

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THEIRS IS THE
Kingdom.

MATTHEW 5:3





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
 14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.
 Manhattan, Illinois 60442
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 1, 2026

Most Revered Bishop Dennis Spies
 Administrator

Office Phone 815-478-3440

Facebook St. Patrick Church of Wilton Center

Website: www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening only

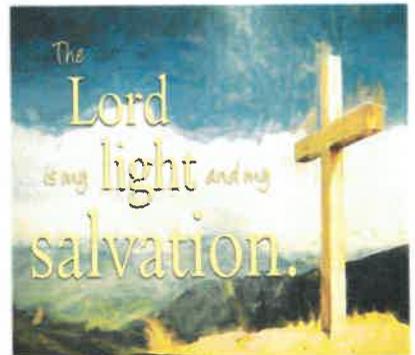
Jan. 31	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family Bill & Georgia Phelan 64th Wedding Anniversary req. by Ed & Judy Phelan Parish Family of St. Patrick
Feb. 7	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by Joyce Gregory Parish Family of St. Patrick
Feb. 14	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The 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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Jan. 31 - 5:45pm	Sherrie Ashley	P. Engler
Feb. 7 - 5:45pm	Jerry Kinsella	C. Kinsella
Feb. 14 - 5:45pm	Jim Kreske	L. Cakora
Feb. 18 - 4:00pm	Sherrie Ashley	L. Cakora

SERVERS & USHERS

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending



**Scripture Readings
For the Week of February 1, 2026**

Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

Monday Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30; 19:3; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk 6:7-13

Friday Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday 1 Kings 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

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

**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR
1/25/2026**

Sunday - \$1,111.00

Latin America - \$90.00

Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54

THANK YOU For your faith - filled support

Please Remember our sick;

especially: Greg Harnois, Jim Kreske, Ann Marie & Tori Jasinski, Lisa Price, Barbara 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**

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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

You need more than water for a bath. Most family bathrooms contain an arsenal of soaps and emollients, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to combat grime and honor the body. A bath without oil is still unthinkable. No wonder early Christians used lavish amounts of oil to “paint” the skin of people drawn dripping wet from the baptismal font on Easter. There were two oils used in baptism long ago. “Oil of exorcism” protected candidates from “evil spirits”; it strengthened their resolve and purified their purposes.

The second oil, slathered over them after baptism’s bath, “sealed” them, making them like Christ, the anointed one, the priest, the prophet, the king. Chrism has always had a powerful odor; rich resinous perfumes are stirred in before it is consecrated. As the newly baptized were embraced by new brothers and sisters in Christ, the scent permeated the hall of Eucharist, a sign of our connection to Christ and to one another.

—Rev. James Field



The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal has begun!

The Diocese of Joliet invites all parishioners to support the 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Together, we can make a profound difference.

This year's theme is *Beyond all Expectations: Faith that Elevates!* Through the CMAA, we ensure Christ's mission and ministries reach everyone. We provide shelter for the homeless, feed the hungry support vocations, and educate the next generation of Catholics. Our parish cannot accomplish this alone. As a diocese, we can do so much more.

Our parish goal is \$10,500.00. We receive 70% of any amount raised over goal to use within our parish. Please review your mailing from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office.

Thank you!

Candle-Mass

Candles are often-undervalued. Candlelight is warm, cozy, organic, relaxing, quieting. Beeswax candles smell wonderful and are good for your environment (my Scandinavian side values the tradition of "hygge," in which candles are a must). In Danish, candles are called "levende lys", which literally means "living light." There is something mystical about candlelight, its deep naturalness, the continuity throughout time, the connection to bees.

What does any of this have to do with today's feast? On this day, candles are a prominent feature in the liturgy - lit candles may be carried in procession and candles are blessed on this day because lit candles are used in the Church to symbolize Christ, the true Light who came into the world for all. Today is the day that the Light of the World enters His Temple anew, at last.

In complete humility and obedience to the Law, Joseph and Mary come to the Temple after 40 days to offer the required sacrifice for their firstborn son. As they enter, they are fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi: "And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek." The Chosen People had been promised a Messiah, and the identity of the whole Jewish nation was a people who awaited his coming, to set them free from Roman rulers and restore Israel as an eternal, peaceful kingdom. Many expected a warrior who would defeat Israel's enemies and restore the glory of their nation, as King David's descendent.

It would require a very deep spirituality to look upon this little infant being carried into the Temple by his impoverished parents and see not only the Messiah, but the Light OF THE WORLD - a light for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. It is only the aged Simeon and Anna who recognize this seemingly ordinary child as the Messiah, the very King of Glory, for whom they had patiently waited in prayer for so long.

In Simeon, the Old and New Testaments meet: as he sees the One who will proclaim that He Himself is the New Temple carried into the old temple, the aged man of the Old Covenant becomes a Christian, and Christianity's first prophet and theologian, as he proclaims, "my eyes have seen your salvation.... a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

In the Church, the great paschal candle represents Christ, the "true light", a lit candle in the sanctuary indicates that Christ is present in the tabernacle, candles are required at every Mass, at funerals and baptisms. We light them to honor God, to symbolize our sacrifice and our prayer, and to remind us that Christ is our light.

We are not a people of darkness, but of LIGHT! Today, have some candles blessed, light some candles in your home and wherever you pray, and remember that God's work of creation began with the command, "Let there be light!"

By Kathryn Mulderink

Boast in the Lord

What are you most proud of? What do you like to boast about? Were you top of your class in college? Are your children the most well-behaved? Do you work harder than anyone in your office? Everyone likes to have something they are the best at, or at least very good. But it really is kind of silly to base your own worth on what you accomplish. What truly makes us important is that we are loved by God. This love begins at our birth, long before we have accomplished anything. Our second reading tells how God uses the foolish, weak, or poorest people to shame those who are wise, strong, and wealthy. Why? Because God loves the poor, the weak, the disabled, the homeless just as much as God loves the important people. And the poor probably love God more than the powerful, rich people do.

And it's not just the external qualities that are important. Some wealthy people have great love for the poor. Some of the best teachers only work with disabled children. My dentist is a very good doctor, but is happiest when he goes to help the poor in Latin America. Our Gospel on the Beatitudes today makes that clear if you listen carefully. Blessed are not just the poor, but the poor in spirit; not only the hungry, but those who hunger for righteousness. That's what Saint Paul means when he says, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:31). In other words, it is not so much what you do, as what God does through you. How much you know is less important than how well you know the Lord. It's not so much where you live, as whether God is living in you.

So how do we get to be "important" to God? Instead of asking God to make my projects a success, I can ask what God wants me to do. Instead of reading every magazine or blog to impress your co-workers with your worldly knowledge, take time to read the scriptures and to listen quietly to the Lord in prayer. Instead of complaining about the government or your parish, try volunteering your time. And for all the good that you do, remember to thank the Lord.