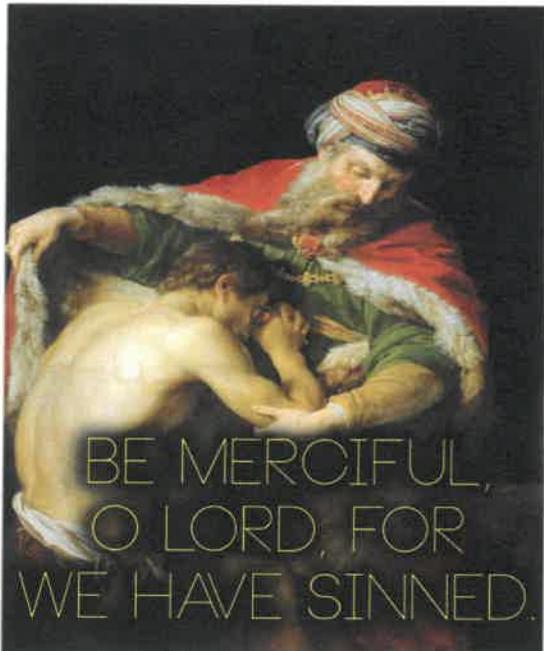
**Wednesday Ash Wednesday** Joel 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-  
4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6,  
16-18

**Thursday** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-  
25

**Friday** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-  
15

**Saturday** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

**Sunday First Sunday of Lent** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-  
4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rm 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-  
11



**Please Remember our sick;**

**especially:** Greg Harnois, Jim Kreske,  
Ann Marie & Tori Jasinski, Lisa Price, Barba-  
ra Schriver, Leslie Lund, Joe & Carol Price,  
Bernice & Dominick Marino, Tom Lane,  
Peggy Schiesow, Haley Donzella, Ken Smith,  
Laura 'Hanson, Steve Niemiec, Nancee  
Long, Shay Phelan, Lisa Bernard. Joe Hanson  
**PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO HAVE  
A LOVED ONE ADDED TO THE PRAYER LIST.**



During the Month of  
Our Blessed Mother Candle  
Is burning for  
THE PARISH FAMILY  
OF ST. PATRICK

**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR  
2/8/2026**

**Sunday - \$1502.00**

**Maintenance - \$20.00**

**Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54**

**THANK YOU** For your faith - filled support  
(Just a note: As you all know we have had  
several weeks of VERY cold weather, and  
while we keep our heat low when the build-  
ings are not in use, we still have to maintain  
some heat ip so our old pipes do not beak. So  
far this winter our propane bill has been over  
\$6,000)

**PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH  
OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LKE YOUR  
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION  
STATEMENT FOR 2025**



## LENTEN RULES & REGULATIONS

**LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18  
MASS WITH DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES WILL BE AT 4:00PM**



1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. All from the age of 18 years up to the beginning of their 60th birthday are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principle season of penance in the Church year. All of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial (in addition to following the Lenten regulations), serious prayers and a performance of works of charity and mercy.
6. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing, or whose health would be adversely affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

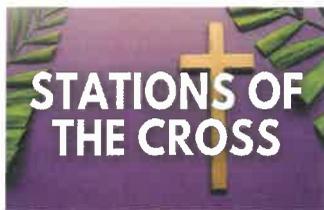
**LEADER FOR FEBRUARY 20 – SHERRIE ASHLEY**

**ARE ON FRIDAY EVENING AT 6:00pm**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO LEAD THE  
PRAYING OF THE STATIONS**

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET  
IN THE VESTIBULE**

**(IF NO ONE VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD STATIONS WILL BE CANCELLED)**



**COMMUNION SERVICE WILL BE OFFERED WEDNESDAY DURING  
LENT AT 5:30PM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25**

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

It's still months away, but parish ministers, especially if they are involved in the catechumenate, have their eyes on Lent and the Easter Triduum. Until fairly recent times, the last few days before Easter were shaped by an awareness of the Passion, but the faithful were left to their own devices about how to engage with these mysteries. A thousand years ago, the Easter Vigil as a solemn and central moment of initiation had vanished. By the early 1950s it was a minor moment in parish life, celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, usually with only the priests and a handful of invited guests. Most people understood it as necessary only for blessing the paschal candle and preparing the Easter water. People who were children during World War II sometimes remember that the weekly noontime test of the air-raid sirens on Holy Saturday signaled the end of Lent.

