

Fr. Joseph's Corner

Suffering and Pain

Have you ever suffered in life? Have you experienced pain—not mere physical pain—but mental pain? Have you spent sleepless nights rolling in your bed, saying something like, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” Pain is part of human existence—rich or poor, young or old, married or unmarried, holy or unholy—you cannot escape from pain. You may ask why there *is* pain, why God did not even spare His own son from suffering, but there is no answer to that question. Although there are many explanations, philosophies, etc., about pain, there is no satisfactory answer to the “why” of pain.

The pity of the world today is not that we suffer, which everyone has to whether we like it or not, but we waste our suffering. The usual tendency amongst us when we are confronted with pain or evil is to escape from it.

There are different ways of escaping: One is to *blame others for our misery*. “You made me sad, or angry, or jealous, or miserable, or unhappy.” Even if what you say is absolutely true, will blaming others for your pain help you to be free from it? Another escape is to *blame God, or the circumstances, or fate, or oneself*. None of these attitudes help us to be free from pain.

As you are reading through these things, enter into your own life and discover the truth of it for yourself. It's not a matter of agreeing with me or not, but discovering it for yourself. Another common escape from pain is to *forget about it by taking alcohol, drugs, and so forth*.

Once the effect of these things are over, one feels worse, like the alcoholic who feels guilty for drinking and takes more alcohol to forget his guilt, and feels more guilt later, and takes more alcohol to forget that . . . In fact, after some time, these drugs will have no effect at all.

Some people get involved in humanitarian works, social activities, and religious ministries to forget about their pain. But no escape will help to solve the problem. Even prayer, religion, etc., can be a drug—and an escape.

The only way we can free ourselves from the control of pain is to face it as Jesus did. We have to face the pain

exactly as it is, without running away from it. That is how even Jesus freed Himself from the agony of pain. He, too, blamed His disciples, prayed to God, and ran away from it. Finally, He accepted it, and faced it: “If it's Your will, let it be done to me—let me drink the cup.” That acceptance made the difference. Now he was calm, peaceful, relaxed, and even surprised His persecutors by His calmness.

If we can face our pain, we can also gain from it. Pain can make ordinary people into extraordinary men and women. Helen Keller, Beethoven, Buddha, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, St. Ignatius of Loyola, et al., are examples. Pain—when it is accepted and used—can bestow a maturity, a wisdom, that no other experience can provide. Pain is the best teacher within you. Pain is the source of great art, literature, music, discoveries, and so on.

The Bible says: “Unless a grain of wheat falls and dies, it will not bear fruit.” It is an invitation to growth, to maturity, to wisdom. If we are to be re-made, re-born, re-shaped, we must be first broken into pieces. A butterfly, before it comes out of its cocoon, struggles a lot inside for two to three days. If we cut the cocoon with a blade and let the butterfly out, it will not be able to fly. Its wings and muscles will not hold its own weight. That there is some positive value in suffering is obvious. When our own need is great, to whom do we turn? To the one for whom life has always been easy, or to one who has been affected by more than one storm and yet not defeated by them? It is pain that gives us an extraordinary wisdom and the inner power that no other teacher can give.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



May 2021 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
May 02 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,334.00
May 09, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,042.00
May 16, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,113.50
May 23, 2021	\$3,700.00	
May 30, 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
May 23, 2021 † Pentecost 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
Parish Bulletin Designer / Editor ♦ Tina Hill



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	05/24/2021	8:00 a.m.	Chuck Wettstein (D)	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; John 19:25-34*
Tuesday	05/25/2021	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday	05/26/2021	12:00 p.m.	Caroline Fowls (D)	Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Mark 10:32-45*
Thursday	05/27/2021	8:00 a.m.	Dee Wettstein (L)	Sirach 42:15-25; Mark 10:46-52
Friday	05/28/2021	12:00 p.m.	Caterina Bastonero (D)	Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mark 11:11-26
Saturday	05/29/2021	5:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Vetter (D)	Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20**
Sunday	05/30/2021	9:00 a.m.	Lewis Smith (D)	Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20**
Sunday	05/30/2021	12:00 p.m.	Charles Fischer (D)	Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28:16-20**

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

Today's Homily

TODAY WE CELEBRATE the Feast of Pentecost. The word "Pentecost" means the number 50. This feast commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon our Blessed Lady and the Apostles 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost is the conclusion of the Easter season and the birthday of God's Holy Church. Jesus said in today's Gospel, "He, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have told you."

