



# PEACE TIMES

Prince of Peace Stewardship Newsletter  
Spring 2024

## Led by the Spirit



DeAnn Nickel has been a part of Prince of Peace Church since the beginning. In 1992, she started what would become a more than 30 year career with our church. During that time, she worked with six different priests, six Sisters, and thousands of parishioners. This year, Good Friday, March 29, 2024, marked her last day as an employee of our parish.

When asked, DeAnn said that she was, “led by the Spirit,” to her employment at Prince of Peace and throughout her almost thirty-two years with the church.

For several years, DeAnn had been doing daycare in her home, but felt she needed a change. She applied to be a paraprofessional with Kearney Public Schools. She thought she did well at the interview, but when she got home afterward, she sat down and cried. “Something didn’t feel right, but I didn’t know why.” She called the next day to withdraw her application and was asked to reconsider, because they were planning to hire her. Nevertheless, she declined to take the position.

Within that same week, Fr. Jack Schlaf stopped by DeAnn’s house and asked if she would be interested in becoming the Religious Education Director at Prince of Peace. Sr. Grace Michael Perry was the DRE at the time, and DeAnn had been her assistant for the previous two years. Fr. Jack told her that Sister Grace was ready to retire and they needed a new DRE. DeAnn said, “Now I understood why I had tears after the KPS interview.”

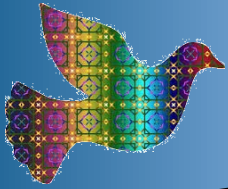
“I will never forget the day I began my career at Prince of Peace. It was Monday, August 1, 1992 and my car had a flat tire,” DeAnn said. Undeterred, she walked the 1.5 miles from her home to the original Prince of Peace building in southeast Kearney. For the next four years, she directed the religious education program and worked alongside volunteers, and together they shared their faith with the young people of Prince of Peace.



Original Prince of Peace Building  
on 11th & M Ave

DeAnn started feeling a need for change again sometime in 1996. Soon after, the secretary at Prince of Peace moved on to another job. DeAnn knew what the Holy Spirit was calling her to do, and happily transitioned to the new position where she served our parish for the next 25 years. During that time she not only became the “face” of Prince of Peace, but watched as other staff came and went, welcomed and said goodbye to priests and women religious, mourned with the sorrowful and celebrated with the joyful, and touched the lives of countless parishioners.

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## *This Spring at Prince of Peace...*



Phase II was completed and the new space was dedicated on April 4th. Bishop Emeritus, William Dendinger, blessed the narthex, the Doors of Redemption, new staff offices, and hospitality room. A reception followed Mass.



Led by Maisie Wecker and Ben Albrecht, the faith formation students ended their year with May Crowning Mass followed by a meal served by the Knights of Columbus.



Part of Phase II of the Pillars of Prince of Peace created 30+ additional parking spaces to the southwest of our beautiful building.







# SPRING EVENTS

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Volunteers are an integral part of our parish community. They bring their ministries to parishioners in every stage of life. Catechists share our faith with both the young, old, and everyone in between. Homebound ministers bring the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ to those who are unable to come to Mass. Our committees do everything from keeping our building in repair to serving meals to our parish family and feeding the underprivileged. Musicians fill our sanctuary with beautiful chords while greeters, servers, lectors, sacristans, coordinators, and Eucharistic ministers ensure the smooth facilitation of the Mass. **All Masses, all events, all programs, and all classes** rely upon volunteers! If you feel called to share your time and talents with our parish family, contact the church office to find out how you can make your own contribution.



The SpringFest Committee (co-chaired by Luke & Mallory Huddleston and Jason & Tiffany Shuda) put in countless hours of planning and coordinating our 2024 SpringFest, and dozens of parishioners gave their time to assist in making it a success.



The Social Committee served a Sloppy Joe meal following 5:00 Mass this spring.



Led by Diane Watley and Justin Anetone, members of our parish worked along side 50 members of the UNK Football Team preparing the landscape around the new addition during the annual Spring Cleanup. The group also tended to the entry drive and the lower level.





## Phase II Update

by Fr. Paul Colling



Installation of the new stained glass by the baptismal font, thanks to several generous donors.

The end is on the horizon! Soon, MCL will complete the few things left on their list for the Phase II addition. There will be a chandelier installed in the narthex (gathering space), the parking lot will be striped, the sprinkler system will be in place, and the sod will cover the bare ground near the church.

The gathering space is a welcomed addition. This space allows the priest or deacon to celebrate baptisms, weddings, and funerals in the manner that follows the rituals set down by the magisterium. In the past, they had to be modified to fit the space we had available. This was necessary, but not ideal. For example, the bridal party would wait in the north stairwell before walking in the church. Funeral parties were often so large the priest would meet the family at the center of the main body of the church. Now, they can be met at the doors leading into the narthex, as the ritual calls for. So as a priest who celebrates many sacraments here, I say, "Thank you!"

This summer we are hosting a new camp for elementary students: The Mass Comes Alive. We are blessed to have Amy Lowe as our faith formation coordinator. She is incredibly creative! She has most of our office staff working to help with this wonderful fun- and faith-filled week! We are grateful for the many donors who enable us to offer a premier experience for our youth.

Little Fish preschool is moving forward. We are still taking donations for furniture and we have received \$4,333 so far. The preschool fence has been donated by Schumacher Fencing. Thank you Dan and Bergan! We are so grateful!

Our church is safer now than in the past. We have 9 exterior cameras and are able to monitor the grounds around our building in the event of any issues. Our new door system allows us to schedule when our doors are open for prayer, meetings, adoration, and events.

