

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"God Leads a Pretty Sheltered Life!"

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's Throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly—not with cringing shame—but with embittered belligerence.

"How can God judge us? And how can He know about suffering?" snapped a scoffing brunette. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. "We endured terror, beatings, torture, and death!"

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for their evil suffering He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light; where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred. Indeed, what did God know about what men had been forced to endure in this world?

"After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life," they said.

So each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a Black, an "untouchable" from India, an "illegitimate," a person from Hiroshima, and one from a Siberian slave camp. In the center of the plain, they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case.

It was rather simple: Before God would be qualified to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God "... should be sentenced to live on earth—as a man!"

But because He was God, they set certain safeguards to make sure that He could not use His divine powers to help Himself.

The conditions were the following: 1) Let Him be born a Jew. 2) Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted. 3) Let Him champion a cause so just—but so radical—that it brings down upon Him the

hatred, the condemnation, and the attacks of every major traditional and established religious authority.

4) Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard, or smelled. 5) Let Him try to communicate God to men. 6) Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends. 7) Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury and a cowardly judge. 8) Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing. 9) Let Him be tortured and let Him die! But let Him die the most humiliating death—as a common criminal—and with common thieves!

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people. However, when the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one moved. No one uttered another word. For suddenly they all knew . . . God had already served His sentence in Jesus!

—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	\$2,282.00



"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
March 7, 2021 † 3rd 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	03/08/2021	8:00 a.m.	Tina Hill (L)	2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday	03/09/2021	8:00 a.m.	Sister Barbara Julian (L)	Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday	03/10/2021	12:00 p.m.	Bob George (L)	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:7-19
Thursday	03/11/2021	8:00 a.m.	Jerome Kuper (D)	Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Friday	03/12/2021	12:00 p.m.	Anne Pimental Hehn (D)	Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
Saturday	03/13/2021	5:00 p.m.	John Stark (D)	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21
Sunday	03/14/2021	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21
Sunday	03/14/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21 51

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S READINGS from Holy Scripture teach us that Lent is the ideal time for cleaning out the Temple of our own hearts and to offer to God proper Divine worship by obeying the Ten Commandments. They also teach us that our *New Covenant* with God demands that we should keep our parish Church holy and our Divine worship vibrant by our active participation in the liturgy with hearts cleansed by repentance, and holy by allowing the Holy Spirit to control our hearts and lives.

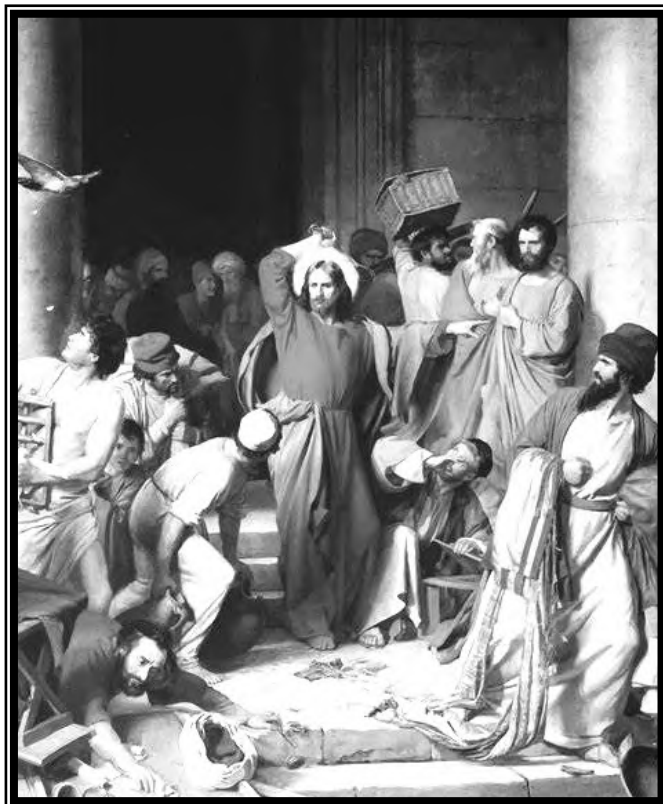
Today's first reading teaches us that the Ten Commandments are the basis of our religious and spiritual life. Instead of restricting our freedom, the Commandments really help us to love and respect our God and our neighbors.

