

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Cave Dwellers"*

Long ago, or maybe not so long ago, there was a tribe in a dark, cold cavern. The cave dwellers would huddle together and cry against the chill. Loud and long they wailed. It was all they did. It was all they knew to do. The sounds in the cave were mournful, but the people didn't know it, for they had never known joy. The spirit in the cave was death, but the people didn't know it, for they had never known life. But then, one day, they heard a different voice:

"I have heard your cries," it announced. "I have felt your chill and seen your darkness. I have come to help."

The cave people grew quiet. They had never heard this voice. Hope sounded strange to their ears. "How can we know you have come to help?" they asked.

"Trust me," he answered. "I have what you need."

The cave people peered through the darkness at the figure of the stranger. He was stacking something, then stooping and stacking some more. "What are you doing?" one cried, nervous. The stranger didn't answer. "What are you making?" one shouted even louder. Still no response. "Tell us!" demanded a third.

The visitor stood and spoke in the direction of the voices. "I have what you need." Having said that, he turned to the pile at his feet and lit it. Wood ignited, flames erupted, and then light filled the cavern. But the cave people turned away in fear.

"Put it out!" they cried. "It hurts to see it."

"Light always hurts before it helps," he answered. "Step closer. The pain will soon pass."

"Not I," declared a voice. "Nor I," agreed a second. "Only a fool would risk exposing his eyes to such light."

The stranger stood next to the fire. "Would you prefer the darkness? Would you prefer the cold? Don't consult your fears. Take a step of faith!"

For a long time no one spoke. The people hovered in groups covering their eyes. The fire builder stood next to the fire. "It's warm here," he invited.

"He's right," one from behind him announced. "It's warmer."

The stranger turned and saw a figure slowly stepping toward the fire. "I can open my eyes now," she proclaimed. "I can see!"

"Come closer," invited the fire builder. She did. She stepped into the ring of light. "It's so warm!" She extended her hands and sighed as her chill began to pass. "Come, everyone! Feel the warmth," she invited.

"Silence!" cried one of the cave dwellers. "Dare you lead us into your folly? Leave us! Leave us, and take your light with you, woman!" She turned to the stranger. "Why won't they come?"

"They choose the chill, for though it's cold, it's what they know. They'd rather be cold than change," he said. "And live in the dark?" she asked. "And live in the dark," he answered.

The now-warm woman stood silent. Looking first at the dark, then at the man. So the man asked, "Will you leave the fire?" She paused, then answered, "No. I cannot. I cannot bear the cold." Then she said, "But nor can I bear the thought of my people in darkness."

"You don't have to," he responded, reaching into the fire and removing a stick. "Carry this to your people. Tell them the light is here, and the light is warm. Tell them the light is for all who desire it."

And the woman took the small flame and stepped into the shadows with it.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

*From Max Lucado's, *The Woodcutter's Wisdom and Other Favorite Stories.*



November 2020 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
March 7, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$4,309.00
March 14, 2021	\$3,700.00	
March 21, 2021	\$3,700.00	
March 28, 2021	\$3,700.00	

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
March 14, 2021 † 4th Sunday of Lent (*Laetare Sunday*)

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	03/15/2021	8:00 a.m.	Edward Walwork (L)	Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
Tuesday	03/16/2021	8:00 a.m.	Shirley and Ron Lattin (L)	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Wednesday	03/17/2021	12:00 p.m.	Blaine Tocher (L)	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday	03/18/2021	8:00 a.m.	Dee Wettstein (L)	Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
Friday	03/19/2021	12:00 p.m.	Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya (L)	2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a*
Saturday	03/20/2021	5:00 p.m.	Religious Educators (L)	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33
Sunday	03/21/2021	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33
Sunday	03/21/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

* = Solemnity ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE FOURTH SUNDAY of Lent is called *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, from the first words of the day's liturgy. Because this Sunday occurs in the middle of Lent, as *Gaudete* Sunday is celebrated midway through Advent, *Laetare* Sunday reminds us of the Event we look forward to at the end of the penitential season. As on *Gaudete* Sunday, rose-colored vestments may replace violet, and flowers may grace the altar. In Lent, these outward signs symbolize the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection—a joy that cannot be contained, even in this penitential season, although we still refrain from "Alleluias" and the singing of the "Gloria" until the magnificence of the Easter Vigil.

John 3:16 is probably the best loved verse in the Bible and has been called "everybody's text" and the "Gospel of the Gospels." *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.* This is the summary of the Gospel message of salvation through Christ Jesus. This text is the very essence of the Gospel. It tells us that the initiative in all salvation is God's love for man. As St. Augustine puts it: "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." It also explains to us the universality of the love of God. God's motive is love and God's objective is salvation. Those who actually receive eternal life must believe in the Son.

Love of darkness and God's judgment. When we walk according to the teachings of Christ, we are walking in the Light. If we oppose these teachings, we oppose Christ himself; hence, we are walking in darkness. In today's text, we are told, *Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.* There are many dark corners in our world. Addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling and pornography, sexual immorality, environmental irresponsibility, and a lack of purpose among so many of us, especially among young people, are a few of these dark corners. It is very easy to pretend that these dark corners don't exist.

