

# February 15, 2026

# St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

## Mass Intentions This Week

("✠" Indicates this person is deceased)

Saturday, Feb. 14, Memorial of St. Cyril & Methodius  
8:00 AM ✠Robbie Lanphier  
by Bridget Murray and family

Saturday, February 14, the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
4:00 PM ✠Our Parishioners

Sunday, February 15, the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:30 AM ✠Lino Tallone  
by wife and family

11:00 AM ✠Dominick & Juliette Fabrizio  
by their daughters Donna lee  
and LouAnn

Monday, February 16, Weekday - Presidents Day

9:00 AM ✠Gwen Fernandez  
by Hyacin Natrajan

**\*\* Note the later time due to holiday \*\***

Tuesday, February 17, Weekday

8:00 AM ✠Souls in Purgatory  
by John Witek

Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM ✠Joel Grande by his family  
12:10 PM ✠Tony Tartaglia by his family  
7:30 PM ✠Albert Sebastian  
by Al Sebastian

Thursday, February 19, Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM ✠Jose Maldonado  
by his wife and family

Friday, February 20, Friday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM Increase in Hope  
by Frank Palmer

Saturday, February 21, Saturday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM To be delivered from losing hope  
by Frank Palmer

Saturday, February 21, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM ✠Kathleen Whalen  
by Michael and Maria O'Shea

Sunday, February 22, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM ✠Our Parishioners  
11:00 AM ✠Kathleen M. Cumiskey-Clack  
by Marie O'Connell

Please pray for the departed souls of our loved ones, especially Frank Vartuli, recently departed member of our parish, grant them eternal rest and comfort in the arms of our Lord.

## Ash Wednesday Mass schedule:

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 AM, 12:10 PM & 7:30 PM.

Ashes are only distributed during Masses



Need more information? Please visit our website:

[www.stbridgetofireland.com](http://www.stbridgetofireland.com)

## pancake supper



## Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 Serving from 5:30 - 7:30 PM - Adults \$10.<sup>00</sup>, Children ages 10 & under (accompanied by an adult) are free. Don't miss Deacon Ernie's Amazing pancakes. Tickets will not be sold ahead, just come and pay at the door. Join us with your family and friends for a special evening.



## Lenten Guidelines

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Holy Thursday.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence only.

As outlined on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website on Lenten fasting and abstinence, "fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18<sup>th</sup> year and have not yet reached their 60<sup>th</sup> year.

Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of complete abstinence (from meat) for all who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> year.

Through our works of prayer, fasting, and abstinence, let us heed the prophet Joel's exhortation to return to God with our whole heart (2:12)."

## Increased Opportunities for Reconciliation

Beginning this Saturday, St. Bridget's will offer Saturday Reconciliation from 2:30–3:30 PM — starting a half hour earlier and lasting a bit longer than before. We also offer Reconciliation every Friday during the 3:00–4:00 PM Holy Hour. Throughout Lent, Reconciliation will additionally be available during the Friday evening Stations of the Cross, which begin at 7:00 PM. We invite all parishioners to take advantage of these expanded opportunities for prayer, reflection, and the healing grace of the sacrament.

## ~ Financial Support of Our Parish ~

February 8, 2026

Donations	2026	2025
Weekly	\$2,326.00	\$1,485.00
Monthly	\$ 974.00	\$1,073.00
Online Giving	\$9,905.05	\$1,691.75
Poor Box	\$29.00	\$27.00
Candles	\$173.00	\$153.00

Thank you for your continued support. Your generous gifts help us reach the weekly budgeted amount necessary to operate and sustain our parish.

## **“If You Choose, You Can Keep the Commandments”**



The Mass readings for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time invite us to go deeper—beyond surface-level religion and into the heart of what it truly means to live as God’s people. Together, they challenge us to examine not only our actions, but our desires, intentions, and the choices we make each day.

