

Fr. Joseph's Corner

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. And as I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!" Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?" I was perplexed. I looked down at my arms, legs, and the rest of my body, and then wondered about how many things I wouldn't be able to do—the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be tough, Lord, but I would still love you."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?" How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world, and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So, I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

Then the Lord asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?" How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?" How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song; but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So, I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise your name."

And then the Lord asked, "Do you really love me?" With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes, Lord! I love you because you are the one and true God!" I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect." "Then why, in times of peace, do you stray the farthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray in earnest?" No answers. Only tears.

The Lord continued: "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek me only in times of worship? Why ask for things so selfishly? Why ask so unfaithfully?" The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why, in times of persecution, do you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my name?" I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed my word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers, and I have answered them all. DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out, and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me, Lord. I am unworthy to be your child."

The Lord answered, "That is my grace, my child." I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?" The Lord answered, "Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of your days. I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do you love me?" The Lord stretched out his arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

David Leonard 🙏 Steve Forrester 🙏 Carl Johnson 🙏 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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Father Joseph Will Be Gone

There will be no Daily Mass on Wednesday, March 29th, at 12 p.m.,

and no Daily Mass on Thursday, March 30th, at 8 a.m.

Fr. Joseph will be in Baker City for the Chrism Mass at 11 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 26, 2023 † 5th 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

Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

Diocese of Baker Website: 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	03/27/2023	8:00 a.m.	Patrick Geiman (D)	Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11
Tuesday	03/28/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mike Bailey (D)	Numbers 21-4-9; John 8:21-30
Wednesday	03/29/2023	12:00 p.m.	No Daily Mass	Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42
Thursday	03/30/2023	8:00 a.m.	No Daily Mass	Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59
Friday	03/31/2023	12:00 p.m.	Camie Davis (L)	Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42
Saturday	04/01/2023	5:00 p.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
Sunday	04/02/2023	9:00 a.m.	Sacramento Ortiz & Alejandra Robles (D)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
Sunday	04/02/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

If all the miracles Jesus did, the raising of Lazarus ranks as the most astonishing to the people of His time. Traditional Jewish belief had it that the soul of a dead person somehow remains with the body for three days. After three days, the soul departs finally from the body, never to return, and that is when corruption sets in.

When Martha objects to the opening of the tomb and says, **“Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days”** (John 11:39), she is expressing the common view that this is now a hopeless situation. Is that

why Jesus delayed coming to the funeral, to let the situation become “impossible” before acting on it? G.K. Chesterton once said, “Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all.”

For the early Christians, the story of the raising of Lazarus was more than a pointer to the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus rose on the third day; His body never saw corruption. For them, this miracle is a challenge to never give up hope even in the hopeless situations in which they found themselves as individuals, as a church, or as a nation. It is never too late for God to revive and revitalize a person, a church, or a nation. But first we must learn to cooperate with God.

How can we cooperate with God so as to experience God's resurrection power in our lives and in our world? Well, everyone knows the answer already: **faith**. But that is not the point that John makes in this story. In fact, there is no one in the story, not even Mary or Martha, who believed that Jesus could bring Lazarus back to life after four days dead. No one expected Him to do it, so expectant faith is not the emphasis here. Rather, the emphasis in the story—on how we cooperate with a miracle-working God—is placed on practical obedience and doing God's will. To effect the miracle, Jesus issues three commands, and all of them are obeyed to the letter. That is how the miracle happens.

First, **“Jesus said, ‘Roll away the stone.’ . . . So, they rolled away the stone”** (verses 39–41). Did the people understand why they should do this heavy work of rolling away the tombstone to expose a stinking corpse?



dead man: **“‘Lazarus, come out!’ and the dead man came out”** (verses 43–44). We do not know the details of what transpired in the tomb. All we know is that Jesus' word of command is followed by immediate obedience. Lazarus gropes his way out of the dark tomb with his hands and feet tied up in bandages—and his face all wrapped up. Even a man rotting away in the tomb can still do something to help himself.

The third command again is addressed to the people, **“Unbind him, and let him go”** (verse 44). Even though Lazarus could stumble himself out of the tomb, there was no way he could unbind himself. He needs the community to do that for him. By unbinding Lazarus and setting him free from the death bands, the community is accepting Lazarus back as one of them.

Many Christian individuals and communities today have fallen victim to the death of sin. Many are already in the tomb of hopelessness and decay, in the bondage of sinful habits and attitudes. Nothing short of a miracle can bring us back to life in Christ. Jesus is ready for the miracle. He Himself said, **“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”** (John 10:10). Are we ready to cooperate with Him for the miracle? Are we ready to roll away the stone that stands between us and the light of Christ's face? Are we ready to take the first step to come out of the place of death? Are we ready to unbind (i.e., forgive) one another and let them go free? These are the various ways we cooperate with God in the miracle of bringing renewing, and reviving us as individuals, as a church, and as a nation.

You bet they didn't! Why didn't Jesus command the stone to roll away all by itself—without bothering the people?