The second reading reminds us that we must appreciate the Divine "foolishness" of the crucified Christ, and obey His commandment of love as the expression of our Divine worship.

Today's Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and money-changers, followed by a prediction of His death and Resurrection.

Jesus' reaction to this commercialized Faith was fierce. Because no weapons were allowed inside the Temple, He had to construct his own weapon—a whip of cords to drive out the merchants and money-changers from the Court of the Gentiles.

We need to avoid a calculating mentality in Divine worship: Our relationship with God must be that of a child to his parent, one of mutual love, respect and a desire for the family's good, with no thought of personal loss or gain. Hence, fulfilling our Sunday obligation only out of fear of mortal sin and consequent eternal punishment (a loss), is a non-Christian approach. In the same way, obeying the Commandments, and doing acts of charity merely as



prerequisites for Heavenly reward (a gain), are acts driven by a profit motive, of which Jesus would not approve.

We need to remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity and injustice. We are expected to cleanse our hearts of pride, hatred, jealousy and all evil thoughts, desires and plans.

Reminiscent of what Jesus did in cleansing the Temple, we, as 21st Century disciples,

must, with His grace, cleanse ourselves of attitudes and behaviors that prevent us from seeing and responding to hurt wherever we find it.

Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives during Lent by repentance and the renewal of our lives. We will drive out the wild animals that do not belong to the holy temple of our body by making a whip of cords out of our fasting, penance and almsgiving during Lent, and by going to Confession to receive God's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We need to love our parish Church and use it: Our Church is the place where we come together as a community to love and praise God. It is the holy place where we gather strength to support one another in the task of living the Gospel. It is the place where we come privately to enter into intimate conversation with God. In this building, many prodigal sons and daughters have met the merciful Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have been welcomed back to our community. In this building, tears have been shed by those in pain and grief. Let's look around our Church this morning and treasure it. Let us make our Church even more of a holy place by adding our prayers and songs to parish worship and offering our time and talents in the various ministries.

The Year of St. Joseph

Daughters of St. Joseph

There will be a meeting for the Daughters of St. Joseph on **Tuesday, March 9th, at 10 a.m.**, in the Parish Hall.

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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. The prayer will be said after Mass each day. If you cannot be at Mass, you're asked to pray the Novena at home. This is in preparation of the Solemnity of St.

Joseph, which is celebrated on **Friday, March 19th**. Copies of the Novena are on the table in the Narthex.

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Novena

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

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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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Lenten Corner

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday, March 12th, at 6 p.m.
(Abstain from Meat)

CONFESSIONS
Saturday, March 13th, at 3:30 p.m.

CHRISM MASS IN BAKER CITY
Wednesday, March 24th, at 11 a.m.

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Daylight Savings Time

Please remember to "spring ahead" on your clocks next **Saturday, March 13th**. We do not want anyone late for Mass.



Laetare Sunday

Next Sunday, March 14th, is the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent. Traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration within the austere period of



Lent. Laetare Sunday gets its name from the first few words of the traditional Latin entrance for the Mass of the day. *Laetare Jerusalem* is Latin from Isaiah 66:10.

In Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Old Catholic Churches, flowers may appear on the high altar, and the organ may be played as a solo instrument. Priests are given the option to wear rose-colored vestments at Mass on this day in place of the violet vestments normally worn during Lent.

So, next Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigors—a day of hope with Easter at last within sight. Traditionally, weddings (otherwise banned during Lent) could be performed on this day, and servants were released from their duties for the day to visit their mothers (hence "Mothering Sunday").

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Collection

There will be a combined collection on **Sunday, March 14th**, for the Offertory and Easter Flower Offering.

Please place your offerings for flowers in a separate envelope.

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Sunday Rosary

 **03/14/21: Knights of Columbus**
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
Daniell Eldridge ♦ Rosa Robles
Terrance Holmes ♦ Juvenal Robles
Anthony Aguirre ♦ Sister Barbara
The Fray Family ♦ Kate Erickson
Daniel & Marilyn Gilday

