

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



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December 13, 2020

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

4300 Walnut Lake Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48323
 Phone 248-681-9424 - Fax 248-681-5543
 Website: www.princeofpeacecatholic.church

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Thursday and Friday Closed

Father Ron Jozwiak

pastor@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
 Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 NOON

Weekday Liturgies:

Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.
 Suspended until Roof project is completed.

Reconciliation/Penance

By appointment for parishioners.

Parish Office: 248-681-9424

Amanda Brewer

Email bulletin articles to:

parishsecretary@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Bookkeeper: 248-681-9424

Deb Peltier

bookkeeper@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Education Office: 248-681-5070

dre@princeofpeacecatholic.church

**Adult Education/RCIA Office:
 248-681-9424**

Coordinator: Jeanne Martin

adulsted@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Worship Office: 248-681-9424

Minister: Linda Plotkowski

worship@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Baptisms, Weddings, Funeral/Memorial Services

Youth Ministry: 248-681-9424

youthminister@princeofpeacecatholic.church

Musicians/Choir: 248-681-9424

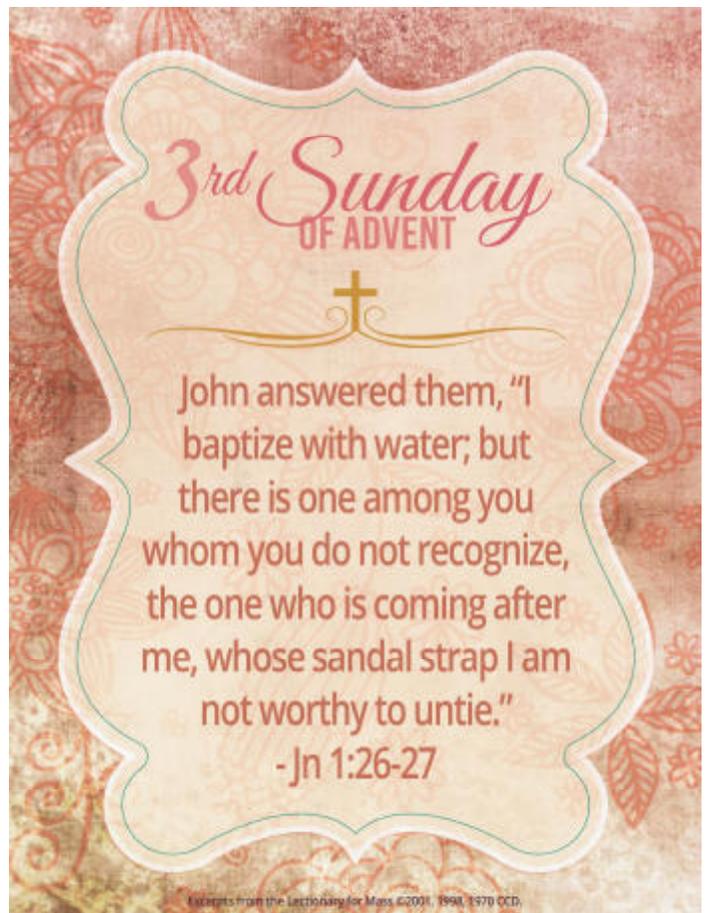
Pastoral Musician: David Hansen

MISSION STATEMENT:

“Growing in Grace, Gratitude and Giving”

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/ Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38



Third Sunday of Advent

Every building has to have a firm foundation. For the Christian, a temple of the Holy Spirit, a vessel of grace, that foundation has to be founded on prayer. A life without prayer is like a house without a foundation. We see this happen in different scenarios of daily life. A condo building is condemned because the foundation was not set properly. A building collapses unexpectedly because the foundation gave way. A firm foundation gives us the support on which to build.

Prayer is our sure foundation. Bit by bit the foundation of our life is set with God. We come to trust in God, we come to yearn for God, we come to be strengthened by God. Everything we do and in all we do, we know from our inner selves that one is welcomed and loved by God. In prayer he strengthens us, makes us steadfast in our values and how we live them out, gives us the courage to act in faith, hope and charity and, even when tired and exhausted, he gives us food for the journey and strength to these tired bones.

