

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Just Look to a Child" by Ruth Peterson

She was six years old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sandcastle or something and looked up, her eyes as blue as the sea. "Hello," she said. I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child. "I'm building," she said. "I see that. What is it?" I asked, not really caring. "Oh, I don't know—I just like the feel of the sand."

That sounds good, I thought, and slipped off my shoes. A sandpiper skittered by. "That's a joy," the child said. "It's a what?" I asked, uncaring. "It's a joy! My mama says sandpipers come to bring us joy."

The bird fluttered on down the beach. "Good-bye, joy," I muttered to myself. "Hello, pain" and turned to walk on. I was depressed. My life seemed completely out of balance.

"What's your name?" She wouldn't give up. "Ruth," I answered. "I'm Ruth Peterson." "Mine's Wendy, . . . and I'm six." "Hi, Wendy," I offered. She giggled. "You're funny," she said. In spite of my gloom, I laughed, too, and walked on. Her musical giggle followed me. "Come again, Mrs. P," she called. "We'll have another happy day."

The days and weeks that followed belonged to others: a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, an ailing mother. The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwasher. "I need a sandpiper," I said to myself, gathering up my coat. The never-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly, but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed. I had forgotten the child and was startled when she appeared.

"Hello, Mrs. P," she said. "Do you want to play?" "What did you have in mind?" I asked, with a twinge of annoyance. "I don't know. You say."

"How about charades?" I asked sarcastically. The tinkling laughter burst forth again. "I don't know what that is," she said. "Then let's just walk." Looking at her, I noticed the delicate fairness of her face. "Where do you live?" I asked. "Over there," and she pointed toward a row of summer cottages. Strange, I thought, for a child to be here in the winter. "Where do you go to school?"

"I don't go to school. Mommy says we're on vacation." She chattered little-girl talk as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. "When I left for home," Wendy said, "it had been a happy day." Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed.

Three weeks later, I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to greet even Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home.

"Look, if you don't mind," I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, "I'd rather be alone today." She seemed unusually pale and out of breath. "Why?" she asked.

I turned on her and shouted, "Because my mother died!" and thought, my God, why was I saying this to a little child?

"Oh," she said quietly, "then this is a bad day." "Yes, and yesterday, and the day before that and—oh, go away!" I said. "Did it hurt?" she asked. "Did what hurt?" I was exasperated with her—with myself. "When she died?" the child asked. "Of course, it hurt!" I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped up in myself. And I strode off.

A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn't there. And feeling guilty, ashamed, and admitting to myself that I missed her, I went up to the cottage and knocked on the door. A drawn-looking young woman with honey-colored hair opened the door. "Hello," I said. "I'm Ruth Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was."

"Oh yes, Mrs. Peterson, please come in. "Wendy talked of you so much. I'm afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please accept my apologies."

"Not at all! She's a delightful child," I said, suddenly realizing that I meant it. "Where is she?"

"Wendy died last week, Mrs. Peterson. She had leukemia. Maybe she didn't tell you."

Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. My breath caught.

"She loved this beach. So, when she asked to come, we couldn't say no. She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called 'happy days.' But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly . . ." Her voice faltered.

"She left something for you . . . if only I can find it. Could you wait a moment while I look?"

I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something, anything, to say to this lovely young woman.

She handed me a smeared envelope, with MRS. P printed in bold, childish letters. Inside was a drawing in bright crayon hues—a yellow beach, a blue sea, a brown bird. Underneath was carefully printed: A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY!

Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten how to love opened wide. I took Wendy's mother in my arms. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry," I muttered over and over, and we wept together.

The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words—one for each year of her life—that speak to me of inner harmony, courage, undemanding love. A gift from a child with sea-blue eyes and hair the color of sand—who taught me the gift of love.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

November 27, 2022 † First 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

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(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	11/28/2022	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday	11/29/2022	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday	11/30/2022	12:00 p.m.	Fred Vandehey (L)	Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 [F]
Thursday	12/01/2022	8:00 a.m.	Amanda Valdez (L)	Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday	12/02/2022	12:00 p.m.	Evelyn Walwork (D)	Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday	12/03/2022	5:00 p.m.	Della Harrison (D)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday	12/04/2022	9:00 a.m.	Bertha Thaler (D)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday	12/04/2022	12:00 p.m.	Justina Lopez (D)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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

Today's Homily

TODAY IS THE first Sunday of Advent, the "Sunday of Hope" in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through whom God has promised to save and redeem His people.

Today we begin our yearly re-enactment of the drama of our salvation, starting with the mystery of the Incarnation (Christmas) and culminating in the celebration of Christ's ultimate victory (Christ the King).

It is our yearly pilgrimage through the scenes and events of our history of salvation.

Today's gospel speaks about the coming of the Lord at the end of the world and how to prepare for it. In our world today, there are two big mistakes that people make with regard to the coming of the Lord. One is to prepare for it with paranoid anxiety. The other is to dismiss it with nonchalant abandon and do nothing about it. What does the gospel tell us about the end of the world, and how to prepare for it?

The gospel uses two images to make the point that, **"You do not know on what day your Lord is coming"** (Matthew 24:42b). One is the flood which overtook the unprepared people of Noah's time. The other is the analogy of a thief in the night, who always comes unannounced.

