

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Day I Was Too Busy" (Contributed by: MADD Sister, Connie)

"Mommy, look!" cried my daughter, Darla, pointing to a chicken hawk soaring through the air.

"Uh huh," I murmured, driving, lost in thought about the tight schedule of my day. Disappointment filled her face.

"What's the matter, Sweetheart?" I asked, entirely dense. "Nothing," my seven-year-old said. The moment was gone.

Near home, we slowed to search for the albino deer that comes out from behind the thick mass of trees in the early evening. She was nowhere to be seen.

"Tonight, she has too many things to do," I said.

Then dinner, baths, and phone calls filled the hours until bedtime.

"Come on, Darla, time for bed!" I said. She raced past me up the stairs. Tired, I kissed her on the cheek, she said her prayers, and I tucked her in.

"Mom, I forgot to give you something!" she said. My patience was gone. "Give it to me in the morning," I said, but she shook her head. "No. You won't have time in the morning!" she retorted.

"I'll take time," I answered defensively.

Sometimes, no matter how hard I tried, time flowed through my fingers like sand in an hourglass—never enough. Not enough for her, for my husband, and definitely not enough for me.

She wasn't ready to give up yet. She wrinkled her freckled little nose in anger and swiped away a lock of her chestnut brown hair.

"No, you won't! It will be just like today—when I told you to look at the hawk. You didn't even listen to what I said."

I was too weary to argue; she hit too close to the truth. "Good night!" I said and shut her door with a resounding thud.

Later though, her gray-blue gaze filled my vision as I thought about how little time we really had until she was grown and gone. Then my husband asked, "Why so glum?" And so, I told him.

"Maybe she's not asleep yet. Why don't you check," he said with all the authority of a parent in the right. I followed his advice, wishing it was my own idea.

I cracked open her door, and the light from the window spilled over her sleeping form. In her hand I could see the remains of a crumpled paper. Slowly I

opened her palm to see what the item of our disagreement had been.

Tears filled my eyes. She had torn into small pieces the big red heart with a poem she had written on it entitled, "Why I Love My Mother!"

I carefully removed the tattered pieces. Once the puzzle was put back into place, I read what she had written:

Why I Love My Mother

Although you're busy, and you work so hard, you always take time to play.

I love you Mommy because I am the biggest part of your busy day!

The words were an arrow straight to the heart. At seven years old, she had the wisdom of Solomon.

Ten minutes later I carried a tray to her room, with two cups of hot chocolate with marshmallows and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. When I softly touched her smooth cheek, I could feel my heart burst with love.

Her thick dark lashes lay like fans against her lids as they fluttered, awakened from a dreamless sleep, and she looked at the tray.

"What is that for?" she asked, confused by this late-night intrusion.

"This is for you, because you are the most important part of my busy day!" She smiled and sleepily drank half her cup of chocolate. Then she drifted back to sleep, not really understanding how strongly I meant what I said.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

February 12, 2023 † 6th 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.

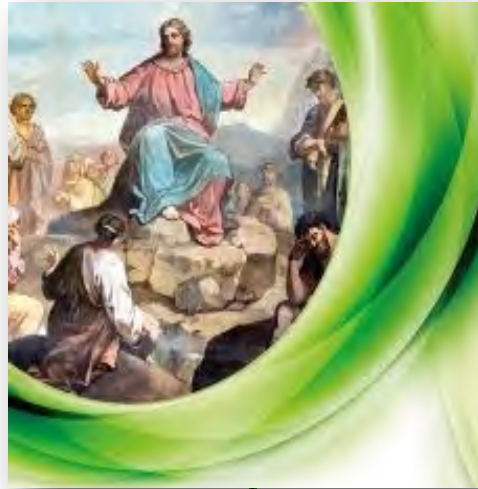
Please Call the Parish Office to Have a Mass Intention Reserved

Monday	02/13/2023	8:00 a.m.	The Tocher Family (L)	Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday	02/14/2023	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Fr. John O'Donovan (D)	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21 [F]
Wednesday	02/15/2023	12:00 p.m.	Taylor Rolland (L)	Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday	02/16/2023	8:00 a.m.	Dale Geiman (D)	Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
Friday	02/17/2023	12:00 p.m.	Vetter Family (D)	Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34-9:1
Saturday	02/18/2023	5:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday	02/19/2023	9:00 a.m.	Martina Ortiz (D)	Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
Sunday	02/19/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

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

Today's Homily

TODAY'S READINGS CHALLENGE us to choose freely and wisely to observe the laws given by a loving and caring God. He revealed His laws to His Chosen People through Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament, and through His own Son, Jesus, in the New Testament. For the Israelites, the Torah was not a set of laws, but the instruction or *teaching* intended to promote the holiness and wholeness of each believer. It was the revealed will of a caring God, for the people with whom had He made His covenant.



The first reading, taken from Sirach, contains the clearest statement in the Old Testament concerning the God-given freedom of the human will. It exonerates God from all responsibility for evil in the world. "If you choose, you can keep the commandments . . . before you, are life and death, whichever you choose shall be given you."

