

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Does God Still Speak to Us?" (Author Unknown)

A YOUNG MAN had been to Wednesday night Bible Study, and the Pastor shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice. The young man couldn't help but wonder, "Does God still speak to people?"

Afterward, he went out with some friends for coffee and pie, and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about 10 p.m. when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God! If you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey."

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought: **Stop and buy a gallon of milk.** He shook his head and said out loud, "God is that you?" He didn't get a reply and started on toward home. But again the thought came again: **Buy a gallon of milk.**

The young man thought about Samuel and how he didn't recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. "Okay, God. In case that is you, I will buy the milk." It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home. As he passed 7th Street, he again felt the urge: **Turn down that street.** "This is crazy," he thought and drove on past the intersection. But again, he felt that he should turn down 7th Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down 7th. Half jokingly, he said out loud, "Okay, God, I will." He drove several blocks, when suddenly he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in a semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best, but it wasn't the worst of neighborhoods either. The businesses were closed, and most of the houses looked dark—like the people were already in bed. Again, he sensed something: **Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street.**

The young man looked at the house. It was dark, and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the car door and then sat back in the seat. "Lord, this is insane. Those people are asleep, and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad, and I will look stupid."

Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the car door. "Okay, God, if this is you, I will go to the door, and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I

want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something, but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?" Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face, and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?" he asked.

The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, "Here, I brought this to you." The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway, speaking loudly in Spanish. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her, holding a baby.

The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man began speaking and half crying, "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month, and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I asked Him to send an Angel with some. Are you an Angel?" she asked.

The young man reached into his wallet, pulled out all the money he had on him, and put it in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car as the tears were streaming down his face.

He knew that God still answers prayers.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
February 5, 2023 † 5th 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	02/06/2023	8:00 a.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56 [M]
Tuesday	02/07/2023	8:00 a.m.	David Geiman (D)	Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday	02/08/2023	12:00 p.m.	Blu Rolland (L)	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23
Thursday	02/09/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mary Ricks (D)	Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30
Friday	02/10/2023	12:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37 [M]
Saturday	02/11/2023	5:00 p.m.	Rev. Fr. Luke Sheehan (D)	Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37
Sunday	02/12/2023	9:00 a.m.	Leobardo Ortiz (D)	Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37
Sunday	02/12/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

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

Today's Homily



In today's Gospel, Jesus says to His disciples, **"You are the light of the world"** (Matthew 5:14).

But elsewhere, in John 8:12, Jesus says of Himself, **"I am the light of the world."** Who then is the light of the world, Jesus or His followers? This apparent contradiction is resolved by another passage in John 9:5 where Jesus modifies the statement about Himself: **"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."** This shows that Jesus is talking about the flesh and blood embodiment of the light. As long as He is physically present in the world, He is the light of the world, but when He is no longer physically present, His followers now assume the role of being the light of the world.

The role of the Christian in the world is defined by two words in today's gospel: salt and light. Now what do these mean? Do you know that the word "sugar" never occurs in the Bible? In ancient times, salt was the ultimate seasoning that gave taste to food. Without salt, food would be tasteless. Jesus is saying that as salt (or sugar, if you like) is to food, so are Christians to the world. Christians are in the world to make it a sweeter place. How can we make the world a sweeter place? We find the answer in the parallel passage in Mark: **"Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another"** (Mark 9:50).

As salt, we are called to be sweet disciples, friendly and kind, living at peace with everybody. As light, we are called to show the way. Without light, we bump into each other and fall into the ditch. But light says: "Here is the road, take it; here is danger, avoid it." Without light and salt, the world would be in very bad shape, uninteresting, and impossible to live in. With light and salt, the world becomes a safer and better place. It is our duty as Christians to make the world a better place.

But how do we do that? The same way that salt and light do it.

First, salt must be different from the food before it can be of any use. If salt loses its taste, then it is useless and can no longer make a difference.

Light must be different from darkness in order to be of help. A flashlight with dead batteries is no good for someone in the dark. So, being salt and light of the world means being different from the world.

If believers have nothing that distinguishes them from unbelievers,

then they are like salt that has lost its saltiness and, therefore, cannot make a difference. And what distinguishes us from non-believers should be not so much what we claim to be or the badges and pins we wear, but the life we live. As Jesus says in John 13:35, **"By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** Love is the distinctive mark by which you can tell the true Christian from the false.

Second, both salt and light operate by associating with the thing that they want to change. Salt cannot improve the food unless it goes into the food and changes it from within. Light cannot show the way unless it encounters the darkness. Sometimes Christians think that the way to go is to keep away from getting involved with society and popular culture. But by shying away from the realities of our society and our world, we might indeed be hiding our lamp under the bushel basket. To make a difference we must get up and get involved.

Today's Gospel is frightening. It says, in effect, that if there is so much darkness and bitterness in the world today, it is because we as Christians have failed in our job to be salt and light in the world. But we can decide to make a difference starting from today. We can decide to light a candle rather than curse the darkness. Even the smallest candle helps in a world of darkness.

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

+++

God's Dictionary

Freely: Adverb, not under the control of another; as one wishes: openly and honestly: willingly and readily.

Freedom means always choosing the good, which is a challenge in today's world that must be met with courage and resolve. **Humankind** is free to choose to be free to love. God has given us freedom so we may freely choose Him.

It is only in possessing the power to make the free choice to love, to do the good, that we can choose God and His goodness without coercion. It is in this, in our free choice that the possibility of love is made real.

February —The Month of the Holy Family

Knights of Columbus Breakfast

Today, after the 9 a.m. Mass, the Knights of Columbus will be serving their awesome Pancake Breakfast. Please support our wonderful Knights by stopping by the Parish Hall and enjoy some good eats, raffle, and good company with friends.

+++

First Sunday Adoration



Tonight, February 5th, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a special Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament 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.

+++

Christmas Bazaar Meeting

On Tuesday, February 7th, 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.

+++

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

On Wednesday, February 8th, it is the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita—a slave turned saint. It is also an International Day of Prayer and a call to awareness of global trafficking.

For more information, contact U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114.

+++

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 have a prayer request, contact Chris Eason at (970) 712-1906 or email Chris at: dilecti@gmail.com.

+++

Prineville Senior Center

The Prineville Senior Center Menu and Activities for the month of February are on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

If you would like a copy, they are also available at the Senior Center.

Saint of the Week

Josephine Margaret Bakhita was a Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister who lived in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan.

For many years, **Josephine Bakhita** was a slave, but her spirit was always free and, eventually, that spirit prevailed.

Born in Olgossa, in the Darfur region of Southern Sudan, **Josephine** was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery, and given the name **Bakhita**, which means "fortunate." She was resold several times—finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took **Josephine** to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. **Bakhita** became the babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, which was run by Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, **Josephine** felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and **Josephine** back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on **Josephine's** behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the Sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

+++

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.

