

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Eternal Ink" (by Craig F. Pitts)

I dreamed I was in heaven where an angel kept God's book. He was writing so intently I just had to take a look. It was not at first his writing that made me stop and think. But the fluid in the bottle that was marked "Eternal Ink."

This ink was most amazing, dark black upon his blotter. But as it touched the parchment, it became as clear as water. The angel kept on writing, but as quickly as a wink, the words were disappearing with that strange Eternal Ink.

The angel took no notice but kept writing on and on. He turned each page and filled it till all its space was gone. I thought he wrote to no avail; his efforts were so vain, for he wrote a thousand pages that he'd never read again.

And as I watched and wondered that this awesome sight was mine, I actually saw a word stay black as it dried upon the line. The angel wrote, and I thought I saw a look of satisfaction. At last, he had some print to show for all his earnest action. A line or two dried dark and stayed as black as black can be. But strangely the next paragraph became invisible to see. The book was getting fuller, the angel's records true, but most of it was blank, with just a few words coming through.

I knew there was some reason—but as hard as I could think—I couldn't grasp the significance of that Eternal Ink. The mystery burned within me, and I finally dared to ask the angel to explain to me of his amazing task.

And what I heard was frightful as the angel turned his head. He looked directly at me, and this is what he said:

"I know you stand and wonder at what my writing's worth, but God has told me to record the lives of those on earth.

"The book that I am filling is an accurate account of every word and action, and to what they do amount. And since you have been watching, I must tell you what is true. The details of my journal are the strict accounts of YOU!

"The Lord asked me to watch you—as each day you worked and played. I saw you as you went to church, I saw you as you prayed. But I was told to document your life through all the week. I wrote when you were proud and bold, I wrote when you were meek.

"I recorded all your attitudes whether they were good or bad. I was sorry that I had to write the things that make God sad. So now I'll tell the wonder of this Eternal Ink, for the reason for its mystery should make you stop and think.

"This ink that God created to help me keep my journal will only keep a record of things that are eternal. So much of life is wasted on things that matter not, so instead of my erasing, smudging ink, and ugly blot, I just keep writing faithfully—and let the ink do all the rest—for it is able to decide what's useless and what's best. And God ordained that as I write of all you do and say, your deeds that count for nothing will just disappear away.

"When books are opened someday, as sure as heaven is true, the Lord's Eternal Ink will tell what mattered most to

you. If you just lived to please yourself, the pages will be bare, and God will issue no reward for you when you get there.

"In fact, you'll be embarrassed—you will hang your head in shame—because you did not give yourself in love to Jesus' Name. Yet, maybe there will be a few recorded lines that stayed that showed the times you truly cared, sincerely loved, and prayed.

"But you will always wonder as you enter heaven's door how much more glad you would have been if only you'd done more. For I record as God sees—I don't stop to even think—because the truth is written with God's Eternal Ink."

When I heard the angel's story, I fell down and wept and cried. For as yet I still was dreaming . . . I hadn't really died. And I said: "O, Angel, tell the Lord that as soon as I awake, I'll live my life for Jesus—I'll do all for His dear sake. I'll give in full surrender; I'll do all He wants me to. I'll turn my back on self and sin and whatever isn't true. And though the way seems long and rough, I promise to endure. I'm determined to pursue the things that are holy, clean, and pure.

"With Jesus as my helper, I will win lost souls to Thee. For I know that they will live with Christ for all eternity. And that's what really matters when my life on earth is gone—that I will stand before the Lord and hear Him say, 'Well done!'

"For is it really worth it as my life lies at the brink? And I realize that God keeps books with His Eternal Ink. Should all my life be focused on things that turn to dust? From this point on I'll serve the Lord. I can! I will! I must!

"I will NOT send blank pages up to God's majestic throne, for where that record's going now is my eternal home. I'm giving all to Jesus. I now have seen the link. For I saw an angel write my life with God's Eternal Ink!"

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

February 19, 2023 † 7th 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	02/20/2023	8:00 a.m.	The Leonard Family (L)	Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday	02/21/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mario Ferrarin (D)	Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
Ash Wednesday	02/22/2023	8:00 a.m.	Darleen Counts (L)	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Ash Wednesday	02/22/2023	6:00 p.m.	Sarah MacDonald (D)	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	02/23/2023	8:00 a.m.	Walter Husar (D)	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Friday	02/24/2023	12:00 p.m.	Helen Husar (D)	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday	02/25/2023	5:00 p.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday	02/26/2023	9:00 a.m.	Chelsea Kurtz (L)	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Sunday	02/26/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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

Today's Homily

TODAY'S READINGS

EXPLAIN why Christians are expected to be holy and how we are meant to become holy people.

The first and second readings give us reasons why we should be holy, and the Gospel describes four methods of becoming holy people prescribed for us by Jesus.

The first reading, taken from the book of Leviticus, teaches us that we should be holy because it is the command given to us by God through Moses: "Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy." It also shows us the way to share in God's holiness: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

In the second reading, St. Paul gives us an additional reason to be holy. We are to keep our bodies and souls holy because we are the temples of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lives in us. In the Gospel passages taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us four methods of becoming holy as God is holy.

