

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Master's Search for a Vessel" (Author Unknown)

THE MASTER WAS searching for a vessel that He could use. On the shelf there were many—which one would He choose?

"Take me," cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright! I'm of great value, and I do things just right. My beauty and luster will outshine all the rest! And for someone like You, Master, gold would be the best!"

The Master passed on with no word said at all. He looked at a silver urn, narrow and tall.

"I'll serve You, dear Master! I'll pour out Your wine, and I'll be at Your table whenever You dine. My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true, and my silver will always compliment You!"

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass. It was wide mouthed and shallow, and polished like glass.

"Here! Here!" cried the brass vessel, "I know I will do! Place me on Your table for all men to view."

"Look at me!" called the goblet of crystal so clear. "My transparency shows my contents so dear. Though fragile am I, I will serve You with pride, and I'm sure I'll be happy in Your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood, polished and carved, it solidly stood.

"You may use me, dear Master," the wooden bowl said, "But I'd rather You used me for fruit—not for bread!"

Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay. Empty and broken, it helplessly lay. No

hope had the vessel that the Master might choose, to cleanse and make whole, to fill and to use.

"Aha! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find. I will mend it and use it and make it all Mine! I need not the vessel with pride of itself; nor the one who is narrow to sit on the shelf.

"Nor the one who is big-mouthed and shallow and loud. Nor one who displays his contents so proud.

"Nor the one who thinks he can do all things just right—but this plain earthy vessel filled with My power and might."

Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay. He mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day.

He spoke to it kindly, "There's work you must do. Just pour out to others as I pour into you."

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

David Leonard Steve Forrester Carl Johnson Rick Nolte Mike Mulvihill Lyn Rodgers Lloyd Rodgers Dolores Koivisto Jerry Pimentel Ben Guyger Anita Marquez Georgia Fitzgerald Pierre Jones Joan Holland

Eucharistic Revival

At the request of Bishop Liam Cary, please make the following prayer a part of your daily spiritual life:

*O Sacrament most Holy!
O Sacrament Divine!
All praise and all thanksgiving,
Be every moment Thine!*

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

January 29, 2023 † 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass (English)*	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass (Spanish)	12:00 p.m.
Holy Days	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Mondays • Tuesdays • Thursdays	8:00 a.m.
Wednesdays • Fridays	12:00 p.m.

*Coffee and Donuts are served after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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 AND CENACLE GROUP: Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass.

♦ FRIDAY ROSARY at 11:30 a.m., MASS at 12:00 p.m., EXPOSITION of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following Mass, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 1–2 p.m., BENEDICTION AND REPOSITION



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	01/30/2023	8:00 a.m.	Family of Kathie Leonard (L)	Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday	01/31/2023	8:00 a.m.	Martha Ruyter (D)	Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43 [M]
Wednesday	02/01/2023	12:00 p.m.	Rick Busch (L)	Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6
Thursday	02/02/2023	8:00 a.m.	Patrick Dougherty (D)	Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 [F]
Friday	02/03/2023	12:00 p.m.	David Geiman (D)	Romans 5:1-5; Mark 16:15-20 [F]
Saturday	02/04/2023	5:00 p.m.	Betteye Steber (D)	Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16
Sunday	02/05/2023	9:00 a.m.	Matthew Walwork (D)	Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16
Sunday	02/05/2023	12:00 p.m.	Daniell Eldridge (L)	Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

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

Today's Homily

Today's readings define our Christian goal of eternal happiness and explain the attitudes and actions necessary to reach it. They form the outline for Christ-like living, noting the personal qualities *expected* of a disciple of Jesus, and pointing out the way of life to be lived by a disciple. They show us the values that Christ cares about. In essence, the Beatitudes both fulfill and complete the Ten Commandments which stress the "Thou shalt nots." But Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, as the virtues in life which will ultimately lead to the rewards of salvation—not in this world, but in the next.

Scripture lessons: Zephaniah, in the first reading, calls the "moral minority" of the Jews of his time "blessed" because they seek justice, humility, truth, and righteousness, thus making a declaration of dependence on God. In the second reading, Paul advises his Corinthian Christians to use their gifts and Heavenly blessings for the good of the community because God has chosen to give them life in Jesus, by whom He justified, sanctified, and redeemed them.

In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. In poverty, we recognize God's reign; in hunger, His providence; in sorrow, true happiness; and in persecution, true joy. In other words, the blessed in Jesus' list are poor in spirit, compassionate, meek, merciful, clean of heart, peace-makers and those who are willing even to be insulted and persecuted for their lived Faith in him. Each of the inspired authors of today's readings—Zephaniah, Paul, and Matthew—"makes a motion," that each of us should consider making a personal *Declaration of Dependence* on God and then work with His grace to lead a holier and happier life.