The Lord's coming—and the end of the world as we know it—will occur suddenly and unexpectedly. It will come unannounced, springing a surprise on an unsuspecting world. Like a wise householder, therefore, we are urged to be watchful and ready.

What does it mean to be watchful and ready? It does not mean to go about listening to and getting excited over the end-of-time prophecies and



visions that have multiplied in our day. Rather it is, as Colonel Davenport rightly says, to be more assiduous and faithful to our duties as responsible children of the world and of God. In fact, our gospel story today is followed by the Parable of the Wise Servant who faithfully carries out his master's instructions while his master is on a journey.

His master returns

unexpectedly and finds the servant still following the instructions he gave him.

In the same way, there is no better way for us to ready ourselves for the unexpected coming of the Lord at the end of time than to be faithfully carrying out His commands in our daily lives.

Why is it futile for us to run about in search of a calendar for the end-times and the Lord's coming? Because the great Day of the Lord can overtake us individually any day, any time. The day we die is the day we appear before God. Why should I be stockpiling for the Day of the Lord in two or three years' time when I'm not even sure of tomorrow? For every one of us there is an individual Day of the Lord, the day we appear in personal judgment before God and there is the general Day of the Lord, the day of general judgment of all humankind. The Day of the Lord is as near to each of us as the day of our death, which could be any day.

As we begin a new cycle of the Church's year of grace, let us resolve to shun the doomsday paranoia on the one hand and reckless complacency on the other. Let us resolve to be always awake in the spirit by living a life of faith and love in service to the Lord so that whenever He comes we shall be ready to follow him into the glory of eternity.

November—The Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Coffee and Donuts



Coffee and Donuts after the 9 a.m. Mass. Please come visit with family and friends in the Parish Hall.

Please support the Knights of Columbus and our St. Joseph Ladies who will be hosting this wonderful treat. And please remember to bring your cans and plastic bottles (no glass) to the Parish Hall—Monday through Thursday. There will be containers to place any loose cans or bottles and the balance in bags. Thank you for the support of this Ministry!

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Acolyte Installation

Sunday, December 4th, at the 9 a.m. Mass, Bishop Liam Cary will be here for the Rite of Installation of **James Friese** as a new Acolyte. Please join us in congratulating Jim on this great day.

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Pickleball

What is new in the Parish Hall? **"Pickleball!"** Currently, the sport of Pickleball is exploding in popularity. The spread of the sport is attributed to its popularity within community centers, PE classes, YMCA facilities and retirement communities. The sport continues to grow worldwide even at St. Joseph Parish.

- 1) A fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong.
- 2) Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net.
- 3) Played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes.
- 4) Played as doubles or singles.
- 5) Can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels

The court is set up in the Parish Hall. Normal play days and times are **Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and sometimes Sundays, usually at around 5:30 p.m.**

If you're interested in learning how or already know how and want to play, just stop by the Parish Hall. Many parishioners are already enjoying this exciting game. If you'd like to play, call **Jim Friese at (541) 991-2814.**

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Inspiring Quote

"God of hope, I look to You with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for Your word and keeping to Your precepts. My hope is in You."

—Matthew Kelly

Advent and the Rosary

Whatever else we are doing during Advent to prepare ourselves for Christmas, it is a great idea to include the Rosary—the prayer that leads us to Christ through Mary—the Rosary takes us to Jesus through Mary.

Advent and Christmas are eminently Christ-centered seasons, for the obvious reason that they are focused on the birth of Christ. However, they are also intensely Marian. Our Lady lived the most intense Advent of all time as she carried Jesus in her womb. Her life and his were intimately intertwined with a closeness that can only exist between Mother and Son, and especially between the Creator and the Mother He created for Himself. Who better for us to turn to while preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming?

The Rosary is contemplative. We can only imagine how Mary spent the last weeks of her pregnancy! Like every mother, she was thinking of a thousand practical things, was dealing with the physical difficulties of pregnancy, and had her hopes, dreams and anxieties. But she was also in a unique situation as she contemplated the words of the Angel Gabriel and the prophecies surrounding her Son.

The Rosary helps us to understand the full meaning of Christmas. As we contemplate the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious mysteries, we could think we're straying from the theme of Christmas. That's not entirely true. The birth of Jesus wasn't an isolated event; it was one step (an important one) on Jesus' path from his Incarnation nine months earlier to his Ascension into heaven. Jesus wasn't born just to be a cute baby in a manger; He was born to be our Savior. That means He was born to teach, to heal, and to die on the Cross. He was born to rise from the dead and ascend into heaven, giving us new life, opening the gates of heaven for us, and preparing a place for us. Praying all the mysteries of the Rosary during Advent gives us a holistic view of what we are celebrating – it helps us to see Jesus' birth in the light of what comes before and after. Pamphlets are in the Narthex.

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Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

- ☪ David Leonard
- ☪ Steve Forrester
- ☪ Carl Johnson ☪ Arlene Mura
- ☪ Sue Gerke ☪ Mike Mulvihill
- ☪ Margaret Halsey ☪ Lyn Rodgers
- ☪ Dolores Koivisto ☪ Jerry Pimentel
- ☪ Ben and Fulvia Guyger ☪ Sammi Pedersen
- ☪ Anita Marquez ☪ Nick Nolte ☪ Georgia Fitzgerald

