

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"A Little Christmas Story"

This is a story of a man who couldn't accept that Jesus was the Son of the True living God, and that He came as a living sacrifice, so that we could have eternal life in heaven with God the Father. Andrew Sanford was a man of his word—a man who did not consider himself to be a hypocrite. And he was basically a good person. He was the husband of a Christian woman, but did not consider himself to be a Christian.

As usual, on Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to Midnight Mass. He told his wife he would wait up for them. As his family got into the car and left, he stayed looking out the window, watching the snow flurries come down, covering the ground in a white blanket, as they drove off.

He then turned and went to sit in his favorite chair and began to read. As he read, he heard a thumping sound at the big bay window. It sounded like someone throwing snowballs at it. He got up to look, and to his surprise, he noticed some birds rolling around in the snow. It appeared that they could not see their way through all the snow and were trying to fly through his window to what seemed to be shelter but only to bounce right off and land in the snow.

As Andrew realized why they were hopelessly scrounging around in the snow, he thought that if he could only get the birds into his barn, they could have shelter for the night. So he put on his hat and coat, opened the barn doors, and put the big bright light on in the barn. Then he went out to see how he could steer them toward the light. He tried waving his arms, going around them in a circle, and pointing

them toward the barn, but it only frightened them. Then he thought to get some breadcrumbs and placed them in a line, hoping they would follow it right into the barn where it was safe and warm. But, they paid no attention to him or the crumbs.

Andrew then thought if only he could speak their bird language, they would understand. If he could be like them, then he could talk to them—feel what they were feeling—then they would understand, and he could show them the way into the place where they could live, and not die.

Just as he pondered on that thought, he heard the church bells ringing! He got down on his knees and thanked the Lord for finding a way to show him what He did for us.

You see, Andrew finally realized that God knew we would not respond to Him unless He came down to us as a man who was able to feel all that we feel—and offer Himself as a living sacrifice, loving us unconditionally. Only by our acknowledgement that Jesus gave Himself willingly to die on the cross a physical death—and, more importantly, be resurrected on the third day to purchase a place for us in Heaven—could we have that relationship with the Father that we once had (before the fall of man).

This gift from God is absolutely free! There is nothing we can do to earn it or deserve it. All we have to do is accept Christ as our Savior, confess our sins, and invite Him into our hearts. Only then we can have eternal life—only through the Son can we come to know the Father.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Vincent de Paul

Thanks to everyone for their generous Thanksgiving donations. Our 37 volunteers donated 509 hours last month, serving 214 households—412 adults and 82 children.

If you are interested in joining our team, please call Joan Holland at (543) 447-7662 and leave a message.

Note: We are closed from December 18th until January 3rd. We will resume on January 4th. Again, we thank all those who support SVDP, and we wish you a very joyous Christmas!

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	\$3,195.05
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 19, 2021 † 4th 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 👈

Monday	12/20/2021	8:00 a.m.	Leo Thaler (D)	Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	12/21/2021	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
Wednesday	12/22/2021	12:00 p.m.	Sister Barbara Julian (L)	1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
Thursday	12/23/2021	8:00 a.m.	Leo Thaler (D)	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
Friday	12/24/2021	6:00 p.m.	Family of Karin Davis (L)	Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25*
Saturday	12/25/2021	10:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman	Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18**
Sunday	12/26/2021	9:00 a.m.	Edward Walwork	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52
Sunday	12/26/2021	12:00 p.m.	Maria Walwork	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

[*] = Christmas Eve ♦ [**] = Christmas Day ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily
4th Sunday of Advent—Liturgical Year C

TODAY'S READINGS remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. The readings suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word—as Mary and Jesus did—in perfect, loving obedience to His will, and with cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

Today's Gospel tells us how Mary, a village girl carrying Jesus in her womb, made a difference in the lives of her cousin, Elizabeth, and of the child, John, in her womb. John, as he grew up, helped Mary's Son to transform the history of mankind by preparing the way for the Messiah. The starfish story suggests that each person, no matter how unimportant, may truly benefit from our work, and that any service, however small, is valuable. The story also shows how seemingly hopeless problems can be solved by taking the first step.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.

We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. We can make a real difference in the lives of others by carrying Jesus to them. However, we cannot give what we do not possess. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing His rebirth within us. Thus, He enables us to share His love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate caring. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas gift we can give. God wants each of us, like Mary, to carry to those around us the Lord of Life.



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

It is easy to send flowers, Christmas cards or gifts. To give the gift of oneself, however, is the greatest gift of all.

Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives and, hopefully, to bring them closer to God. Let us share with them the Spirit of God, the Spirit of consolation, of courage, of peace and joy, just as Mary did.

During the Christmas Season, God calls us into action as He did Mary. Is there anyone we know who is lonely, in a nursing home, ill or bedridden? Can we help him or her with a brief visit? Is there extra food in our pantry that a poor family could use? We have many organizations through which we can help such families.

We need to recognize the real presence of the Emmanuel (God Is with Us) and say "yes" to Him: The Visitation of Mary reminds us that, through His holy ministry, Christ continues to be present among His people. The same Christ "dwells among us" in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our sanctuary. The same Jesus who dwelt in Mary's womb and who caused John to leap in Elizabeth's womb now dwells among us in our liturgy and in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus has come—He lives with us and in us through the Holy Spirit.

What is expected of us during this Christmas week is the readiness to say "Yes!" to the Father, "Yes!" to Jesus, "Yes!" to all that we will experience in the coming year, and "Yes!" to every call that God makes and will make on us.

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people, living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. They suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect obedience to His will, in cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

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

The 4th Sunday of Advent



Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent. The fourth and last purple candle—often called the "Angel's Candle"—represents peace. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

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Prayer for the 4th Week of Advent

Come, long-expected Jesus.
Excite in me a hunger for peace:
peace in the world,
peace in my home,
peace in myself.
Amen.

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Visit from Bishop Cary

If you signed up to meet with **Bishop Cary** this Sunday at 1 p.m., please make sure you are there at least 15 minutes before, and enjoy a light lunch of sandwiches and drinks. Thank you for being part of this assembly.

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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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Books

There are books in the Narthex: *Life is Messy* and a Devotional for 2022. Please feel free to take one home. They were purchased by **Karin Jones** for the parish family here at St. Joseph.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

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Merry Christmas

Fr. Joseph and the staff of St. Joseph Catholic Church want to wish everyone a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas—Peace on Earth this Christmas Season!

—Fr. Joseph, Karin Jones, and Barbara Dalton

Christmas Time

December 25, 2021–January 10, 2022

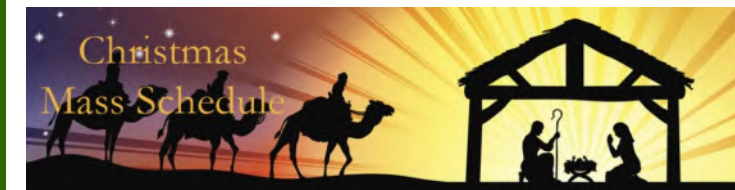
Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh—a uniquely Christian teaching—the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas, where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and—in a sense—He is born anew on the altar.



The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him, including the fact that He was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God, the Father's gift of His only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

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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 Note!

There will be no morning Masses on **Monday or Tuesday, December 27th/28th**. Fr. Joseph will be gone.