

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“The Power of Focus” (Author Unknown)

Desiring to take up the hobby of bird-watching, a man went out and bought a fancy, brand new “squirrel-proof” bird feeder for his back yard.

He soon found out how resourceful squirrels are at getting into the bird food. He tried every way he could think of to keep the squirrels out, but the squirrels always found a way to overcome his efforts.

Finally giving up in frustration, the man decided to return his fancy new “squirrel-proof”



bird feeder. He said to the clerk, “This thing doesn’t work. It’s not at all squirrel proof!”

As the clerk was refunding his money, he said; “You know, there’s really no such thing as a squirrel-proof bird feeder.”

The dissatisfied customer sarcastically responded; “You’d think that because we are smart enough to put a man on the moon, that someone would be smart enough to create a truly squirrel-proof bird feeder.”

The clerk replied, “Sir, let me tell you why there will never be a completely squirrel-proof birdfeeder. How much time did you spend each day, trying to figure out a way to keep the squirrels out of your bird feeder?”

The customer answered, “Oh I don’t know—maybe about 20 or 30 minutes at the most.”

The clerk nodded; “And how much time do you think those squirrels spent thinking about getting into that feeder?”

Both men smiled at each other as the now amused customer realized that the squirrels spend every waking moment thinking about that food.

This story proves a point: that focus will outshine intelligence every time. Even an animal with a brain the size of a pea can use the power of focus to overcome efforts by highly intelligent humans.

—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 🙏 Joan Holland

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

January 8, 2023 † The Solemnity of Mary

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.
Mondays • Tuesdays • Thursdays	8:00 a.m.
Wednesdays • Fridays	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	01/09/2022	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Matthew 3:13-37 [F]
Tuesday	01/10/2022	8:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher (D)	Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28
Wednesday	01/11/2022	12:00 p.m.	Ray Busch (L)	Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39
Thursday	01/12/2022	8:00 a.m.	Mary Steverson (L)	Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45
Friday	01/13/2022	12:00 p.m.	Thad Davis (L)	Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12
Saturday	01/14/2022	5:00 p.m.	Elle Edgerly (L)	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34
Sunday	01/15/2023	9:00 a.m.	Charles Fischer (D)	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34
Sunday	01/16/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

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

Today's Homily—The Epiphany

ONE OF THE favourite images of Christmas is that of the wise men travelling by camel through a starlit night. One star dominates the sky as they arrive on the crest of the hill overlooking Bethlehem. When the star appeared, these wise men must have been living a certain type of life. But when they saw that star, they decided to follow it. They stopped whatever they were doing. They were ready to take risks because they knew the meaning of this special star.

The journey must have been a long trip from a country that was far away in the East. There may have been dangers along the way. But for them, it was a journey to the faith. The wise men through the grace of God came to faith in Jesus.

We, too, each have a journey to make to Jesus because none of us is yet fully converted, and each of us have corners in our hearts and lives in need of Jesus' healing and redemption. As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, we are strongly reminded that we must continue to seek out God's presence in our lives and in our world.

Having celebrated Christ's birthday a few days ago, the Church is now asking us to consider how we must still search for Christ. The "search" here is not in the sense that we are searching for something that we have never found. Rather, we are continuing to look for a deeper knowledge and experience of the Christ in whom we already believe.

One of the facts that today's Gospel gives us is that the wise men came with special gifts for the new-born king. The gospel writer tells us, "They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshiped Him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to Him."

Now we may wonder—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—what strange gifts for a new-born child. If those Eastern visitors had been wise women, the baby Jesus would have received sensible gifts—



baby food, "nappies," and clothes to replace the swaddling clothes or "bunny rugs," and maybe even a proper baby's crib.

To us, these might seem rather useless gifts, but what do you give this child who is the all-powerful God who controls the stars to such an extent that a particularly bright star travels westward and stops over the place where Jesus and His parents were living? Their gifts were symbolic adoration to the Divine King. When God so loved the world that He gave His only

Son for our salvation, what can we give in return?

The best gifts that we can offer the Christ-child are the gifts of ourselves. In fact, the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the wise men are trivial and quite useless for the God of all creation, and the saviour of all people. He has all the gold, frankincense, and myrrh He ever needs. After all, He is the creator and owner of all these gifts. But as useless as these gifts are for God, they are a sign of the way the wise men gave of themselves.

