

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 AD, it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a *Mikveh* -- literally a "collection of water" -- as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath; women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of Faith. In effect, He fused His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

Jesus' baptism by John was a mystical experience that Jesus felt deep within his soul at the crucial turning point of his life. The opening of the Heavens with Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Jesus, and the Voice declaring of Jesus, "*This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased,*" are God's revelation to mankind of the Mystery that He is Triune. The presence of the Triune God at this baptism, reveals Jesus' true identity and mission. The Heavens' opening also indicates that this was a moment of God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. His baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First, it was a moment of decision. It marked the end of Jesus' private life, which had prepared him for his public ministry. Second, it was a moment of identification with his people in their God-ward movement initiated by John the Baptist (quality of a good leader). Third, it was a moment of affirmation and approval Jesus might have been waiting for such a signal from his Heavenly Father, and during his baptism Jesus got it in this announcement of himself as the Father's "*beloved Son.*" Fourth, it was a moment of conviction. At this baptism, Jesus received certainties (assurances) from Heaven about his identity and the nature of his mission. Fifth, it was a moment of equipment. When He descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus with the power of preaching the "*Good News.*"

Life messages:

(1) The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

(2) Jesus' baptism reminds us also of our mission: to experience the presence of God within us, to grow daily in intimacy with God, and to live as God's beloved children.

(3) It is a day to thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach Christ's "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service, and forgiveness.

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 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

6:00 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.

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:

Lucile Cook, Adam Elliott, Steve Francis, Natalie Hayes, Fr. Joseph Jacobi, Judy LeBlanc, Diana Leonhardi, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, David Ratcliff, Orbelina Maradiaga, Julieta Marroquin, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Marcela Montenegro, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Amalia Saucillo, Danny Smith, Shirley Stenklyft, and Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Jan 11	5:00 p.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory+
Sun	Jan 12	10:00 a.m.	Members of Our Parish
		12:30 p.m.	Father Marcel Arnould+
Tue	Jan 14	12:30 p.m.	Eddie Cox+
Thu	Jan 16	5:00 p.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory+
Fri	Jan 17	12:30 p.m.	Matthew Williams S.I.
Sat	Jan 18	5:00 p.m.	Leland Barnes+

Parish Giving

January 5, 2025

1st Collection	4,055.50
2nd Collection	767.50
3rd Collection	435.00
Children's Collection	44.19

2nd Collection Jan 12 Helpers in Ministry
2nd Collection Jan 19 Faith Formation

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 77
10:00 a.m. 128 and 12:30 p.m. 108

Pastoral Team

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



God is merciful to those who want to love Him and who have placed their hopes in Him. His mercy never turns away the disappointed or the unhappy.

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

Taking Down Christmas Decorations

Help will be needed to take down the church's Christmas decorations immediately after the 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, January 12.

Ushers' Meeting

All ushers of all the three Masses (Sat/Sun) will have a mandatory meeting on Thursday, January 23, at 6.30 p.m. Please plan to attend without fail. It will be a brief but important one. Thanks for your service and your cooperation.

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry meets on the third Thursday of each month. The January meeting is this coming Thursday, January 16, from 6:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

2025 Collection Envelopes and Calendars

Your box of 2025 collection envelopes and 2025 calendars are in the church foyer near the main church entrance. Please take yours today.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples in the Diocese of Tyler who are celebrating an anniversary that ends in 0 or 5 or 50 years of marriage in the year 2025 are cordially invited to attend the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. There will be a reception at the Cathedral Center following the Mass. The deadline to register is January 31, 2025. Registration Forms in English/Spanish are in the church foyer, or you may register online at www.dioceseoftyler.org/events.

Women's Retreat 2025

The Diocesan Women's retreat will be on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the W.T. Brookshire Center in Tyler. For more information or to purchase tickets visit, www.dioceseoftyler.org/womensretreat. Early bird registration for the Diocesan Women's Retreat ends on January 14. In this one-day retreat, we will strive to more deeply know and encounter the fruit of God's Love, the Holy Spirit. We will pray together, hear talks filled with witnesses of hope, and be empowered to call on the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. The day will include talks, fellowship, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession, and conclude with Mass. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

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 week-end 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. John Neumann (1811—1860) is the patron saint of Catholic education. From a young age, John wanted to become a priest, and he entered the seminary in his homeland of Bohemia, in present day Czech Republic. He completed his seminary studies, but his ordination date was not set because Bohemia had enough priests at the time. Determined to become a priest, John decided to go to America and ask to be ordained there. He arrived in New York City in 1836. Fortunately, the Bishop of New York needed more priests for his diocese. Within 16 days, John was ordained and then sent to the geographically large parish of Buffalo, New York. He chose the more difficult assignment of caring for those in rural areas of the parish. His life there was harsh: he had to walk long distances between farms, his log cabin rarely had heat, bread was his main dietary source, and he slept a few hours each night. He had little money, but what he had he used to support his churches and schools. In 1842, he joined the Redemptorists Missionary Order. In 1852, he became Bishop of Philadelphia. Bishop Neumann built 50 churches and nearly 100 Catholic schools in his diocese. He died in 1860 at the age of 48 and was declared a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1977. His feast day is January 5.





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