

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 16, 2026

From the Desk of the Pastor:

There is a story about a man named Jeremy Cohen, a Texan who, with his family, became host to a rabbi from Moscow one Christmas. To treat the rabbi to a culinary experience unavailable to him in his own country, Cohen took him to his favorite Chinese restaurant. After an enjoyable meal and pleasant conversation, the waiter brought the check and presented each person at the table with a small brass Christmas ornament as a complimentary gift. Everyone laughed when Cohen's guest turned the ornament over and read the label "Made in India." The laughter quickly subsided, however, when everyone saw tears running down the rabbi's cheeks. Cohen asked the rabbi if he were offended at having been given a gift on a Christian holiday. Smiling, the rabbi shook his head and answered, "No, I was shedding tears of joy to be in such a wonderful country in which a Chinese Buddhist restaurant owner gives a Russian Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu in India." Today's Gospel episode describes how Jesus extended his healing mission to the Gentiles.

By declaring through the prophet Isaiah (the first reading), "*My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples*," God reveals the truth that in His eyes there is no distinction among human beings on the basis of race, caste, or color. The long-expected Messianic kingdom was intended not only for the Jews but for all nations as well. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 67) rejects all types of religious exclusivity: "*Let all the peoples praise You, O God; ...For You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth, so that Your saving power may be known among all the nations.*" In the second reading, Paul explains that, although the Jews were the chosen people, many of them rejected Jesus as the promised Messiah, and consequently, God turned to the Gentiles who received mercy through their Faith in Jesus. In the Gospel story, Jesus demonstrates that salvation was meant for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews by healing the daughter of a Gentile woman as a reward for her strong Faith. Thus, Jesus shows that God's mercy and love are available to all who call out to Him in Faith.

Life Messages:

1) We need to persist in prayer with trustful confidence. Although the essential parts of prayer are adoration and thanksgiving, the prayer of petition plays a big part in our daily lives. Christ himself has told us to ask him for these needs: "*Ask and you shall receive.*" Asking with fervor and perseverance proves that we have the "great Faith" we need to receive what Christ wants to grant us in response to our requests. We must realize and remember that we do not always get exactly what we ask for. Rather, God gives us what He knows we really need, what He wants for us, and what is really best for us. As Christians, we also know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. But if the prayer is sincere and persevering, we will always get an answer -- one which is better than what we asked for.

2) We need to pull down our walls of separation and share in the universality of God's love. Very often we set up walls which separate us from God and from one another. Today's Gospel reminds us that God's love and mercy are extended to all who call on Him in Faith and trust, no matter who they are. In other words, God's care extends beyond the bounds of race and nation to the hearts of all who live, and God's House should become a House of Prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray and work sincerely so that the walls which our pride, intolerance, fear, and prejudice have raised may crumble.

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

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.

Organizations/Groups Monthly Meetings

Altar Society - 1st Tuesday at 6:00 pm (Sept - May)
Knights of Columbus - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Men's Group - 3rd Thursday at 6:45 p.m.
Women's Group - Last Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group - Every Sunday at 3:30 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.

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, Rich Legler, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, Julieta Marroquin, Judy LeBlanc, Rich Legler, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Leslie Payne, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Danny Smith, Matthew Williams, Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat Aug 15 5:00 p.m. Jena Estoconing S.I.
Sun Aug 16 10:00 a.m. Members of Our Parish
Sun Aug 16 12:30 p.m. Jason Lezama S.I.

Weekday Mass Intentions will be offered by Fr. Luke:
Ciro Garcia Payan (4)+ and Peyton Rossler, S.I.

Sat Aug 22 5:00 p.m. Chase Barnes +

Parish Giving

August 9, 2026

1st Collection	\$4,135.00
2nd Collection	\$ 426.00
Children's Collection	\$ 39.00

Collections

2nd Collection	Aug 16	Faith Formation
3rd Collection	Aug 16	Lawn care/Maintenance
2nd Collection	Aug 23	Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 58
10:00 a.m. 133 and 12:30 p.m. 116

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

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 Fransalians 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.