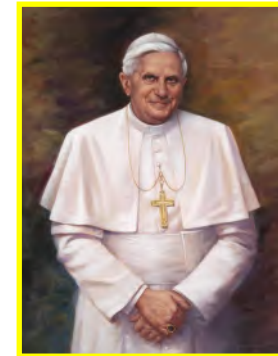
We are told, "They went into the house, and when they saw the child with His mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped." Here are these men—learned, wealthy, wizards of the East, non-Jews and probably pagans—kneeling at the tiny toddler's feet of the true God. And as they paid homage, they would have realized that even the gift of themselves was something far too small for this king of kings.

What we give to our Lord may seem so trivial and modest and poor, but if they are representative of the giving of ourselves to God, this is our most important gift. Even then, this is still so small in comparison to what God has gifted us.

Like the wise men, all of us are on a journey to get closer to Jesus, our Saviour. Like the wise men, we too are relying on the grace of God to lead us to the light of Jesus, our Saviour. Like the wise men, let us offer ourselves at His feet. The Epiphany reminds us—May our hearts seek Christ. May our hearts find Christ. May our hearts love Christ.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Benedict XVI served as pope of the Roman Catholic Church from 2005 to 2013. He was best known for his rigid views on Catholicism and topics such as birth control and homosexuality, and for being the first pope in centuries to step down from that role.

Pope Benedict XVI grew up under war reparations from World War I, as the Nazi regime was gaining power. He was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth in his early teens after membership became mandatory in 1941. He turned to theological studies after the war, helping found the influential journal *Communio*. He was elevated to the papacy in 2005. In February 2013, Benedict XVI shocked Catholic leadership and faithful alike by resigning from his position as pope, the first to do so in six centuries. He lived in a monastery on Vatican grounds until his death on December 31, 2022 at the age of 95.

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Eucharist Revival

On **Sunday, January 8th, at 5:30 p.m.**, throughout the Diocese of Baker, parishes will open their Church doors for a special Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament as we launch the National Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese of Baker. Come and take part as we all seek to enrich our lives anew with the Bread that comes down from heaven. Everyone is encouraged to come.

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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 Sundays.

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God's Dictionary

I believe God has his own dictionary of words that He would like us to know and understand. This year we will look into many of these words with the sincerity to live according to our faith and Heavenly Father.

Accountable: Being accountable means taking responsibility for your actions, decisions, flaws, mistakes, and the consequences without blaming others. It also means to take the initiative to make yourself, your family or your parish a better place with your actions, gifts, and talents. Take time to reflect daily on your actions to see if there is room for change.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

After all the people had been baptized, and Jesus also had been baptized, and He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21–22).

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to His public ministry.

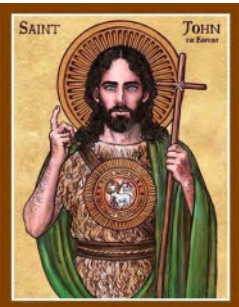
It also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist.

Mass time is at 8 a.m. on Monday, January 9th.

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Saint of the Week

St. John the Baptist was a contemporary of Christ who was known for evangelization and his baptizing of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was born through the intercession of God to Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was otherwise too old to bear children. According to scriptures, the angel Gabriel visited Elizabeth and Zachariah to tell them they would have a son and that they should name him John. Zachariah was skeptical and for this he was rendered mute until the time his son was born and named John, in fulfillment of God's will. When Elizabeth was pregnant with John, she was visited by Mary, and John leapt in her womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was to be the Son of God.



John began public ministry around 30 AD and was known for attracting large crowds across the province of Judaea and around the Jordan River. When Jesus came to him to be baptized, John recognized Him and said, "It is I who needs baptism from you." But Jesus told John to baptize Him anyway, which he did. Then John instructed his followers to turn to Christ, calling Him the "Lamb of God," and these people were among the first Christians.

John's popularity grew so much that he alarmed King Herod, who ordered his arrest and had him imprisoned.

John spoke with Herod on several occasions and condemned his marriage to his half-brother's wife. This condemnation would be his downfall, as King Herod promised to grant a wish to his daughter. In revenge for John the Baptist's condemnation of her mother's scandalous marriage to Herod, she asked for John's head. King Herod reluctantly obliged. John the Baptist died sometime between 33 and 36 AD.