



Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Things Happen for a Reason"



The new pastor and his wife were assigned to their first ministry—to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn. When they saw the church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18th, they were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19th, a terrible rain-storm hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked and caused a large area of plaster to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary, just behind the pulpit.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he worked to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. He could hardly believe how beautiful it looked, and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "Where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained, and the woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman—and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just bought the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria.

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week, but he was captured, put in prison, and she never saw him or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home—it was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door, and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, just continued to sit in one of the pews and stare ahead. The pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. Then the man came up to ask the pastor where he got the tablecloth on the front wall—because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war, and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike!

He told the pastor of how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and how he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years in between.

The pastor then gently asked the man if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island—to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and then saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine!

[This is a true story, submitted by Pastor Rob Reid, who says, "God does not work in mysterious ways. I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today, to guide you and protect you, as you go along your way. His love is always with you, His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares you know He will see us through. So, when the road you're traveling on seems difficult at best, just remember that I am here praying, and God will do the rest. When there is nothing left but God, that's when you find out that God is all you need.]

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



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 25, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$5,332.00
December 26, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$2,354.00

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
January 2, 2022 † Epiphany of the Lord 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	01/03/2022	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Rupert (D)	1 John 3:22–4:6; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25
Tuesday	01/04/2022	8:00 a.m.	Sandy Serrano (L)	1 John 4:7–10; Mark 6:34–44 [M]
Wednesday	01/05/2022	12:00 p.m.	Bertha Thaler (D)	1 John 4:11–18; Mark 6:45–52 [M]
Thursday	01/06/2022	8:00 a.m.	Adolf Eklund (D)	1 John 4:19–5:4; Luke 4:14–22
Friday	01/07/2022	12:00 p.m.	Jay Comeaux (L)	1 John 5:5–13; Luke 5:12–16
Saturday	01/08/2022	5:00 p.m.	Walter Hauser (D)	Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22
Sunday	01/09/2022	9:00 a.m.	Nancy MacDonald (L)	Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22
Sunday	01/09/2022	12:00 p.m.	Peggy Jones (L)	Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7; Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

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

Today's Homily The Epiphany of the Lord

ONE OF THE favourite images of Christmas is that of the wise men traveling by camel through a star-lit night. One star dominates the sky as they arrive on the crest of the hill overlooking Bethlehem. When the star appeared, these wise men must have been living a certain type of life. But when they saw the star, they decided to follow it. They stopped whatever they were doing. They were ready to take risks because they new the meaning of this special star. The journey must have been a long trip from a country far away in the east. There have been dangers, too, along the way. For them, it was a journey to the faith. The wise men through, the grace of God, came to faith in Jesus.

We each have a journey to make to Jesus because none of us is yet fully converted, and each of us has corners in our hearts and lives in need of Jesus' healing and redemption. As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, we are strongly reminded that we must continue to seek out God's presence in our lives and in our world.

Having celebrated Christ's birthday a few days ago, the Church is now asking us to consider how we must still search for Christ. The "search" here is not in the sense that we are searching for something that we have never found. Rather, we are continuing to look for a deeper knowledge and experience of the Christ in whom we already believe.

One of the facts that today's Gospel gives us is that the wise men came with special gifts for the newborn king. The Gospel writer tells us they went into the house, and when they saw the child with His mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshiped Him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to Him."

We may wonder—gold, frankincense and myrrh—what strange gifts for a new-born child. If the eastern visitors had been wise women, the baby Jesus would have received more sensible gifts—baby food, "nappies," clothes to replace the swaddling cloths, "bunny rugs," and even a proper baby's crib.



To us, the wise men's gifts might seem to be rather useless, but what do you give this child who is the all-powerful God—who controls the stars to such an extent that a particularly bright star travels westward and stops over the place where Jesus and His parents were staying?

Their gifts were symbolic adoration to the Divine King. When God so

loved the world that He gave His only Son for our salvation, what can we give in return?

The best gifts that we can offer the Christ-child are the gifts of ourselves. In actual fact, the gold, frankincense and myrrh from the wise men are trivial and quite useless for the God of all creation, and the saviour of all people. He has all the gold, frankincense and myrrh He ever needs. After all, He is the creator and owner of all these gifts. But as useless as these gifts are for God, they are a sign of the way the wise men gave of themselves.

Again, we are told, "The wise men . . . knelt down and worshiped Him." Here are these men—learned, wealthy, wizards of the east, non-Jews and probably pagans—kneeling at the tiny infant's feet of the true God. And, while they paid homage, they would have realized that even the gift of themselves was something far too small for this king of kings.

What we give to our Lord may seem so trivial, modest and poor, but if they are representative of the giving of ourselves to God, this is our most important gift. Even then, this is still so small in comparison to what God has gifted to us.

Like the wise men, all of us are on a journey to get closer to Jesus, our Saviour. Like the wise men, we too are relying on the grace of God to lead us to the light of Jesus, our Saviour. Like the wise men, let us offer ourselves at His feet.

The Epiphany reminds us—

May our hearts seek Christ.

May our hearts find Christ.

May our hearts love Christ.

2021—The Year of St. Joseph January—The Holy Name of Jesus

The Epiphany of Our Lord



This is the Christian feast observed on **January 6th**. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world—mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9–11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1–11).

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Bible Study Is Back!

Starting on **Tuesday, January 11th, at 2 p.m.**, Bible Study will return. This session will be on the Pivotal Players. Please mark your calendars!



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Coming Soon!



The Knights of Columbus will be having Bingo at the Parish Hall. Get your bingo dabbers and chips ready. More information to follow.

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Envelopes

The Offertory envelopes for 2022 are available Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Parish Office.

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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 501 c (3) organization, located at 2039 N. Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainstrafficking.org).

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Bible Verse - Psalm 121:1–3

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—
He who watches over you will not slumber.



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 need three different sizes to replace the linens that are worn and stained.



If you are interested in helping, please call **Karin** at the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475. This will help

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Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List



Dcn. Caleb Cunningham
Sandi Shriver ♦ People of India
Mason Gatley ♦ Ben Guyger

Julie Bither ♦ Patricia Bither ♦ Frederick Smit
David Leonard ♦ Linda Arian ♦ Mike Mulvihill
Sharon Blue ♦ Gorgonio Zarate ♦ Rick Nolte

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St. Vincent de Paul—December Update

SVdP thanks **everyone** for their generous donations that enabled us to help pay the water bill for 7 families, paid 1 family's rent, issued 4 propane and 6 gas vouchers.

One woman was in an abusive situation, and we were able to get her to a safe house. Another mother and daughter were in a hostile situation, and we got them into a hotel for a few nights. We helped an elderly man who just had surgery and had no water or a place to rest, and we helped pay a single mother's hospital bill.

We also coordinated our efforts with the Prineville Police Department to help an 81-year-old homeless man get into the men's shelter. And we provided transportation to Craig's Compassionate Café for free lunches. He was also given a food box to help with his other meals.

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National Sanctity of Human Life

In light of the possible Supreme Court decision that could pave the way to overturn the Roe vs Wade decision, the Respect for Life Ministry is announcing this year's 48th observance of the Roe vs Wade decision.



A Rosary will be recited on **Saturday, January 22nd, at 10 a.m.**, at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Bend, located at 2450 NE 27th Street, followed by the Pro-Life Mass at **10:30 a.m.** Mass will be celebrated by **Bishop Cary**, and concelebrated with **Pastor Fr. Jose**.