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

Fr. Luke Away

Fr. Luke is in India until September 11. Please keep him in your prayers. During his absence we will have Mass on weekends but not on weekdays. For any emergency our office will contact the cathedral. Bible questions/answers will be paused until Fr. Luke's return.

Faith Formation Registration

Faith Formation will begin on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. Registration continues in the church office. Fees are due at the time of registration. The family registration fee (late fee) is now \$40 with \$10 materials fee per child. Baptismal certificates are needed at the time of registration for new students who were not baptized at Prince of Peace.

Parent Meeting

There will be a brief parent meeting prior to the start of Faith Formation classes on September 2. Children and their parents will meet in the church at 5:45 p.m. The basics of attendance, as well as parent involvement and responsibilities, will be presented. Catechists will be introduced. After this meeting and prayer, the catechists and children will go to their respective classrooms until 7:30 p.m.

Safe Environment

As a reminder to parents with young children through school age, your child must be in your line of sight in church or on church grounds. A parent must accompany their children to the restroom, wait, and return to the pew with them.

Catholic Family Adventure Club

Home School Blessing Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Flint, on August 28 at 11 a.m.
Bishop Gregory Kelly, Celebrant. Register: <https://www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com/iform/127949>

Ethics and Integrity - Church Personnel Certification / Recertification (CPC)

All clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with minors up to age 18 and vulnerable adults must have a CPC - Church Personnel Certification (Ethics and Integrity). If you currently have a CPC, remember that this certification lasts for three years, at which time you must recertify through VIRTUS. VIRTUS will notify you in advance of your expiration date so that you may recertify in a timely manner. The Code of Conduct and Criminal Background checks are completed online; however, you must attend an "in-person" recertification training. **If any of these modules has expired, you will not be allowed to participate in any ministry in which certification is mandatory.** You may check your certification status by logging in to your dashboard in VIRTUS. If you are new to VIRTUS, you may create an account at VIRTUS Online as a first time registrant, at which time you will create your user name and password and then follow instructions to access the code of conduct, background check, and schedule the initial training class. If you have any questions, contact Linda Rossler at the church office.

Building Expansion

Based on the survey received from our parishioners in which most of our members felt the need of and were in favor of expanding our current community hall and adding a few classrooms, Fr. Luke had several discussions with parish councils, those experienced in construction, and the previous contractor. A final but a preliminary plan and estimates were given by the contractor. Fr. Luke is also in contact with the diocese as part of the process. Once more information with detailed plans and actual costs are available, they will be communicated to you eventually. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers for the successful completion of this important project of ours.

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.



St. Marianne Cope responded to God's call to serve Him by serving others. In 1839, the Cope family emigrated from Germany to the Utica, New York with one-year old Barbara. As she grew, she was called to religious life. That would have to wait, as her father became ill when she was 14 years old and made it necessary for her to work in a factory to support her family. Ten years later, she followed her call to serve God and entered the order of the Sisters of St. Francis. At the completion of her formation, she professed her vows as Sister Marianne Cope. Though she wanted to be a teacher, she was called to use her gifts of kindness, compassion, wisdom, and people skills as an administrator and leader. Sr. Marianne soon became Mother Marianne and in 1883, she became Superior General of her order. She and her sisters established schools and hospitals in New York, improving the lives of people in the communities they served. In 1883, Mother Marianne did not hesitate to leave New York when her help was needed to help care for leprosy patients in Hawaii. She worked tirelessly in Hawaii for 35 years establishing schools and managing hospitals. She spent much of her time at the hospital on the remote peninsula of Molokai where the leprosy victims were isolated. She and her sisters cared for the children of leprosy patients, as well as the leprosy patients themselves. Mother Marianne passed away on August 9, 1918. On October 21, 2012, she became the first American Franciscan saint. St. Marianne Cope is the patron of lepers, outcasts, and those with HIV/AIDS.

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