

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Christmas Gift"

A friend of mine named Paul received an automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it.

"Is this your car, Mister?" he asked. Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Boy, I wish . . ." He hesitated.

Of course, Paul knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said next jarred Paul all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, and then impulsively he asked, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?"

"Oh! Yes, I'd love that," he said with a big smile.

After a short ride, the boy turned to Paul, and with his eyes aglow, he said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front on my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop where those steps are?" the boy asked.

Paul stopped, and the boy ran up the steps. In a little while, Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother.

The boy sat his brother down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him, and pointed to the car. "There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs! His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day, I'm gonna give you one just like it . . . then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the lad to the front seat of his car. The older brother, with his eyes filled with tears and surprise, climbed in beside him, and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve, Paul really learned what Jesus had meant when He said:



—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

12/24/2021	Friday	6 p.m.	Family Mass—English
12/25/2021	Saturday	10 a.m.	Bilingual Mass
12/31/2021	Friday	12 p.m.	Normal Mass Time
01/01/2022	Saturday	8 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary, the
01/01/2022	Vigil Mass	5 p.m.	Holy Mother of God

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Deacon Caleb Cunningham ♦ Sandi Shriver
 Mason Gattey ♦ Ben Guyger ♦ People of India
 Julie Bither ♦ Patricia Bither ♦ Frederick Smit
 David Leonard ♦ Linda Arian ♦ Mike Mulvihill
 Sharon Blue ♦ Gorgonio Zarate ♦ Rick Nolte

December 2021 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
December 5, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$6,227.00
December 12, 2021	\$3,700.00	
December 19, 2021	\$3,700.00	
December 26, 2021	\$3,700.00	

Monthly Rosary Schedule

1st Sunday: Pro Life
 2nd Sunday: Eucharistic Ministers
 3rd Sunday: Knights of Columbus
 4th Sunday: Lectors
 5th Sunday: Ushers



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

December 12, 2021 † 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

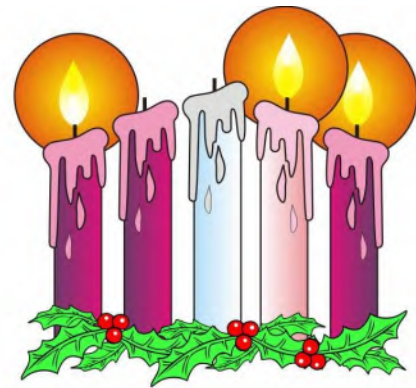
The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

👉 Please Call the Parish Office to Have a Mass Intention Reserved 👈

Day	Date	Time	Intention	Readings
Monday	12/13/2021	8:00 a.m.	Divine Mercy Cenacle Grp (L)	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 [M]
Tuesday	12/14/2021	8:00 a.m.	Sharon Blue (L)	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 [M]
Wednesday	12/15/2021	12:00 p.m.	Rev. Fr. Thomas McTeigue (D)	Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
Thursday	12/16/2021	8:00 a.m.	Jim & Suzanne Callahan (L)	Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30
Friday	12/17/2021	12:00 p.m.	Don & Maxine Simpson (D)	Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
Saturday	12/18/2021	5:00 p.m.	Marie Smit (D)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Sunday	12/19/2021	9:00 a.m.	David Geiman (D)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Sunday	12/19/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

[F] = Feast ♦ [M] = Memorial ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily



third sunday of advent

THE CENTRAL THEME of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice.

According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. *Repentance* means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

We are called to a change of life. John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change, de-

manding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must then examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Start where you are, John says. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. John's voice is sober and runs counter to the intoxicating voices around us. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and, instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. Hence, let us *celebrate* the memory of Jesus' first advent at Bethlehem, *prepare for* Jesus' daily advent into our lives, *welcoming, loving and serving* Jesus, present in other people, *delighting in Jesus'* presence in our own souls and lives, and *wait for* Jesus' third advent or *second coming* ("Parousia") at the end of the world, with joyful expectation.

What should we do in preparation for Christmas? This is the same question the Jews asked John. His answer, to them and to us, is the same: "Repent and reform your lives," and prayerfully wait for the Messiah. Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, urgently calls us to more fervent prayer, particularly her Rosary, with fasting, and penitential sacrifices. Let us remember that the Mass is the most powerful of prayers. We must be a Eucharistic people, living and experiencing the presence of Jesus in our hearts and adoring Him in His Tabernacle. Let us remember that conversion is an ongoing process effected by our daily cooperation with Jesus, Whom we encounter in the Sacraments.

Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us read the Bible and pray the Rosary daily. We might also fast once a week all year round, rather than just in Advent and Lent; after all, we sin all year round! Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to turn off TV programs that show explicit sexual behavior, violence and the use of foul language. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love" (St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Mother Teresa").

2021—The Year of St. Joseph December—Month of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The 3rd Sunday of Advent



It is also known as Gaudete Sunday (pronounced in three syllables: Gow-day-tay).

The 3rd candle to be lit is the pink candle, which represents Joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation He has gifted us. Because at Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus, we want to be ready when He does come. That means having a clean heart. Confession does that for us.

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Diocese of Baker

The Religious Retirement Collection is **this weekend**. Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

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Prayer for the 3rd Week of Advent

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for His coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

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Penance Service

Tuesday, December 14th, confessions will begin at **6 p.m.** Four priests will be here to hear confessions in both English and Spanish.

All Religious Ed students who have received Reconciliation Preparation are required to attend with their parents.

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Visit from Bishop Cary



On December 19th, Bishop Liam Cary will preside at the **9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Masses**. Then afterward, he would like to meet with the parents of 15 grade school children in K-12th Grades at **1 p.m., in the Parish Hall**.

All Religious Education Teachers should be present for this meeting.

If you would like to be a participant in this meeting, please call **Barbara Dalton** at (541) 410-3720. If you sign up, you must make a commitment to attend. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided.



Envelopes

The Offertory Envelopes for 2022 are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Parish Office. Please pick up your envelopes before the New Year.

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Calendars

Calendars are in the Narthex for 2022. **Brett and Cheyenne Edgerly** have been very kind to purchase them for our parish for many years. Thank you both for this blessing. Please remember to take a calendar home with you.

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Knights of Columbus Christmas Cards

We were unable to receive our requested Christmas Card Order for 2021, but, we still have cards and miscellaneous items from last year. They are for sale now in the Parish Office. **Karin** is there on **Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Please stop in for your cards.

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Vocalists Are Needed

If interested in being part of the Christmas Eve Choir, call **Garilynn Tocher** at (541) 815-5823. Rehearsal will be held on **Tuesday, December 14th, at 4 p.m.** If you're planning on singing, you must attend rehearsal.

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Christmas Nativity

A Christmas nativity is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season. The word "nativity" is from the Latin *nativus*, meaning "arisen by birth." Nativities are art, models, carvings, or live demonstrations depicting the night of Jesus' birth. These scenes contain the Christ child in a manger; His mother, Mary; His earthly father, Joseph; shepherds; angels; various barn animals; and often three wise men.



St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene in 1223 to promote the true meaning of Christmas and worship of Jesus Christ. His idea caught on, and soon a new Christmas tradition was born. Today, it's almost impossible not to see a nativity scene in front of a church, in a Christmas play, someone's yard, or on a fireplace mantel.

Because our sin requires a perfect sacrifice before a holy and just God, He sent His own Son to earth to become that sacrifice (John 3:16). The child who was born to Mary and laid in a manger would grow up to die on a cross and rise again so that everyone who believes in Him may receive forgiveness for sin and eternity in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-4).