



PEACETIMES

Prince of Peace Newsletter

SPRING 2026



Second Sunday Sweets & Fourth Sunday Food Trucks



Join your parish family for monthly socials!



Cookies will be served after Saturday Mass and Donuts following Sunday Masses the 2nd weekend of each month throughout the year.

Food trucks will be in the northwest parking lot the 4th Sunday of every month after 10:30 Mass, May through September.



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SPRING 2026



Spring at Prince of Peace



The 3rd annual Volunteer and Lay Minister Appreciation was held on May 27th thanks to planning by our Stewardship Committee. After a Mass of thanksgiving, a beer and brat dinner was served courtesy of Nebraskaland Bank.



Thirty-six students received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Faith Formation students took part in the May Crowning Mass, honoring Jesus's (and our) mother Mary. The children processed in and presented the gift of flowers to the Blessed Mother. After Mass, celebrated by Fr. Lawrence, the Knights of Columbus served burgers and hotdogs to the families.





The Woman I Fell in Love With

As I grew up, my parents exposed me to a woman whom I did not know that I will fall in love with.

There comes a time in every person's life when the heart begins to search—not merely for beauty, but for goodness; not merely for companionship, but for a love that transforms. Mine was no different. I, too, fell deeply in love with a woman.

It wasn't love at first sight. Rather, it was a love that grew quietly, almost unnoticed. The more I came to know her, the more captivated I became. She possessed a beauty that time could never diminish, a gentleness that soothed every troubled heart, and a strength that remained unshaken even in the darkest moments.

She never sought attention for herself. Instead, she always pointed others toward someone greater. Her humility was astonishing. Though blessed beyond measure, she called herself the servant of the Lord. In a world obsessed with recognition, she chose hiddenness. In a society driven by pride, she clothed herself in humility.

I fell in love with her compassion. She noticed the needs of others before they spoke to them. She comforted the sorrowful, strengthened the weak, and remained faithfully beside those who suffered. Even at the foot of the cross, when many had fled, she stood firm.

I admired her courage. She embraced God's will without knowing where it would lead. She trusted when everything seemed uncertain. Her life became a living "yes" to God—a lesson that faith is not the absence of questions, but the courage to trust despite them.

Whenever life became overwhelming, I found myself turning to her. She listened without judgment. She inspired hope when despair threatened to take over. She gently reminded me that no one who seeks God is ever abandoned.

Many may wonder what it means to fall in love with such a woman. It is not the possessive love that seeks to own, but the pure love that seeks to imitate. **It is the kind of love that inspires holiness, deepens faith, and leads the soul ever closer to Christ.**

The greatest love always points beyond itself. That is exactly what she does. She never keeps hearts for herself; she places them into the Sacred Heart of her Son.

Yes, I have fallen in love with a woman—not because she belongs to me, but because she belongs completely to God. **That woman is Mary, the mother of Jesus, our Blessed Mother.**

Her birth was foretold. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) She was visited by an Angel of God. She bore the a son who is the

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king of heaven and earth. (Luke 1:26-38) And the king entrusted her to the beloved disciple John. (Revelation 19:16, John 18:36-37) **Jesus says to Mary, “Woman, here is your son,” and to John, “Here is your mother.” (John 19:25–27)** This beautiful woman is a mother of Mothers, the keeper of secrets. Ever since I embraced her, I learned that she is the only woman I can trust with all my secrets, anxieties, cries, joys, sufferings, laughs etc., and she has never disappointed me. This is the woman I would like you to embrace in your life. I call her my mother, my girlfriend, my best friend, and my everything. I do not feel ashamed to talk about her in public. She is ready to fall in love with any person, however much you are worried, sick in mind and body, in need of healing, stressed and in need of happiness, doubting and in need of answers. This is the woman you need. **Her name is Mary.** There is no way you can love her son without loving the mother who gave birth to the king of kings. (You would be a liar if you love Jesus, and you do not like Mary.) The simple way to love the son is through the mother. **Mary’s “yes” at the Annunciation exemplifies her role in salvation, and her intercession continues to guide the faithful toward Jesus.** We meet her always when we pray the rosary. The rosary is not man’s words; they are words of the Angel Gabriel. **(Luke 1:28-29)** If you need a friend to trust, just embrace Mary. This can be done in a simple way, through praying the **ROSARY**. We Catholics often express this devotion through the Rosary, Marian consecration, and prayers asking Mary to intercede for us

