

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

Dear Father Joseph,

What is the teaching of the Catholic Church concerning cremation and spreading of the ashes? Can one keep the ashes and separate them, or should they be kept together? Where should the ashes be kept? Your answer will be appreciated.

—Michelle Fray and Socorro "Cookie" Benton

Dear Michelle and Cookie,

Thank you very much for the question. Yes, it is true that the Catholic Church allows cremation now, but the Church's preference has always been to bury the dead.

The ban on cremation was to oppose the pagan practices that were considered to be anti-Christian. The Romans did not believe in an afterlife. As such, they cremated their dead. The Christians of the early Church avoided cremation because of the connection with the Roman view. To be cremated served the purpose of denying the resurrection and afterlife.

Because Jesus was not cremated, this is another reason why this practice fell into disfavor with the Christians. And also because of the belief that the body is the home of the Holy Spirit, and it should be respected as such.

The Catholic Church's rejection of cremation was never intended to imply that someone who is cremated would never go to heaven. The Church has never opposed the cremation of Catholics after disasters such as a plague, or earthquakes or floods—when mass casualties occurred, making individual burials next to impossible.

The Church also permitted cremation in extraordinary situations where transporting a body half way around the world or a very great distance would have created extreme financial hardship.

In 1963, while continuing to maintain a strong preference toward burial, the Catholic Church became more open to allowing cremation. As more and more Catholics became aware of this change in the law, there has been an increase in the number of cremations among Catholics.

The current *1983 Code of Canon Law*, states: "The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching."

Prior to 1997, cremations had to take place after the funeral Mass so that the body could be present during the rite. Since then, the Vatican has granted permission to allow funeral Masses with the presence of just the ashes.

To this day, the Catholic Church Law forbids cremation when it is chosen for reasons that are contrary to Christian teaching. For example, if cremation is implemented for the purpose of denying the resurrection of the body.

Ashes are not to be scattered. You cannot decorate your living room with the ashes/urns of the dead. You cannot separate them or distribute them to different people, nor can you keep the ashes in your basement, buried in your yard or in the yard at your cottage.

The ashes of cremated Catholics are to be preserved afterward as a body would be preserved, either in a mausoleum or buried in a Catholic cemetery, which is holy grounds.

Hope this will explain your question.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

December 11, 2022 † 3rd 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>

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	12/12/2022	8:00 a.m.	Tom Hobeck (L)	Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47 [F]
Tuesday	12/13/2022	8:00 a.m.	Dr. Vahagn Nikolian (L)	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 [M]
Wednesday	12/14/2022	12:00 p.m.	Ryan O'Connell (D)	Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 [M]
Thursday	12/15/2022	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Thomas McTeigue (D)	Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30
Friday	12/16/2022	12:00 p.m.	Arlene Mura (D)	Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36
Saturday	12/17/2022	5:00 p.m.	Barney Lindsay (D)	Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24
Sunday	12/18/2022	9:00 a.m.	Carolyn McDermott (D)	Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24
Sunday	12/18/2022	12:00 p.m.	Ladislao Robles (D)	Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

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



## Today's Homily



### Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday (Latin: Rejoice)

TODAY'S READINGS INVITE us to rejoice at the rebirth of Jesus in our lives as we are preparing for our annual Christmas celebration. Today is called *Gaudete* Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: *Gaudete in Domino semper*; i.e., "Rejoice in the Lord always." So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments.

The Prophet Isaiah, **in the first reading**, encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is going to liberate them from slavery and lead them safely to their homeland. **In the second reading**, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to rejoice and wait with patience for the imminent second coming of Jesus.

Finally, **in the first part of today's Gospel reading**, Jesus encourages John the Baptist in prison to rejoice by casting away his wrong expectations about the Messiah and simply accepting Jesus' healing and preaching ministry as the fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah.

**In the second part of today's Gospel**, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets—and giving special credit to the courage of John's prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

**We need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis:** If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct en-

counter with Jesus the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and His teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On such occasions, let us remember the truth—that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on His Divine authority which He gave to His Church to teach what He taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and so to remove our doubts.

