

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

**"Forgiveness" (a letter from the Father of Jesus—author unknown)**

*A letter written to a man on death row by the Father of the Son whom the man on death row had killed:*

**Y**ou are probably surprised that I, of all people, am writing a letter to you, but I ask you to read it in its entirety, and consider its request seriously. As the father of the man whom you took part in murdering, I have something very important to say to you:

I forgive you—with all my heart—I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe, but I really do. At your trial, when you confessed to your part in the events that cost my Son his life and asked for my forgiveness, I immediately granted you that forgiving love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my forgiveness.

But this is not all I have to say to you. I want to make you an offer. I want you to become my adopted child. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you, and leave my riches to you. This may not make sense to you or anyone else, but I believe you are worth the offer.

I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my offer of forgiveness, not only will you be pardoned for your crime, but you also will be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my adopted child and heir to all my riches.

I realize this is a risky offer for me to make to you. You might be tempted to reject my offer

completely. But, I make it to you anyway without reservation.

Also, I realize it may seem foolish to make such an offer to one who cost my Son His life, but I now have a great love and an unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you.

Finally, you may be concerned that once you do accept my offer, you might do something to cause you to be denied your rights as an heir to my wealth. But, nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you never will be perfect, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my offer.

Besides, I believe that once you have accepted my offer, and you begin to experience the riches that will come to you from me, that your primary (although not always) response will be gratitude and loyalty.

Some would call me foolish for my offer to you, but I wish for you to call me your Father.

Sincerely,

The Father of Jesus

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



## January 2022 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
January 2, 2022	\$3,700.00	\$1,881.88
January 9, 2022	\$3,700.00	\$4,204.00
January 16, 2022	\$4,400.00	\$4,775.00
January 23, 2022	\$4,400.00	\$2,247.00
January 30, 2022	\$4,400.00	

## 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 30, 2022 † 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 ♦ Garilynn Tocher & Laura Lang**

**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	01/31/2022	8:00 a.m.	Martha Ruyter (D)	2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20 [M]
Tuesday	02/01/2022	8:00 a.m.	Dolores Myers (D)	2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday	02/02/2022	12:00 p.m.	Judy Pentkowski (L)	Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 [F]
Thursday	02/03/2022	8:00 a.m.	Jeremy Smith (L)	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13
Friday	02/04/2022	12:00 p.m.	Kari McKay (D)	Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29
Saturday	02/05/2022	5:00 p.m.	Matthew Walwork (D)	Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Sunday	02/06/2022	9:00 a.m.	Dorothy Rupert (D)	Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Sunday	02/06/2022	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

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



## Today's Homily

THE CENTRAL theme of today's readings is that we should have, and show in our communities, the courage of our Christian convictions, in our faith and in its practice—even when we face hatred and rejection because of them.

The first reading tells us how God called Jeremiah as His prophet and equipped him to face opposition and rejection. In living out his prophetic vocation, while encountering rejection and persecution, Jeremiah prefigured Jesus, the greatest of all prophets.

In the second reading, we hear Paul speaking with the courage of his Christian convictions in correcting the Corinthian Christian community where the exercise of God's gifts was causing competition, jealousy, and divisiveness. He courageously presents to them a "way" that surpasses all others; namely, the *way of love*, and instructs them to exercise their gifts with love.

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel presenting Jesus' own people's negative reaction to His "Inaugural Address" at the synagogue of Nazareth when He applied to Himself the words of Isaiah 61, announcing a new time of jubilee, liberation, and healing in God's name. The passage shows us how Jesus faced skepticism and criticism with prophetic courage.

Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus believed that they were commissioned by God to proclaim a disturbing prophetic message (Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19). No matter how strong the opposition, the three had the conviction that God was with them.

Let us face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. The story of Jesus' rejection in His own hometown is a story that we can identify with, because it is a story that has happened to most of us. Perhaps we have experienced the pain of rejection, betrayal, abandonment, violated trust, neglect, or abuse. What about rejection by those closest to us?



**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C**  
The people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth reject Him, and they attempt to hurl Him off a cliff (Luke 4:21–30).