In the first reading from the Book of Sirach, we hear a powerful affirmation of human freedom and responsibility: “If you choose, you can keep the commandments.” God honors our free will; he does not force obedience upon us. Instead, He places before us life and death, good and evil, and respects our freedom to choose. This reading reminds us that holiness is not accidental. Faithfulness is shaped by daily decisions—often small, hidden ones—that gradually form the direction of our lives.

Psalm 119 echoes this theme with a prayer of longing: “Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord.” The psalmist does not speak of God’s law as a burden, but as a blessing, a path to joy and freedom. When God’s word is written on our hearts, obedience becomes an expression of love rather than fear.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks of a deeper wisdom, a wisdom not of this world but of God. This wisdom is revealed through the Spirit and is accessible to those who are open to God’s transforming grace. Paul reminds us that Christian living is not about mere rule-keeping; it is about allowing God to shape our minds and hearts so that we see and act as Christ does.

This message reaches its fullest expression in the Gospel from Matthew. Jesus does not abolish the law; He fulfills it. In the Sermon on the Mount, He takes familiar commandments—against killing, adultery, false oaths—and brings them inward. Anger, lust, dishonesty, and grudges are revealed as matters of the heart, not just behavior. Jesus calls His disciples to a righteousness that exceeds external compliance, a righteousness rooted in love, mercy, and integrity.

These readings gently but firmly challenge us to ask: Where is my heart? Do I follow God’s commandments out of habit, obligation, or fear—or out of love and trust? The Christian life is not about appearing righteous, but about becoming righteous by allowing God to transform us from within.

As we prepare to enter into the season of Lent, it is a good time to ask God for the grace to choose wisely, to desire what is true and good, and to live the law of love not only with our actions, but with our whole hearts.

- Fr. Jim Bates, Pastor

### **New Member of St. Bridget’s Memorial Fund**

✠ **Patricia Ellen Re Corsello**  
enrolled by Marita Perillo & Family



The Institute for Catholic Formation believes in the successful transmission of the Catholic faith from generation to generation. Our team has cul-

tivated a digital library full of resources to assist parents, grandparents, parish leaders, and volunteers in becoming articulate mentors of what we believe as Catholics. With both in-person events and online learning, our free resources have helped thousands. With your gift to the Bishop’s Appeal, we can turn those thousands into millions. To learn more please visit: [www.2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://www.2026BishopsAppeal.org). We believe every gift makes a difference.



**St. Bridget Ministry for the Homeless, Hungry and People in Need** will be collecting canned goods and other selected food items to fill the pantry at New Covenant Center from Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition

to serving over 300 hot healthy meals a day, to those who come to the soup kitchen, over 1,600 individuals receive 3 meals a day for 10 days from the food pantry. A flyer listing the foods requested are available in both vestibules of the church.

Through the same period, the Ministry will be collecting warm, gently used coats for distribution to: Pacific House Men’s Shelter, Inspirica Women’s Shelter, and One Warm Coat: local agencies providing coats to those in need. Coats must be clean, with no holes or stains, and no broken zippers or missing buttons. Please leave coats in the Parish Hall on the designated tables.

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need especially during the many cold days ahead.

**Help Us Give the Gift of Sight!** Our Parish is hosting an eyeglass collection drive from February 8 - March 8. We’re collecting used prescription eyeglasses to help people in need see better. Drop off your used eyeglasses in the designated box in the church vestibule. Prescription eyeglasses in any condition are welcome, it also helps to have their cases. *Questions?* Contact Paoloarena at 203-585-9842 or [paolom0318@gmail.com](mailto:paolom0318@gmail.com)



A Note of Thanks - Many thanks to Rosanne McMannus, Mary Ellen and Gerald McLoughlin, along with everyone who attended and shared their delicious snacks, for making the Super Bowl party a great success. The refreshments were wonderful and the company even better!

Congratulations to the winners of the Super Bowl pool: Vicky Hickey won the first quarter and Karen Dolan won half time, Paul Loftus won the third quarter and Dennis Julian the final score.