We need to respond to the challenge of the Beatitudes in daily life. Millions of starving, persecuted, homeless people lead hopeless lives. The Beatitudes propose to us a way of life, inviting us to identify with the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst after justice. They challenge us to be compassionate people, to be men and women who are pure in heart, and to people who be



come the peacemakers in their dealings with one another, in their families and in the society at large, even when this approach to things exposes them to ridicule and persecution. "As long as you did it to/for one of these, my least brethren, you did it to/for me" is the criterion for our Last Judgment. St. Teresa of

Calcutta (Mother Teresa) and

her Sisters, Brothers and Priests, accepted this challenge and demonstrate that one can "live the Beatitudes" in the modern world. Hence, let us remember that each time we reach out to help the needy, the sick, and the oppressed, we share with them a foretaste of the promises of the Beatitudes here and now. This is why, down through the centuries, individuals, congregations, and Church bodies have practiced charity in creative, faithful ways. They have operated soup kitchens, food banks, clothing centers, homeless shelters, and housing programs. Such enterprises represent a wonderful outpouring of good will and Christian faithfulness in response to the challenge of the beatitudes. Let us have the good will to participate in such activities in our parish and in our community.

We need to choose the way wisely. "There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways." These are the opening lines of the "Didache," a First-Century Christian catechism used to teach new Christians the essence of the Christian Faith. The way of life is the way of Jesus that leads to eternal life. The challenge of the Beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?"

If we choose the world's way, we are seeking our blessings in the wrong place. Sometimes we think that good health, long life, happy relationships, and a good job are blessings we "deserve" for being honest, not cheating on our taxes, coming to Church, and giving a little to charity. This is the easy way of the world. But the hard way of Jesus requires of us toil and suffering in working for the poor, the sick, and the hungry. God wants us to live as brothers and sisters who care for each another. Doing so yields an "eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (II Cor. 4:17). In the final analysis, the blessing of the Beatitudes is the possession of "the Kingdom of God."

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Thursday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This is a relatively ancient celebration. The Church at Jerusalem observed the feast as early as the first half of the 4th Century, and likely earlier. Jesus' presentation in the Temple reflects how He fulfills the Old Covenant. According to Old Testament law, a sacrifice had to be offered in the Temple when a child was consecrated to the Lord. Mary and Joseph honor this tradition, as Luke 2:22–24 describes:

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m., and you are most welcome to bring candles for blessing, as this day is also known as "Candlemas Day."

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Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on **February 2nd**. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den, and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early.

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Saint of the Week & Blessing of the Throat

On **Friday, February 3rd,** we celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise of Sebastea. One of the most popular medieval saints, he is venerated as the patron saint of sufferers from throat diseases and of wool combers, and as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

According to tradition, Blaise was of noble birth and, after being educated in the Christian faith, was made Bishop of Sebastea. Although Christianity had been adopted about 300 CE as the state religion in Armenia, the Roman Emperor Licinius began a persecution of the Christians, and Blaise was discovered and apprehended.

While imprisoned, he miraculously cured a boy from fatally choking on a fish bone. Licinius tortured St. Blaise by tearing his flesh with iron combs, and afterward had him beheaded.

We will have the Blessing of the Throat at the 12 p.m. Mass on Friday, February 3rd.

First Sunday Adoration

Starting **Sunday, February 5th—and all 1st Sundays**—there will be a special Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at **5:30 p.m.**

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is a time we Catholics take to worship the true God in the person of Jesus Christ Who is really, truly present in the Eucharistic host. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayer for that particular hour. When we ask, seek, knock, the door is opened.

Please take part in this time of prayer, forgiveness, and finding resolutions.

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Christmas Bazaar Meeting

On **Tuesday, February 5th, at 11:00 a.m.** there will be a meeting regarding organizational and brainstorming for the 2023 Christmas Bazaar. Lunch will be served. If you have any questions, please call **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872.

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God's Dictionary

Trust is a verb: to rely on the truthfulness or accuracy. To place confidence in. To hope or expect confidently.

Trust is what we do because of the faith we have been given. Trusting is believing in the promises of God in all circumstances, even in those where the evidence seems to be to the contrary. The practical consequence of faith in God is *trust*, which we prove by living out our full acceptance of God's promises day by day. Furthermore, it is by this trust that we are promised peace.

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Prayer Group at St. Joseph

Many members of St. Joseph Parish would like to start a Prayer Group: Praying for the intentions of our parishioners, our young and old, and our nation.

If you would like to take part, or if you have a prayer request, please contact **Chris Eason** at (970) 712-1906 or email Chris at: dilecti@gmail.com.

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Storage Sheds

As most of you are aware, there are three sheds on St. Joseph's Property. They are in dire need of organizing and cleaning. The **wonderful ladies** who host the Christmas Bazaar have decided to use some of the profits to purchase new shelving for the sheds.

They will be cleaning the sheds and organizing for the following: Prolife, Bazaar, Religious Ed, seasonal church items, and retention items. A clean-up will also be done in other areas of the church, parish hall, and offices to remove items that can be stored as needed. If you have items in the sheds, please contact **Diane Giovanini** at (541) 447-4086 or **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872.