**"Go and tell others what you hear and see."** We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be re-born in our lives, deepening in us His gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and the spirit of humble and sacrificial service during this Christmas season. Hence, let us joyfully share God's bountiful grace, forgiveness, and mercy with others. What Jesus commanded John's disciples, He commands us as well: *Go and tell others what you hear and see*. This means that we have to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus within us.

**We need to open our hearts and let God transform our lives:**

Today's readings remind us that our lives can also be transformed if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Him by allowing a *metánoia* (a change of thinking about God, ourselves, and the world) to take place in us during Advent.

### Inspiring Quote

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." —*Mother Teresa*

### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

David Leonard 🌹 Steve Forrester 🌹 Carl Johnson 🌹 Rick Nolte 🌹 Mike Mulvihill 🌹 Margaret Halsey  
Lyn Rodgers 🌹 Dolores Koivisto 🌹 Jerry Pimentel 🌹 Ben and Fulvia Guyger 🌹 Sammi Pedersen  
Anita Marquez 🌹 Georgia Fitzgerald 🌹 Sue Gerke 🌹 Mary Beth McCauley

## December—The Month of the Immaculate Conception

### Gaudete Sunday—A Joyful Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word **gaudete** is derived from the Latin words *gaudium*, joy, and *gaudeo*, to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs 8 to 13 days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.

The term *Gaudete* is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (paraphrase, Phil 4:4-5). Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas.

+++

### Coffee & Donuts

Reminder that coffee & donuts are being served in the Parish Hall after the 9: a.m. Mass on Sunday.



+++

### Mass for Kathie Leonard

Please note that there will be a funeral Mass for **Kathie Leonard on Tuesday, December 20th**. Rosary will be at **10:30** and Mass at **11 a.m.** Immediately following there will be a reception in the Parish Hall. **Bishop Liam Cary** will be officiating.

+++

### Advent Penance Service

**WHEN: Wednesday, December 14th**  
**TIME: 6 p.m.**

*There will be 5 priests  
for both English and Spanish Confessions*

Whether you've gone to Confession recently or haven't for many years, this is a great chance to "Prepare for the Lord." Take some time to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in silence.

There will be an "Examination of Conscience" available on the table in the Narthex starting **this Sunday in both English and Spanish**. Please take one home for thoughtful preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After Confession, stay and be present to the Lord—be open to receive the Lord's great mercy!



### Diocese of Baker—Attempt to Locate

**Bishop Cary** needs to locate **Fr. Andrew Szymakowski**. If you have communicated with him or know how to contact him, please contact **Very Rev. Saji Thomas** at the Diocese of Baker **no later than December 19th**.

**Fr. Saji** can be contacted at: [vg@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:vg@dioceseofbaker.org) or by calling the Chancery office at (541) 388-4004.

+++



### Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

12/24/2022	Sat.	6 p.m.	Mass (English)
12/25/2022	Sun.	10 a.m.	Mass (Bilingual)
12/31/2022	Sat.	5 p.m.	Vigil Mass (Solemnity of Mary—Mother of God)
01/01/2023	Sun.	9 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary—
		12 p.m.	Holy Mother of God

+++

### 2023 Calendars

Please take home your 2023 "Feasts & Saints" Calendar. They are now available in the Narthex on the table, or you can ask an usher.

Calendars were donated by the Edgerly Family.  
Big Thanks!

+++

### Medicare Benefits Northwest

There are many of us who have questions with regard to Medicare and what avenue we should take.

**Shellie Honsinger-Davis** is a Medicare Plan Advisor who helps people with Medicare questions all year long and assists in getting the coverage you need and deserve. There is no fee for her service, and she is a delight. Please call for an appointment at (541) 362-5222 (office) or (503) 341-2289 (cell).

+++

### US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Think about giving a gift to an organization that works to abolish human trafficking and helps survivors regain meaningful lives. Catholic Sisters are doing this; join us. US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, 7575 Grand River Rd., Brighton, MI 48114