

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "Baseball Game Between Heaven and Hell" by Charles Foster, "K" Company, 19th Regiment

**F**reddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love.

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom.

Satan wound up and then he threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over, and let it pass: Ball one.

Three more pitches and then Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and said, "I'm now going to bring in my star player." And up to the plate stepped Grace.

Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team then actually relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking they could still win the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch.

To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen.

But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head, and

sent him crashing on the ground. Then it continued over the fence for a home run! The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Freddy answered that he did not know why.

So, the Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith, and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you Home."

Psalm 84:11: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

### Jesus Test:

This is an easy test; you score 100 or zero. It's your choice. If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow the directions. Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father."

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



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

🕊️ David Leonard 🕊️ Steve Forrester 🕊️ Carl Johnson 🕊️ Sue Gerke

🕊️ Mike Mulvihill 🕊️ Margaret Halsey 🕊️ Lyn Rodgers 🕊️ Nick Nolte

🕊️ Dolores Koivisto 🕊️ Jerry Pimentel 🕊️ Ben and Fulvia Guyger

🕊️ Sammi Pedersen 🕊️ Anita Marquez 🕊️ Georgia Fitzgerald



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

December 4, 2022 † 2nd 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	12/05/2022	8:00 a.m.	Desiree Stover (L)	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday	12/06/2022	8:00 a.m.	Brett Edgerly (L)	Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	12/06/2022	12:00 p.m.	Mildred Kappel (D)	Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 [M]
Thursday	12/08/2022	8:00 a.m.	Dr. Vahagn Nikolian (L)	Gen. 3:9-15; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 [S] (HDO)
Friday	12/09/2022	12:00 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul (D)	Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	12/10/2022	5:00 p.m.	All Bishops, Priests, & Religious (L)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday	12/11/2022	9:00 a.m.	Calvin Sherman (D)	Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday	12/11/2022	12:00 p.m.	Eduardo Gonzalez 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 ♦ (HD) = Holy Day of Obligation

## Today's Homily



### Second Sunday in Advent

YEAR C



ON THE ONE HAND, salvation is God's doing, and we cannot earn His blessings. We are saved by His grace. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force His bounty upon us. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We start this process by spiritually preparing for the annual celebration of Christmas, the Lord's first coming, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity.

The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, in the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet, Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up *hope* among His people with His promise of a new Davidic King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth.

In today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 72), the Psalmist pictures the Messiah as one who will show compassion to the poor, the lowly, and the afflicted. In the second reading, Paul is praying for the reformation of the Jewish Christians of Rome and instructing them to draw endurance and encouragement from the Old Testament books. They are to live in harmony with Gentile Christians, accepting them as equals, brothers and sisters, while they wait together for the second coming of Jesus.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer urges the Pharisees and Sadducees to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. He challenges them to **repentance, conversion, and**

**renewal.** He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives. In the same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John advises us to ***“prepare the way of the Lord.”***

We need to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing Him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others.

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.” He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating His love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives.

We need to answer the call for a change of life. John the Baptist challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that, while we are obeying the commandments faithfully, we must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat our employers and employees justly. Let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. “Do small things but with great love” advised St. Theresa of Lisieux and St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). Therefore, following John's advice, let us celebrate the memory of Jesus' first advent, prepare for Jesus' daily advent into our lives through the Sacraments and the Bible, and wait confidently for His second advent at our death and/or at the end of the world.

## December—The Month of the Immaculate Conception

### Knights of Columbus Breakfast



This Sunday, December 4th, the Knights of Columbus will be having their monthly Breakfast. Please stop by the Parish Hall after the 9 a.m. Mass. **NOTE:** Christmas Cards will be on sale also in the Parish Hall.

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### Acolyte Installation

Bishop Cary was here today to celebrate 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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### Funeral Mass

There will be a **Rosary at 10:30 a.m. and a Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. for Ms. Arlene Mura on Friday, December 9th.** Arlene passed away on Friday, November 25th. Please keep Arlene and her family in your thoughts and prayers. **Because of the Funeral, there will be no 12 p.m. Mass.**

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### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

The Hispanic Ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church invites you and your family to the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Sunday, December 11th.**

- ◆ **Mañanitas at 6 a.m. in the church basement. Mexican Bread and Mexican Hot Chocolate followed by the Rosary.**
- ◆ **Mass is at 12 p.m., with a reception in the Parish Hall immediately after.**
- ◆ **Folkloric dances and family entertainment.**
- ◆ **Reminder that no alcohol is permitted on the premises.**



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### Coats for Kids

The Knights of Columbus handed out 96 new coats last Friday (November 25th) with the support of the Family Access Network (FAN) to children of all ages. This would not have been possible without the generosity of St. Joseph Parishioners. A GREAT BIG THANKS to all who gave so generously!

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, celebrates the sinless lifespan and Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, celebrated on Thursday, December 8th, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, celebrated on September 8th. It is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church celebrated worldwide.



### Patronal Feast Day of the USA

The Solemnity is on **Thursday, December 8th. This is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. It proclaims our belief that Mary was conceived without sin. Mass times are at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

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### 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 and 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!

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### Prineville Senior Center

Please note that the December Schedule for the Prineville Senior Center – Activities and Menu – is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

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### Inspiring Quote

“The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson