

December 25, 2022 | The Nativity of the Lord | Merry Christmas!



PRINCE of PEACE

CATHOLIC PARISH



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MASS SCHEDULE

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am

Daily Masses

Monday – Friday 8:30am

Rosary prayed every weekday at 8:00am

Holy Days/Feast Days

8:30am & 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 3:30pm (In the church)

or by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday: 9am - 2pm

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. H. Edward Chalmers

Business Manager

Bill Lawton

Religious Ed Coordinator

Sharon Bushway

Secretary

Deborah Harding

Musicians

Denis and Priscilla Coughlin

Finance Council Chairperson

Gerald Gates

SACRAMENTS / OTHER

Baptism

Instruction is required for all parents seeking baptism of their child. Please contact the Rectory.

Marriage

Please contact the Rectory at least one year in advance.

Care of the Sick

Please advise us of parishioners who are sick so that we may keep them in prayer and bring the Eucharist to those who cannot attend Mass.

Confidential Prayer Line

To add intentions please call Ellen Calamari at 978-660-3818 or the Rectory at 978-464-2871.

Adult Bible Study

Please contact the Rectory for schedule

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Wednesdays at 8:00pm in the Parish Hall

Merry Christmas





*Please pray to end
Abortion
and Infanticide*

Christmas Eve

Sat 12/24 3:00pm *Confessions*
4:00pm Parish and Parishioners of Prince of Peace
6:00pm Parish and Parishioners of Prince of Peace

Merry Christmas

Sun 12/25 8:30am Parish and Parishioners of Prince of Peace
10:30am Parish and Parishioners of Prince of Peace
Mon 12/26 8:30am Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 12/27 8:30am Maureen Migdelany
Wed 12/28 8:30am Intentions of our Prayer Line
and Prayer Intention Book
Thu 12/29 8:30am Alice and Mooshek Ovia
Fri 12/30 8:30am Cecelia and Anthony Laconte
Sat 12/31 3:30pm *Confessions*
4:30pm unrequested
Sun 1/1 8:30am unrequested
10:30am unrequested

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.



DAILY MEDITATION: JOHN 1:1-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

Merry Christmas! Everyone here at The Word Among Us wishes you God's abundant blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Word of God, who became flesh and dwelt among us.

When John speaks of Jesus as "the Word," he isn't referring to the close to thirty thousands words that the average person hears each day. Most of these words go in one ear and out the other. But some stick with us and shape the way we think and the choices we make. These are the words that matter.

On this Christmas Day, St. John tells us of one Word that matters more than any other word we'll ever hear. It's Jesus, the living Word of God, who gives life to everything in the universe (John 1:3). He is the divine Word who imparts God's "grace and truth" to us (1:14). He is the holy Word who "shines in the darkness" to deliver us from sin and death (1:5). He is the eternal Word who "became flesh" and who has "made his dwelling among us" (1:14).

Today can be a noisy day. We'll be making a joyful noise as we sing "Glory to God in the Highest" and "Joy to the World" at Mass. Many of us will be part of the controlled chaos involved in unwrapping gifts and coming together for family celebrations. Who knows? We may hear as many as forty or fifty thousand words today! Of course, this is right and good. But at the center of it all is Jesus, the Word of God who came to speak life, healing, joy, and peace into our world.

As noisy as today may be, make sure you set aside time to sit quietly and listen for Jesus' voice. Welcome him into your heart. Let him share the good news of salvation with you. Let him tell you again that he loves you.

"Jesus, Word of the Father, come and speak your words of grace and peace to my heart."

**Christmas
December 25, 2022**



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate another Christmas, may the peace and love of Jesus fill our hearts. I hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends during these days. In a particular way, let us remember in our prayers those who are alone, and those who had loved ones pass on in 2022. May the loving consolation of God heal all those dealing with feelings of loss and loneliness.

The Incarnation, the event when, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, (John 1:14) continued God's plan for the salvation of humanity, that began with Mary's "fiat" at the Annunciation. The birth of Jesus resonates within our hearts a certain simplicity that is necessary for the development of our souls. The image of the "infant Jesus" lying in the manger between Mary and Joseph challenges us to believe those prominent words of the Nicene Creed, "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man."

