

6<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

- Mk 1:40-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**

4300 Walnut Lake Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
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 Website: [www.princeofpeacecatholic.church](http://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.

**Weekday Liturgies:**  
 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**  
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**Adult Education/RCIA Office:**  
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 Coordinator: Jeanne Martin  
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**Worship Office: 248-681-9424**  
 Minister: Linda Plotkowski  
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**Youth Ministry: 248-681-9424**  
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**Musicians/Choir: 248-681-9424**  
 Pastoral Musician: David Hansen

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*“Growing in Grace, Gratitude and Giving”*

**Readings for the week of February 14, 2021**

**Sunday:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11/  
 1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**Monday:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17,  
 20-21/Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2,  
 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13,  
 14, 17/2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/  
 Lk 9:22-25

**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/  
 Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
 Lk 5:27-32

**Next Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1  
 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

**Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021**

Mass with the distribution of ashes will take place at 8:30am and at 5:00pm.

Due to the continued precautions of the pandemic, we will not distribute ashes to the forehead. The Congregation of Divine Worship has provided a note of guidance for distribution of ashes during the time of pandemic. *The ashes will be blessed, the prayer is said once “Repent and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” and then the blessed ashes will be sprinkled on the head of each person without saying anything. This is an ancient method of distribution of ashes.*

There is NO self-imposition of ashes nor can ashes be taken home.

We have limited seating with a capacity limit of 150 people. The doors will be locked when Mass begins or when we have reached our capacity.

All COVID-19 precautions will remain in place.

**Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays during Lent at 6:00 pm. Please note this is a new time for Stations to be prayed at Prince of Peace!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“If you wish, you can make me clean” Our readings deal with many things that are applicable to our world today. Prior to and during the time of Jesus, leprosy was a disease that made one “unclean”. Not knowing the cause of leprosy, they did not know how contagious it was and so deemed the “unclean” ones to withdraw from society and all that one knew. Basically, to have leprosy was to be exiled and then made homeless and worthless to others. If one survived, if one could survive, it was because scraps were given to lepers to eat. Once one had leprosy, one has lost their dignity as a human being.

The theme of “unclean” has found its thread throughout history. It may have been disease that made one “unclean”. It may have been proclaimed when one was publicly acknowledged as a sinner and it may have been when others thought a person was different – from a different culture, a different way of life, and even from a different faith. History is rife with stories of fear and discrimination. There has been and remains too many individuals who would rather shout out “unclean” that announce all are “children of God.” Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we still suffer the effects of the prior times of slavery, now seen in human trafficking. We still suffer the effects of discrimination that calls one less human and therefore less welcome and worthy of life, such as the refugees. We still suffer from class differences in which some are judged unclean by the type of clothes, background, education and place of residence rather than on their being a “child of God”.

Social Media has revealed bullying, anger, hate and fear are more operative than ever in life, and worse still, some believe that bullying, putting others down, refusing the rule of law and condemning anyone that could possibly disagree with you as being “unclean”, unworthy to share this world with others.

Jesus comes in the midst of this mess of humanity and the messes we make and asks us, especially as Lent begins this week, to beg God to make us clean. Most thankfully and most gratefully, Jesus says to us “I do will it. Be made clean.” But first we have to approach the Lord and acknowledge how we have lessened his creation by abusing it and not being responsible to the world. We have to acknowledge how our less than stellar attitudes and values demean, demoralize and kill the human spirit. And we have to acknowledge that we are all sinners in need of change.

Jesus always wants everyone to belong to one family. We have seen that most don't like Jesus, no matter how much they profess it, for they always want to kick someone out of the human race. Someone is always judging based on creed, race, nationality, gender and lifestyle and thinking how good they are. Jesus, however, includes all – both Jew and Gentile alike in his life-giving love and today we are called to remember who do we call “unclean” but more importantly, how often do we put into concrete life Jesus words “be made clean” and bring another soul, another life, into the family of God? No one is excluded from God saving power when they ask him (and us) for mercy.

### **MANY THANKS TO OUR MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY COUPLES THIS WEEKEND**

One of the most concrete witnesses we have to faith and God's great love is the love of husband and wife. These couples who gladly come to the altar of the Lord know that love is forged through common experience and support of each other. Despite trying times, they hold dear to the one God has given them to love always, to love sacrificially, to love to death. They have found their partner in life who have supported them in times of gladness and in times of darkness.