In the selection from the Sermon on the Mount in today's Gospel, while challenging His disciples to live a life of justice and righteousness, which should exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus, as the new lawgiver, sets forth His own position with regard to the Law given through Moses by providing a new interpretation and meaning for the old laws. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus explains the real meaning of three Mosaic laws concerning murder, adultery, and false oaths.

All three Scripture Readings today speak about true freedom and urge us to find true wisdom. We soon come to realize in this life that the free choices we have to make to become moral people are not always black and white, like the choices Sirach uses. Freedom is an eminently Christian virtue and value. But then life and its choices are complex.

To be wise means to choose carefully what choices we make, not through blind obedience, but through thought and prayer.

With Christ, there is no new standard, but there is a higher standard that places Christianity heights above the

world's measures. It is definitely harder and not just higher, because many of us have not fully understood what true freedom entails. It requires so much more discipline and regularity. And, only then, freedom becomes spontaneous in the sense that we spontaneously choose Christ—anytime, anyplace, over anything and everything else.

The meaning of spontaneity is not wild abandonment. Instead, it is a freedom to spontaneously choose God above all else.

We need to obey God's Law, appreciating its basic principles: In obeying God's law and Church law, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based; namely, the *principle of reverence* and the *principle of respect*. In the first four of the Ten Commandments we are asked to reverence God, His holy name, His holy day, and to reverence our father and mother. The next set of commandments instructs us to respect life, one's personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another's property and another's spouse. Our obedience to the laws must be prompted by our love for God and our gratitude to God for His blessings.

We need to forgive, forget and move toward reconciliation as soon as possible. St. Paul advises us, "Be angry (righteous anger), but do not sin" (Eph. 4:26). When we keep anger in our spirit, we are inviting physical illness, like hypertension, and mental illness, like depression. Let us relax and keep silent when we are angry—wait before acting on our anger—give it time to detoxify and cool off. Pray for God's strength for self-control, and give the Holy Spirit time to help us see the event through Jesus' eyes, instead of through our anger's eyes.

We need to be true to God, to ourselves and to others. Let us allow God's word of truth to penetrate our minds and hearts, and to form our consciences—making us men and women of integrity.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

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

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God's Dictionary

Honor: Honor is a topic that we find discussed throughout the entire Bible, and it is of great importance to God and our walk with Him.

The dictionary defines honor as: "honesty, fairness, or integrity in one's beliefs and actions."

To honor someone is to hold him/her in high respect or to treat him/her with honor.

We are to honor all people by treating them with dignity and respect.

February —The Month of the Holy Family

Saint of the Week



St. Valentine was a Catholic priest who had also worked as a doctor. He lived in Italy during the 3rd century AD and served as a priest in Rome.

Valentine became famous for marrying couples who were in love but couldn't get legally married in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II who outlawed weddings. When Emperor Claudius discovered

that Valentine was performing weddings, he sent him to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with the love that he said Jesus Christ gave him for others.

He befriended his jailer, Asterius, who became so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he asked him to help his daughter, Julia, with her lessons. Julia was blind and needed someone to read material to her to learn it. Valentine became friends with Julia through his work with her when she came to visit him in jail.

Emperor Claudius also came to like Valentine. He offered to pardon him and set him free if Valentine would renounce his Christian faith and agree to worship the Roman gods. Not only did Valentine refuse to leave his faith, he also encouraged Emperor Claudius to place his trust in Christ. Valentine's faithful choices cost him his life. Emperor Claudius was so enraged at Valentine's response that he sentenced Valentine to die.

The First Valentine: Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." That note inspired people to write their own loving messages to people on Valentine's Feast Day.

Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14, 270. People who remembered his loving service to many young couples began celebrating his life, and he came to be regarded as a saint through whom God had worked to help people in miraculous ways.

By 496, Pope Gelasius designated
February 14th as Valentine's official Feast Day.
Remember all those you love on Valentine's Day!

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Shrove Tuesday

The Annual Community Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is back and will take place on **Tuesday, February 21st, from 5 to 7 p.m.**, at the Prineville Presbyterian Church located at 1771 NW Madras Hwy. The event is open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to come. There will be a "free-will" donation basket available. Please note the flyer on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Lenten Schedule

- ✠ **Ash Wednesday: February 22nd—Mass at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**
- ✠ **Stations of the Cross: Every Friday Night at 6 p.m., starting February 24th until March 31st.**
- ✠ **Lenten Penance: Wednesday, March 22nd, beginning at 6 p.m.**
- ✠ **Chrism Mass in Baker City: Thursday, March 30th, starting at 11 a.m. Invitations are on the table in the Narthex.**

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The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is almost upon us. This 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter.

The purpose of the Lenten Season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider His suffering and His sacrifice—His life, death, burial, and resurrection.

It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Please see insert in this bulletin with regard to Lenten Regulations from the Diocese of Baker.

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50 Anniversary Celebration

On **Sunday, April 30th**, we will celebrate the St. Joseph Parish Couples who have been married for 50 or more years. To this day, this golden anniversary is still a powerful reminder of the joys of married life. It's important not to let your 50th or more wedding anniversary slip by unnoticed. **Karin Davis** has a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please add your name if not already on the list. **Karin Davis** will make sure that she contacts you to get some history of your time together. We would also like a picture of your wedding day for the celebration. Should you have any questions, please call **Karin Davis** at (541) 416-1112.

