

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

## "A Love Story" (Author Unknown)

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. And as I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?" I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs, and the rest of my body, and then wondered about how many things I wouldn't be able to do—the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be tough, Lord, but I would still love you." Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?" How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world, and how many of them still loved God and His creation.

So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you." Then the Lord asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to your word." The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song; but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So, I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise your name." And then the Lord asked, "Do you really love me?"

With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes, Lord! I love you because you are the one and true God!" I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect." "Then why, in times of peace, do you stray the farthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray in ear-

nest?" No answers. Only tears. The Lord continued: "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek me only in times of worship? Why ask for things so selfishly? Why ask so unfaithfully?" The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why, in times of persecution, do you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my name?" I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed my word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers, and I have answered them all. DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out, and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me, Lord. I am unworthy to be your child." The Lord answered, "That is my grace, my child."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?" The Lord answered, "Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of your days. I will love you forever." Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do you love me?"

The Lord stretched out his arms, and I saw his nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

### November 2020 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
March 7, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$4,309.00
March 14, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$5,167.00
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 21, 2021 † 5th 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com)

(Fr. Joseph's personal email address: [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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	03/22/2021	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11
Tuesday	03/23/2021	8:00 a.m.	—No Daily Mass—	Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30
Wednesday	03/24/2021	12:00 p.m.	—No Daily Mass—	Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42
Thursday	03/25/2021	8:00 a.m.	Divine Mercy Cenacle (L)	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38*
Friday	03/26/2021	12:00 p.m.	Michael Bailey (D)	Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
Saturday	03/27/2021	5:00 p.m.	Joseph Morales (D)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47
Sunday	03/28/2021	9:00 a.m.	Divine Mercy Cenacle (L)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47
Sunday	03/28/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47

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

# Today's Homily

THE READINGS for Lent's 5th Sunday [B] present us with a challenge: Just as Jesus became the "Promised Messiah of Glory" and the "Conquering Son of Man" by offering His life for others, we, too, will only come to Heaven by accepting and offering God the sufferings He permits, and by dying to ourselves, spending our lives in self-giving, sacrificial service.

Today's readings focus on the upcoming death of Jesus, which is interpreted not only as a priestly sacrifice (Heb 5), but also as the moment of Christ's "exaltation" and "glorification" (Jn 12).

Using metaphors of the "sown wheat grain" and the "spent life" in today's Gospel, Jesus teaches the lesson Paul has just recapitulated: The Gospel hints at Jesus' inner struggle in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant. However, Jesus accepts the cross as his *hour*, meaning the stepping-stone to His passion, death, Resurrection and exaltation. He further considers His *hour* as the way of glorifying His Heavenly Father and of being glorified by His Father. It is also the way all people will be drawn into the saving action of God. Finally, the "lifting up" of Jesus is the assurance of our own exaltation and glorification, provided we accept our crosses.

Today's Gospel teaches us that new life and eternal life are possible only by the death of the "self" through obedience, suffering and service:

- Salt delivers its taste by dissolving in water.
- A candle gives light by having its wick burned and its wax melted.
- The oyster produces a priceless pearl by a long and painful process.
- Loving parents sacrifice themselves so that their children can enjoy a better life than they themselves have had.



Let us pray for this self-sacrificial spirit, especially during Lent.

Only a life spent for others will be glorified here in this world and in Heaven.

We know that the world owes everything to people who have spent their time and talents for God and for their fel-

low human beings. Mother Teresa, for example, gave up her comfortable teaching career and, with just 5 rupees (17 cents) in her pocket, began her challenging life for the "poorest of the poor" in the crowded slums of Calcutta. Thus, she became, in the words of the Secretary General of the U.N., "the most powerful woman in the world."

We see similar cases in the history of great saints, scientists and benefactors of mankind in all walks of life.

It is better to burn out than to rust out. This is one of the repeated pieces of advice that Jesus has given us (Mk 8:35; Mt 16:25; 10:39; Lk 9:24; 17:33).

Bernard Shaw in his play, *Joan of Arc*, shows the saint as praying: "Lord, I shall last a year—use me as you can."

Many charitable foundations and research institutions are financed by generous millionaires who understood this great principle of life (e.g., The Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill Gates Foundation for AIDS Research), while so many others selfishly keep their God-given wealth and talents for themselves.

Let us learn to live this Lenten period "burning out"; that is, spending our time and talents for others around us by humble, selfless and self-giving service.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can" (John Wesley).

## The Year of St. Joseph

⇒ No Daily Mass ⇐

Fr. Joseph will be in Baker City for the Chrism Mass on **March 23/24** so there is no Daily Mass on those days. The Chrism Mass is on **Wednesday, March 24th, at 11 a.m.**, and it will also be live-streamed at: [dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org).

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### \*Thursday, March 25th The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the Angel Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary that God chose her to carry His son. This Solemnity thus reminds us of the Incarnation and our redemption. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31).

We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus.

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### Lent Penance Service

St. Joseph's Lenten Penance will be on **Thursday, March 25th**. Confessions will start at 6 p.m. There will be 4 confessors available: **Bishop Cary, Very Rev. Fr. Fischer, Fr. Todd, & Fr. Joseph**.

All students receiving 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation are required to attend with parents. **There will be NO confessions on Saturday, March 27th.**

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### Lenten Corner

Stations of the Cross on **Friday, March 26th, at 6 p.m.**  
(Abstain from Meat)

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### Sunday Rosary

03/28/21: Ushers

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### The Prayer List

Linda Arian ♦ Frederick Smit ♦ Bob George  
Daniel & Marilyn Gilday ♦ Terrance Holmes  
Juvenal Robles ♦ Rosa Robles ♦ Anthony Aguirre  
Sr. Barbara ♦ Kate Erickson ♦ Jacqueline Iverson  
Jennie Bachman ♦ Mike Mulvihill



### Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. This collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, this collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. *Please be generous!*

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday](http://www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday).

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### F.Y.I.



The topmost rank of the Holy Order within the Catholic Church is that of the Bishops. This doesn't mean that all Bishops hold the same positions and responsibilities as one another. Within the role of Bishop, there are eight separate positions that can be held by these high-ranking members of the clergy.

**The Pope:** Each Pope that has ever held the position—both past, present and future—is, in fact, the direct successor of St. Peter himself. As the head of the Catholic Church, the position of Pope is one that is heavily governed by both politics and religious faith.

The Pope is responsible for maintaining healthy diplomatic relationships with more than 100 countries, while also providing guidance for the greater Catholic community.

In the past, Popes were appointed by the Holy Roman Emperor. This meant that Emperors would elect a Pope that was best suited to their own agenda. Since approximately 1085 AD, Popes have been appointed by the Cardinals. This one simple change has helped to ensure that only the most suitable and well-deserving candidates could be elevated to the position of Pope.

To further help to ensure that the Pope is able to do what is right for the Church, the faithful, and the world at large, the Pope seeks the advice of the Cardinals, appoints the Bishops who are more suited for various roles of importance, and conducts regular meetings with other Bishops from all over the world, heeding their advice, and addressing their concerns.

