

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Missed Chance"

A massive flood hit a small town near the Mississippi River. One levy in the river had broken, causing massive flooding to occur, while another levy was predicted to break within the hour.

A man who owned a house along the river stood on the roof of his house because water had engulfed the rest of it. Water levels were slowly rising.

A rescue boat came to save the man from his house. The boat approached, and the rescuers told the man that another levy was about to break and that the water would move over his house, sweeping him away to his drowning death.

The man told the rescuers he did not need help because he believed in God and that God would save him.

Twenty minutes later, the rescuers returned, again trying to help the man escape.

Once again, the man waved off the rescuers saying that God would save him.

Ten minutes afterward, the rescuers returned yet again, saying it would be the last time they could return because the levy was about to break. They asked him one last time to get on the rescue boat.

The man said once again that he believed in God and that God would save him from the levy should it break.

A few minutes after the rescuers left, the levy broke and the rushing waters engulfed the house, carrying away the man to his drowning death.

When the man reached the Heavens, he stood at the pearly gates to enter. He told the men at the gates that he wanted to see God.

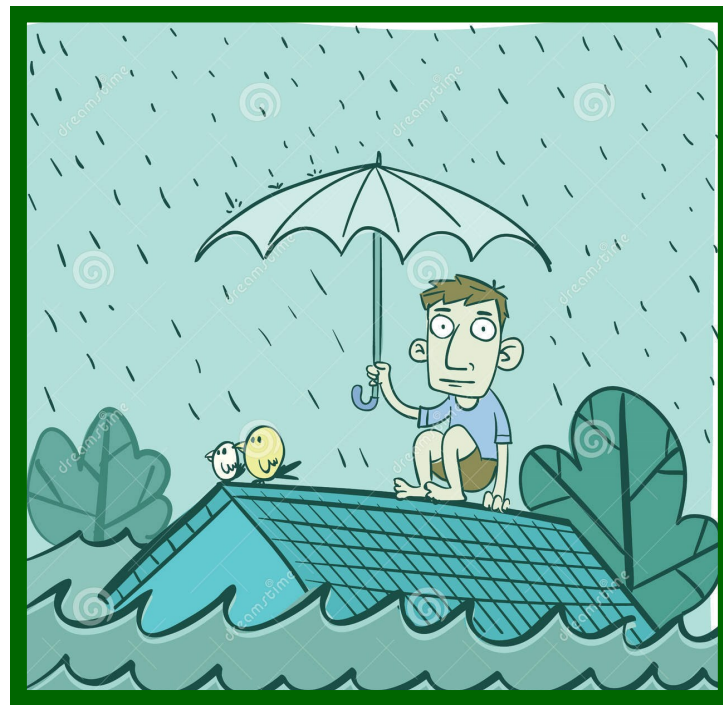
When he saw God, he asked, "What happened? I thought you were going to save me? Why didn't you save me?"

God replied, "I did try to save you. I sent the boat three times!"



Aren't we like this man sometimes? How many times do we miss God's blessings because we can't see past our own desires?

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



November 2020 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
February 7, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$2,960.00
February 14, 2021	\$3,700.00	
February 21, 2021	\$3,700.00	
February 28, 2021	\$3,700.00	



*"Give to the Most High as he has given to you, for the Lord is one who always repays, and he will give back to you sevenfold."
(Sirach 35:10)*



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

February 14, 2021 † 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass (English)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass (Bilingual)	12:00 p.m.
Holy Days	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Monday • Tuesday • Thursday	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday & Friday	12:00 p.m.

Pastor ♦ Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya T.

Secretary ♦ Karin Jones

Parish Office Hours ♦ Monday–Thursday ♦ 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Parish Office Telephone: (541) 447-6475

Fr. Joseph: 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ♦ (541) 420-4458

Parish Website: <https://stjosephsprineville.org>

Facebook: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Prineville, Oregon

Email: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com

Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com

(Fr. Joseph's personal email address: joekunel55@gmail.com)

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

Funeral Director for Music ♦ Garilynn Tocher



Confessions

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

(other times by appointment)

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Fr. Joseph for this Sacrament

♦ **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET & CENACLE GROUP:** Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass.

