

Fr. Joseph's Corner "A Little Christmas Story"

This is a story of a man who couldn't accept that Jesus was the Son of the True living God, and that He came as a living sacrifice, so that we could have eternal life in heaven with God the Father.

Andrew Sanford was a man of his word—a man who did not consider himself to be a hypocrite. And he was basically a good person. He was the husband of a Christian woman but did not consider himself to be a Christian.

As usual, on Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to Midnight Mass. He told his wife he would wait up for them. As his family got into the car and drove off, he stayed looking out the window, watching the snow flurries come down, covering the ground in a white blanket. He then turned and went to sit in his favorite chair and began to read. As he read, he heard a thumping sound at the big bay window.

It sounded like someone throwing snowballs at it. He got up to look, and to his surprise, he noticed some birds rolling around in the snow. It appeared that they could not see their way through all the snow and were trying to fly through his window to what seemed to be shelter—only to bounce right off and land in the snow. As Andrew realized why they were hopelessly scrounging around in the snow, he thought that if he could only get the birds into his barn, they could have shelter for the night. So, he put on his hat and coat, opened the barn doors, and put the big bright light on in the barn. Then he went out to see how he could steer them toward the light.

He tried waving his arms, going around them in a circle, and pointing them toward the barn, but it only frightened them. Then he thought to get some bread-crumbs and placed them in a line, hoping they would follow it right into the barn where it was safe and warm. But they paid no attention to him or the crumbs.

Andrew then thought if only he could speak their bird language, they would understand. If he could be like them, then he could talk to them—feel what they were feeling—then they would understand, and he could show them the way into the place where they could live, and not die. Just as he pondered on that thought, he heard the church bells ringing! He got down on his knees and thanked the Lord for finding a way to show him what He did for us.

You see, Andrew finally realized that God knew we would not respond to Him unless He came down to us as a man who was able to feel all that we feel and offer Himself as a living sacrifice, loving us unconditionally. Only by our acknowledgement that Jesus gave Himself willingly to die on the cross a physical death—and, more importantly, to be resurrected on the third day to purchase a place for us in Heaven—could we have that relationship with the Father that we once had (before the fall of man).

This gift from God is absolutely FREE! There is nothing we can do to earn it or deserve it. All we have to do is accept Christ as our Savior, confess our sins, and invite Him into our hearts. Only then we can have eternal life—only through the Son can we come to know the Father.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

December 25, 2022 † The Nativity of the Lord

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

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	12/26/2022	8:00 a.m.	Bob & Kathie Leonard (A)	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 [F]
Tuesday	12/27/2022	8:00 a.m.	Caroline Williamson (D)	1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a & 2-8 [F]
Wednesday	12/28/2022	12:00 p.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 [F]
Thursday	12/29/2022	8:00 a.m.	Matthew Walwork (D)	1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Friday	12/30/2022	12:00 p.m.	Frank Davis (D)	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday	12/31/2022	5:00 p.m.	Fr. Gary Zerr (L)	Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 [S]
Sunday	01/01/2023	9:00 a.m.	Diane & John Schoenstein (A)	Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 [S]
Sunday	01/01/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 [S]

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

Today's Homily

Christmas: Today, we are celebrating the birthday of Jesus. It is a day of joy, a day when we can proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!"

The Feast of Christmas is a celebration of the very special day when the invisible God chose to be born in this world in human form as the Child Jesus. Of all the ways in which God could have come to us, He chose to come as a newborn baby just like you and I were born.

Christmas is the Feast of God's sending us a Savior: God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as God-Man to save us from the bondage of sin because "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life."

We celebrate the Incarnation of God as a baby today as good *news* because we have a Divine Savior.

As our Savior, Jesus liberated us from slavery to sin by his suffering, death, and Resurrection, and he atoned for our sins. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Savior every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure, and uncharitable tendencies. This Christmas *also challenges us* to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Savior and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in the New Year.

