

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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



Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

A number of years ago, a young college student was working as an intern at his college's Museum of Natural History. One day while working at the cash register in the gift shop, he saw an elderly couple come in with a little girl in a wheelchair. As he looked more closely at this girl, he saw that she was kind of perched on her chair. The student realized that she had no arms or legs, just a head, neck and torso. She was wearing a little white dress with red polka dots. As the couple wheeled her up to the checkout counter, he turned his head toward the girl and gave her a wink. Meanwhile, he took the money from her grandparents and looked back at the girl, who was giving him the cutest and the largest smile he had ever seen. All of a sudden, her handicap was gone, and all that the college student saw was this beautiful girl, whose smile just melted him and almost instantly gave him a completely new sense of what life is all about. She took him from being an unhappy college student and brought him into her world, a world of smiles, love and warmth. -- With the lighting of the rose candle, the third on the Advent Wreath, among the purple candles, and the priest's wearing the rose vestments, we are reminded that we are called to live with joy in our world of sorrows and pain.

The prophet Isaiah, in today's first reading, encouraged the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God was going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm has us sing, "*Lord, come and save us!*" In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. In the second part of today's Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

Life messages: 1) We need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis: If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and his teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On such occasions, let us remember the truth that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on his Divine authority which he gave to his Church to teach what he taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and ask the Lord to remove our doubts. 2) "Go and tell others what you hear and see." We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be reborn in our lives, deepening in us his gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and the spirit of humble and sacrificial service during this Christmas season. Hence, let us joyfully share God's bountiful grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others. What Jesus demanded of John's disciples, he demands of us as well: "*Go and tell others what you hear and see.*" This means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us. 3) We need to open our hearts and let God transform our lives: Today's readings remind us that our lives can also be transformed if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome him by allowing a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world -- wrought by the Holy Spirit, with our cooperative assent, of course -- to take place in us during Advent.

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 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, Barbara Dean, Adam Elliott, Steve Francis, Maria Gutierrez, Natalie Hayes, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Luncford, Julieta Marroquin, Judy LeBlanc, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Leslie Payne, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Danny Smith, Shirley Stenklyft, Matthew Williams, Blanca Villatoro, Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Dec 13	5:00 p.m.	Matthew Williams S.I.
Sun	Dec 14	10:00 a.m.	Members of our Parish
		12:30 p.m.	Grace Levy+
Tues	Dec 16	12:30 p.m.	Elza Marguet+
Thu	Dec 18	5:00 p.m.	Norm Long+
Fri	Dec 19	12:30 p.m.	Andre Meyer+
Sat	Dec 20	5:00 p.m.	Angela Lutmer+

Parish Giving

December 7, 2025

1st Collection	\$3,414.00
2nd Collection	\$ 235.00
3rd Collection	\$ 451.00
Children's Collection	\$ 142.00

2nd Collection	Dec 14	Retirement Fund for Religious
2nd Collection	Dec 21	Faith Formation
3rd Collection	Dec 21	Lawn Care Maintenance

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 64 & 11:00 a.m. 148

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

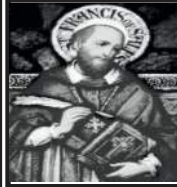
Pastoral Council Chair: Theresa Cheatham
Finance Council Chair: Lou Napolitano
Maintenance Committee Chair: Rick Downey

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 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.



**No one is esteemed before God for
having lived well. For nothing is
small in the service of God.**

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24, 4:30 p.m. Christmas Carols. Bilingual Mass, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25, 10:00 a.m. Mass in English & 12:30 p.m. in Spanish

Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation, Thursday, January 1,
10:00 a.m. in English and 12:30 p.m. in Spanish

Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus annual Christmas poster contest is for children in grades K through the 8th grade. See a Knight for an application which contains the rules and how the poster will be judged. All posters are due by Wednesday, December 17.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry will not have its December meeting.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

Able-bodied men, women, and youth are needed to help decorate the Church on
Sunday, December 21, immediately after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is on a Christmas/New Year's break & will resume on Wednesday January 7, 2026.

Bible Questions and Answers

Remember to use Bible questions answer card for answering the weekly Biblical questions and place your completed answer card in the white box the following weekend. **Answers on a sheet of paper or bulletin sheet will be counted invalid.**

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@diocesoftyler.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 Corner

Answers for November 30

Kids: a. One drawn from water
b. I am who am

Answered correctly by Vicky Gutierrez, Zaya Monnen, Natalia Gutierrez, Steven Rocha, Emily, Ismael, and Isabella Briones, Alonso and Matias Gutierrez.

Adults: a. The descendants of Jacob
b. Because according to Pharaoh the people "are lazy."

Answered correctly by Theresa Cheatham, Bacilia Velazquez, Andrea Gustafson, Neri Gutierrez, Nazaria Coralde, Joyce Napolitano, and Mimi Plumb.

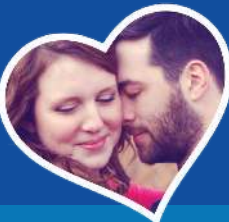
Bible Questions for December 14 (Exodus 11-15)

Kids: a. What kind of lamb had to be chosen for the Passover Meal?
b. In which place did the Israelites find 12 springs of water and seventy palm trees?

Adults: a. By seeing what sign would the Lord pass over the Israelites?
b. Why did God make Pharaoh so obstinate that he would pursue them?

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Brent Boltz
Broker Associate



Real Estate
Sales
Property Management
exp REALTY
903.253.5328
BoltzOrganization@gmail.com
Whitehouse, TX
TREC # 776302

Classic TOYOTA

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