

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

## Why Go to Church?

A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday: "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time, I have heard about 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column—much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks, until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now, and my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of them. But I do know this: they all nourished and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today."

"Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!"

**Remember: Faith makes things possible—not easy!  
And the best vitamin for making friends: B1.**

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

David Leonard 🍷 Steve Forrester 🍷 Carl Johnson 🍷 Mike Mulvihill 🍷 Lyn Rodgers 🍷 Lloyd Rodgers  
Sammi Pedersen 🍷 Steven Clifton 🍷 Dolores Koivisto 🍷 Jerry Pimentel 🍷 Ben Guyger 🍷 Anita Marquez  
Georgia Fitzgerald 🍷 Pierre Jones 🍷 Joan Holland 🍷 Suzie LaBelle 🍷 Max Hernandez

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### God's Dictionary

**Christian:** Noun—one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Wouldn't it be great if the Christian life had a check list?

A recipe of sorts to provide instructions that we could follow to ensure we were being "good Christians?"

Few things in life really work that way.

In fact, even recipes followed exactly don't always turn out.

They fail to account for effects of the weather, slight differences in ingredients, variance in oven temperatures, or a number of other factors. And "good" is in the taste buds of the eater.

So, what does it take to be a good Christian?

Many will say that it means reading your Bible daily, praying at least twice a day, and serving at church, tithing, supporting a missionary, evangelizing, and the like. These are all great activities for Christians, but they are not what the Christian life is all about.

A Christian is someone who has been made new in Christ and restored to relationship with God.

The Christian life is about getting to know God, enjoying Him and bringing Him glory.

Obedience—living the "good Christian" life—flows from a loving relationship.

And obedience helps us remain in God's love and therefore experience His joy.

Being a "good Christian" is not about performing certain actions.

It is about growing in love for Christ and allowing His Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and lives.

Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith, the recipe-writer and taste-tester for our lives.

As we seek to know God and glorify Him, we also get to enjoy Him.

The good Christian knows God, enjoys God, and grows in grace.

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 19, 2023 † 4th 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) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto:joekunel55@gmail.com)

Diocese of Baker Website: [dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org) / Phone: (541) 388-4004

**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	03/20/2023	8:00 a.m.	The Vetter Family (D)	2 Sam. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mat. 1:16, 18-21, 24a [S]
Tuesday	03/21/2023	8:00 a.m.	Charles Popish (D)	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Wednesday	03/22/2023	12:00 p.m.	Lorraine Popish (D)	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday	03/23/2023	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
Friday	03/24/2023	12:00 p.m.	Doris Ordway (D)	Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	03/25/2023	5:00 p.m.	Juni Baril (L)	Ezekiel 37:12-14; Roman 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
Sunday	03/26/2023	9:00 a.m.	Zena Bassett (L)	Ezekiel 37:12-14; Roman 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
Sunday	03/26/2023	12:00 p.m.	Tom Valerio & Maria Diaz (D)	Ezekiel 37:12-14; Roman 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased ♦ [S] = Solemnity

## Today's Homily

**T**HE FOURTH SUNDAY of Lent is known as *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings remind us that it is God

Who both gives us proper vision in body, as well as in soul, and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. It reminds us that those whom God involves in his saving plans are not necessarily those whom the world perceives as great. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as Children of Light: "To live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."

Presenting the miracle of Jesus' giving of sight to a man born blind, today's Gospel teaches us the necessity of being willing to have our eyes opened by Faith, and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision.

In this episode, the most unlikely person—namely, the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind.

To live as a Christian is to see and to grow continually, gaining clearer vision about God, about ourselves, and about others. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are to live as children of the light, seeking what is good and right and true. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should help to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God, and love them as our own brothers and sisters, saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

**We need to allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness.** Physiologically, the "blind spot" is the



part of our eye where vision is not experienced.

It is the spot where the optic nerve enters the eyeball. A blind spot in a vehicle is an area around the vehicle that cannot be directly observed by the driver. In real life, we all

have blind spots—in our marriages, our parenting, our work habits, and our personalities.

We often wish to remain in the dark, preferring darkness to light. It is even possible for the religious people in our day to be like the Pharisees: religious in worship, in frequenting the Sacraments, in prayer-life, in tithing, and in knowledge of the Bible—but blind to the poverty, injustice and pain around them.

Let us remember, however, that Jesus wants to heal our blind spots. We need to ask Him to remove from us the root causes of our blindness—namely, our self-centeredness, greed, anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, addiction to evil habits, and hardness of our hearts.