May we be filled with hope as we challenge ourselves to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. In a spiritual way, we need to constantly renew that acceptance. This is "ongoing conversion." We have to continue to change and become more like Jesus. May the simple birth of Jesus inspire us to embrace His humility. This is the way to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let us give ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, allowing our dear Blessed Mother to lead us to Her Son. However, may we strive to reject sin and that selfishness so prevalent all around us. May the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit be with us as we walk the path of daily life. Be well and be safe!

God's love and prayers always,
Fr. Ed

Weekend Collection - Dec. 11, 2022

Sunday Offertory:	\$1060.00	
Monthly:	\$585.00	Thank
Make up envelopes:	\$120.00	you
Maintenance:	\$20.00	for
High Energy Costs:	\$20.00	your
Christmas Flowers:	\$65.00	kind
Christmas:	\$25.00	support
Immaculate Conception:	\$380.00	
Solemnity of Mary:	\$25.00	
Retirement for Religious:	\$415.00	
Nazareth Home:	\$605.00	
Total Collection:	\$3,320.00	
(November Online Giving Total) - \$2,440.00		

Praying for the Souls in Purgatory Throughout the Octave of Christmas

The Perfect Christmas Gift!

(The Octave of Christmas is the eight days beginning with Christmas Day and ending on New Year's Day, January 1)

Help a soul in purgatory reach heaven on December 25th. And, marking the eight days of the Octave of Christmas; keep giving and keep helping through January 1st (the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God).

It well may be you are unfamiliar with the revelations of both St. Alphonsus and St. Teresa of Avila that say most souls are released from purgatory on Christmas Day (not All Souls Day!). Then, too, it well may be you're a little unclear on the Church's teaching on purgatory. Here's what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.

From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God (that is, heaven). The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead: Let us help and commemorate them. Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them. (CCC1030-1032)

Unable to pray for themselves, unable to gain merit now that they're in purgatory, they heavily rely on us to free them. What's their primary pain? They suffer the loss of the sight of God. After their death, they saw God but now are unable to be with him. The saints tell us that's worse than any pain or suffering on earth.

In a similar way, we keenly feel the loss of loved ones during the Christmas Season. St. Alphonsus and St. Teresa are telling us is that, being an advocate for them by our prayers, we can help turn their pain into eternal glory. We can help them "go home" for Christmas.

But what about loved one already in Paradise? Are our prayers wasted? Not at all! Again to the Catechism: "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them." Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective. They're prayers for us, and for others, become more powerful. St. Thomas Aquinas called this "accidental glory." And the lesson here is never stop praying for the dead.

With all this in mind, a few suggestions:

1. Offer your Christmas Mass, Holy Communion and Indulgence on that day. Stop at the manger and implore the Infant Jesus to intercede for the most abandoned souls. Those of priests and consecrated religious. We tend to canonize them and cut off too soon our prayers for them.

(continued top right)

2. At home, say a decade of the Rosary with family members in front of the Nativity scene. In simple words, explain to members of the youngest generation why the family is doing this.

3. In church or at home, light a votive candle for all who have passed away, but perhaps especially those who have died since the previous Christmas. The burning candle is a sign of our prayer, a bright silent intercessor for the holy souls.

4. Say the Eternal Rest Prayer before and after meals throughout the Octave of Christmas. ("Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.")

5. Join your prayers with the intercessions of the holy souls in purgatory who are praying for their grieving loved ones on earth. (No, the holy souls can't pray for themselves but, yes, they can, and do, pray for us still on earth!)

6. Offer up the stress of the holiday season as a prayer for the holy souls.

7. Find out about having Gregorian Masses celebrated for a loved one who has died. (<https://piousunionofstjoseph.org/gregorian-mass-2/>)

8. On January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, join Our Lady in praying for the holy souls.

by Susan Tassone - sign.org/articles/the-perfect-christmas-gift-172060

This Week in the Catholic Church



St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Monday, December 26th

Stoning: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."



St. John the Apostle, Evangelist
Tuesday, December 27th

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."



Feast of the Holy Innocents
Wednesday, December 28th

The Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.



St. Thomas Becket, Bishop/Martyr
Thursday, December 29th

'Willingly I die in the name of Jesus and in defense of the Church.'



Feast of the Holy Family
Friday, December 30th

The model of faithfulness

SAFE ENVIRONMENT NOTICE: Prince of Peace Parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children and young people approved by the US Bishops and Diocese of Worcester policies. If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to Judith Audette, Director of the Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester at 508-929-4393.