

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Refiner's Fire"

Some time ago, a few ladies met in a certain city to read the Scriptures, and make them the subject of conversation.

While reading the third chapter of Malachi, they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse: "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

One lady's opinion was that it was intended to convey the view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of God.

So then that lady proposed a visit to a silversmith and report to them what he said on the subject.

She went accordingly and, without telling the object of her errand, begged to know the process of refining silver, which the silversmith then fully described to her.

"But, sir," she asked, "Do you sit while the work of refining is going on?"

"Oh, yes, madam," replied the silversmith. "I must sit with my eye steadily fixed on the furnace—for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured."

The lady at once saw the beauty—and the comfort too—of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

Before she left, the lady asked one final question: "When do you know that the process is complete?"

"Why, that is quite simple," replied the silversmith. "When I can see my own image in the silver, the refining process is finished."



God sees it needful to put His children into a furnace. His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for us. Our trials do not come at random, and He will not let us be tested beyond what we can endure.

"And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30).

—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	\$2,617.00
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 21, 2021 † 1st Sunday of Lent

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	02/22/2021	8:00 a.m.	Betty Bailey (D)	1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19*
Tuesday	02/23/2021	8:00 a.m.	For Our Government (L)	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday	02/24/2021	8:00 a.m.	Anne Pimental Nehr (D)	Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday	02/25/2021	8:00 a.m.	Dean Erickson (D)	Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday	02/26/2021	12:00 p.m.	Chelsea Kurtz (L)	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday	02/27/2021	5:00 p.m.	Deborah Mengle (L)	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10
Sunday	02/28/2021	9:00 a.m.	Cal Dubisar (D)	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10
Sunday	02/28/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

+ = Feast Day ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

LENT BEGINS with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come to everybody, not only to Jesus, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them.

The primary purpose of Lent is spiritual preparation for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The Church tries to achieve this goal, leading her children to *metanoia* or "repentance" by the reordering of their priorities and the changing of their values, ideals and ambitions, through fasting, prayer and self-control. Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today's readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly.

The first reading tells us how man irrevocably broke the *original covenant* God had made with Adam and Eve, and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism, which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ.

In the second reading, St. Peter reminds the Church that an outward sign of the New Covenant that God made with His people through Jesus is Baptism, which makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, we are told how Jesus faced and defeated the tempter by his 40 days of prayer and penance in the desert immediately after his baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching His Messianic mission, *The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel.*

Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us through the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies.

Formerly, the six weeks of Lent meant a time of severe penance as a way of purifying ourselves from our sinful habits and getting ready to celebrate the *Paschal Mystery* (the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), with a renewed commitment to



follow Christ. Now the Church leaves the Lenten practice of penance to the good will and generosity of individual Christians. However, Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word and deed. It is also a time to assess our relationships with our family, our friends, our working colleagues, and other people with whom we come in contact—especially those of our parish. We should examine whether we are able to make any positive contribution to other people's lives and to eradicate the abuses, which are part of our society.

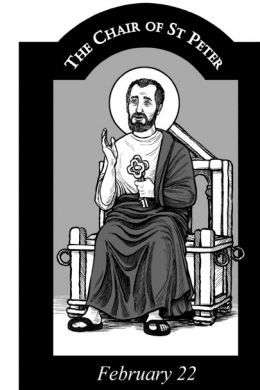
Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by participating in the Mass each day, or at least a few days in the week. We can also set aside some part of our day for personal prayer, spend some time reading Scripture, alone or—better still—with others. We can set aside some money that we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment or clothes, and give it to an organization such as St. Vincent de Paul, which takes care of the less fortunate in our society.

We have many opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent, and we have the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays. Make it a point to participate in them, and receive the special graces from the Lord. We cannot visit the sick and those in nursing homes now, but when such visiting is again allowed, visit them whenever you can. We will get many opportunities to do some acts of charity, kindness and mercy every day during the season of Lent. Let us make use of them.

Repenting and fighting against temptations and evil is a lifetime's task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; he achieved that only in his death. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us, so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.

The Year of St. Joseph

***Monday, February 22nd**
Feast Day—The Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle



The original Feast of the Chair of St. Peter derives from Antioch, where followers of Jesus were first called Christians, and Peter presided. The Feast celebrates Peter's pastoral authority over the Church, continued through the ministry of the Bishop of Rome. The chair or cathedra, symbolizes authority—it is not an actual chair or antique.

The issues of authority have vexed Christianity throughout its history and has caused division. Catholics celebrate the unity of faith that the pope both symbolizes and works to secure.

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Prayer Group

On **Tuesday, February 23rd, from 9:15 to 10 a.m.**, and every Tuesday morning, 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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Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

Honor St. Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on **Wednesday, February 24th**, and every Wednesday—the day that is traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph.

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Lenten Corner

Stations of the Cross, Friday, February 26th at 6 p.m.
Abstain from Meat

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Sunday Rosary

February 28th: Extraordinary Ministers

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

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.

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The Prayer List



- Linda Arian ♦ Frederick Smit
- Bob George ♦ Joe Morales
- Daniel & Marilyn Gilday
- Fray Family ♦ Terrance Holmes
- Juvenal Robles ♦ Rosa Robles
- Anthony Aguirre ♦ Sr. Barbara Daniell Eldridge

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Diocese of Baker

During the Season of Lent, the faithful are exhorted to attend daily Mass, to receive Holy Communion often, to take part more frequently in exercises of piety, to give generously to works of religion and charity, to extend special concern toward the sick, the aged and the poor, to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding alcoholic drink and worldly amusements, and to pray more frequently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.

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Help Wanted

Are you looking for a way to serve the Lord? St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is looking for volunteers.



- Pay is everlasting
- Two-Hour Shifts
- On-Call and Regular Shifts
- Strong backs preferred but not essential.
- Comradery with fellow masked workers in a safe environment.

If you are interested, please call Joanie, Volunteer Coordinator at (541) 604-1240.