

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

903 East Main St.
Whitehouse, Texas 75791
Phone: 903-871-3230
pastorprinceofpeacechurch@gmail.com
www.princeofpeacewhitehouse.org



First Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026

From the Desk of the Pastor:

A comical, but illustrative, story shows us how adept we are at rationalizing our actions: A very overweight man decided that it was time to shed a few pounds. He went on a new diet and took it seriously. He even changed his usual driving route to the office in order to avoid his favorite bakery. One morning, however, he arrived at the office carrying a large, sugar-coated coffee cake. His office mates roundly chided him, but he only smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said, "What could I do? This is a very special cake. This morning, from force of habit, I accidentally drove by my favorite bakery. There in the window were trays of the most delicious goodies. I felt that it was no accident that I happened to pass by, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you really want me to have one of these delicious coffee cakes, let me find a parking place in front of the bakery.' Sure enough, on the ninth trip around the block, there it was!" Temptation is strong, but we must be stronger. We should not tempt fate, and we should not rationalize our actions.

The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "Original Temptation" – "*You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil.*" Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice to live for God, dependent upon and obedient to His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority. In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death, and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us the right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father. Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation to mistrust His Father by satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs and thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction. The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand He prove His Trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world.

Life messages: 1) We are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means he employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance and the effective use of the Word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), with penance and with meditative reading of the Bible. 2) We are to grow in holiness by prayer, reconciliation and sharing during Lent: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by being reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; c) by sharing our love with others through selfless and humble service, almsgiving and helping those in need.

Fr. Luke



Mass Schedule

Sunday Liturgies

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

Sunday

Rosary at 9:25 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

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

6:30 p.m. English
7:30 p.m. Spanish

Masses at Wellspring

Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. & 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 Stations of the Cross

During Lent the Children's Stations of the Cross 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.

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.fransaliansusa.com or www.wellspringcommunity.net.

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

Pray for: Nadia Allmon, Jeff Briscoe, Barbara Dean, Adam Elliott, Steve Francis, Maria Gutierrez, Natalie Hayes, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, Julieta Marroquin, Judy LeBlanc, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Leslie Payne, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Danny Smith, Shirley Stenklyft, Matthew Williams, Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Feb 21	5:00 p.m.	Felisa Brillantes+
Sun	Feb 22	10:00 a.m.	Members of Our Parish
Sun	Feb 22	12:30 p.m.	Darlene Nolan+
Tue	Feb 24	12:30 p.m.	Andre Meyer+
Thu	Feb 26	5:00 p.m.	Jim Plumb, Sr.+
Fri	Feb 27	12:30 p.m.	Andre & Clotilde Meyer+
Sat	Feb 28	5:00 p.m.	Chase Barnes+

Parish Giving

February 15, 2026

1st Collection	\$	3,132.00
2nd Collection	\$	288.00
3rd Collection	\$	362.00
Children's Collection	\$	26.69

2nd Collection	Feb 22	Black and Indian Missions
3rd Collection	Feb 22	Lawn Care Maintenance
2nd Collection	Mar 01	Emergency Fund

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 52
10:00 a.m. 137 and 12:30 p.m. 112

Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Luke Kalarickal, M.S.F.S.
Deacons: Ruben Natera; Clarence Blalock
Acolytes: Rick Downey; 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



Church Office Hours

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



Trust in God. He will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

2026 Bishop's Appeal for Ministries

If you have not yet turned in your pledge in support of the 2026 Bishop's Appeal for Ministries, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time contribution. Appeal envelopes are in the pews. You may place your pledge envelope in the basket in the church, mail it directly to the diocese, or complete your pledge online at the Diocese of Tyler's website. Our parish goals are 100% participation and \$42,000. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Stations of the Cross will immediately follow the 12:30 p.m. Friday Mass with the exception of First Friday on March 2, at which time the Stations will immediately follow Adoration, which ends at 2:00 p.m. Stations in Spanish will be at 7 p.m.

Faith Formation

During Lent, Faith Formation students and catechists will pray the Stations of the Cross before class time, beginning at 5:45 p.m. All are invited.

Altar Society Needs Recipes for Cookbook

Our Altar Society is developing a Cook Book with recipes from everyone in the parish. We are asking for an emphasis on quick and easy recipes young families or college students could make. We will create the cook book, and it will be for sale when completed. Please put your recipes in the marked box in church foyer, or you could text or email them to Carolyn Barrett at 254-931-0780 or rampro44@yahoo.com.

Diocese of Tyler Catechist Lenten Retreat

There will be a catechist Lenten retreat on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chancery's St. Paul's Meeting Room, 1015 E. Southeast Loop 323, Tyler, Texas 75701. The cost is \$25.00 which covers breakfast and lunch. Register online at the Diocese of Tyler's website. If you have any questions regarding this retreat, please contact the Faith Formation office at 903-534-1077 ext 158 or email Rita Martinez at rmartinez@dioceseoftyler.org.

Springfest 2026

We thank Paul Bibeau for accepting to take leadership for this year's Springfest. This year we are planning to get the Whitehouse community involved in the Festival. Paul will be contacting you for volunteers for various committees, besides the fact that everyone in the parish will be invited to participate in it as a parish wide event. Please show your cooperation and support. Thank you.

St. Gregory's Early Learning Center

St. Gregory's Early Learning Center provides faith-based care and education for infants and children through 3 years of age. Registration is now open. Flyers are available in the church foyer.

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.

Kids, Youth/Adult Bible Corner

Answers of February 8

Kids: a. 11

b. He blessed them.

Answered by Emily, Ismael, & Isabella Briones, Alonso & Matias Gutierrez, Elijah Rivera, Vicky Gutierrez, & David Gutierrez.

Adults: a. violet, purple, and scarlet

b. so that it will be sacred

Answered by Andrea Gustafson, Linda Rossler, Mimi Plumb, Jason Reed, Neri Gutierrez, Bacilia Velazquez, & Steven Rocha.

Questions for February 22, 2026 (Leviticus 6-10)

Kids: a. Who offered unauthorized fire before the Lord contrary to his commands?

b. Any male from the priest's family may eat the guilt offering that was slaughtered and burned. In which are should they be eaten?

Adults: a. When Moses found out that the goat of the sin offering had been burned he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar. What did they fail to do that made Moses angry?

b. In the fellowship offerings "meat that touches anything ceremonially unclean must not be eaten." What should they be done with? ?

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903.253.5328
BoltzOrganization@gmail.com
Whitehouse, TX
TREC # 776302

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Michael Allare
General Manager
581-0600
1717 WSW Loop 323
www.classictoyotatyler.com