

# Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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## *First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023*

### **From the Desk of the Pastor**

People, in general, have a paranoid fear about the end of the world. It was expected in AD 204, 999, and 2000. The title of a best-seller published in 1988 was *101 Reasons Why Christ Returns in 1988*. An extremely popular film released in 1999 about Christ's Second Coming was *Omega Code*, and another film released in 2005 was *Left Behind*. Excessive fear of the tribulations accompanying the end of the world led the followers of a religious cult led by Jim Jones (in 1978) and followers of another cult called Heaven's Gate (in 1997) to commit mass suicide. But Jesus, in today's Gospel, gives us the assurance that we need not be afraid of the end of the world, Christ's Second Coming, and the Last Judgment, if we remain alert and prepared. The Church invites us on this first Sunday of Advent to prepare for Christ's Second Coming: 1) by properly celebrating during this Christmas season the fond memory of Christ's first coming 2000 years ago, 2) by experiencing Christ's daily advent or coming in every Eucharistic celebration, in the Holy Bible, and in the worshipping community, and 3) by preparing daily for Jesus' Second Coming which, for us, will happen at the unknown moment of our death or the equally unknown moment when the World will end.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah prays for God's active presence so that the Jewish community, returned from Babylonian exile, may remain faithful to their God. In the second reading, St. Paul prays for the reconversion of Christians in Corinth who have misused their gifts and charisms and remain ill-prepared for Christ's Second Coming. In today's Gospel, using the short parable of the servants and gatekeeper of an absentee master who could return at any time, Jesus instructs his followers to be alert and watchful while doing their Christian duties with sincerity. The gatekeeper and the household servants are expected to be ever vigilant because their master is sure to return. Although the time of his return is uncertain, the reward or punishment is sure and certain.

**Life messages:** Live in the living presence of Jesus every day. The message of today's Scripture is that we should live in the living presence of Jesus every day waiting for his Second Coming. We can experience Christ's living presence in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in the worshipping community of our parish, in our family, in our own souls, and in everyone around us. The early Christians experienced the living presence and certain coming of Jesus of Jesus, so their mutual greeting was not "Hi!" or "Good Morning!" but the Aramaic, "Maran Atha" which means "Come, Lord Jesus." This greeting acknowledged Jesus present in each of them and about to return. May God bless you, and keep you ever prepared for Christ's second coming.

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

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

Pray for Lucile Cook, Steve Francis, Natalie Hayes, Mike Jackson, Fr. Joseph Jacobi, Judy LeBlanc, Adam Elliott, Diana & Al Leonhardi, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, Julieta Marroquin, Marcela Montenegro, Mimi Plumb, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Amalia Saucillo, Shirley Stenklyft, and Manuel Yañez.

## *Mass Intentions*

Sat	Dec 02	5:00 p.m.	David Barnes+
Sun	Dec 03	10:00 a.m.	Children & Youth of Our Parish
		12:30 p.m.	Veronica Lake+
Tue	Dec 05	12:30 p.m.	Fr. Mario Puluguju+
Thu	Dec 07	5:00 p.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory+
Fri	Dec 08	6:00 p.m.	Anne Marie Meyer+
		7:00 p.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory+
Sat	Dec 09	5:00 p.m.	David Barnes+

## *Parish Giving*

### **November 26, 2023**

1st Collection	\$2,573.50
2nd Collection	\$ 411.50
Children's Collection	\$ 81.00

2nd Collection Dec 3 Emergency Fund

2nd Collection Dec 10 Retirement Fund for Religious

### **Mass Attendance**

5:00 p.m. 73  
10:00 a.m. 161 and 12:30 p.m. 141

### **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

### **New Finance Council Members**

Lou Napolitano, John Williams, Lars Gustafson,  
Mark Curry, and Mike Yeates



Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything, even if your whole world seems upset.

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](http://www.fransaliansusa.com) or [www.wellspringcommunity.net](http://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.

### New Pastoral Council Members

Carolyn Barrett  
Neri Gutierrez  
Oralia Rosa  
Long Tran

Theresa Cheatham  
Mike Lutmer  
Linda Rossler  
David Williams

Rick Downey  
Mike Rivera  
Sharon Tornes  
Edgar Yanez

## News and Notes

### Altar Society Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, December 2-3 and 9-10, 2023

The Altar Society's annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake sale begins this weekend, and continues through December 9-10.

