

Fr. Joseph's Corner

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is coming back home to the Father. This sacrament also brings an inner healing to each individual. Three very important and radical changes take place when an individual does his or her Confession: (1) The wounds caused by sin are healed, (2) The penitent is freed from evil forces, and (3) The capacity to do good is strengthened by the grace one receives from the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It really brings an inner healing to those who seek it with sincere repentance. "Whoever confesses his sins . . . is already working with God. God indicts your sins; if you also indict them, you are joined with God.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has Scriptural roots. The New Testament is full of instances where Jesus forgives sins, for which He was accused by the Pharisees and Sadducees as blaspheming—as it was understood that only God can forgive the sins of others. The most memorable stories in the bible are:

1. The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)
2. The woman caught in adultery (John 8:11)
3. The thief on the cross (Luke 23:40-43), and
4. Peter after his betrayal of Jesus.

Every encounter is very personal and intimate. For example, the adulterous woman who was publicly humiliated and condemned by the people, was forgiven by Jesus. He forgives—He does not condemn.

Jesus says, "The Son of Man has not come to call the virtuous but call the sinners to repentance" (Luke 19:10). He came to call the sinners and, therefore, He was accused of being a glutton, a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Jesus accepts us when we acknowledge that we are sinners.

Today, more people seem to ask why go to a priest for Confession to tell our sins? Why not go directly to God?

When we are sick, we go to a doctor. He gives medicine. He is not the one who heals. You might have seen the caption, "We give medicine—God heals."

But, someone has to give medicine—and it has to be a human being. The one who gives medicine is not God. God does the healing.

In the same way, the priest at the confessional is only taking the place of a doctor. He is there in the place of Christ. He absolves sins in the name of Jesus. It is Jesus who forgives—it is God who forgives.

At the Mass, when the priest says the prayer over the bread and wine, we believe that the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. In the same way, when the priest forgives sins and absolves us, it is Jesus who does it. It is Jesus who forgives us. He said to Peter, "If you forgive sins, they are forgiven. If you retain them, they are retained" (John 20:23). Jesus gave that power to forgive sins, so the priest is a tangible sign of God's presence. He is God's "agent," but he is very much flesh and blood like any one of us. Therefore, Confession is much more than going to a counselor or a psychiatrist. A counselor doesn't forgive sins. God's grace comes with forgiveness. The blood of Jesus washes our sins.

God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness come to us through Christ and His church. He has bought for us this grace with His blood. The Church not only calls us to humble repentance, but it also intercedes for us and helps us toward ongoing conversion.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Vincent De Paul

Help is desperately needed at St. Vincent de Paul.

If you can volunteer for a few hours a week, or be on call when there is a need due to vacation, sickness, etc., please call

Joan Holland at (541) 604-1240

or leave a message at SVdP at (541) 447-7662.

This is a great and very rewarding ministry—and we could use your help!

June 2021 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
June 06, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$5,061.50
June 13, 2021	\$3,700.00	
June 20, 2021	\$3,700.00	
June 27, 2021	\$3,700.00	

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
June 13, 2021 † 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

RCIA ♦ Garilynn Torcher & Cheyenne Edgerly

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	06/14/2021	8:00 a.m.	Chuck Wettstein (D)	2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Matthew 5:38-42
Tuesday	06/15/2021	8:00 a.m.	Bob George (D)	2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Matthew 5:43-48
Wednesday	06/16/2021	12:00 p.m.	Joan Mura Ayres (D)	2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	06/17/2021	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Charles Deusbach (D)	2 Corinthians 11:1-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Friday	06/18/2021	12:00 p.m.	Vernita Parker (D)	2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30; Matthew 6:19-23
Saturday	06/19/2021	5:00 p.m.	Agnetta & Paul Jones (L)	Job 38:1, 8-11 2; Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41
Sunday	06/20/2021	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Job 38:1, 8-11 2; Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41
Sunday	06/20/2021	12:00 p.m.	Ladislada Villagomez (D)	Job 38:1, 8-11 2; Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL, Jesus compares the growth of the Kingdom of God to the germination of a wheat seed and that of a tiny mustard seed. Both have very small beginnings. The wheat seeds, by gradual but steady growth, give the farmer a bumper crop.

In the same way, the life principle in a tiny mustard seed enables it to grow into a large bush. The reign of God in hu-

man hearts and the growth of the Church in the world also have small beginnings. However, the Source of all life, God the Holy Spirit, gives to both a steady, persistent and gigantic growth—provided we cooperate with His grace.

