

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Our Lives Have a Purpose"

Every life has a purpose. Every life has meaning. We get many opportunities to become better persons if we keep our eyes, ears and hearts open. The following story invites us to reflect about the purpose of our lives on this earth, and I want to share it with you:

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Detroit. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home and, with tickets and briefcases, one of the salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table that held a display of apples for sale. Apples flew everywhere!

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding—ALL BUT ONE! The man paused, took a deep breath, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, asking one of them to call his wife and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor.

He was glad he did because the 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her—no one stopping, and no one caring about her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her and gathered up the apples. He put them back on the table and helped to organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears.

He then continued, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister? Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in midstride and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus. He is good, kind, caring, loving, and He would never have bumped into your display in the first place.

The girl gently nodded and said, "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me. Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

Then slowly the man made his way to the gate to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"



If we claim to know Jesus, we should live, walk and act as He would. That is our destiny—to be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference, as we live in a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

We are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked us up on a hill called Calvary. He paid in full for our damaged fruit—our sinful lives. We take things for granted. Let us be grateful to God for all the wonderful blessings He has given to our lives and share the blessings with others. Be a blessing for others because God has blessed you abundantly.

—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	\$3,115.00
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 28, 2021 † 2nd 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	03/01/2021	8:00 a.m.	Carter Dikes (L)	Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday	03/02/2021	8:00 a.m.	Keaton & Kinley Kurtz (L)	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday	03/03/2021	12:00 p.m.	Bill Schwab (D)	Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday	03/04/2021	8:00 a.m.	DuAyne Mulvihill (D)	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Friday	03/05/2021	12:00 p.m.	Aquire Family (L)	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	03/06/2021	5:00 p.m.	Stephanie Stanic (D)	Exodus 20:1-17; 1Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25
Sunday	03/07/2021	9:00 a.m.	Rev. Fr. Gerald Condon (D)	Exodus 20:1-17; 1Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25
Sunday	03/07/2021	12:00 p.m.	Juvenal & Rosa Robles (L)	Exodus 20:1-17; 1Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

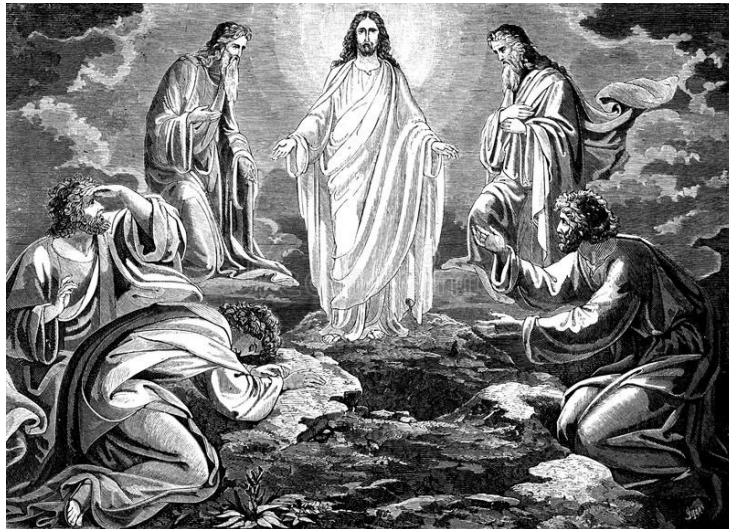
Today's Homily

THE READINGS for the Second Sunday of Lent highlight Jesus' identity as *God's beloved Son* (revealed at his Baptism and Transfiguration) and confront us with the mystery of His death on the cross. Hence, the main purpose of today's readings is to give us an invitation as well as a challenge to put our Faith in the loving promises of a merciful God Who sent His Son to die for us, and to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent. Our transformed lives will enable us to radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

The first reading shows us how God saved the life of Abraham's son, Isaac, as a reward for Abraham's trusting Faith. Because of this Faith, the Lord renewed his promise to Abraham for the blessings of land and progeny.

While Abraham's son Isaac was spared, God's beloved Son, Jesus, died a cruel death on the cross. The linking of this story with the Gospel reading emphasizes God's infinite love, as seen in the redemptive sacrifice of His own Son for the salvation of the world. If the mystery of the sacrifice of Abraham's beloved son, Isaac, is hard to understand, the mystery of the death of God's beloved Son, Jesus, is far more challenging. That is why Paul reminds us, in the second reading, that God, the Father, did not spare His Own Son's life. What an irony and paradox! God spared Abraham's son, but not His own! Why? Because God loves us with an everlasting love. Paul interprets God's willingness to sacrifice His Own Son as proof of His great love for humankind, and as God's pledge that He will always protect and provide for us.

In the transfiguration story (a theophany) in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses (Ex 19-20; 34) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-18), who experienced theophanies. He is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son



of God. Thus, the transfiguration narrative is a Christophany—that is, a manifestation or revelation of Who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus' transfiguration, the Gospel shows us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Every sacrament we receive transforms our lives: For example, Baptism transforms us into children of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation transforms us into brave witnesses of and warriors for Christ. Reconciliation transforms sinners to saints.

The "transfiguration" in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength: In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus by transubstantiation. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good, by humble and selfless service to others.

Christ's transfiguration gives us the message of encouragement and hope: In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, pains and suffering, the thought of our future transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is my beloved son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to Him in His suffering, we may share in the carrying of His cross and, finally, we may share the glory of His second "transfiguration," namely, his Resurrection.

The Year of St. Joseph

Blood Drive



The American Red Cross will be in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, March 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, for blood donations.

Please call 1 (800) 733-27 to schedule an appointment.

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Lenten Corner

Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 5th, at 6 p.m.
(Abstain from Meat)



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Sunday Rosary



03/07/21: Lectors
03/14/21: Knights of Columbus
03/21/21: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
03/28/21: Ushers

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Life Line Screening

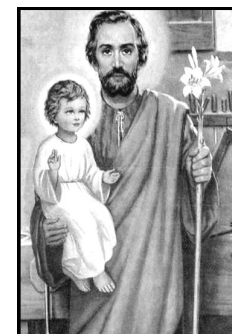
The nation's leading provider of preventive health screening, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Joseph Catholic Church on **Wednesday, March 10th**, in the Parish Hall. The 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60 to 90 minutes to complete.



Register by calling 1 (888) 653-6441, or text the word "circle" to 797979.

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St. Joseph



March is traditionally set aside by Catholics as the Month of St. Joseph. In honor of St. Joseph, on **Wednesday, March 10th, and ending on Thursday, March 18th**, there will be a 9-Day Novena to St. Joseph.

A novena is an ancient tradition of devotional praying in Christianity, consisting of private or public prayers repeated for 9 successive days or weeks.

This prayer will be said after Mass each day. If you cannot be at Mass, you're asked to pray the Novena at home.

The Novena is in preparation of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, which is celebrated on **Friday, March 19th**.

There will be copies of the 9-Day Novena on the table in the Narthex.

Chrism Mass in Baker City

Wednesday, March 24th, at 11 a.m.
(There are 60 seats left as of this bulletin printing.)

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Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, because St. Joseph "invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father."

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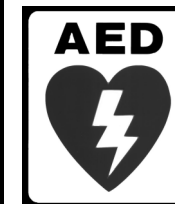
The Prayer List

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



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AED Certification



We are looking for volunteers to be certified in using the AED. As you will notice, there is one as you enter the church on the right-side wall. It was recommended that we have at least two people certified for each Mass.

If you are interested or would like more information on being certified, please call Barbara Johnson at (541) 416-0483, or email her at kingpenguins@gmail.com.

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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.

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