

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

A Story by Shirley Ward, via "The Vidor," a Texas Church Bulletin

I SAW HIM in the church building for the first time last Wednesday. He was in his mid-70s, with thinning silver hair and a neat brown suit. Many times in the past, I had invited him to come. Several other Christian friends had talked to him about the Lord and had tried to share the Good News with him.

He was a well-respected, honest man, with so many characteristics a Christian should have, but he had never put on Christ. I had asked him a few years ago, "Have you ever been to a church service in your life?" We had just finished a pleasant day of visiting and talking. He hesitated, and then with a bitter smile he told me of a childhood experience some 60 years ago:

He was one of many children in a large, impoverished family. His parents had struggled to provide food, with little left for housing and clothing.

When he was about 10, some neighbors invited him to worship with them. The Bible class had been very exciting for him. He had never heard such songs and stories before, and he had never heard anyone read from the Bible before.

After class was over, the teacher took him aside and said, "Son, please don't come again dressed as you are now. We want to look our best when we come to worship the Lord."

He stood in his old, ragged, unpatched overalls, looked at his bare dirty feet, and said, "No Ma'am. I won't never!"

And so I never did, he said, and he abruptly ended our conversation.

There must have been other factors to have hardened him so, but this experience formed a significant part of the bitterness in his heart. I'm sure the Bible teacher meant well. But what if she had studied and accepted the teachings found in the second chapter of James? What if she had put her arms around that dirty, ragged little boy and said, "Son, I'm so glad you are here, and I hope you will come again every chance you get to hear more about Jesus!"

I prayed that I might ever be open to the tenderness of a child's heart, and that I might never fail to see beyond the appearance and behavior of a child to the eternal possibilities within.

Yes, I saw him in the church for the first time last Wednesday. As I looked at that immaculately dressed old gentleman lying in his casket, I thought of the little boy of so long ago. I could almost hear him say, "No ma'am, I won't never!" . . . and I wept.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph



## 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

**Forgiveness: Noun**—the action or process of forgiving or being forgiven.

Forgiveness is a choice we make. It is a decision of our will, motivated by *obedience to God* and his command to forgive.

The Bible instructs us to forgive as the Lord forgave us.

We will know *the work of forgiveness* is complete when we experience the spiritual freedom that comes as a result. We are the ones who suffer most when we choose not to forgive. When we do forgive, the Lord sets our hearts free from the *anger, bitterness, resentment, and hurt* that previously imprisoned us.

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

February 26, 2023 † 1st Sunday of Lent

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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com)

(Fr. Joseph's personal email address: [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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	02/27/2023	8:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher (D)	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday	02/28/2023	8:00 a.m.	Angela Corell (L)	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday	03/01/2023	12:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday	03/02/2023	8:00 a.m.	Keaton & Kinley Kurtz (L)	Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday	03/03/2023	12:00 p.m.	Herman Langly (D)	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday	03/04/2023	5:00 p.m.	Willie Pedersen (D)	Genesis 12:1-4a; Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9
Sunday	03/05/2023	9:00 a.m.	Nikki Plumb (L)	Genesis 12:1-4a; Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9
Sunday	03/05/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Genesis 12:1-4a; Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

**L**ent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time for repenting of our sins and renewing our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection. Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world, and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace to conquer our temptations and practice prayer, self-control, and charity.

**The first reading**, taken from the book of Genesis describes the Original Temptation: "You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil." Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice to live for God, dependent upon and obedient to His will, or to say No to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin.

In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority.

In the **second reading**, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death, and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us a right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father.

**Today's Gospel** teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation to mistrust His Father by satisfying His own immediate, temporal needs, thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction! The tempter then suggests to Jesus that He prove He is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the Temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and the demands that He prove His trustworthiness! Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world.

### We are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means He employed:

Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, and a position of authority, power, and glory, and to use any means—even unjust or sinful ones—to gain these things.



Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening Himself through prayer, penance, and the active use of the Word of God. Temptations make us more powerful warriors of God by strengthening our minds and hearts.

By constantly struggling against temptations, we become stronger. Each time one is tempted to do evil but does good, one becomes stronger. Further, we are never tempted beyond our power.

In his first letter, St. John assures us: "Greater is the One Who is in us, than the one who is in the world (1 Jn 4:4). We may be strengthened by St. Paul's words in 1 Cor 10:13: "No testing has overtaken you, that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), by penance, and by meditative reading of the Bible.

### We are to grow in holiness by prayer, reconciliation and sharing during Lent:

- by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible;
- by repenting of our sins daily and asking God's forgiveness every night at bedtime;
- by being reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- by being reconciled with others, forgiving them the hurts they have caused us, and asking their pardon for the hurts we have inflicted on them;
- by sharing our love with others through selfless, humble service, almsgiving, and helping those in need; and
- by living the Gospel, or the Good News, of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness in our lives, thus bearing true Christian witness.

### Lent is the time for the desert experience:

We can set aside a place and time to be alone daily with God, a time to distance ourselves from the many noises that bombard our lives every day, a time to hear God's word, a time to rediscover who we are before God, and a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did.

## February —The Month of the Holy Family

### Saint of the Week



**St. Maria Goretti:** Though her time on earth was brief, her compelling story serves as a vivid example of faith and the power of forgiveness. When she was only 11 years old, Maria suffered a brutal assault. After she refused the advances of an older farmhand named Alessandro Serenelli, he stabbed her multiple times.

She was taken to the hospital, but her wounds were too severe, ultimately taking her life.

In the last hours of her life, Maria forgave her attacker, expressing her wish that he would repent and turn to Christ. While in prison, he had a dream in which Maria appeared to him, offering him lilies that burst into flames.

As a result of the dream, and the encouragement of a priest, Allesandro turned to God.

After he was released from prison, he went to Maria's mother, Assunta, and begged her for forgiveness. She forgave him, and they attended Mass, receiving Communion together. He went on to become a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and was present at Maria's canonization ceremony in 1950.

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### Lenten Schedule

- † Stations of the Cross: Every Friday Night at 6 p.m., until Friday, March 31st. Soup following.
- † 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.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or *Via Crucis*, commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on His journey to Calvary, usually through sacred art, prayers, and reflections. The practice began as pious pilgrims traced His path through Jerusalem on the *Via Dolorosa*.



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### Liturgy and Life

Take a moment to remember your day—or your week. Light a candle, close your eyes, and begin with a prayer. Give thanks for the blessings—and notice the details. Where were you most conscious of God's presence? What actions or habit might be hindering your relationship with God—especially now during Lent?

### 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. This will replace the prayer to St. Michael and the final blessing in the Mass. 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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### Bible Study Is Now ACTS

Please note that the Bible Study group has their changed their name to ACTS—**Adult Catholic Theology Studies**. This was due, in part, to the fact that they never studied the Bible *per say*, but instead they enriched their knowledge of the Catholic Faith through Scripture, Tradition, Catechism, Doctrines, and Faith Building.

**Reminder: ACTS meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., in Classroom #2.** Last Wednesday, we started watching "The Chosen" series.

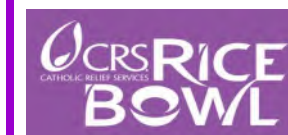
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### Prayer Group

If you have any specific prayer request for the group, please contact **Chris Eason** at (970) 712-1906 or email [dilecti@gmail.com](mailto:dilecti@gmail.com). God, may Your light guide our days, and Your spirit bring us peace. Amen.

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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 such as 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.**