Each one of us needs to remember that true love is forged by experience and commitment. Shared experiences reveal how much of a support and guide we are to each other and tell us we never have to walk alone in this strange and wondrous life. Commitment is a value beyond price for it reveals where the heart and soul have grown and been strengthened. Through their commitment to each other and by their touches of love and words of hope they reveal a plan for God's people. And that plan is utterly true: we all need to belong to a family. Marriage is that stepping stone of grace in which family is born, family is nurtured and new families are formed.

Blessings to each and everyone of you! May you continue to thank God daily for each other and for the families of grace that you have formed. May he continue to smile upon you and grant you days of joy and nights of blissful rest.

Thank you for standing here today and affirming that it is through God's loving bond of love and mercy that you have been made one and found how loved you really are, for just who you are by giving yourself to one another.

*Continued on next page*

**NO SELFIE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY THIS YEAR**

Ashes will NOT be placed on Forehead due to Covid-19 concerns. No one gets a selfie this year. In years past, people have always proudly shown others the mark of Lent but this year will be different. In light of the Gospel message and renewing the ancient, original practice of ashes, Lent will begin with a sprinkling of ashes on top of the head. The Congregation of Divine Worship has ruled that with the worldwide pandemic still raging, ashes will be sprinkled on the head of each person without saying anything.

I've always appreciated this monastic way of beginning Lent and have practiced it for years. It makes sure that I begin Lent taking seriously the Gospel reading for the day: "Take care *not* to perform righteous deed in order that people may see them" With ashes sprinkled on the head, there is no "trumpet blowing" to "look at me". It is only an interior value that will reveal itself in the three-fold task of Lent: prayer, fasting and charity. It makes sure that I begin Lent wanting to be God's humble servant knowing, as the church puts it: "that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son." It is not the ashes which make Lent, but rather our acts of concrete faith through which no trumpet is blown, nor message transmitted to others, nor any "look at me moment and see how good I am", but rather it will be concrete moments of prayer, fasting and almsgiving done in secret for "your Father who sees in secret will repay...and your Father who sees in secret will repay you...and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." Three times the Gospel message reminds us to do our acts of Lent in private. Three times means its importance is beyond doubt: do what is your heart to be more in union with Christ and then "your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

With the pandemic still raging, this change is most welcome and most appreciated. It is a strong reminder to live Lent from the heart and never for show. It is a strong reminder that I must choose to give the best I have to God without expecting anyone's affirmation or praise. Some will complain about this new way of sprinkling ashes on the head, but they will soon forget Lent on Thursday. If it is for show, the show will be over tomorrow. However, if you come to Ash Wednesday as the new beginning of grace, a time of conversion and a moment to renew your faith, your humble acceptance of ashes on your forehead will truly penetrate your being and reveal to you the extent God's love will embrace you.

Father Ron

**Mass Times are Changing at Prince of Peace**

As we look toward the future, we will be changing Mass times at Prince of Peace.

This has been something we have been thinking about for some time. COVID has affected each of the following areas and with the limited resources we now have, it is time to make this change.

**Our Mass times beginning on February 21<sup>st</sup> will be as follows:**

**Saturday, 4:00 pm**

**Sunday, 8:00 am and 10:00 am**

**Beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Daily Mass will resume on Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:30 am.**

Celebrating three Masses each weekend better aligns us with the population of the parish, the shortage of priests available to assist, and the lack of Ministerial help in the parish. With the beginning of Family of Parishes this change will be the first step as we grow into a true "family" in the future.



## Food Pantry Donations

With the new normal of masks and social distancing we have to adjust to the changing face of society. We are finding it difficult to “drop off food” and “distribute” it to our local pantries.

In fact, they are preferring not to have so much social contact with the handling of cans and packages from so many different sources.

What they have recommended to us and what we will try to implement, is to have an envelope addressed to either Franciscan Outreach Center or Open Door to facilitate them in obtaining the proper foodstuff for their clients.

This is not to say there is less of a need for food, it is simply to say that the food needs to be purchased by the organization for sanitary safety concerns with their volunteers.

Our two organization are overwhelmed with clients at this time and they know exactly what they need to put in a bag of groceries for a week – and they are able to get it at reduced prices from both the government and their own supplies.

