

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 24, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

Someone once said to **Paderewski**, the great pianist, "Sir, you are a genius." He replied, "Madam, before I was a genius, I was a drudge." He continued: "If I missed practice one day, I noticed it; if I missed practice two days, the critics noticed it; if I missed three days, my family noticed it; if I missed four days, my audience noticed it." It is also reported that after one of **Fritz Kreisler's** concerts a young woman said to him, "I would give my life to be able to play like that." He replied, "That's what I gave." -- The door is narrow. Why should we think we can "drift" into the Kingdom of God? The Christian life is a constant striving to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it. We need to strive because there are forces of evil within us and around us, trying to pull us down. In today's Gospel, Jesus answers the question, who will be saved, when, and how.

In the first reading, Isaiah's prophecy speaks to the Babylonian exiles returning to Jerusalem after 47 years in captivity, especially to the younger members with their pagan wives, telling them that salvation is not a Jewish monopoly and that is why Yahweh welcomes the pagans also into Judaism. The prophet's great book ends as it began, with a vision of all the peoples of the world streaming toward Jerusalem, acknowledging and praising the God of Israel. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 117) refrain, "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News," reflects the mission of God's chosen people to be instruments of salvation to the whole world. In the second reading, exploring with his readers the consequences of Christian commitment, St. Paul explains that "the narrow gate" of Jesus means our acceptance of pain and suffering as the loving discipline God gives His children. In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly explains that anyone who follows him through the narrow gate of sacrificial service and sharing love will be saved. Jesus also admonishes his followers to concentrate on their own salvation by self-discipline rather than to worry about the salvation of others.

<u>The Protestant doctrine on salvation</u> was taught by Calvin and is currently broadcast by tele-evangelists: "*Once you are saved, you are always saved,*" in spite of your future sins and even apostasy. One is saved by the shed blood of Jesus when, as a young person or an adult, one accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, confesses one's sins and prays the "*Sinner's Prayer*," asking God's pardon and forgiveness for one's sins.

<u>Catholic teaching on salvation</u>: Salvation is a <u>past, present, and future event</u>. We <u>were saved</u> from the bondage of sin when we were baptized as children or adults. We are being saved at present, when we cooperate with God's grace by loving others as Jesus did, by sharing our blessings with the needy, and by getting reconciled with God daily, asking His forgiveness for our sins. We will be eternally saved when we hear the loving invitation from Jesus, the Judge, at the moment of our death and on the day of the Last Judgment, saying: "Good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things enter into the joy of your Master."

Life messages: We need to cooperate with God's grace daily given to us: a) by choosing the narrow way and the narrow gate of self-control and self-discipline of our evil tendencies, evil habits, and addictions; b) by loving others, seeing the face of Jesus in them, and sharing our blessings with them sacrificially; c) by obtaining the daily Divine strength to practice self-control and sharing love through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily prayer, in Bible reading, and in reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Fr. Luke



Mass Schedule

Sunday Liturgies

Saturday Rosary at 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary at 9:30 a.m. Mass at 10:00 a.m. Rosary in Spanish at 12:00 noon 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Weekday Liturgies

Tuesday and Friday - Mass at 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 5:00 p.m. followed by Mass
Wednesday - Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Oakbrook Healthcare

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of each Month 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
By appointment other times

Holy Day Masses

6:00 p.m. English 7:00 p.m. Spanish

Masses at Wellspring

Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m.; Sunday, 5:00 p.m.



Thursday Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the church or by telephone conference call. Mass immediately follows. If you wish to join by telephone, call the church office for details.

Children's Rosary

The Rosary will begin at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays when Faith Formation classes are in session.

Location of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

Two AEDs are on church property: one in the parish hall next to the women's restroom and the other one in the church foyer near the church entrance and bathrooms. Remember their locations, just in case you may need to retrieve one.

Join us in prayer for the needs of our families and community....

Pray for:

Nadia Allmon, Jeff Briscoe, Adam Elliott, Steve Francis, Andrea Gustafson, Maria Gutierrez, Natalie Hayes, Fr. Joseph Jacobi, Judy LeBlanc, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, Julieta Marroquin, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Marcela Montenegro, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Danny Smith, Shirley Stenklyft, Matthew Williams, Blanca Villatoro, Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Aug 23	5:00 p.m.	Darlene Nolan S.I.
Sun	Aug 24	10:00 a.m.	Members of Our Parish
		12:30 p.m.	Constancia Padrón Urizar+
Tue	Aug 26	12:30 p.m.	Celestine & Paul Schmitt+
Thu	Aug 28	5:00 p.m.	Maria Nava Zavala S.I.
Fri	Aug 29	12:30 p.m.	Matthew Williams S.I.
Sat	Aug 30	5:00 p.m.	Marcon Family S.I.



August 17, 2025

1st Collection	\$3	3,407.00
2nd Collection	\$	373.00
3rd Collection	\$	390.00
Children's Collection	\$	49.51

2nd Collection Aug 24 Faith Formation

2nd Collection Aug 31 Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. <u>69</u> 10:00 a.m. <u>113</u> and 12:30 p.m. <u>103</u>

Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Luke Kalarickal, M.S.F.S.