On this third Sunday of Advent, sometimes called *Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice Sunday)*, due to our message from St. Paul this weekend from 1 Thessalonians: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (5:17-18). It reminds us that the true foundation for our lives is prayer. It is the conscious, loving presence of God working in our lives that we acknowledge and affirm through thanksgiving, praise and gratitude. St. Paul asks us to "pray without ceasing" and it is not as hard as it first might seem. If we have a foundation of prayer – not always asking God for things, rather, thanking God for all that is and is to be experienced, is the real foundation of the spiritual life. To pray without ceasing is to begin the day in gratefulness for another day of life, paying attention to God acting in our lives through experiences and other people and then thanking him for each moment whether bright or dark. Remember, we learn more about God's compassion, empathy and mercy through suffering than we do by getting what we want. And then praising God for offering us each and every encounter, dialogue and moment of wonder and mystery we experience day.

Each day to make prayer a part of your lives, you have to make the time – not find the time for prayer! There are many times in the day when we can say "I'm busy and do not disturb me" and it can be in the middle of class, a meeting, an appointment with the dentist or doctor. These are only a few of the times we can honestly say "I'm busy, I'll get back to you later" (too bad so many people need to answer their phone in church as if there is something more important than encountering his Word and Sacrament). Our time for prayer is just this important. No one will have power over you at this time unless you think prayer is not important. And if prayer is not important, no wonder you are unhappy, unfulfilled and wandering through life blindly not knowing your purpose or goal. No, take time for prayer and make sure that it is important enough to say "I'm busy, I can't be disturbed, I'll get back to you later."

Throughout the day make sure that there are many moments to say "thank you, God!" No matter how you feel, no matter how busy, there is always a moment to say a heartfelt "thank you" to God. In fact, when we teach prayer, I always tell people learn the practice of ten fingers. During different times of the day there has to be at least 10 thank you to God and use your fingers to prove it. Of course, hundred more are made by those who take time for prayer without distraction. God likes to be at the center of our lives.

Finally, at the end of the day, thank God for all the moments in which you remembered/experienced that God was with you. Secondly, remember those moments when God was not with you, such as angry moment, a rushed moment, a botched encounter, a lost opportunity to do some good. And then, ask God to help you tomorrow to get these things right.

Ultimately to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" is our sure foundation that is built up, brick by brick, through prayer of praise and gratitude. And in living out our daily lives a life of prayer will reveal itself to others in our kindness, mercy, compassion and generosity. In this third week of Advent we soon prepare for the coming feast of the Nativity. In prayer we know that he came for each one of us and in this we are ever mindful and grateful that he knows our name.

-Father Ron

Advent Nativity Reflections

Are you wondering how you can keep the spirit of Advent in your heart? This year it is especially difficult pay attention to the season of Advent when Christmas is shouting at us from all directions. We have taped an Advent Presentation called *Reflections on the Nativity Crèche* to help you celebrate the season of Advent. Watch this presentation that uses the poems *Crèche Characters Ask Questions* written by John Shea to put you into the story of Jesus' birth. Pull your Crèche out of storage, dust it off and place it where you can see it, then find a ½ hour of quiet time to pull up *Reflections on the Nativity Crèche*!

You can find *Reflections on the Nativity Crèche* as well as other presentations to keep you connected to your faith during these Pandemic times, on the Evangelization tab of the Prince of Peace website: www.princeofpeacecatholic.church

We hope you have a prayerful Advent Season filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

The Third Sunday of Advent



What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

Today's Second Collection

Elderly religious have offered a lifetime of service. Now they need your help. Please consider donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

Giving to the Parish from Your IRA, Charitable Trust or Donor Advised Fund

People who have IRA accounts and are over 70 1/2 years old need to take required minimum distributions (RMD) from their IRA each year. In many cases, if you make an RMD directly from your IRA to the parish you can avoid including that distribution in income for tax purposes.

Similarly, many have found that establishing a charitable trust or donor advised fund is an advantageous way to contribute to the church and other charities and obtain a tax benefit.

If you are considering making a charitable RMD to the parish, or establishing a charitable trust or donor advised fund, please contact your tax advisor to see if you can benefit from giving this way.

