

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

## "A Physics Lesson"

Every year Professor Lee would give the same lecture to his students. Basically he would say, "If I drop this glass beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it, not even if you pray to your GOD!"

You see, Professor Lee was an atheist, and he would say the last part with a great deal of contempt in his voice and on his face. No student ever challenged the professor for fear of looking foolish in front of everyone.

But one year, a Freshman decided that he would challenge Professor Lee. He knew that his class would be subjected to this lecture—just as classes had heard it for several years. He asked Richard Harvey to pray for him two weeks before the infamous lecture was to be given again. The Freshman explained that he was tired of God being mocked, and felt that God must be tired of it, too. He was going to give all the Glory to God, and explain that it had nothing to do with himself—that all the power was God's alone.

Richard agreed and did indeed pray for the next two weeks—and on the day of the lecture, he decided to go witness the challenge.

Sure enough, the moment came when Professor Lee said, "If I drop this glass beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it—not even if you pray to your GOD!"

The Freshman immediately stood up and challenged his professor. Lee took the challenge, and gave the Freshman a moment to say his prayer.

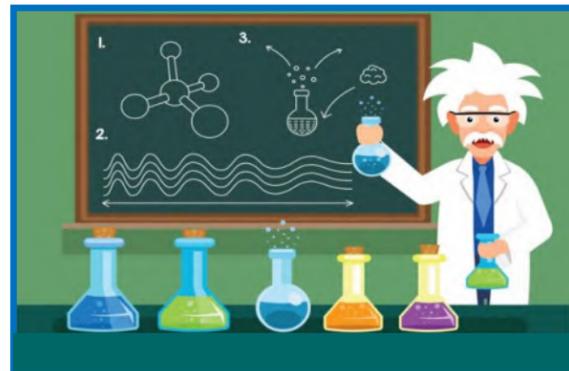
The student thanked God for giving him the opportunity to let the Lord's power be shown, gave thanks to Jesus for His shed blood and the power of His name, asked for forgiveness for not preventing God from being mocked up until then, and thanked God for preventing the beaker from breaking when Professor Lee dropped it. He denied that there was any personal credit to be given to himself and gave all the Glory to God.

The room was silent. All eyes were now on Professor Lee as he raised the beaker and let go of it.

As everyone looked on, the beaker tilted ever so slightly in mid-air, as it descended toward the concrete floor—and its imminent destruction. It hit the professor's shoe, rolled across the floor, and bumped into the lectern unscathed. The room erupted in cheers and laughter.

Professor Lee never gave that lecture again!

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



### Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

December 24th	Friday	6 p.m.	Family Mass in English
December 25th	Saturday	10 a.m.	Bilingual Mass
December 31st	Friday	12 p.m.	Normal Mass Time
January 1st	Saturday	8 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary, the
January 1st	Vigil Mass	5 p.m.	Holy Mother of God

### November 2021 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
November 7, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$5,109.00
November 14, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,324.75
November 21, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$6,971.77
November 28, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$2,614.00

### 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 5, 2021 † 2nd 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com)

(Fr. Joseph's personal email address: [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto:joekunel55@gmail.com))

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

RCIA ♦ Garlynn 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	12/06/2021	8:00 a.m.	Brett Edgerly (L)	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday	12/07/2021	8:00 a.m.	Mildred Kappel (D)	Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 [M]
Wednesday	12/08/2021	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Jennings (L)	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 [HDO]
Wednesday	12/08/2021	6:00 p.m.	Tina Hill (L)	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 [HDO]
Thursday	12/09/2021	8:00 a.m.	Tony & Ruth Jordan (D)	Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	12/10/2021	12:00 p.m.	Dorothy Rupert (D)	Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	12/11/2021	5:00 p.m.	Kathy Yocum (D)	Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
Sunday	12/12/2021	9:00 a.m.	Aril Smit (D)	Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
Sunday	12/12/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

[HDO] = Holy Day of Obligation ♦ [C] = Commemoration ♦ [F] = Feast ♦ [M] = Memorial ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily



### The 2nd Sunday of Advent

THE SECOND SUNDAY of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in the praying community. Finally, we are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His *Second Coming*, at the end of our lives, and at the end of the world.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch introduces Yahweh, the God of Israel, preparing the way for, and leading the Babylonian exiles to, Jerusalem. Hence, the prophet invites the weeping Jerusalem to rejoice and go to high places to watch the return of the exiles. Baruch's prophecy announces the return of the whole human race to God. During this Advent season, we, too, are asked to return to the Lord from our slavery to sin.