The 1st method is to abstain from all forms of retaliation. Jesus discards even the milder form of retaliation that was developed by Hammurabi in ancient Babylon and passed on to Israel through Moses. The policy was one of limited, proportional retaliation ("tit-for-tat"); i.e., "An eye for an eye—a tooth for tooth," rather than allowing unlimited vengeance.

In place of this limited, proportional retaliation, Jesus gives his new law of love, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and no retaliation. For Jesus, retaliation, or even limited vengeance, has no place in the Christian life, even though graceful acceptance of an



offense requires great strength, discipline of character, and strengthening by God's grace.

The 2nd method of becoming holy as God is holy is to take the offense gracefully and love the offender. Jesus illustrates this in three images: "Turning the other cheek, freely

giving the tunic—and adding the cloak to it—and walking the extra mile." Jesus tells us that what makes Christians different is the grace with which they treat others, offering them loving kindness and mercy, even if they don't deserve this treatment, as God does for us.

We are commanded to love our enemies as Jesus loves us, with *agape* love, not because our enemies deserve our love, but because Jesus loves them so much that He died for them as He did for us.

The 3rd method of sharing in God's holiness is by unconditionally and whole-heartedly forgiving the offender without planning revenge in any form. This means not only loving one's neighbors, but also forgiving those enemies who hurt us and seem willfully to cause us suffering, hardship, and unhappiness.

The 4th method of becoming holy as God is holy is to seal our determination to forgive our enemies by sincerely praying for their spiritual and physical welfare, and for the grace needed for their conversion and renewal of life. Thus, today's Scripture readings challenge us to become holy as our God is holy by loving, forgiving, and blessing others—even our enemies—with graceful and magnanimous love, as our Holy God does.

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

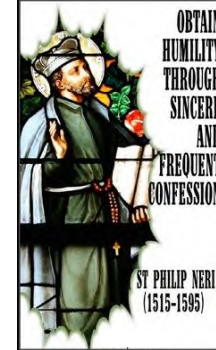
Reach: Verb—stretch out an arm in a specified direction in order to touch or grasp something.

Noun—the extent or range of application, effect, or influence.

God wants to have a relationship with all of us. He wants to be the number one person we come to when we run into problems, when we are scared, or need someone to talk to. God gives us the tools we need to reach out to Him and create that dialog. God wants to help us, ease our pain, and be a resource. God may speak to us softly during prayer, or scream from the rooftops trying to get us to notice Him. Reach out to God in all things!

February —The Month of the Holy Family

Saint of the Week



St. Philip Neri was a 16th-Century man (1515–1595) who became a mystic and missionary, a priest and a prophet, a founder of the Oratory, and a healer of souls. He became well-known in and around Rome where he lived, which at the time was deeply in need of reform and spiritual renewal. He used the virtue of affability and a spirit of joyfulness to guide people to a holier life.

Affability is the key virtue that helps us to make friends. What is affability? It's the habit that regulates our outward manners so that we act in a friendly, courteous way toward those with whom we come in contact.

In learning about the life of Philip Neri we can discover how his affable manner—strengthened by firm and solid faith—made him a friend to all, and eventually, the Patron Saint of Joy and Laughter.

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Annual Community Pancake Supper is **Tuesday, February 21st, from 5 to 7 p.m.**, at the Prineville Presbyterian Church located at 1771 NW Madras Hwy. This event is open to the public and all are welcome. A free-will donation is appreciated. See the flyer on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

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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.**



Ash Wednesday: Reminder that this is the beginning of Lent and a Holy Day. Please attend Mass, and remember it is a universal fast—only one full meal and abstinence from meat and all meat products.

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires, and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy."

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

At the request of **Bishop Liam Cary**, with the Diocese of Baker, we will now schedule Benediction after all Masses on the last weekend of each month. On the back cover of your Missal, you will see the songs and prayers that are associated with Benediction.



Benediction, which is a great blessing for souls and for the honor of **Jesus Christ Who is Truly Present—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity**—in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. This rite consists of exposing the Blessed Sacrament for reverence in a monstrance, incensing while singing the *Tantum Ergo*—the Benediction song, the Blessing with the Sacred Host, the Divine Praises, the replacement of the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, and then singing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" during the recessional.

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St. Patrick's Day Ham Dinner



St. Joseph's Parish welcomes everyone to their Annual St. Patrick's Ham Dinner on **Sunday, March 19th, from Noon to 5 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall. Prices are as follows: Adults \$12, Children (6–12) \$8, and Family (2 adults–2 children) for \$35. More information will be forthcoming.

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CRS Rice Bowl

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

Please take home a donation box for your spare change this Lent to help Catholic Relief Services.

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50th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, April 30th, we will celebrate the St. Joseph Parish Couples who have been married for 50 or more years. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to be contacted to get some history of your time together. We would also like a picture of your wedding day for the celebration. Questions? Please call **Karin Davis** at (541) 416-1112.