Our lives matter to God, and He knows all about the dark corners in our lives. He wants us to stop hiding our sin in the dark and demands that we expose every dark corner to His Light of life. He is giving to



us the Light that not only shows up the dirt in our lives but cleans it away. He died so that we could be made new and clean. Freely, the light of His forgiveness shines into our lives, brightening up every corner, forgiving every sin, restoring our relationship with God, and renewing our lives.

We need to love the cross—the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love. The crucifix, the symbol

of the "lifted up" Jesus, holds a central place in our churches because it is a forceful reminder—not only of God's love and mercy—but also of the price of our salvation.

We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving and merciful. Let us try, with His help, to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities as we share our love with others during Lent.

Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion, bringing us to a renewal of life with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us. The renewal of the Spirit comes when we work with Him to be liberated from the bondage of evil habits by using the Divine strength we receive through prayer, Bible reading, and frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Let us be bearers of Jesus' light and carry it to other people: When we allow the light of God's forgiveness to shine in our lives, it brightens up every corner, forgives every sin, restores our relationship with God and renews our lives. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. We will experience the joy and peace of sins forgiven, of new attitudes and of new relationships with family and friends. Jesus' light of truth, justice, holiness and charity shining in our lives ought to bring blessings to others. We are to let this light of Christ shine through us into the lives of the people around us. The light we give to others can dispel the darkness of their lives, and bring them to a completely new outlook. Let us not underestimate what the light of Christ can do through us. As Jesus said: *You are the light of the world . . . your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven*" (Matthew 5:14, 16).

The Year of St. Joseph

Knights of Columbus

The monthly meeting for the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, March 16th, at 7 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.

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St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17th



St. Patrick was born in Britain in the 4th Century into a wealthy family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian Church. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. He spent six years there working as a shepherd and where he "found God."

St. Patrick's Latin "Declaration" says that God told him to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After he made his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest. And according to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. He spent many years evangelizing in the northern half of Ireland where he converted "thousands." His efforts against the druids were turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland—despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit that region.

Tradition holds that he died on March 17th and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick, and he became Ireland's foremost saint.

On St. Patrick's Day, it is customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories. St. Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish.

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St. Joseph

March is traditionally set aside by Catholics as the Month of St. Joseph. Please continue to pray the Nine-Day Novena in honor of St. Joseph until **March 18th**. This is in preparation for the Solemnity of St. Joseph which is celebrated on **March 19th**. There are copies of the Novena on the table in the Narthex.

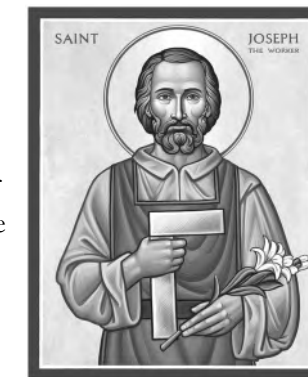
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*Friday, March 19th: The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Joseph, of the house of David, lived in Nazareth and was a carpenter. He married Mary and was the putative father of Jesus.

Joseph is cited in the Gospels only in reference to the infancy of Jesus, and he probably died before Jesus began his public life.

He is depicted as an older man with a flowering staff and the tools of a carpenter.



Lenten Corner

Stations of the Cross on **Friday, March 19th, 6 p.m.** (*Abstain from Meat*)

Confessions on **Saturday, March 20th, 3:30 p.m.**

Chrism Mass in Baker City, **March 24th, 11 a.m.**

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⇨ No Daily Mass ⇩

Fr. Joseph will be in Baker City for the Chrism Mass on **March 23rd and 24th**. Therefore, there will be no Daily Mass on those days.

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Sunday Rosary

03/21/21: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
03/28/21: Ushers

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Reminder

Religious Education children who have received their 1st Reconciliation should attend Confession on all Saturdays of Lent at 3:30 p.m. Parents are asked to attend as well.

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The Prayer List

Linda Arian ♦ Frederick Smit ♦ Bob George ♦ Joe Morales
Daniel & Marilyn Gilday ♦ Terrance Holmes ♦ Juvenal Robles
Rosa Robles ♦ Anthony Aguirre ♦ Sr. Barbara ♦ Kate Erickson

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Statistics

Did You Know? These are some statistics of the Catholic Church as of this year. I hope you can appreciate the many services the Church manages, especially in the areas of education and health, as well as the number of missionaries and catechists teaching the faith to so many unchurched people around the world—and the majority of these services are given for free:

- 1.33 billion Catholics (17% of the world's population)
- 5,377 bishops ▪ 414,065 priests ▪ 3,210 Catholics per ea. priest
- 641,661 female religious Sisters ▪ 376,188 Lay missionaries
- 3,076,625 Catechists ▪ 115,880 Seminarians
- 73,164 Kindergarten schools ▪ 7,376,858 Kindergarteners
- 103,146 Catholic primary schools ▪ 35,000,000 Primary students
- 49,541 Catholic secondary schools ▪ 19,300,000 Secondary education students ▪ 2,250,000 Students in high school ed.
- 3,700,000 Students in Catholic universities and colleges
- 5,192 Hospitals ▪ 15,481 Clinics ▪ 577 Care homes for lepers
- 15,423 Homes for the elderly and physically challenged
- 9,295 Orphanages ▪ 10,747 Creches for young babies
- 12,515 Centers for marriage help
- 3,225 Centers of rehabilitation
- 31,091 Other types of Catholic institutes