In the second reading, Paul advises the Philippians to prepare themselves for Christ's Second Coming by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist challenges us to prepare the way for the salvation of "all flesh," including our own, by a true repentance leading to the renewal of our lives. Quoting Isaiah, John declares that he has come to prepare a royal road in our hearts for our Savior, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation, to God.

John called people to repent as a way of preparing their hearts and lives for the Lord's visit. He is calling us, too, to get ready for something so great that it fills our emptiness with expectation.

A smooth road means nothing to God, but a repentant heart means a great deal. Hence, the truly important goal for us is to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord.

We don't live in a perfect world, and we don't look to this world to see God's salvation. For salvation, we have to look to Jesus—Jesus present in Scripture, Jesus present in the Sacraments, Jesus present in our coming together in his name, Jesus present in the lives of his followers. Perhaps, if we begin to see Jesus in each other and in ourselves, and start to treat one another (and ourselves), as we would treat Jesus, more of the world might come to see God's salvation.

We need to prepare the way for the Messiah in our hearts: We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls that have resulted from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking—like involvement in some secret or habitual sins—or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution.

If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. If we have been pushing God off to the side of our road, if we have been saying to Him that we don't really have the time for Him, now is the time for us to get our priorities straight. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism. As a society, we might have to dismantle unfair housing policies, employment disparity, economic injustice, or racial and ethnic biases.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and our fellow-human beings: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. There are basically two reasons why people who have recognized their sins fail to receive forgiveness for them. The first is that they fail to repent. But, the second is that they fail to forgive.

Jesus is very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14 and 15. He says, "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Is there someone I need to forgive today? We must not let what others have done destroy our lives. We can't be forgiven unless we forgive. We must release our bitterness if we are to be able to allow God to do His healing work in our lives.

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

### Advent



Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The second candle to be lit is also a purple candle. This candle symbolizes faith and the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas.

Advent is a great time to practice spiritual and corporeal acts of mercy such as Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, volunteering at a nursing home or soup kitchen, or visiting the sick in a hospital.

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### Prayer for the 2nd Week of Advent

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the birth of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. May his quiet coming fill us with true inner peace. Amen.

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### The Immaculate Conception



Wednesday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Times are at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Even though this feast day occurs in the liturgical season of Advent, which prepares for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception asserts that, "From the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of Mankind, kept free from all stain of original sin."

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### Envelopes

The Offertory Envelopes for 2022 are in the Narthex of the Church. Please make sure to take them home with you. If you no longer want to receive the envelopes, please write cancel on the box label. If you do not receive envelopes and would like to, please call the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475.

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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.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Please take note of the flyer in this bulletin regarding the "Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration 2021," which takes place on Saturday, December 11th. All are invited to attend. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful symbol of devotion, identity, and patriotism.



According to tradition, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was an Aztec convert to Christianity, on December 9th, and again on December 12th, in 1531.

During her first apparition, she requested that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared (Tepeyac Hill—now in a suburb of Mexico City). But, the bishop demanded a sign before he would approve construction of a church. Mary then appeared a second time to Juan Diego and ordered him to collect roses. In a second audience with the bishop, Juan Diego opened his cloak, letting dozens of roses fall to the floor and revealing the image of Mary imprinted on the inside of the cloak—the image that is now venerated in the Basilica of Guadalupe.

If you have any questions, please call Ruby at (541) 350-8833 or Yaneli at (541) 420-9767.

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### Diocese of Baker

The Religious Retirement Collection is on the weekend of December 11/12. There are envelopes in the Narthex.

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### Penance Service

Penance Service for Advent is Tuesday, December 14th. Confessions start at 6 p.m. There will be four priests for confessions in both English and Spanish. All Religious Education students who have received Reconciliation Preparation are required to attend.



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### Vocalists Are Needed

If anyone is interested in being part of the Christmas Eve Choir, please call Garilynn Tocher at (541) 815-5823.

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### 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