

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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Third Sunday of Lent, March 23, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

Just before Christmas in 1985, we were shocked by an air crash in Newfoundland, Canada. That crash killed more than 200 American soldiers on their way home for the Christmas holidays. A few months later in 1986, we were stunned again by another national tragedy when the space shuttle Challenger exploded only 74 seconds after lift-off. Seven astronauts were killed in that catastrophe. -- Today's Gospel gives us two examples of shocking disasters that occurred in Christ's lifetime. One of the incidents was the ruthless murder of some Galileans while they were in the middle of their Temple sacrifices. The victims were probably political agitators, and this was Pilate's way of silencing them. The other incident was a construction accident which occurred near the Temple during the building of a water aqueduct. Apparently, this building project was hated by the Jews because Temple funds had been appropriated from the Temple treasury by Pilate to finance it. -- These two incidents are brought up because the Jews of Jesus' day presumed that those who were killed were being punished by God for their sins. But Jesus denies this. Instead, he asserts that what really destroys life is our unwillingness to repent and change our lives. Jesus says, not once, but twice by way of emphasis: *"Unless you repent, you will perish as they did."*

The first reading tells us how God showed His mercy to His chosen people in Egyptian slavery by giving them Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v 6) revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush and assured Moses of His Divine presence with His people and of His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. God declared His intention to use Moses as the leader who would rescue His enslaved people. Then God revealed His name as Yahweh ("I AM Who AM") and renewed His promise to the patriarchs (v 8), to give them a *"land flowing with milk and honey."* The second reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the unfaithful Israelites in the desert who were punished for their sins by a merciful and just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding; hence, the Corinthians, and we, must be free from sexual sins and idolatry. Today's Gospel explains how God disciplines His people and invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, Jesus also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence, one can say, *"A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."*

Life Messages:

1) We need to live lives of repentance: (a) We never know when we will meet a tragedy of our own. Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings, and receive from him mercy, forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. (b) There is no better way to take these words of Jesus to heart than to go to sacramental confession, and there is no better time to go to confession than during Lent. (c) Repentance helps us in life and in death. It helps us to live as forgiven people and helps us to face death without fear. **2) We need to be fruitful trees in God's orchard.** Lent is an ideal time *"to dig around and manure"* the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, humble service, and sensitivity to the feelings of others. **3) We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us.** Our merciful Father always gives us second chances. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love through the sacrament of reconciliation, the *"Sacrament of the second chance."*

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, 7:00 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 Stations of the Cross

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross 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, Lucile Cook, Adam Elliott, Steve Francis, Natalie Hayes, Fr. Joseph Jacobi, Judy LeBlanc, Diana Leonhardi, Maria Lezama, Shirley Long, Kamicia Lunceford, Julieta Marroquin, Dudley McKamie, Michael Miller, Marcela Montenegro, Donna Rocha, Fernando Rosales, Jr., Jewel Sanchez, Amalia Saucillo, Danny Smith, Shirley Stenklyft, Matthew Williams, Blanca Villatoro, and Manuel Yañez.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Mar 22	5:00 p.m.	Jim Plumb+
Sun	Mar 23	10:00 a.m.	Members of Our Parish
		12:30 p.m.	Sylvelyn Losack+
Tue	Mar 25	12:30 p.m.	George Schmitt+
Thu	Mar 27	5:00 p.m.	Jim Plumb+
Fri	Mar 28	12:30 p.m.	Jim Plumb+
Sat	Mar 29	5:00 p.m.	Felix Wong+

Parish Giving

March 16, 2025

1st Collection	\$ 3,984.50
2nd Collection	\$ 525.50
3rd Collection	\$ 665.00
Children's Collection	\$ 40.00

2nd Collection	Mar 23	Mission Fund
2nd Collection	Mar 30	Catholic Relief Services

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 102
10:00 a.m. 117 and 12:30 p.m. 130

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

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.



To love our neighbors does not mean merely to wish them well, but also to do them all the good that it is in our power to do.