Devotion to Mary does not replace or diminish direct prayer to Jesus. Rather, it enhances it by participating in the Mystical Body of Christ, where Mary, as the mother of Jesus, intercedes for all members (The Divine Mercy) This approach fosters a deeper understanding of Jesus’ relationships, especially within the Holy Family, and encourages imitation of Mary’s humility, obedience, and love.

Saint Josemaria Escriva emphasized that devotion to Mary unites believers with the Church and its visible head. In essence, praying through Mary is a way to deepen one’s relationship with Jesus, following the path God established through the Incarnation. It combines scriptural reflection, imitation of Mary’s virtues, and participation in the Church’s communal prayer life, making devotion to Mary a spiritually rich avenue to Christ.

Every Thursday at 7Pm we meet at the Prince of Peace hall; we gather as children of Mary to pray the Rosary together. Please Join us.

Sources: This Article has been enriched by Seminarian Jude from Uganda, EWTN commentaries about Mary, catholic.eu, Bible-Gospel of John, Luke

~ Fr. Lawrence Kawagga





SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Saint Anthony of Padua is one the most beloved and admired saints in the Church. A Franciscan friar and a Doctor of the Church, he is considered one of the greatest preachers in the history of Christianity.

Anthony was born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 to a wealthy and educated family of the Portuguese nobility. He entered the Augustinian religious community at an early age where he devoted himself to the study of sacred scripture and Latin classics. He felt a call to missionary work, however, and was given permission to join the Franciscan Order when he was 26 years old.

Anthony traveled tirelessly to preach what it meant to live according to the Gospel. He is believed to have made as many as 400 trips to towns in both northern Italy and southern France where he attracted people by the thousands. He was so popular a preacher that he often had to speak in public squares and marketplaces rather than churches.

Anthony knew that preaching was not enough to help people understand how to follow Jesus Christ. He believed he had to give witness to the Gospel by the way he lived his personal life. So, he adopted and maintained a simple lifestyle consistent with what he believed the Gospel was calling him to. He became one of Francis of Assisi's favorite disciples and closest friend.

The last months of Anthony's life were lived in Padua, Italy, with preaching, hearing confessions, and assisting those in debt. He died there on June 13, 1231 at the age of 36 and was proclaimed a saint less than one year after his death. So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was Anthony's teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Anthony is best known as the saint to whom one prays to find a lost article. When a novice took his Psalter without permission, Anthony prayed for the book's return. After the novice was visited by a ghost in a frightening nightmare, he rushed to give the book back to Anthony. Many people do not know, though, that St. Anthony is the patron of other causes. He is the patron saint of Brazil and Portugal, the poor, barren women, harvests and those who travel. His feast day is June 13.

www.stewardshipsaint.com



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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Prince of Peace parishioners hosted and served lunch for Habitat for Humanity in early June.

Fr. Lawrence shared a devotion at the coffee. Volunteers from Prince of Peace and St. James parishes worked on three different homes painting outside, assembling door handles, and preparing a driveway and foundation for concrete.

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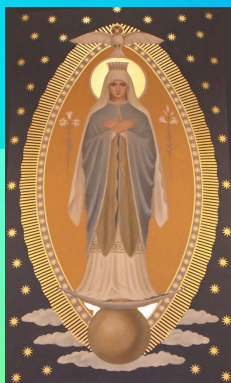
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Saturday 8:00 am

Reconciliation:
Saturday 11 am - 12 pm
Thursday 5 - 6 pm

Contact Us

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