I know this is a little more impersonal but it is more practical. It is a win-win situation: the food pantries have the funds they need to get food at better cost and we maintain our relationship with them by our direct monetary donations or, even easier – using our on-line giving tool on the parish website. Once you click on the “heart”, the next page has “offertory” and under that “Local Food Program Support”. Click on “Local Food Program Support” and the parish will direct 100% of the funds donated to either Franciscan Outreach Center or Open Door.

Thanks for your understanding in this time of uncertainty and change. It is a change that will truly help these organizations and, hopefully, make it easier for each of us to give to this necessary cause: food for those in need.

Father Ron

## Collection to Support the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Next week we will take up the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in these regions. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next weekend. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee)



## Adult Faith Formation

### Relax...It's Lent

Having trouble seeing God lately? Is stress taking over your life? Are you finding it hard to sleep? If so, we are offering a five-week Lenten reflection series that will help relax even the most stressed out among us. Using the book, *The Breath of the Soul* by Sr. Joan Chittister, and other materials, we have created a virtual, Lenten, relaxing, meditation experience like none other. Here is the important information needed:

- Session 1: Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm via Zoom
- Session 2: Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm via Zoom
- Session 3: Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm via Zoom
- Session 4: Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm via Zoom
- Session 5: Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm in Church

**Class is limited to 25 registered parishioners. Cost: \$10.00**

**Register by phone: Jeanne Martin 248-681-9424**

**Register by email: [adulted@princeofpeacecatholic.church](mailto:adulted@princeofpeacecatholic.church)**



Saturday, February 13

4:00 p.m. Families of Prince of Peace

Sunday, February 14

8:00 a.m. Families of Prince of Peace

10:00 a.m. Families of Prince of Peace

12:00 Noon Dr. Jamil Juma  
Faequa Mona

*Pray for...*

Maceo Boozer  
Genevieve Davey

*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*

*"Grant them eternal rest,  
O Lord, and let  
Perpetual light shine upon them."*

*Don Fichter*



## Michigan Catholic Conference: focus A BLUEPRINT FOR THE COMMON GOOD 2021 – 2022 ADVOCACY PRINCIPLES

### Week 1

The mark of “a truly human and fraternal society,” according to Pope Francis, is its ability to ensure “that each of its members is accompanied at every stage of life.”<sup>1</sup> Travelling together involves more than meeting basic needs. Echoing further the words of the Holy Father, it also calls for “enabling them to give the best of themselves,” whatever their capabilities. Catholics are called to a life of charity and justice; a component of which is engagement in the democratic process that shapes communities and the common good.

In January, members of the Michigan Legislature took their oath of office and began the 2021–2022 legislative session. The session kicks off amid a global pandemic and lingering acrimony from last year’s national election that inflamed existing political, class, and racial tension across the country and in Michigan. Meanwhile, families are separated or are grieving loved ones taken by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many others have lost jobs or businesses and are having a difficult time making ends meet. Countless people are struggling to find hope. During these significant societal, familial, and personal challenges, the role and experience of Catholics to care for others—including through the development of good public policy—provides recourse for the lost and struggling.

The wisdom of the Church clarifies how people of faith can and should respect and promote every person as a child of God, including the unborn, the elderly, the imprisoned, the immigrant, and those experiencing poverty, sickness, or other challenges. Whereas public policies have a significant impact upon human life at all stages, Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) exists as the advocacy voice of the Church to engage in the legislative process and to advocate for justice and dignity.

A portion of the focus publication that highlights MCC’s guiding advocacy principles for the 2021–2022 legislative session will be printed in the bulletin for the next ten weeks. It will share information about the Michigan Legislature and ways Catholics can become involved in advocacy.

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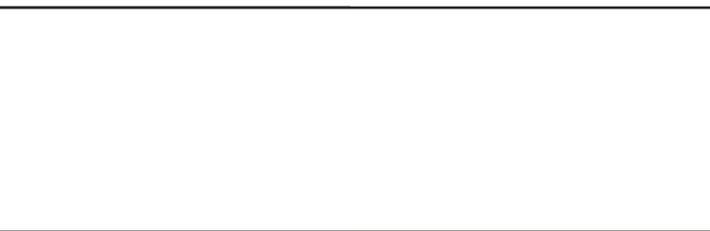
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