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Stations of the Cross in English will be at 1 p.m. on Fridays after the 12:30 p.m. Mass and at 7:00 p.m. in Spanish.

Lenten Retreats

The dates and times for the Lenten Retreat are as follows:
In English, Saturday, April 12, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
In Spanish, Saturday, April 5, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal

If you have not yet submitted your Appeal pledge envelope, please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to help meet our parish goal of \$40,000. You may mail it directly to the Diocese of Tyler or bring it to the church.

Blessing of Pregnant Mothers and Families

As the Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25, we will have a blessing of pregnant mothers, their spouses and children at the Masses this weekend.

New Women's Group at Prince of Peace

A women's group is being started! The first meeting will be on March 30th after the 10 a.m. Mass. All women over 18 years of age are invited to attend. Come learn about our Faith, our Traditions, and our history while building friendships. We hope to see you there.

Lay Ministers are Needed

More Lay Ministers are needed for all Masses at Prince of Peace. Prayerfully consider joining this worthwhile ministry. The sign-up sheet is in the church foyer. Thank you.

Easter Egg Candy Needed

The parish's Easter Egg Hunt, planned for Saturday, April 19, is in need of bags of wrapped candies that can go inside plastic eggs. Please drop them off in the church or at the church office. Hard candies cannot be accepted due to safety reasons for small children. Thanks.

Knights of Columbus Fish Frys

The Knights of Columbus will have two Fish Frys this Lenten season - the first on March 28 and the second on April 11, from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall, for dine in or take out. Knights will be selling Fish Fry tickets after each Mass. Tickets will be \$15 each and will include fish, coleslaw, corn, French fries or hush puppies, beans and dessert. Proceeds will be used for Faith, Family, Community and Pro-Life projects at Prince of Peace. We look forward to serving you and your family during this Lenten season!

Donations for New Mothers

The Knights of Columbus is asking for donations of baby wipes in February, baby bottles in March, and diapers in April. Collection boxes are in the church foyer. Your donations will be given to the Gabriel Project for distribution.



The 40 Days for Life prayer vigil for Tyler will be from Wednesday, March 5th thru April 13th. During these 40 days, we need prayer warriors to come out to Planned Parenthood in Tyler, located at 601 Turtle Creek Drive, and pray for (1) hour each week during these 40 days. Bring a Rosary and a friend. Praying does make a difference and saves babies! For more information and to sign up to pray, please go to 40DaysForLife.com/Tyler or contact Lars Gustafson at 281-782-6292.

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.

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes Summary, February 27, 2025

Stations of the Cross are on each Friday of Lent at 1 p.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish), except for First Friday, at which time the Stations will begin at 2 p.m. after Holy Hour. A Penance Service is planned for either April 16 or April 3, contingent on the availability of priests to hear confessions. The Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 12, will include reflections on the last days of Jesus. The date of the Lenten retreat in Spanish will be determined at a later date. (Later on it was decided to have the retreat in Spanish on April 5). Palms will be blessed and distributed before each Mass on Palm Sunday. Everyone will process from the parish hall into the church. There will be a bilingual Mass on Holy Thursday, starting at 6p.m. Afterwards there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10p.m. and a "Breaking of the Bread" in the parish hall. On Good Friday, Stations of the Cross in English will begin at 2:15p.m., followed by the Passion Service at 3 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt for kids will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. The Bilingual Easter Vigil Mass will begin at 8:30 p.m. The Easter Mass schedule remains the same as the regular schedule. The following Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. and running until 4:30 p.m. there will be recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Holy Hour, and confessions. New Altar Society officers will be nominated for election in April. The Altar Society invites all ladies of the parish to join them. The Knights of Columbus will have Fish Frys on March 28 and April 11. Faith Formation students will have their first Confession on May 7 and First Holy Communion on May 21. The Confirmation Candidates will be confirmed on May 21. The Youth Group will have a Youth Summer/Spring Fest fundraiser on June 7 from 10a.m. to 3 p.m. for all parishioners. This will replace the parish spring fest this year. The Youth Group is planning to go for a retreat near Dallas in June.



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