### Advent Retreat, December 7, 2023

There will be an Advent Retreat on Thursday, December 7, at 6:15 p.m.  
Everyone is invited and recommended to attend this spiritual renewal opportunity.

### Holy Day of Obligation - Friday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8: 6:00 p.m. in English & 7:00 p.m. in Spanish

### Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Tuesday, December 12, 2023

On December 12, the celebration begins with mañanitas, Rosary, & breakfast at 5:00 a.m.  
Mass begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner.

### Penance Service and Confessions, December 14, 2023

On Thursday, December 14, at 6:15 p.m. there will be a Penance Service and Individual Confessions.  
Priests from other churches will be coming to hear Confessions.

### Knights of Columbus

#### Essay Contest Winners

The Knights of Columbus at Prince of Peace sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Citizenship Essay Contest for students in grades 8 – 12 who attend Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The essay theme this year was: ***How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?*** The winners of the Essay Contest are: Elena Baldwin, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> place; Christian Howell, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Madeline Howell, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> place; Natalie Howell, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> place. We are so proud of our young parishioners for their willingness to express their thoughts about their spiritual journey and how they can help others to find Christ.

### Pork Loins for Sale

The Knights are now selling tickets before and after all Masses this weekend for 4-pound smoked pork loins that will be ready for pick-up on December 9, 2023 between 4 - 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The price is \$25.00 per pork loin.

### Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest "Keep Christ in Christmas"

The Knights of Columbus Christmas poster contest for kids in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will end on December 13. There is still time to enter. Pick up an entry form on the table in the front of the church, fill it out, and attach it to your poster. The entry form will contain the guidelines for this contest. You may drop off your poster before or after Mass at the Knights table in the church foyer.

### Helpers Food Pantry

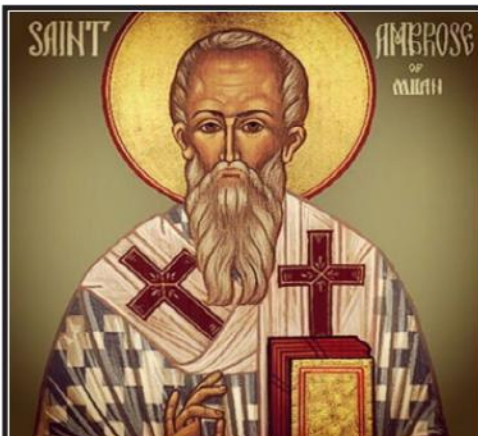
We will be celebrating the Christmas holidays in just a short time. Here are some special items that will be needed: corn meal, cranberry sauce, and canned sweet potatoes. For the routine daily items, the pantry could use peanut butter, jelly/jam, all purpose flour, sugar, cooking oil, soups, canned meats, and stews. We are thankful and grateful to God for you and your generosity.

### 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](http://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](mailto:vac@dioceseoftyler.org).





**Saint Ambrose** (340 - 397) was a government official who later became Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor of the Church.

Ambrose, a child of Christian parents, was well educated. In 372, he was appointed to the position of a Roman prefect near Milan, Italy.

Two years later, the Bishop of Milan died, and Prefect Ambrose attended the election of the new bishop to prevent problems between those of the Church and the heretical sect called Arians. Ambrose was speaking to the assembly, and his words were so moving that the people began demanding that Ambrose become the next bishop.

Ambrose was neither baptized nor trained in theology, and he did not want the position. He hurried away from the crowd, but he could not hide. A week later, he was baptized, ordained, and consecrated as Bishop.

He became a theologian and one of the most important theological figures of the 4th century. He viewed celibacy as superior to marriage and saw Mary as a model of virginity. He was a staunch defender of the Church against Arianism. Ambrose is the source of many of the Church's important writings and hymns. He was an advocate of flexibility in liturgical customs. Ambrose had great influence on Augustine of Hippo, who also became a saint and Doctor of the Church.

Saint Ambrose's feast day is December 7.

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