

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Just Stay" (by Roy Popkin)

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain from his heart attack, he dimly saw the young, uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent, and he reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night, the young Marine sat there in the poorly lit ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength.

Occasionally, the nurse suggested to the Marine that he move away and rest for awhile, but he refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital—the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then, she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing; he only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Toward dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, the nurse returned and started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her.

"Who was that man?" he asked. The nurse was startled and said, "He was your father!" "No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't there. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His Son was killed in Iraq today, and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?"

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, William Grey.

**THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE NEEDS YOU . . .
JUST BE THERE. JUST STAY!**

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Respect for the dignity of persons is a principle of Catholic social teaching and one ignored by traffickers who treat persons as commodities. Join us in abolishing this horrific crime. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501c(3) organization, 2039 N. Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsthumantrafficking.org).

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	\$3,280.00
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 26, 2021 † Holy Family 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

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	12/27/2021	8:00 a.m.	Taylor Brooke Alvis (L)	1 John 1:1–4; John 20:1a & 2–8 [F]
Tuesday	12/28/2021	8:00 a.m.	Haley Newsome (L)	1 John 1:5–2:2; Matthew 2:13–18 [F]
Wednesday	12/29/2021	12:00 p.m.	Matthew Walwork (D)	1 John 2:3–11; Luke 2:22–35
Thursday	12/30/2021	8:00 a.m.	Frank Davis (D)	1 John 2:12–17; Luke 2:36–40
Friday	12/31/2021	12:00 p.m.	Ron & Shirley Lattin (L)	1 John 2:18–21; John 1:1–18
Saturday	01/01/2022	8:00 a.m.	Shirley Smith (D)	Numbers 6:22–27; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21 [S]
Saturday	01/01/2022	5:00 p.m.	Tina Hill (L)	Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12
Sunday	01/02/2022	9:00 a.m.	Tony & Ruth Jordan (D)	Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12
Sunday	01/02/2022	12:00 p.m.	Timothy Corey (D)	Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12

[F] = Feast Day ♦ [S] = Solemnity ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—Liturgical Year C

THE SUNDAY AFTER Christmas is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family. Christmas itself is the feast of God entering a family to stay with the humans. It appears that God thought it to be wise to start the decisive phase of salvation history from a family.

In the story of the fall—of Adam and Eve—the very first negative consequence of sin was visible in the family of those first parents. They distanced themselves from God, blamed one another, and their life together became difficult, painful, and filled with suffering.

God deemed it fit to restore the broken family bonds as an important step toward the restoration of the ruptured relationship the human race had with God. When He sent His Son as the member of the family of Joseph and Mary, He was undoing the mistakes of the first parents.

The Church has always presented the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model family for Christians to imitate, calling it to be the Holy Family. But for the people living in the 21st century, there is very little that makes it attractive to them.

Jesus' family was just too simple and ordinary. It was a family that lived under the threat of the powerful and the influenced. Evicted to Egypt from their homeland, the family was forced to live as migrants in Galilee. It did not have any financial or social security. It struggled hard to win its daily bread, and it did not receive any privileges from any quarter.

Many of the features that we cherish and long for were absent in the family of Jesus. Still, the Church calls it a model family and a holy family.

Do you know why? It is because in this family, Jesus, the Word incarnate, was its center, His bonds of love and respect for the family members were very strong, and the only philosophy of its members was to seek the will of God and to obey it. Any family that follows these principles would be a model family always and everywhere.

Parents must learn to keep **Jesus at the center of their married life.** It would help them to tackle



many problems that might arise in their life. If Jesus is the center of their life, they would learn the art of making the family from Jesus' perspective.

Letting Jesus enter our families and keeping Him at its center is the big challenge the couples of our time face. In the Gospel, we see Jesus entering the homes of many. When Jesus enters a home, He leads its members to a deeper understanding of the Word of God (as happened in the home of Martha and Mary). When He enters a home, He invites them to have a change of heart (as happened in the home of Zacchaeus). He gives them healing (as happened in the home of Peter), and He restores

life to its fullness (as happened in the home of Jairus). His presence in a home guarantees a solution to the most taxing problems affecting it (as happened in the wedding home at Cana). Still, many are afraid to let Jesus into their homes.

The other characteristic that is noticeable in the Holy Family was its commitment to follow the will of God in everything. All the members of the Holy Family sought the will of God wholeheartedly. There was no trace of selfishness and vested interest in their life. Their unwavering faith in the providence of God enabled them to accept the joys and sorrows of life with serenity. They did not complain about anything. They accepted every happening in the family with humility. They were convinced that whatever happened to them was the Lord's doing. This attitude of theirs increased their love and respect for one another. They trusted each other as they trusted God. So they stood united in the ups and downs of their life.

What we see in the families around us is the lack of openness to God and one another and the consequent disunity. When we push up our selfish agenda, it will hurt both God and other members of our family. On this feast day of the Holy Family, let us recollect what the Psalmist has to say: "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today, we celebrate The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His legal father, St. Joseph.

This feast urges us to see in the Holy Family a "shining example" for all family life. In their mutual love and forbearance, in their patience in times of trial, and in their total obedience to God's will for them, the Holy Family shows us how to live together in peace.

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Please Note!

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

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Thank You

Fr. Joseph would like to thank all of the parishioners who have supported St. Joseph Parish during the past year. Your generosity—in not only tithing—but assisting with the upkeep of the parish is outstanding, to say the least! The church looks amazing for Christmas Time.



Again, thanks to all who helped with the decorations.

—Peace and Blessings Father Joseph

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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.



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Bible Verse - Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

On **Saturday, January 1st, there will be an 8 a.m. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.** This Solemnity falls exactly one week after Christmas—the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honor Mary, as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," this Solemnity honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." Falling on New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is also designated as the World Day of Peace.



There will be a collection at this Mass.

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January 1st Becomes New Year's Day

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each New Year beginning at the vernal equinox. It was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the 8th century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, added the months of *Januarius* and *Februarius*. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C., emperor Julius Caesar solved the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1st as the first day of the year to honor Janus, the "Roman god of beginnings" with his two faces—one looking forward to the future and the other looking backward. Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1st as New Year's Day in 1582.

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Can You Sew?



St. Joseph Parish would like to put together a group of women who like to sew and who would be interested in making the white cloths used on the altar. We actually need three different sizes. If you are interested in helping, please call **Karin** at the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475. This will help to replace those linens that are worn and stained.