

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The First Embrace (The Prodigal Son)"

A young man was struggling hard on a dirt road to keep up his pace on a very hot day. He looked like he had not had a bath for a very long time. From the look of his dirty, tattered clothes and his bare feet, one could say that he looked like a homeless person. He pressed on with heavy breathing and occasionally stopped to wipe the sweat off his forehead. Dried and thirsty as he was, he did not take a detour to find a drink of water. He then slowed down and came to a complete stop, putting his hand above his eyes to see who was standing far ahead of him.

It was an old man of rather high social status. Even on such a hot day, the old man had put on his best outfit, and he was very well-groomed. He patiently stood there waiting in

the middle of the dirt road. It could have been hours . . .

The young man gathered whatever strength he had left and ran toward the old man with great emotions. He stopped right in front of the old man, gathered his composure and whatever dignity he had left. He was speechless. His eyes met the old man's, begging for forgiveness. The old man said nothing, although tears were rolling down his face. He simply extended his welcome to the young man with opened arms.

It had been a long time since someone had embraced the young man with genuine love, but this time it was even more—it was the embrace of a father to his son who was once lost and now has found his way back.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



Important Dates for Lent and Holy Week—Please Mark your Calendars

Lenten Penance (Tuesday):	March 29th	6:00 p.m.
Chrism Mass in Baker City (Thursday):	April 7th	11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday Saturday Vigil:	April 9th	5:00 p.m.
Palm Sunday:	April 10th	9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Holy Thursday:	April 14th	6:00 p.m. w/Washing of the Feet
Good Friday:	April 15th	3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m. Veneration of the Cross
Holy Saturday:	April 16th	7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday:	April 17th	9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

March 2022 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
March 6, 2022	\$4,400.00	\$4,695.00
March 13, 2022	\$4,400.00	\$3,103.00
March 20, 2022	\$4,400.00	\$2,955.20
March 27, 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

March 27, 2022 † 4th Sunday of Lent

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 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	03/28/2022	8:00 a.m.	Mike Bailey (D)	Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
Tuesday	03/29/2022	8:00 a.m.	Vince Jollo (D)	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Wednesday	03/30/2022	12:00 p.m.	Andrea Vandehey (L)	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday	03/31/2022	8:00 a.m.	Tina Hill (L)	Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
Friday	04/01/2022	12:00 p.m.	Carter Bailey (L)	Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	04/02/2022	5:00 p.m.	Sacramento & Alejandra Ortiz (D)	Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11
Sunday	04/03/2022	9:00 a.m.	Patrick Geiman (D)	Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11
Sunday	04/03/2022	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

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

Today's Homily

THE 4TH Sunday of Lent marks the midpoint in the Lenten preparation for Easter.

Traditionally, it is called *Laetare* Sunday (Rejoice Sunday). This Sunday is set aside for us to recall God's graciousness and to rejoice because of it. We have every reason to rejoice.

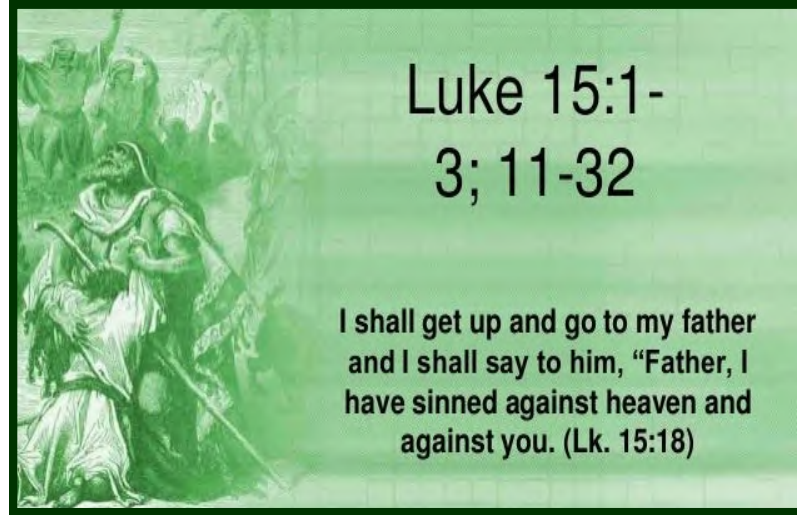
Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins, and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

Pharisees and the Scribes of Jesus' time measured others by the observance of the letter of the Law. They couldn't understand how a man of God could allow tax collectors and sinners to keep company with Him (Luke 15:1-2). In this context, Jesus told a story about a man and his two sons (Luke 15:11-32), which is familiarly known as the story of the Prodigal Son.