A Thank you to our Parishioners from the Pope Francis Center...

Dear Jeanne and the Prince of Peace Community,

On behalf of the staff and guests of the Pope Francis Center, Thank you! We are so grateful for your generous donation of 200 backpacks. These backpacks will enable us to expand our annual Christmas Day event and give out approximately double the amount of essential items that we normally do. It is due to the generosity of people like you that we are able to continue to walk with our guest who are experiencing homelessness and provide them with some small comfort in this challenging time.

Thank you, Jeanne, for your enthusiasm and dedication to helping us with our mission. It was a joy to meet you and your lively team of backpack-movers. I look forward to working with you again in the future!

All the best,
Maggie

to helping us with our mission. It was a joy to meet you and your lively team of backpack-movers. I look forward to working with you again in the future!

All the best,
Maggie Blake

Dear Jeanne and the Prince of Peace Community, ^{1/16/2020}
On behalf of the staff and guests of the Pope Francis Center, thank you! We are so grateful for your generous donation of 200 backpacks. These backpacks will enable us to expand our annual Christmas Day event and give out approximately double the amount of essential items that we normally do. It is due to the generosity of people like you that we are able to continue to walk with our guests who are experiencing homelessness and provide them with some small comfort in this challenging time.
Thank you, Jeanne, for your enthusiasm and dedication



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 19th 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 20th 8am, 10am, 12 Noon

Christmas Mass Times

Thursday, December 24th *

5:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm

Friday, December 25th*

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Saturday, December 26th

4:00 pm

Sunday, December 27th**

8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12 Noon

**Tickets will be required. To request tickets email worship@princeofpeacecatholic.church Limited tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis to Prince of Peace parishioners.*

****Please note there was an error in the letter mailed to all families. Sunday, December 27th Mass times are: 8 am, 10 am and 12 noon. Thank you for your understanding.**

Prayer Request

Saturday, December 12

4:00 p.m. †Raymond Reckinger
 †Virginia Rose & Ben Buschen
 Edward Szelc

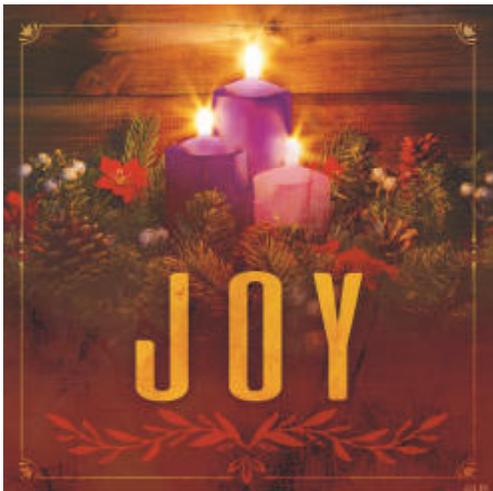
Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. †John & Florence Cassella
 †Paul Kujawa

10:00 a.m. Salwan Jabro
 Julio Jabro

12:00 Noon †Norman Labadie

*Gracious Lord,
 Remember in your mercy those who suffer today.
 Give strength and encouragement
 to those who minister to their needs.
 Remember your promise not to let them be tested
 beyond what they are able to bear.
 Above all, give them the reassurance
 that you are with them as they walk through
 this valley of the shadow of death.
 And in your good time send healing of body and spirit.
 In Jesus' name
 Amen*



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give generously to the upcoming collection.

From left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ; Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI; Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB.
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2020 Retirement Fund for Religious

Make a difference. “Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses,” says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

Please be generous.

For more information or to donate online visit their website:

retiredreligious.org

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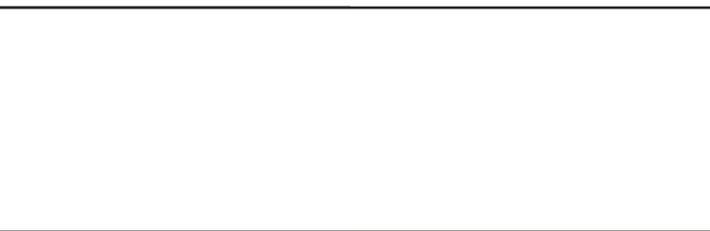
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