The Holy Spirit guided the infant Church more than 2,000 years ago, and He does the same today—even though Pentecost happened 2,000 years ago! The Holy Spirit *is* God, and He *is eternal*. He will take the truth Jesus taught and reveal it to us.

We should be aware that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth and will never disagree with what Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit keeps the Church in the truth throughout the ages.

Jesus told us, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always." That Advocate is the Holy Spirit.

In speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus says, "When He comes, the spirit of truth, He will guide you to all truth. (John 16:13–15).

"Jesus, who is the truth, is with us through the Holy Spirit. For, those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God" (Romans 8:14).

Here is something astonishing: although Pentecost happened 2,000 years ago, when we were baptized, the Holy Spirit came to us and made us His temple.

St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells within you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God—which you are—is holy."



After Jesus had ascended into heaven, He still lives on in His Apostles—through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles did so much work in spreading the Holy Catholic Faith over great distances by the power of the Holy Spirit. They performed many miracles, and the infant Church grew quickly. Jesus told us that, *I am with you always until the end of the world.*

Jesus, who is the Truth, is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He cannot disagree with Himself.

Now it is our sacred task to carry on the work of the Holy Spirit in God's Holy Church. The Holy Spirit is encouraging us to do good works for the glory of God and for the life of the Church.

This means that our God-given talents are to be used for the building up of the body of Christ—the Church. God does not give us gifts just for ourselves. Each person is given a different set of gifts to develop as we grow up. We must discover what our abilities are, and use them for the glory of God—and for our own happiness: *To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.*

To learn what our talents are we must ask ourselves, "What is it that I do well?" Is it rearing children, working with people, the elderly, the poor, or with the homeless? Are we good at teaching or do we like to work with our hands? Each of us can do something worthwhile for the building up of God's holy Church on earth. Today, we humbly beg the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill the tasks that God gives each of us to accomplish.

In this holy Mass let us earnestly pray to Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to animate us to do great things for God's holy Church and for the world.

Let us repeat the Church's prayer, "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love."

The Year of St. Joseph

*Monday, May 24th . . .



The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, is celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost.

Mary mothered Jesus, Jesus then gave life to the Church with water and blood from His side, and the Church then mothers us into existence through Baptism.

The devotion to Mary goes hand in hand with devotion to the Church because both are mothers. Mother Mary gives the world Christ; Mother Church gives the world Christians.

+++

*Wednesday, May 26th . . .

Memorial of St. Philip Neri—Priest. They say he could "read" people's hearts. A confessor and spiritual director, he tried to free others from fear so they could live as God's chosen ones.

Through study, prayer, sharing, and music, St. Philip invited others to union with Christ and one another through love. He died in Rome in 1595.



+++

**Sunday, May 30th . . .



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity—The Christian doctrine of the Trinity holds that God is one God, but three co-eternal and consubstantial persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The three persons are distinct, yet are one "substance, essence or nature."

In this context, a "nature" is *what* one is, whereas a "person" is *who* one is.

+++

The Prayer List

Frederick Smit ♦ Mike Mulvihill
Sue Morales ♦ Wes Linn
Deacon Caleb Cunningham



Treasures of the Church: Vatican Exhibit of Sacred Relics

The Diocese of Baker presents a teaching and exposition of an extraordinary Vatican collection of Sacred Relics from Thursday, June 3rd, through Wednesday, June 9th. More than 150 relics will be present—some as old as 2,000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of the Twelve Apostles, St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic.

Throughout history, many healings have occurred in the presence of relics, and many have happened through this ministry.

Do not miss this opportunity! You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of friends/family members who are ill, and which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

The exposition is directed by the renowned expert on Saints and their relics, Fr. Carlos Martins. For more information, visit www.TreasuresOfTheChurch.com.

CENTRAL DEANERY EXHIBIT:

June 8th, at 6 p.m., St. Thomas Church, 1720 NW 19th St., Redmond, OR

+++

2nd Collection

Fr. Joseph would like to have a second collection on the 2nd weekend of the month. This collection will help with Altar Linens, Candles, Hosts, Wine, and Vestments. **This will begin on June 13th.**

Extra envelopes will be on the table in the Narthex. Thank you so much for your support of this collection.