

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



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December 20, 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
 adulted@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 20, 2020

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

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 /Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 /Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40

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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Vigil Mass, Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 pm

**Tickets will be required . To request tickets email worship@princeofpeacecatholic.church*

Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis to Prince of Peace parishioners.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord is just a few days away. We wait expectantly for it to occur. Like Mary's great yes to the great change in her life from ordinary woman to Mother of God, it is an act of faith that moves us forward into life and grace. Without a doubt, Mary goes from her own home to visit her cousin Elizabeth as quickly as she could to help Elizabeth, to share her story with Elizabeth, to be with Elizabeth in her time of need.

St. Mother Teresa reminds us that instead of worrying about problems, in ourselves or in the world, we should respond to people's needs. We simply have to act in love. For St. Mother Teresa and for us, she asks us to "serve through live in action, and to be inspired by the Holy spirit to act when called." For her, and hopefully each of us, her words take root in our lives as they are a reflection on the life of Mary. This small act of kindness by Mary to Elizabeth is a model for our daily lives. We learn, by faith, to just respond to people's needs.

St. Mother Teresa says this, "Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service. Try to give unconditionally whatever a person needs in the moment. The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time. Sometimes this may mean doing something physical (such as we Sisters do in our homes for the sick and dying) or sometimes it may mean spiritual support for the shut-ins (those isolated and lonely in their own homes). If an ill person wants medicine, then give him medicine. If he needs comfort, then comfort him."

Throughout our lives we need to take on the attitude of Mary and the Saints: do something for another! Do something beautiful for God by reaching out to the poor and others less fortunate. For when we do something beautiful for God, we are putting our prayer in action and showing our prayer is effective because it has led us into service to others. These actions of grace are always the work of peace. They make God present and teach others how God acts. And for each of us, when we put our prayer into action, we become people at peace.

In the daily lives of so many others, we live by reciprocity – you give and then I give, you do something and I do something back, you hit and I will hit your back and so forth. No wonder we are not a people at peace but rather a people divided. We're always waiting for someone else to act so that we can respond in like manner. But this season of grace says "don't react, rather act in a manner pleasing to God". It is taking the time to relieve the burdens of another, it is taking the time to do real Christian service, it is taking the time to act on one another's behalf so that our hearts may be filled with peace. And if our heart is as peace, so will someone else's be until we all come to know how blessed we are, indeed.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

On behalf of the parish and our Staff, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We have been through an unprecedented 2020 and with Christmas and our eyes already on the New Year, may 2021 bring us back into the loving arms of each other. May it bring to us a renewed sense of family and belonging. May our wonderment at the Birth of our Lord in a stable remind us that from the lowliest of beginnings great things can happen through the help of God. May each of us be blessed in knowing that Jesus came for each of us. Not some of us, but all of us. As we continue on our journey through this Season of Christmas grace, may our gifts of faith, hope and charity to each other be as special to the Lord as those of the Wise Men before us.

Pope Francis reminds us. "Let us open our heart to receive God's gift to the world. For where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. The Son of God alone can save us and free us from the many forms of evil and selfishness in our midst. Let us welcome into our lives God's mercy, which Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, so that we in turn can show mercy to our brothers and sisters." In this way, peace will grow and we will have a new year of grace for we will know God's endless love for us.

-Father Ron

Welcome to our “Family of Parishes”: Prince of Peace, Our Lady of Refuge, Orchard Lake and St. Benedict, Waterford

The Archdiocese of Detroit has been planning for the future of our parishes and unrolled their new program called: FAMILIES OF PARISHES. This new program of cooperation and collaboration is geared to strengthen the parishes we have, unite them together in ministry and move forward together as one team with one goal: to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It takes into account the decreasing number of priest, worshippers and resources that will occur in the years to come. As it is written in the Family of Parishes Playbook, “The creation of families will enable clergy and staff to better share their gifts and talents, will allow for great collaboration and alignment towards mission, will enable better care of the faithful, and will support a more optimal use of our limited human and material resources.”

What does this mean for the next few months? The next few months will be a time of reflection and discussion as to how best implement FAMILIES OF PARISHES. With 51 “FAMILIES OF PARISHES” instead of 215 individual parishes, the work of discernment and discussion will be a shared effort as we move into a new chapter in the life of the Archdiocese.

When are the FAMILIES OF PARISHES formed? The Archbishop of Detroit has envisioned two waves in the formation of FAMILIES OF PARISHES. Wave one will begin the process in July 2021. Wave two will begin the process in July of 2022. This will enable a good learning curve as we adjust policies, procedures, ministers, staff and resources to ensure that the family is strong, united, and committed to the welfare of all in the family and not just one particular area or parish. It is a unification of talents and resources which work for the good of the “family”

Our FAMILY OF PARISHES - Prince of Peace, Our Lady of Refuge and St. Benedict - is part of wave one. We will be working on implementing FAMILIES OF PARISHES for July 2021 kickoff. More information will be presented as it is offered to us. In the meantime, visit www.familiesofparishes.org for a lot more information on FAMILIES OF PARISHES.

Please pray for the success of this new missionary endeavor of the Archdiocese of Detroit. We have always worked for the good of our sister parishes. With the help of God and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may we become a FAMILY OF PARISHES that is strong in faith, charitable in its actions and filled with the wisdom to govern the new family in love with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our guide.

Advent Nativity Reflections

Are you wondering how you can keep the spirit of Advent in your heart? This year it is especially difficult to go through the season of Advent when Christmas is shouting at us from all directions. We have taped an Advent Presentation called *Nativity Reflections* to help you celebrate the season of Advent.

If you haven't yet, pull your Creche 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 *Nativity Reflections*! You can find *Nativity Reflections* 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!

