

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 9, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

Before his conversion, Augustine was divided. He wanted to live chastely, but he didn't want to give up sex. He knew the need to change his life, but he couldn't garner the strength to do it. One day he was in a garden feeling miserable because of his indecision. Through his tears he heard what he later described as the voice of a child. (It was really the voice of God.) The voice exhorted him to pick up the book and read. Augustine looked for the New Testament that he had brought with him. It was open to the Letter to the Romans. He read: "*not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.*" Augustine didn't need any more incentive to decide. With these words he promised to be baptized. Augustine had had an experience of God. Simon Peter had the same in the gospel today. After fishing all night without taking anything, Jesus asked him to let down the nets again. When he did so, Simon and his companions caught an amazing number of fish. Knowing that he was in the presence of a man of God, Simon threw himself at Jesus' feet. He reacted as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading: "*Depart from me, Lord,*" Simon said, "*for I am a sinful man!*"

Isaiah, in the first reading, and Peter, in today's Gospel, express their unworthiness to be in the presence of God's great Holiness, and both Peter and Isaiah immediately receive reassurance and their Divine calls. Today's second reading describes the call of another great apostle, Paul, who judges himself to be unworthy of the name or the call, as he was a former persecutor of the Christians and as the last apostle selected by the Risen Lord. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 138) offers a prayer of gratitude for just such a calling. For, it was by giving these three men a strong conviction of their unworthiness, and of their need for total dependence on His grace, that God prepared them for their missions. It was the miraculous catch of fish at Jesus' command, described in today's Gospel, which enabled Peter to find God in Jesus and prompted him to surrender his life completely to Jesus' service as a full-time disciple. The Second Vatican Council teaches that we are *all* called to Christ's ministry by virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ.

Life Messages: **1)** We need to pray that our encounters with the Holiness of God may lead us to recognize our sinfulness and accept His call. God, Who calls us and commissions us for His service, wants us to realize His presence everywhere and in everyone, to repent of our sins, and to remain in readiness to speak and act for Him in our life circumstances, as He shall direct us through His grace and His Holy Spirit. It was their strong awareness of the presence of the Risen Lord in each early Christian, which prompted them to greet each other with the prayer, "*Maran atha*" ["*Come, Our Lord.*"] (This greeting is similar to the ancient Indian Hindu greeting, "*Namaste*" or "*I bow to you*" acknowledging God's presence in each person.) **2)** We need to teach and practice expressions of reverence for the Lord. We need to express our reverence for God through appropriate bodily gestures. For example, when we come into Church, we need to show reverence for Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle by making a deep bow or by genuflecting and blessing ourselves with sign of the cross. Then we need to honor Him by listening to the word of God and by actively participating in the Liturgy's prayers and singing. This same sense of reverence can be expressed by keeping God's living word to us, the Holy Bible, in a prominent place in our homes and by kissing it each time we read from it. **3)** True reverence for God naturally leads us to reverent, respectful love of our neighbors, as God dwells in them. We need to remember that each of us has a unique mission in the Church, and so receives a different mission call from God. Because of our uniqueness, no one can fulfill another's call. We accomplish our personal missions as parents, priests, religious, and lay persons only by depending on God, obeying Him joyfully, radiating the love, mercy, and forgiveness of Jesus and participating in the various ministries of our parish.

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 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:

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

Mass Intentions

Sat Feb 08 5:00 p.m. Leland Barnes+
Sun Feb 09 10:00 a.m. Members of Our Parish
12:30 p.m. Lucio Garcia+
Tue Feb 11 12:30 p.m. Travis Mire-Blood-Ferriol Vidrine & Nolan Vidrine Families+
Thu Feb 13 5:00 p.m. Vidrine-Kirby-Manuel Fontenot Families+
Fri Feb 14 12:30 p.m. Jim Plumb+
Sat Feb 15 5:00 p.m. Felix Wong+

Parish Giving

February 2, 2025

1st Collection \$3,282.00
2nd Collection \$ 414.00
3rd Collection \$ 542.00
Children's Collection \$ 50.00

2nd Collection Feb 09 Emergency Fund
2nd Collection Feb 16 Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

Mass Attendance

5:00 p.m. 72
10:00 a.m. 109 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



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Office closes for lunch between noon and 1:00 p.m.



The manner of correcting a person should be gradual and gentle and with much compassion, prudence and discretion.

St. Francis de Sales

News and Notes

2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal "Receiving Mercy, Restoring Hope." Please prayerfully consider your contribution to the appeal. The goal for Prince of Peace is the same as last year's goal - \$40,000.

Altar Society Bake Sale

The Altar Society's Valentine's Day Bake Sale is this weekend, Feb. 8-9, after all Masses. Your participation as bakers and buyers helps support the mission of the Altar Society to provide for the needs of the altar and other charitable projects.

New Altar Servers

All new altar servers will have training this Sunday, February 9, after the 10 a.m. Mass and 12:30 Mass.

Prince of Peace Youth Group

The Prince of Peace Youth Group invites you to our pasta and salad bar dinner/lunch! We will be serving a buffet style pasta bar after all Masses on Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2. The cost is \$15 per plate or \$25 for two plates. We would really appreciate to see you there, and thank you in advance for supporting the Youth Group. Pre-sale tickets will be available to purchase next weekend in the church foyer.

Faith Formation

Safe Environment Training

The Faith Formation Program will have its annual Mandatory Safe Environment, "Teaching Safety," classes on Wednesday, February 19, during the regular class time. Parents will receive an informational hand-out about the purpose for the training which introduces and builds on the basic concepts of teaching safety and abuse prevention to your children in an age-appropriate way.

Documenting Mass Attendance

This is a reminder to parents of children in Faith Formation that class and Mass attendances are requirements for successful completion of this year's program. Catechists record class attendance, and for Mass attendance, students/parents are to mark their attendance on the designated board in the church foyer. This includes attendance at Mass in another church. You will mark the attendance on the board, and you will also give the bulletin from the other church to the child's catechist. Be sure to write your child's name on the bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

Saint Josephine Bakhita, Feast Day - February 8

In 1877, an eight year old daughter of a tribal chief in Sudan, Africa, was living a very happy life, until slave traders kidnapped her and sold her into slavery. She was so stressed during the kidnapping that she forgot her own name. Her kidnappers named her Bakhita, meaning "fortunate one." Bakhita was bought, sold, and given away many times, and her owners were often harsh and even cruel to her. One owner disfigured her body by intentionally cutting and scarring her skin. Although she was harshly treated, her nature remained kind and gentle. In 1883, when Bakhita was 14 years old, she was sold to an Italian consul who brought her to Italy. Unlike her former owners, he treated her with kindness. The Italian consul later gave her to a family who needed a caregiver for their small child. Several years passed, and the mother of the child had to travel to Sudan for business reasons. She placed the child and Bakhita in the care of the Canossian sisters in Venice. The sisters taught Bakhita about Jesus, and she grew very devoted to Him. When the mother returned to collect her child and Bakhita, Bakhita refused to leave. Through the intervention of one of the convent's superiors, Bakhita discovered that slavery was unlawful in Italy and that she was a free woman.



On January 9, 1890, she was baptized and was fully received into the Church. She took the name Josephine Margaret Fortunata. Josephine entered religious life in 1893 and professed her vows three years later. For the next 50 years, Sister Josephine took care of domestic chores and welcomed visitors at the door.



Saint Josephine Bakhita died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

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