Often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us, refuse our advice, and reject the words of grace, love, and encouragement that we offer them because they are unable to see us

as God's appointed instruments—as the agents of God's healing and saving grace. Perhaps we ourselves are guilty of such rejection. How often have we discounted people through our prejudice? We must realize that God's power is always available to transform even the most unlikeliest of people, and that His power may come to us through unlikely instruments.

Let us not, like the people in Jesus' hometown, reject God in our lives. The story of Jesus' rejection by his townsfolk is also a story about how we often ignore and reject God. Do we realize that we expel Jesus from our lives every time we choose to sin? How often have we taken Him to the brink of our hearts, and given Him that eternity-losing push? The Good News is that this Messiah always gives us one more chance. It is up to us to take it. Similarly, are we unwilling to be helped by God, or by others?

Does our pride or lack of trust stop us from seeing or recognizing God's purpose?

Does either prevent us from recognizing God's direction, help, and support in our lives through His words in the Bible and through the advice and examples of others? God calls us in many ways. Are we willing to listen to this calling and discover our role in carrying out His purpose?

We need to follow Christ, and to speak the truth of Christ in love, without being hypocritical or disrespectful. Jesus taught us to love and respect others without condoning or encouraging sinful behavior. We need to be kind, charitable, honest—forgiving, but clear, in speaking out our Christian convictions, as was Jesus when He spoke in the synagogue at Nazareth.

## February—The Month of the Holy Family

### Bible Study



Unfortunately the Bible Study Class for **Tuesday, February 1st**, has been canceled. See you all next Tuesday, the **8th of February!**

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### Blessing of the Throat

**This Thursday, February 3rd, at the 8 a.m. Mass, we** will celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise and the Blessing of the Throat.

St. Blaise was one of the early martyrs known as the "Fourteen Holy Helpers" invoked against various diseases. It is reputed that he was a doctor who had healed a boy who was choking on a fish bone.



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### U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

**Tuesday, February 8th**, is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, patroness of kidnapped and trafficked children. Situations caused by Covid-19 have pushed traffickers online and out of sight, making the exploitation of children more convenient.

U.S. Sisters against Human Trafficking is a 501c(3) organization, located at 2039 N. Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131. Visit the website at: [sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org).

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### Blessing of the Home



In Christianity, the "Blessing of the Home" rite welcomes God's protection into a family's house and lives. Many religions have some form of house blessing tradition—a rite that (in Christianity) is intended to protect a home by inviting God's love, peace, and presence to inhabit the space and the people living within it.

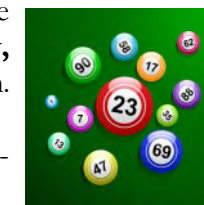
**Fr. Joseph** is available to bless your home. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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### Bingo

The Knights of Columbus will have the 1st Bingo at St. Joseph Parish on **Friday, February 11th**. Doors will open at 1 p.m. and Bingo will be from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

More information will be in this bulletin next week.



### February--the Month of the Holy Family

The special devotion that proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th Century.

In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

The Holy Family models for us what the family life should exemplify. It is a school of virtue for both parents and children. There we find God, and we learn how to connect with Him and with others.



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### Religious Education

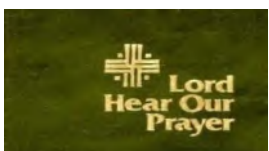


Please note that some of our Religious Education teachers are preparing the children for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, along with First Reconciliation and Confirmation. Please make sure your children are attending Mass weekly, practicing their prayers at home, and completing any assignments associated with the sacrament being received. Dates will be forth coming.

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### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

**Deacon Caleb Cunningham**  
**Sandi Shriver ♦ Frederick Smit**  
**David Leonard ♦ Linda Arian**  
**Mike Mulvihill ♦ Ben Guyger**



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### St. Vincent de Paul

It is always good to hear of something positive in our lives. Here are two stories from St. Vincent de Paul:

First, an elderly woman, who exhausted most of her savings on bills that her SSI didn't cover, was in desperate need to keep her water on. We were able to pay her bill and also provide a food box. Second, a single mother of three was facing eviction since her child support checks were no longer coming in from the State (husband unlocatable). We were able to pay her rent for January.

The gratitude that is expressed by everyone we help makes volunteering so very worthwhile.