In fact, it is the story of a loving father. This father's behaviour was so unconventional that it confronts the Pharisaic concept of God. It subverted the measuring "yardstick" of those who listened to this story. When his younger son returns home after squandering his share of the patrimony, alienating himself from the society and his religion—and making himself disgustingly unclean by being with pigs—his father ran to the boy, clasped him, and kissed him tenderly.

He then ordered a bath for his son, gave him new garments (a sign of honour) and a golden signet ring (a sign of authority and trust). By ordering sandals for his son's feet, the father signalled his reacceptance as his son. The killing of the fatted calf, specially raised for the Passover feast, meant that the entire village was invited for the grand party given in the returned son's honour.

The hard-working, law-abiding, self-righteous elder son questioned his father. He could not un-



Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. (Lk. 15:18)

derstand the love and mercy of his father.

Like many of us "good Christians," the elder brother had already him as a prodigal who was beyond redemption. The elder brother is looking for justice like most of us. Even when the father tells him, "My son, you are with me always, and all I have is yours" (Luke 15:31), the elder brother is still angry.

It is like us Christians who have all the inheritance of the Church—like the Sacraments, spiritual nourishment, the Word of God, Eucharistic Communion with the Lord—and we refuse to forgive others. If our Father in Heaven is so loving that He came to the service of humanity, including all the prodigal sons and daughters, how much more we should be prepared to forgive others and be at their service. Let the Lenten discipline help us to be like our Father in Heaven.

Like God, the father in the parable was ready to forgive both of his "sinful" sons, even before they repented. St. Thomas Aquinas explains that God already forgives us as soon as we repent—even before we go to confession or perform any penance. The forgiveness the father offers in the parable parallels the forgiveness God offers in real life. That is why Jesus in the Gospels frequently describes God more like a defense attorney than a prosecuting attorney.

We need to accept the fact that we are all prodigal children who have squandered our Father's inheritance.

Lent is a time to "pass over" from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation. The story of the prodigal son asks each of us an important question: Will you accept the Father's forgiveness and partake of the banquet, or will you remain outside? Lent is a time to transform **hatred into love, conflict into peace, death into eternal life.**

March—The Month of St. Joseph



Laetare Sunday

Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. The Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances.

The passage from Isaiah continues, "Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow." Rose-colored vestments are acceptable. Music may be played, and the altar may be decorated with flowers.

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Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

**Ben Guyger ♦ Mike Mulvihill ♦ Andrea Vandehey
Steve Forrester ♦ Peggy Jones ♦ Mary Nehls
Linda Arian ♦ Deacon Caleb Cunningham
Sandi Shriver ♦ David Leonard ♦ Margret Halsey
Josh Gerke ♦ Jerry Pimentel**

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Inspiring Quote of the Week

"I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."

—*St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

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What Can You Do This Lenten Season?

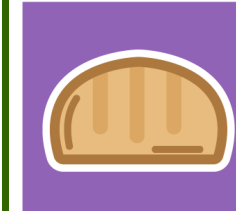
1. Read the entire **Gospel of Mark** in one sitting. As the shortest Gospel, it is the most concise story of Jesus' life, and the cross—a central Lenten symbol—plays an even more prominent role than in the other Gospels.
2. Read the **Works of Mercy** as Jesus describes them in Matthew 25:31-46. Then put this teaching into practice and choose an act of service you can perform during Lent.

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Easter Flower Offering



Please note that you can hand in your Easter Flower Offering any time this month during the normal collection at Mass. If you do not receive envelopes, please use one of the blank envelopes in the narthex and be sure to include your name on the envelope.



Reminder!

Lenten Confession will be on **Tuesday, March 29th, starting at 6 p.m.** There will be five Priests to hear confessions in both English and Spanish. All children who attend Religious Education classes here at St. Joseph Catholic Church who have received their 1st Holy Communion are requested to attend with their parents.

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Stations of the Cross

Reminder that the Stations of the Cross will be held every **Friday Night at 6 p.m.** Afterward, please plan to stay for the Soup Dinner provided by one of our awesome Ministries.

**April 1st: Spanish Ministry
April 8th: Knights of Columbus**

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The Chrism Mass

Everyone is invited to the **Chrism Mass on Thursday, April 7th, at 11 a.m.,** in Baker City.

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What Is the Chrism Mass?

Each year our Bishop gathers together all the priests of our Diocese to recommit their lives to their vocation of priestly service. The Bishop will consecrate the sacred oils used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. Each parish receives its annual supply of these oils at the Chrism Mass.

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Holy Thursday

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to have their feet washed on **Holy Thursday, April 21st,** as well as individuals who would like to bring up the Holy Oils.



The Holy Week and Easter Schedule is on the back page.