First, God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as True God and true man to save us from the bondage of sin. But the Christian Scriptures teach only one Incarnation, and its purpose is given in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life," (*RVS 2 Catholic*). We call our celebration of the Incarnation of God in a Baby today "Good News" because our Divine Savior has been born. As our Savior, Jesus liberated us from slavery to sin and atoned for our sins by his suffering, death, and Resurrection. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Savior every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure, and uncharitable tendencies.



Christmas 2022 also challenges us to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Savior and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in the New Year. **Second, Christmas is the Feast of God's sharing His love with us:** Jesus, as our Savior,

brought the "Good News" that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful, rewarding God and not a judgmental, cruel,

punishing God. He demonstrated by his life and teaching how God our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, provides for us, and rewards us. All his miracles were signs of this Divine Love. Jesus' final demonstration of God's love for us was his own death on the cross to atone for our sins and to make us children of God. Each Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian privilege and duty, and every time we do that, Jesus is reborn in our lives. Let us humbly admit the truth with the German mystic *Angelus Silesius*, "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem—but all in vain until He is born in me." Hence, let us allow Jesus to be reborn in our hearts and lives, not only during Christmas, but every day, so that he may radiate the Light of his Presence from within us as sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, the spirit of humble service, and overflowing generosity.

Third, Christmas is the Feast of the Emmanuel (God living with us and within us): Christmas is the feast of the Emmanuel because God in the New Testament is a God Who continues to live with us in all the events of our lives as the "Emmanuel" announced by the angel to Mary. Jesus lives in us as Emmanuel in the Sacraments (especially in the Holy Eucharist), in the Bible, in the praying community, and in each believer, as the Holy Spirit residing in us makes us His "Temples." Christmas reminds us that we are bearers of God with the missionary privilege and duty of conveying Jesus to those around us by loving them as Jesus did, through sacrificial, humble, committed service. Sharing with others Jesus, the Emmanuel living within us, is the best Christmas gift we can give, or receive, today.

December—The Month of the Immaculate Conception

Peace and Blessings



I would like to thank all of the parishioners who have dedicated themselves to our parish—from decorating the church, to serving coffee and donuts, to shoveling and plowing the snow, to maintaining all three buildings, and who give so selflessly when asked to volunteer. You are my family, and I wish you all a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmas!

—*In Christ,*
Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya

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Coffee & Donuts

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

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Holy Moments

Please pick up the book, *Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life*, by Matthew Kelly. The book was donated to St. Joseph Parish by **Mary Beyer and Karin Jones**. Please enjoy!

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Parish Envelopes for 2023

Parish envelopes are available **THIS WEEKEND** in the Narthex on the table. They are alphabetical to make it easy to find. If you no longer wish to use the envelopes, please mark the label with an X and leave on the table. I will remove the envelope # from your name.

If you would like to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475. I will assign a # for you and have the envelopes ready the following weekend for Mass.

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No Daily Masses

There will be **no Masses on Monday, December 26th (8 a.m.), on Tuesday, December 27th (8 a.m.), or on Wednesday, December 28th (12 p.m.).**

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Bible Study

... is canceled for Wednesday, December 28th.

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Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, December 26th, and Monday, January 2nd**. Normal times will begin again on **Tuesday, January 3rd**. Wishing all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas Time

December 25, 2022 - January 9, 2023

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the Feast of the Incarnation—the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin *in carne* means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent—Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas, where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him, including the fact that He was born to die for us.

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A Christmas Prayer

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen."

—*Pope John XXIII*

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This feast day for the Blessed Virgin Mary is to honor her motherhood of Jesus Christ, Son of God. It reminds Christians of the role she played as the Blessed Virgin, which eventually led to their salvation. After all, the birth of Christ wouldn't have been possible without Mary.

Mass Times are on **Saturday, 12/31/2022, at 5 p.m., and Sunday, 1/1/2023, 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.**