♦ **1ST FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH:** Mass is at 12 p.m., with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Holy Hour of Prayer with the Rosary, Litany of St. Joseph, and Benediction after Mass.

♦ **REMAINING FRIDAYS:** Mass is at 12 p.m., with the Rosary and Benediction after Mass.



Baptisms

Baptisms will be held on 2nd Saturdays of the month in English and on 4th Saturdays in Spanish. Parents of children to be baptized must be registered members of the parish 6 months prior to baptism.

A Baptismal Preparation Class is mandatory for both parents and godparents.

For more information, call the Parish Office.

Marriages

Couples need to make an appointment with Fr. Joseph 6 months before the proposed date.

A Marriage Preparation Course is mandatory.

MASS INTENTIONS / DAILY READINGS

The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

☛ **Please Call the Parish Office to Have a Mass Intention Reserved.** ☛

Monday	02/15/2021	8:00 a.m.	Garilynn Tocher (L)	Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday	02/15/2021	8:00 a.m.	Kurtz Family (L)	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday	02/17/2021	8:00 a.m.	DuAyne Mulvihill (D)	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18
Wednesday	02/17/2021	6:00 p.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18
Thursday	02/18/2021	8:00 a.m.	Bob George (L)	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	02/19/2021	12:00 p.m.	Cal Dubisar (D)	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	02/20/2021	5:00 p.m.	Chris & Joan Marston (D)	Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15
Sunday	02/21/2021	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15
Sunday	02/21/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

EVERY TIME I hear this Gospel, I wonder how awful it must have been for someone who had leprosy, especially in the time of Jesus, when they didn't have any type of cure for it. As you know, lepers were shunned and ignored by everybody, even their own friends and loved ones.

To be shunned and ignored by someone we love has to be one of life's greatest heartaches. Most of us have experienced being ignored, but it's usually only for a short while. How horrible it must be to be shunned permanently—a real tragedy. And, that's how it was for the leper who asked Jesus to cure him.

Try to remember that leprosy, even today, is not a "pretty" disease. So, notice how Jesus reacts to this outcast. He doesn't react with revulsion, afraid that He'll be contaminated. Jesus has pity on this man. Although everyone else shuns him, Jesus doesn't. Although everyone thinks that this man's situation is hopeless, Jesus doesn't. Although everybody flees from this ugly man in horror, Jesus doesn't. Instead, Jesus does the unthinkable. He reaches out and actually touches the man, and this leper is cured! His life has been changed dramatically for the better in one single moment. He is restored to society and can now live a normal life.

This simple story has good news for us who are alive today. It says that Jesus is a true friend of the outcast—that Jesus won't reject anybody who comes to Him. Now, as then, Jesus' touch gives us hope where we don't see any hope. Jesus restores people to fellowship with one another and to God. And, how great is that?

The Good News of our Gospel today is that our situations are not hopeless. Always remember that God loves us just the way we are, and not the way we think we ought to be. He doesn't love us because we are "good," because we're not good. God doesn't love us because of what we can "do" for Him—because we can't do anything to earn His love. God loves us because He is good, and He wants to share His love and goodness with us. And, this love is absolutely unconditional—not the kind of love that says, "I will love you if . . ." or "I will love you when . . ."

For this love of God to bear fruit in our lives, however, we need to do what the leper did. He recognized the hopelessness of his situation and came to Jesus for help.



And, so must we. The leper didn't need any reminder of his hopelessness. Everyone around him—the people who shunned him—reminded him of his situation every minute of every day.

Unfortunately, there are far too many people today who have a great difficulty recognizing the things in their lives that cry out for Jesus' healing touch—for

His forgiveness. These people have been in denial or have worn a mask for so long that they can no longer see their "real" selves any more.

These people are completely satisfied with their lives. They think that their attitudes and ideas are always the correct ones. Their achievements are always the best. In their own minds, their character is impeccable. So, the Good News in today's Gospel is not good news for these people. They think they have their act together and have no need for Jesus and His healing power.

