

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022

From the Desk of the Pastor:

Back in 1830, George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail in Pennsylvania and was sentenced to be hanged. At the request of Wilson's friends, President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "A pardon is a slip of paper," wrote Marshall, "the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. Hence, George Wilson must be hanged." It remains unclear whether Wilson was ever actually executed. For some, the pardon comes too late. For others, the pardon is not accepted. The readings of this 2nd Sunday of Advent remind us that the Advent is the acceptable time for repentance and the acceptance of God's pardon and renewal of life.

The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, in the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up hope among His people with His promise of a new Davidic King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 72), the Psalmist pictures the Messiah as one who will show compassion to the poor, the lowly, and the afflicted. In the second reading, Paul is praying for the reformation of the Jewish Christians of Rome and instructing them to draw endurance and encouragement from the Old Testament books. They are to live in harmony with Gentile Christians, accepting them as equals, brothers and sisters, while they wait together for the second coming of Jesus. In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer urges the Pharisees and Sadducees to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. He challenges them to repentance, conversion, and renewal. He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives. In the same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

Life messages: 1) We need to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. Let us humbly admit the truth with the German mystic Angelus Silesius, "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me." He means that Jesus must be reborn in our hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives. 2) We need to answer the call for a change of life. John the Baptist challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that, while we are obeying the commandments faithfully, we must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat our employers and employees justly. Let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love" advised St. Theresa of Lisieux and St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Therefore, following John's advice, let us celebrate the memory of Jesus' first advent, prepare for Jesus' daily advent into our lives through the Sacraments and the Bible, and wait confidently for his second advent at our death and/or at the end of the world.

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 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, 6:45 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 Children's Rosary starts 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays when Faith Formation classes are in session.

Altar Flowers

Flowers at the altar for the weekend Masses are provided by the Altar Society, and monetary donations are always appreciated. If you would like to donate funds for a special occasion, in honor/memory of, or just because you have a desire to help, please contact the church office.

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

Pray for Shirley Stenklyft, Danny Smith, Natalie Hayes, Pat LeBlanc, Marcela Montenegro, Steve Francis, Amalia Saucillo, Manuel Yañez, Kamicia Lunceford, Diana & Al Leonhardi, Lucile Cook, Jewel Sanchez, Mike Jackson, and Shirley Long.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Dec 03	5:00 p.m.	Altar Society S.I.
Sun	Dec 04	10:00 a.m.	Members of Our Church, esp. Our Children & Youth
		12:30 p.m.	Father William Hennesy+
Tue	Dec 06	12:30 p.m.	Pierre Cohen+
Wed	Dec 07	5:45 p.m.	Grace Spiehler S.I.
Thu	Dec 08	6:00 p.m.	Alison Fugate S.I.
		7:00 p.m.	Darlene Nolan S.I.
Fri	Dec 09	12:30 p.m.	Eddie Cox+
Sat	Dec 10	5:00 p.m.	Dakota Coats +

Parish Giving

November 27, 2022

1st Collection	\$4,053.50
2nd Collection	289.50
Children's Collection	92.35

2nd Collection	Dec 04	Emergency Fund
2nd Collection	Dec 11	Retirement Fund for Religious

Mass Attendance

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 62
Sunday 10:00 a.m. 152 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: Litlit Marcon

Office Assistant: Linda Rossler



If God requires you to walk on the waves of adversity, fear not, and doubt not, God will be with you; have good courage!
St. Francis de Sales

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.



Church Office Hours

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

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.

News and Notes

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation, Thursday, December 8, 2022

A vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 7, for the Faith Formation students at 5:45 p.m. All are welcome. On December 8, Masses will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. in English and 7:00 p.m. in Spanish.

Advent Retreat and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Prince of Peace will have an Advent Retreat with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, December 10 in our church. The retreat begins at 9:30 a.m. with Confessions starting at 11:00 a.m.

Father John Gomez will give a brief Advent reflection immediately after the 12:30 Mass on December 17.

Altar Society

Come by the Altar Society's annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale this weekend, December 3-4 and next weekend, December 10-11. Thank you for your continued support.

Announcers Wanted

In the time before the COVID pandemic, the Mass introductions were carried out by a group of lay ministers called "announcers." It is time to "begin again" and have announcers take care of both the Mass introductions and announcements at the end of the Mass. If you are interested in becoming an announcer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. This is your last chance to sign up. Next Sunday, the Announcers will begin/resume their ministry of announcement. This coming Friday, December 9, there will be a short instruction session from 6.30 - 7.00 p.m. for all the newly signed up members. Others are also welcome and even encouraged to attend. Thank you for your willingness to serve our church through this ministry.

Knights of Columbus News

Essay Contest Winners

The Knights of Columbus at Prince of Peace are excited to announce the winners of the 2nd Annual Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. Students at Prince of Peace, in Grades 8 through 12, were asked to write an essay explaining... *How young Catholics can evangelize our faith to families and friends who have turned away from religion and encourage them to return to the Church and embrace the sacraments.* The winners are: Meredith Howell – 1st Place - 12th grade, Christian Howell – 1st Place - 11th grade, Madeline Howell – 1st Place - 10th grade and Natalie Howell – 1st Place - 8th grade. Each winner received a 1st place certificate and a cash prize of \$50! Each winning essay will be entered into the Knights of Columbus state-level Citizenship Essay competition later this year.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a parish Christmas poster contest for kids ages 5 thru 14. The poster theme is "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS." Entry forms are on the table in the front of the church. Just fill it out and attach it to your poster. You may drop off your entry in the church foyer before or after Mass, at Faith Formation, or the church office. The contest ends on Wednesday, December 14th. Thank you.

Prince of Peace to Begin a New Youth Group

Parents, if your children are in middle or high school, please prayerfully consider enrolling them in our youth program. Sign-up by using the sign-up sheet in the church foyer or by calling the church office. Those who sign-up will be notified of the meeting schedule. If you have questions, contact Father Luke or the church office.

Photographs for New Directory Drive

If you have not yet had your family photograph taken for the new directory, contact Melissa Briscoe at melissabriscoe5@gmail.com or (903) 954-0003 (by text) to schedule a day/time for a photo.

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.



Saint Nicholas (280 – 343), Bishop of Myra, a man of extraordinary character, dedicated his life to serving God and neighbor.

Nicholas was orphaned when he was still young and inherited his parents' wealth. With that money, he assisted the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

A devout Christian who became widely known for his generosity and protection, Nicholas was named Bishop of Myra. As Bishop, he fought tirelessly against Arianism and paganism. He loved serving the poor and those in need.

Nicholas also suffered; he was persecuted and imprisoned for five years by the Roman emperor Diocletian along with many other Christians and clergy, until Emperor Constantine replaced Diocletian and freed them.

Many legends surround his generosity and fame. To name a few, Nicholas saved starving families during the famine of 342 by giving them gold coins to buy food. In secret, he gave bags of gold coins to a destitute father to purchase marriage dowries, which saved his three daughters from being sold into slavery; and he rendered aid to sailors whose ship had run aground after the sailors prayed to him for help. Legend tells that even after his death, he saved a child who was kidnapped and sold as a slave by miraculously appearing before the child and returning him home to his parents.

St. Nicholas Day is celebrated in many countries on December 6, his feast day.

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For further information, please call the parish office.

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