Today, of course, we see Holy Saturday as entirely within the paschal fast, and hardly the time for children to be tearing through the plastic grass looking for jelly beans and chocolate eggs. These memories point to a total collapse of the once-central liturgies of the Christian year. This impoverishment of the liturgy was mostly an accident of history. The root cause was the loss of Lent as a time focused on the final formation of catechumens for the Easter sacraments. By 1880, scholars began to piece together a vision of what once had been, and slowly, at first in a handful of monasteries in Europe, pieces of the tradition were rediscovered and celebrated.

— Rev. James Field

## The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

### **Pledge your gift to the CMAA**

This is commitment weekend for the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). The appeal is a powerful way to put our faith into action.

This year's theme is *Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!* When we care for those in need, we answer this call. Our parish joins with other parishes to serve the vulnerable, grow children in faith, and strengthen vocations. We cannot foster these ministries alone. This is a diocese-wide effort.

We receive 70% of any amount raised over our goal to reinvest in our parish.

Please prayerfully consider your gift and help our parish reach \$GOAL. Complete and return a pledge envelope in church today. Thank you for your support!



**Bishop Dennis E. Spies** Appointed Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet Joliet, Illinois – [February 6, 2026] – The Diocese of Joliet announces that Bishop Dennis E. Spies has been appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Joliet, effective immediately. Bishop Spies assumes this role in accordance with the norms of the Catholic Church, ensuring continuity of leadership and pastoral care for the nearly half-million Catholics across the seven counties of the diocese. Bishop Spies, who has been serving as Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet and Titular Bishop of Cenculiana, brings more than two decades of pastoral, administrative, and formational experience to this responsibility. Ordained to the priesthood in 2002, he has served the Diocese of Joliet as pastor, seminary formator, and most recently as Vicar for Clergy, a role in which he has been widely recognized for his pastoral sensitivity, collaborative leadership style, and deep commitment to the well-being of priests and parish communities. “I am humbled by the trust placed in me and remain committed to serving the people of God in the Diocese of Joliet with faith, integrity, and hope,” Bishop Spies said. “Together, we will continue to proclaim the Gospel, strengthen our parishes, and accompany one another as disciples of Jesus Christ.” As Administrator, Bishop Spies will oversee the day-to-day governance of the diocese until the appointment of a new diocesan bishop. His responsibilities include supporting diocesan ministries, guiding clergy, and ensuring the smooth functioning of pastoral and administrative operations. Born in Clifton, Illinois, Bishop Spies earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale before completing seminary studies at Mundelein Seminary. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet by Pope Francis in 2024 and ordained later that year at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus. The Diocese of Joliet asks the faithful to join in prayer for Bishop Spies as he undertakes this important new role in service to the Church.

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time License to Sin

In the James Bond movies, 007 has a license to kill. He can shoot all the bad guys he wants without worrying about being charged with murder. God, however, does not issue a license to sin. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that any time we choose between life and death, good and evil, it is our free choice and our responsibility. God may allow us to make bad choices, but God never commands anyone to sin.

Jesus goes even deeper than Sirach. The people of Sirach's time had followed the laws and commandments that governed external actions. As long as they treated others fairly, did not kill anyone or steal from them, they could think whatever they wanted. But Jesus taught that thoughts and desires that lead to sin can also be freely chosen or rejected. In the Gospel he gives us some examples.

The first is about killing. Jesus says that anyone who gets angry enough to kill or who looks down on his neighbor as not deserving to live has committed murder in his heart. What prejudices or grudges am I holding in my heart? The longer I hold onto hurtful feelings, the more likely it becomes that they will lead to hurtful actions. Because the Eucharist is our sacrament of unity, we should take care to be reconciled with others before coming to the altar.

The next warning is about adultery, which also begins with interior feelings. Jesus exaggerates when he tells us to cut off a hand or tear out an eye, because he knows how easily we rationalize our feelings and pretend they are harmless. This leads to the next warning about divorce. Jesus takes marriage seriously and expects his disciples to do the same.

His final example concerns taking oaths. Apparently, people would swear upon almost anything in an effort to be believed. Jesus gets to the point and says that we wouldn't need oaths if we always told the truth and kept our promises. Our faith is based on the knowledge that God keeps promises. Shouldn't we do the same?