Let us pray with the Scottish Bible scholar, William Barclay: "God our Father, help us see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly."

**We need to pray for clear vision:** Peter Marshall, the former chaplain to the United States Congress used to pray: "Give us clear vision so that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything." Today's Gospel challenges our ability to see clearly. Do we see a terrorist in every member of a particular religion? Do we see people who are addicted to drugs as outcasts and sinners? Do we fail to see God at work in our lives because He has shown us no miracles? Jonathan Swift said, "Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." Let us remember that this gift belongs to those who can see the good hidden in the kernels of suffering and of failure. It resides in those who never give up hope. Let us pray for the grace to see and experience the presence of a loving and forgiving God.

## March —The Month of St. Joseph

### Sunday Catechism on Mass—March 19th Gloria / Opening Prayer

**Gloria:** On Sundays, solemnities, and feasts, the *Gloria* follows the Penitential Act and begins by echoing the proclamation of the angels at the birth of Christ: "Glory to God in the highest!" In this ancient hymn, the gathered assembly joins the heavenly choirs in offering praise and adoration to the Father and Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

**Collect / Prayer:** The Introductory Rites conclude with an opening prayer, called the *Collect*. The celebrant invites the gathered assembly to pray and, after a brief silence, proclaims the prayer of the day. The *Collect* gathers the prayers of all into one and disposes all to hear the Word of God in the context of the celebration.

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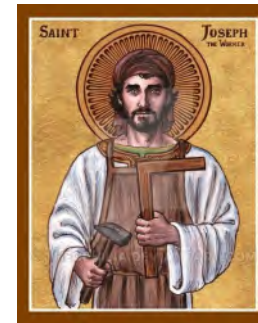
### 4th Sunday of Lent—Laetare Sunday

*Laetare Sunday* has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. The Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances.

The passage from Isaiah continues, "Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow." Rose-colored vestments are acceptable. Music may be played, and the altar may be decorated with flowers.

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### Saint of the Week



St. Joseph is a key figure in Christianity, and he is known as the earthly father of Jesus Christ—and husband of the Virgin Mary—Jesus's mother. However, the historical accounts of Joseph's existence have mostly been blurred, and one of the four Gospels has no mention of his life at all. He was only mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, John, and Luke; and these are the sources of information about Joseph's life. He was said to be a descendent of King David and married Mary after she became pregnant with a child while still being a virgin.

After he married Mary, he came to know about her pregnancy and planned to divorce her quietly. However, according to the Gospels, an angel from heaven told him about her being the future mother of the Son of God. Following this, he decided to reconsider his decision and live with Mary. To save his family from the wrath of King Herod, Joseph settled in Nazareth. The Gospels do not mention his death. However, it has been assumed that he died in 1 AD, before Jesus's crucifixion.

In the Catholic traditions, Joseph is regarded as a patron saint. His Feast Day is **Monday, March 20th.**

### Important Dates for Lent— Please Mark your Calendars

**Lenten Penance Service: Wednesday, March 22nd, starting at 6 p.m.** There will be 5 Priests, in both English and Spanish. All Religious Education students who have made their First Holy Communion are required to attend with parents.

**Chrism Mass in Baker City: Thursday, March 30th, starting at 11 a.m.** What is the Chrism Mass? Each year our Bishop gathers together all the priests of our Diocese to recommit their lives to their vocation of priestly service. The Bishop will consecrate the sacred oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. Each parish receives its annual supply of these oils at the Chrism Mass.

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### Fridays During Lent

We have the **Stations of the Cross** every Friday Night at 6 p.m. to **Friday, March 31st.** Soup following in the parish hall.

The way of the cross (the way of self-denial), is the way of life, for "If anyone desires to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."



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### Easter Flower Offering

Please note that you can hand in your Easter Flower Offering any time this month during the normal collection at Mass. If you do not receive envelopes, please use one of the blank envelopes in the narthex, and add your name to the envelope. **Thank you so much for contributing to the Easter Flowers for the Altar!**

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### Transgender Policy—Diocese of Baker

Please refer to "A Body You Prepared for Me" on the bulletin board in the narthex, and **Bishop Liam Cary** has asked that we all review it. This policy is also available on the Diocese of Baker Website at: [dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org). If you would like a copy, please stop by the parish office.

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### U.S. Sisters against Human Trafficking

All of us are consumers. Do you know the slave footprint that exists in the chain of work that it takes to create many of the products and food that we consume?

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