We don't quite know. All we know is that divine power seems always to be activated by human cooperation and stifled by noncooperation. As C.S. Lewis said, “God seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures.” **God will not do by a miracle what we can do by obedience.** The second command that Jesus gives is directed to the

Sunday Catechism on Mass—March 26th Readings From Scripture

Old Testament—First Reading: The Old testament sets the tone for us to understand the New Testament: from the creation of man to the divine birth of God in Christ; from Passover's sacrificial lamb to the Eucharist's Lamb of God. It opens the door for us to fully appreciate the Life of Christ by showing us the life of the people and the Work of God before Christ.

Psalm: The prayers of 300 years of faith—Jewish and Christian. In the Mass, we use the Psalm as a long-loved prayer-response to the Scripture Reading—using words that time and constant prayer have made holy.

New Testament: The second reading is taken from the Epistles, the Acts of the Apostles, or Book of Revelation. These are all from the New Testament which shows us how to live our life through Christ and prepares us for the world to come. The readings are also chosen in correspondence to the different seasons or feasts that are being celebrated.

Gospel: Four Gospels—same story; four different perspectives. The Proclamation of the Gospel is the most important part of the Liturgy of the Word. It is done in every Mass and read only by the Priest or the Deacon.

The Gospel is the first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and contains the good news of the life, teachings, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the inspired word from God, written by people who are witnesses to Christ or have been followers of the Apostles.

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Important Dates for Lent—Mark your Calendars

- † **STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday, March 31st, at 6 p.m.**
Soup following.
- † **CHRISM MASS IN BAKER CITY: Thursday, March 30th, starting at 11 a.m.**

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Holy Week

My dear brothers and sisters, as we stand at the threshold of Holy Week, Jesus, our humble and merciful King, goes before us. His way is our way to life eternal; His passion is a remedy for sin. He laid down his life for us that we might share in the glory of the divine life. Carrying our cross and placing all our trust in Him, let us follow Him with joy, faith, and eagerness to enter into the paschal mystery.

—Fr. Joseph

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Schedule for Holy Week and Easter Sunday

- † **Palm Sunday Vigil, Saturday, April 1st, at 5 p.m.**
- † **Palm Sunday, April 2nd, at 9 a.m. & 12 p.m. (Spanish).**
- † **Holy Thursday, April 6th, at 6 p.m., with Washing of the Feet.**
- † **Good Friday, April 7th, Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.; Veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.**
- † **Holy Saturday, April 8th, at 7 p.m.**
- † **Easter Sunday, April 9th, at 9 a.m. & 12 p.m. (Spanish).**

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. On this day, we celebrate the triumphant entry of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, into Jerusalem, riding a donkey. On that day, the people laid palms before Him, a gesture reserved for triumphant leaders. Believers use the day to remember Jesus' entry into the city before He was betrayed, killed, and resurrected. We celebrate this at Mass by distributing blessed palms to the faithful who may keep them for a time for use as devotional objects.

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Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday: On this day, Jesus celebrated the Passover feast (Last Supper) with the disciples. Holy Thursday is the ritual reenactment of the Last Supper—celebrated at every Mass as part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, but specially commemorated on this day. Jesus also established the special priesthood for his disciples—and He humbly washed their feet. After supper, He went to the Mount of Olives and prayed. His arrest on the Holy Thursday night would fulfill His role as the Christian victim of the Passover for all to be saved by His final sacrifice.

Good Friday: On this day, we commemorate the trial, punishment, and crucifixion of Our Lord. On that morning, Jesus was brought before a powerful Jewish cleric who condemned Him for blasphemy. From there, He was presented to Pilate for trial. Although Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, he agreed to have Him crucified to appease the crowd of people and prevent a riot.

Christ was stripped, flogged, and crowned with thorns. He was then forced to carry His Cross to the place of His execution. There, He was nailed to the Cross between two thieves who were likewise crucified. Late that afternoon, seeking to ensure Christ's death, a Roman guard stabbed him in His side with a spear. When Jesus died, an earthquake occurred as well as a great darkness that covered the land. Suddenly, many people knew Jesus was the Son of God. He was taken and laid quickly in a borrowed tomb, in accord with Jewish law, which required the dead be buried by sundown before the Sabbath.

Holy Saturday: On this holy night, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the Resurrection of Christ in the sacraments, and awaiting His return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life. Therefore, the Easter Vigil does not correspond to the usual Saturday evening Mass, and its character is unique in the cycle of the liturgical year.

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Ham Dinner Update

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made the 2023 St. Joseph Ham Dinner an outstanding success. We served over 270 dinners and took in \$3,112. After expenses, we were able to donate \$1,912 to the Church. Once again, our parish and community came together to enjoy each other's company and share this special event. Plans are already in the works for next year's 76th Annual St. Patrick's Day Ham Dinner. If you have any suggestions, please contact **Gary Thompson, Nancy Redfern, Tom Burke, Diane Giovanini, or Apolonio Villagomez.**