An Exceedingly Bountiful Christmas Giving

In a year filled with so much turmoil and heartache, several bright stars found their way to shine over Prince of Peace. We have just experienced an Advent season like no other. Our gathering space, library and halls that would usually be brimming with gifts of all sorts these weeks of Advent, have been quiet; quiet in a good way. This year all the usual hub-bub attached to two giving trees happened behind the scenes and will have an ongoing impact on the lives of the people who were and will be served.

Quiet generosity purchased 200 backpacks for the Pope Francis Center in Detroit which ministers to the chronically homeless. Our goal of 100 backpacks was doubled. A very small crew of four people in my "bubble" which included Fr. Ron, my husband David and my brother-in-law Tony delivered the backpacks to PFC to an astonished outreach director. The size and quality of the backpacks was more like a small piece of luggage that enables PFC to double the amount of clothes and supplies they are able to give each client. Heartfelt smiles, thank you's and tears followed.

Quiet generosity did not end at the Pope Francis Center, it moved to a place near and dear to Prince of Peace's hearts, St. Christine Soup Kitchen in Northwest Detroit. Due to the financial effects of COVID on our parish, the funding of continuing our program in 2021 of purchasing, cooking and feeding those in need was in peril. Parishioners spoke loudly with financial donations that ensured the continuation of outreach to the families of the Brightmoor area. Recently we were made aware of the Soup Kitchen's need of a new "steam hot box" where prepared food is kept warming. The hot box being using was beyond repair and the health department let them know without the hot box they would be shut down or reduced to cold meals only. The same day I learned about the need, a check for \$1,000.00 showed up on my desk with a note "to be used wherever needed." It covered the cost of a new hot box. Quiet generosity. More heartfelt smiles, thank you's and tears.

I will always remember this quiet Advent and all the shining stars, a.k.a. the parishioners of Prince of Peace who proved that good can and does come out of trying times.

Peace on earth, good will to all!

Jeanne

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.



Saturday, December 19

4:00 p.m. † Gary Graustein
† Victor Joseph
† Mary Dominik

Sunday, December 20

8:00 a.m. † John & Florence Cassella

10:00 a.m. Francis Arabo
Julio Jabro

12:00 Noon Families of Prince of Peace

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

Knights of Columbus Council 12808 - Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism -

(This is the second in a series of articles on the formation and history of the Knights of Columbus.)

In last month's Nov. 8th bulletin we introduced Gather McGivney who founded our fraternity in 1882 for the purpose of providing spiritual support to Catholic men and financial resources to their families in times of need.

Over the 138 years our fraternity has remained true to its commitment servicing our parish and community at large through charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. These principles are reflected in our four degree levels.

A Knight may seek to attain each degree level through formal installation ceremonies. Normally each ceremony requires a set of protocols leading to a candidates' installation/exemplification and ends with a celebratory meal. Due to the pandemic however, a candidates' degree installation/exemplification may be conferred via a video ceremony.

In 1885, three years following the formation of our fraternity, the Knights Handbook referenced two degrees – Charity and Unity.

Our First Degree level is considered an 'Admission' degree and focuses on the virtue of Charity. Brother Knights may participate in fund raising for our parish, members of our community and at the national level. Brother Knights may volunteer one hour of his time or more over the course of a year – or he may choose not to. Examples of our fundraising events include our annual Tootsie Roll (less tootsie rolls this year) and St. Christine Food Drives. As previously mentioned, over \$185,000,000 was raised and contributed by the Knights nationally in 2019 alone!

'Formation' is the foundation of the Second Degree and centers around the virtue of Unity. Our Council 12808 serves as a communications' forum helping to organize and unite our members towards common causes within our parish.

The Third Degree was formally adopted in 1891 by then Supreme Knight James T. Mullen. At the time, recognition of this degree had served to complete the trinity of virtues – Charity, Unity and now Fraternity. Knights are members of a fraternity and over the years, KoC has become a true brotherhood. Our Knights' Council 12808 express our camaraderie in various ways, with our golf league (where our brotherhood is occasionally tested), our breakfasts and Christmas Dinner celebrations (cancelled this season due to pandemic) and our Prince of Peace parish Christmas decorations and flower garden.

In 1886 Supreme Knight J.T. Mullen had also proposed to add a Fourth Degree focusing on the virtue of Patriotism. In February, 1900 1,400 Knights were exemplified in New York and in 1903 the 4th Degree was officially decreed. In addition to parish Council membership, each 4th Degree Knight is a member to an Assembly. Our Councils' fourteen 'Sir Knights' are members of Assembly 2136. There currently are over 3,100 Assemblies nationwide.

In southeast Michigan there also formally exists a select group of 4th Degree Knights who are members of the Color Corps and Honor Guard. These 'Sir' Knights wear a specified uniform with sword and participate in numerous events from funerals to dignitary escorts.

I hope you are finding value in our articles. Next months' article will focus on our Knight of Columbus organization and its' structure. Should you have any questions or interest in becoming a part of the brotherhood contact our Grand Knight Sam Lucido at 248-941-4804. Peace and Good Health.

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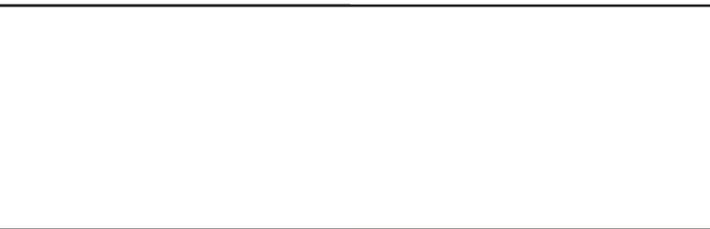
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