Thanks to our grounds team headed up by Gerry and Diane Watley, the exterior of the church is beautiful. We are also thankful to those who nursed the trees throughout the past 13 years. My heart is full of gratitude for all who have helped us get to where we are today.

I am happy to let you know that the Phase II campaign has passed the \$3 million mark. This is due, in part, to a recent wish list mailing sent to your homes. Many of those items have been donated such as the stained glass windows, various televisions, and other media. If you made one of these contributions, a new, or additional donation, please stop by the office to pick up your commemorative tile.

Items still in need of funding include pre-school furniture, landscaping, and furnishings for the new space.

Thanks to the RDG architectural team, the MCL construction team, and the Phase II committee, we our project costs are \$100,000 under budget. The final cost for Phase II is expected to be no more than \$3.8 million instead of the projected \$3.9 million. Thank you to all who made a pledge or a donation! If you haven't, please prayerfully consider doing so!







## *DeAnn, Continued from page 1*

When 2021 came, DeAnn was ready for another change and began considering stepping away from full time employment. The Holy Spirit was not ready for DeAnn to leave Prince of Peace just yet though. The church needed a part-time custodian. DeAnn said, "I know how to clean," so she was happy to leave her desk and move into this new position working with her son, Danny, as her supervisor.

"I am so grateful to the Holy Spirit for guiding me throughout the years," DeAnn said. "I have worked with the most wonderful staff members and appreciate the opportunity to get to know so many beautiful people who are parishioners."

In full retirement now, DeAnn loves spending time in her garden and with her grandchildren. She enjoys attending area plays and musicals. But most of all, DeAnn said, "I can't wait to see where the Spirit leads me!"

*If you would like to send well wishes to DeAnn and thank her for her service to Prince of Peace, you may address them to the church.*



## St. Bernard of Montjoux



Saint Bernard of Montjoux is the patron saint of hikers, backpackers, mountain climbers and alpine skiers. The accounts of his charity, hospitality, and courage on behalf of travelers in the Pennine Alps between Switzerland and Italy are renowned.

Although little is known of his early life, Bernard was thought to be born in Italy around 923. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained for the Diocese of Aosta which was in northwestern Italy at the foot of the Alps.

In time, Bernard was appointed Vicar General of Aosta, and spent more than four decades building churches and schools, evangelizing and exercising pastoral care over those who lived in the nearby mountains. He is especially remembered for the alpine monastery and hospices he built to aid travelers in the mountain passes leading to Aosta.

Since the most ancient times there has been a path across the Pinnine Alps used by French and German pilgrims on their way to Rome. The traditional routes of this pass is covered with perpetual snow and drifts sometimes accumulate to the height of forty feet. The pass could be dangerous, especially in the springtime when avalanches occurred. For the safety of the pilgrims, Saint Bernard founded a monastery and established travelers' hospices; one at the highest point of the pass, 8,000 feet above sea-level, in the year 962.

Bernard also established a religious community of men who rescued travelers, ministered to those who had fallen victim to mountain hazards, and cleared the passes of bandits. At all seasons of the year, but especially during heavy snow storms, these heroic monks, accompanied by their well-trained herding dogs, went out in search of stranded travelers. They provided them with food, clothing, and shelter.

Even through the 20th century Bernard's hospices were well known for their generous hospitality extended to all travelers over the Great and Little St. Bernard alpine passes, named in his honor.

Bernard was canonized in 1681, and then paid a unique tribute in the late 1800's when European dog breeders renamed their alpine herding and rescue dogs, the St. Bernard. His feast day is May 28.

-catholicstewardship.com



**Our Parish Continues to Grow!**

Hospitality is one of the four pillars of Stewardship and so we extend a warm welcome to the following families who have recently joined our parish. Please extend a welcoming hand to them when you see them during liturgies and parish activities.

Mackenzie Eller  
William & Jacki Haley  
Bill & Jeanne Ross  
Hunter & Megan Myers

Michael Brands  
Miguel & Maida Miranda Flores  
Kalem Lockhorn & Alexis Keck  
William Scavuzzo & Liza Trettle  
Daniel & Esther Javins



Blake, Sadie & Cooper  
Koster

Rebecca Hotovy  
Jeanne Stec  
Jackie Schwank  
John & Kathryn Hartman  
Payton Applegate & Holly Grigg  
Michael & Taylor McGowan  
Freddy Lopez Sandoval & Alyssa Wilcox  
John & Emily Lowe



## *Prince of Peace Catholic Church*

2407 W 56th St  
Kearney, NE 68845  
308-236-9171  
www.princeofpeacekearney.com  
Return Service Requested

**Weekend Masses:**  
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
**Weekday Masses:**  
See bulletin for times  
**Reconciliation:**  
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Submit article ideas for the  
PeaceTimes newsletter to  
mandy@kearneyprinceofpeace.org

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## *Summer at Prince of Peace*

### **Summer Camp: The Mass Comes Alive**

*June 24th-28th 9 am-3 pm*

### **High School Pilgrimage**

*June 25th - 26th*

### **Photo Directory Pictures**

*July 9th - July 27th*

*Tuesdays-Fridays 2 pm - 8:30 pm*

*Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm*

### **Parish Picnic**

*August 4th 5 pm - 7 pm*

*Harmon Park*

### **Messy Game Day**

*August 7th 1 pm - 4 pm*

*St. James Catholic Church*

*For more information about any parish events, please call the church office.  
308.236.9171*