Deacons: Ruben Natera; Clarence Blalock

Acolytes: Rick Downey; Michael Morris

Felipe Segura; Alberto Robledo **Bookkeeper:** Noelia Gonzalez

Office Assistant: Linda Rossler

Committee Chairs

Pastoral Council Chair: Theresa Cheatham Finance Council Chair: Lou Napolitano Maintenance Committee Chair: Rick Downey

The administration and pastoral care of Prince of Peace Parish is entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (M.S.F.S.), also known as Fransalian Missionaries, an international religious order with headquarters in Rome and the Provincial House in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, visit www.wellspringcommunity.net.



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Office closes for lunch between noon and 1:00 p.m.



Be who you are and be that well so that you may bring honor to the master craftsman whose handiwork you are!

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

Faith Formation

Faith Formation begins on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. The parent's meeting is next Thursday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. The late family registration fee is now \$40. The materials fee remains \$10 per child. For new students not baptized at Prince of Peace, bring a copy of the child's Baptismal certificate or birth certificate, if the child has not yet been baptized. Register at the church office.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

If you are thinking about becoming Catholic, need instruction in the Catholic faith, need to complete your Sacraments, or if you want to learn more about your Catholic Faith, join us in RCIA. We will begin classes soon. The sign-up sheet is in the church foyer.

Preparing for Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Please sign up to help raise funds through food sales for the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration in December.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the church foyer near the main church entrance.

Helpers Food Pantry

The Helpers food pantry needs cooking oil, spaghetti sauce, mac n cheese, canned stew and chili. If you need help from the food pantry, just call the office. Thank you for your support.

Prince of Peace Youth Fundraising

Support our amazing youth group as they kick off the school year with faith, fun, and fellowship!

Join us for our Back-to-School Burger Bash on August 31, 2025.

Pick-up at 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (after 10 a.m. & 12.30 p.m. Masses).

\$10 per plate, \$18/2 plates and \$25/3 plates – includes a juicy burger, chips, drink, and dessert!

Pre tickets will be available for purchase after each weekend Mass of August 16/17 and 23/24.

Please keep your ticket and bring it with you on the day of the event —

it helps us prepare your meal quickly and ensures we serve everyone efficiently!

All proceeds go directly to supporting youth retreats, service projects, and other faith-based events throughout the year. Come hungry and leave full — not just with food, but with joy knowing you're helping form the future of our Church!

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)

DCYC will be on *Oct. 4, 2025* at the W.T. Brookshire Conference Center in Tyler. For more information and instructions on how to register go to: https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/dcyc/. DCYC is for high school teens (9-12 grades). For questions contact Sonia Escobedo at sonia.escobedo@catholicflint.org or (903) 894-7647, ext. 104.

Homeschool Blessing Mass at St. Mary Magdalene

Bishop Gregory Kelly will be celebrating a Homeschool Blessing Mass for all homeschooling families in the Diocese of Tyler. The Mass will be at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Flint on Sept. 5, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. This event is hosted in collaboration with the Catholic Family Adventure Club. A light reception will follow in the parish hall. Please register here: https://www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com/iform/127949

Safe Environment

Parental supervision of children keeps them safe, including when they are in church or on church grounds. If need be during Mass, escort your children to the restroom, wait for them, and return to your seat with them.

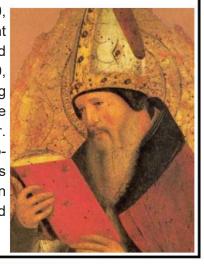
If you know or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult is currently being abused or is in danger, immediately report it to state/local law enforcement or the TX Department of Family and Protective Services at (800) 252-5400 or txabusehotline.org. The Diocese of Tyler is committed to respecting the dignity of all persons and to helping anyone who may have been hurt or abused by a priest, deacon, religious, or anyone working in the name of the Church. Any current or past cases of abuse involving Church Personnel should be reported to civil authorities and also to the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (903) 266-2159 or vac@dioceseoftyler.org.

The Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before each weekend Mass. Please be mindful of the need for silent reflection, both in the nave and in the church foyer, out of respect for the Rosary and in preparation for the Holy Mass. Everyone is advised to come and join the Rosary and receive its priceless benefits and graces.

Saint Augustine of Hippo - Priest, Bishop, Doctor of the Church; Feast Day - August 28

In the late second and early third centuries, Saint Augustine was a defender of the faith and shepherd to his people. Even today, his writings on Church doctrine are undisputable. However, his early years were spent far away from God and the Church. He was born in North Africa in 354 A.D. His sainted mother Monica gave him a Christian education, but he did not have a sincere attraction to the Church. At the age of 16, he became self-absorbed, pleasure-seeking, and filled with lustful desires. He partied, he drank, and he pur-

sued women. Augustine lived debaucherously for thirteen years. At age of 20, he embraced Manichaeism, a religion that combined facets of all the different religions known at the time. Monica was devastated over his sinful living and new religion, and she prayed to God for his conversion. At the age of 29, Augustine's life was beginning to change. He traveled to Milan for a teaching job, and Monica followed him and met him there. Both were attracted to the preaching of Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, who became their spiritual advisor. Bishop Ambrose guided Augustine and encouraged him to read Holy Scripture. After three years Augustine came to the conclusion that Jesus Christ is the source of all salvation. He was baptized in 387, ordained in 391, and in 396 he became Bishop of the See of Hippo that lasted for 34 years. He died on August 28, 430 A.D.

















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