In the case of both wheat and mustard seeds, the initial growth is slow, mysterious and unnoticeable. But, within days a leafy shoot will emerge, and within months a mature plant with numerous branches and leaves, flowers and fruits will be produced. The growth is silent and slow but steady, using power from the seed in the beginning, and transforming absorbed water and minerals in the later stages. Growth doesn't take place because of our understandings or manipulations.

It is God's initiative that brings forth growth. We need to be patient and not give up, because sometimes growth takes longer than we expect. God works in ways we don't understand.

The parable of the mustard seed is a word of encouragement for us. Things might not be what you and I want them to be, but there is still hope. God works in mysterious ways. God is still with us even when our efforts are frustrated, because He is the source of growth. Growth often starts out small like a mustard seed, and then blossoms into something huge.

The second thing these words of Jesus do is to remind us that while we are called to do something, we are not called to do everything. We scatter the seed, but the growth is up to God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

Mark 4:30-32



The same process works in the Christian life. We practice daily prayer and Bible reading, and coming to Mass regularly. We find ways to be of service to others. We pledge money and time to the Church and charitable purposes. These are some of the seeds that God uses to mold and shape our lives in love, peace and hope. But, the shaping happens at God's own pace.

The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when we do the will of God and surrender our life to God.

The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with TLC (tender loving care), it grows miraculously into gigantic proportions. And as we learn God's will from His words, and we try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God's Kingdom on earth—a growth which will be completed in our heavenly life.

Because the acceptance of God's rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelizers and believers. The conviction that growth of the Kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit, with our humble cooperation, it should make us optimistic in continuing our work of bearing witness to Him.

We can all plant tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, and deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness. Both parents and teachers can plant a lot of seeds in the minds of their children and students. The Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the recipients of these seeds sown by us and will effect growth of the Kingdom in their souls and lives.

As the Apostle Paul once said of his ministry, "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is only God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

2021—The Year of St. Joseph June—The Month of the Sacred Heart

Christmas Bazaar



Please note that there will be a meeting on **Tuesday, June 15th, at 11 a.m.**, in the Parish Hall to discuss this year's Christmas Bazaar.

Please plan on attending and bring your thoughts and ideas.

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Father's Day

Next Sunday, **June 20th**, we celebrate Father's Day. For those of you who do not receive church envelopes, there will be envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Please remember all the father figures in your life with a Mass.



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Religious Freedom Week 2021



"Solidarity in Freedom" takes place from **Tuesday, June 22nd, to Tuesday, June 29th.**

During Religious Freedom Week, Catholics are encouraged to pray and act each day for religious freedom.

The "Pray-Reflect-Act" series aims to help Catholics build solidarity with people of faith who are persecuted abroad and find strength to carry out the mission of the Church here in the United States.

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70th Anniversary

St. Joseph's Parish will be celebrating our 70th-Year Jubilee! There is a committee working on a celebration to be held on **Sunday, August 15th.** Bishop Liam Cary will offer a bilingual Mass at **10 a.m.**, and there will be a family meal afterward in the Parish Hall. "Stay tuned" for more updates!



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The Prayer List



Frederick Smit ♦ Mike Mulvihill
Deacon Caleb Cunningham
Anthony & Ruth Jordan
Wally Boe ♦ Diane Ingmire
Wes Linn ♦ Jim Linn
Linda Arian ♦ Larry Bellah
Jenna Gunderson ♦ Julie Bither
People of India

Confirmation Students

As you know, community hours are part of your Confirmation journey. St. Joseph's Parish is more than happy to give the students hours this summer.

If you'd like to get Saturday hours this summer, please call **Sara Gonzalez** at (541) 416-8648 to set up dates, times, and monitor your hours.



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Bible Quotation for the Week: Luke 6:27-36—Love for Enemies



"But to you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours, do not demand it back.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.

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Crucifix

Why do Catholics have a crucifix rather than just a cross?

As Catholics, the crucifix plays a special role in the liturgical tradition of the Church.

In most of our parish churches, the crucifix is given a place of honor and prominence. It is usually located centrally, above the altar or tabernacle.

When you walk through the doors of the church, the crucifix is one of the first things to grab your attention: The open arms of our Savior gladly welcomes and receives us into His Presence. The Church requires that a crucifix be visible during the celebration of Mass to remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus on the altar of the cross, which is made present for us each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

As we gaze upon the crucifix, we see what Mary saw when she stood at the foot of the cross. What thoughts go through your mind when you look at the image of the crucifix? We know what Christ was thinking about when He hung upon the cross. He was thinking about us!