If we are willing to humble ourselves and come to Jesus—as did the leper—if we will tell Him how desperately we need Him, then we, too, will experience His healing touch. All we have to do is come to Jesus, because He is there just waiting for us.

And, if we think about it, all of us have a different kind of leprosy, don't we? Our leprosy might be gossip—ruining people's reputations instead of building them up. It might be that we are hard-hearted or mean or a liar or unforgiving. Maybe we've become a sourpuss with an "I don't care attitude" toward life. These kinds of things can eat away at us just as viciously as leprosy can eat away at the body.

So, the real question is "Do I want to be cured?" And, if we do want to be cured, all we have to do is go to Jesus and ask Him to cure us. Sometimes these are two of the hardest things that we'll ever have to do in life because it is very hard to humble ourselves. It is humbling to take off your mask of denial and do it. You'll not be sorry.

Jesus can and will change our life for the better. He'll heal us of whatever ails us, whether it is physical or spiritual. All we have to do is admit our needs and go to Him. His compassion and love for us will do the rest. The Lord heals the broken-hearted regardless of whatever type of leprosy we have. Jesus lovingly invites us, "Come. Come and be healed."

The Year of St. Joseph

Happy St. Valentine's Day



Each person should again pledge his or her love to their loved ones, praying for their intentions, promising fidelity to them, and thanking them for their love in return. Never forget that Jesus said, "This is my commandment:

love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:12-13). St. Valentine fulfilled this command, and may we do the same.

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Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, February 16th, at 7 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall.

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Correction to Last Week's Insert on Lent/Fasting

Fasting should have read: *All those between the ages of 18 and 59 are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

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Lenten Corner

**Ash Wednesday, February 17th,
Mass is at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Fast**

**Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 19th,
at 6 p.m.—Abstain from Meat**

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CRS—Operation Rice Bowl

As part of our Lenten Journey, all are asked to please take home a CRS Rice Bowl (on the table in the narthex) and, during Lent, make a commitment to fill the bowl with all your spare change (no pennies please).

Religious Education Children will receive theirs in class. Keep your Rice Bowl until after Easter, and then return it to the Church Offertory or to the Parish Office.

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Sunday Rosary

**02/21: Knights of Columbus
02/28: Extraordinary Ministers**

**Just a reminder that you need to wear a mask at Mass—
unless you have health issues.**

New Website for St. Joseph Parish

Please note our new website address:
<https://stjosephsprineville.org>

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Prayer Group

Every **Tuesday morning from 9:15 to 10 a.m.**, there is a prayer group that meets at St. Mary's Church in Powell Butte (by the Retreat Center). The Rosary, Litany for Priests, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with the Intentions for Priests are said. If you have any questions or would like to be part of this amazing prayer group, please call Carol Smith at (541) 408-4623.



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The Prayer List

**Daniel & Marilyn Gilday ♦ Linda Arian
Frederick Smit ♦ Joe Morales ♦ The Fray Family
Terrance Holmes ♦ Tom Burke ♦ Bob George
Marilyn & Slim Trahan**

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Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

Pray the Rosary together with one's family in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love, and prayer that was in the Holy Family."

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Diocese of Baker on COVID Vaccine

A number of people have questioned the morality of receiving the COVID Vaccines. The Bishop has written an important letter regarding the subject and encourages everyone to read it. The letter is on the bulletin board in the narthex, as well as on the diocesan website. Also, at the bottom of the letter is a link to a podcast called "The Vatican on the Morality of COVID Vaccines" by Jimmy Akin. The Bishop is encouraging everyone to listen to the podcast.

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Chrism Mass



The Chrism Mass is on **March 24th at 11 a.m.** in the Baker City Cathedral. Because of the pandemic, only 100 guests from the diocese will be able to attend. If you would like to **commit** to going, please provide your name, phone number, email address, and how

many are in your party. Everyone needs a ticket to attend—determined by a drawing. The deadline to submit your information is **February 28th**. Call or stop by the Parish Office if you want your name entered in the drawing.