

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Chirpy and the Angel with the Lamp" (by Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya)

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was a small bird named Chirpy who had so many dreams in his heart. He tried to get out of his cage many, many times but, whenever he reached the open door of the cage, he would shudder with fear. He was afraid of the future, and he was afraid of letting go of his protective surroundings of the little cage. "This is my beautiful little world, and I am safe here," he thought.

"No, this is not your world, Chirpy." He heard a very feeble murmur somewhere nearby. "Your world is up there in the sky. You are born to be free."

He searched for the author of the voice but could not find anyone around. Once again he tried to get out of the cage. Nobody was there to stop him, but deep down he felt there would be danger on the way. In the past he had experienced so much rejection, so much criticism, and hopelessness. He was hurt many times and, whenever he stepped into the open space, all these memories were haunting him. There he stood, looking out to the future. He looked for someone to liberate him and show him the way.

"What do you want in your life, Chirpy?" someone called out to him. "I want freedom—I want fullness of life," Chirpy murmured. He was surprised at the question, and the answer came from within—from his own heart. "For a new life, you have to die. You have to be purified. You have to die to your insecure feelings, destroy your fears. Just burn the guilt and hurt feelings in the fire that's within you. Thus, you can become a new being, and enjoy the freedom to be yourself!"

Slowly, he stepped out of the cage with much difficulty because his legs were still in shackles, and on his body was a Cactus that had pierced its thorns into his flesh. He tried to pull it out of himself but could not. With this heavy burden, he moved ahead slowly.

Then in a little way, he found a beautiful garden where there were so many beautiful cactuses with many magnificent flowers. His eyes were searching for someone to help him reach the garden and to save him from the Cactus which had become a part of him.

Then he heard a beautiful song and in that song, he heard his name. He could not believe his ears. He was being called by someone. He looked back, and he could not see anyone. And then when he looked up, he could not believe his eyes! He saw an angel with a lamp coming down to show him the way to the cactus garden.

As the angel came near, Chirpy stretched out his hands and touched the lamp. With his other hand, he slowly, lovingly patted the Cactus that he was carrying.

Suddenly he found himself in the cactus garden, and the Cactus he was carrying came out of him without giving him any pain or discomfort. His heart was filled with so much love for this Cactus, which was once a very painful and heavy burden for him. The angel took the Cactus from his hand and placed it on the beautiful cactus that was in the middle of the garden. As soon as it was placed on the garden cactus, there bloomed a flower of different colors. Chirpy then placed the cage and the shackles beside that cactus as a reminder to himself that, once upon a time, there were shackles on his legs and a cage around him.

"You are the master of yourself, Chirpy. You have the power to become whatever you want to become. I am with you, and I'll guide you with this burning lamp," the angel said, looking at Chirpy with assurance. Chirpy felt so much peace and serenity, and his heart was filled with so much joy and happiness.

Then the angel took out a flame from the lamp and touched Chirpy's forehead with it. Suddenly, all of his being was filled with brightness, and his wings were strengthened. The angel gave him a gentle push, saying, "Fly, fly, my friend, for I am with you."

As he was spreading his wings to fly up into the sky, the small Cactus reminded him, "Don't be afraid of me—go ahead. I will be your strength, not your weakness. I will be with you always." Then Chirpy took off into the vast, wide horizon. As he flew high up into the sky, he enjoyed the peace and serenity—the freedom and strength that he was feeling. He looked down and enjoyed the beauty of nature, the vast meadows, and rolling hills. The wind guided him wherever it wanted, and he just let go of himself freely and willingly. Then he heard a beautiful song coming from below, as if it were inviting him. He flew down and down, feeling lighter and lighter.

There he saw his reflection in the water. In that reflection, he saw that the angel with the lamp was flying with him, spreading his wings wide with the light of the lamp over him. The angel took Chirpy's hands and beckoned him to fly to Eternity with him. And so, with much joy in his heart and a wonderful song on his lips, Chirpy flew to Eternity, accompanied by the Angel with the Lamp.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

June 18, 2023 † Father's Day Sunday

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 ♦ Darlene Counts

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 ♦ Jim Friese

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	06/19/2023	8:00 a.m.	Agnetta & Paul Jones (D)	2 Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday	06/20/2023	8:00 a.m.	Margie Denton (D)	2 Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday	06/21/2023	12:00 p.m.	Fr. AJ Fischer (D)	2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	06/22/2023	8:00 a.m.	Richard Smith (D)	2 Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15
Friday	06/23/2023	12:00 p.m.	Julia Geiman (D)	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Mt 6:19-23
Saturday	06/24/2023	5:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33
Sunday	06/25/2023	9:00 a.m.	Dorothy Friese & Jean Kmiecik (D)	Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33
Sunday	06/25/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St Joseph (L)	Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased ♦ [M] = Memorial ♦ [F] = Feast Day

Today's Homily

In today's gospel, Jesus teaches His apostles, whom He was sending out on a mission, that they must be willing to give back some of what they have received. His words to them: are **"You received without payment; give without payment"** (Matthew 10:8). Missionary generosity, the giving of oneself, one's time, services and resources in the service of God's kingdom becomes possible only when we realize that all we are and all we have, including life itself, is a gift from God. As the Apostle Paul says, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Being a Christian is, in fact, a life of conscious receiving and giving back to God. Unfortunately, we often pay much more attention to receiving than giving. As children of God, we receive the grace of faith, we receive the word of God, we receive forgiveness, we receive the sacraments, and we receive new life in the Spirit. But we only complete the circuit of God's grace when we go out and share these same blessings with those who do not as yet have them. If we fail to do this, we become like the Dead Sea—stagnant and dead because it only receives and doesn't give back.

Mark has an interesting verse in his story of the call of the apostles where he says: **"And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message"** (Mark 3:14). More clearly than Matthew, Mark here brings out that there are two sides to the call of Jesus; namely, **(a) to be with Him**, i.e., to learn from Him, to receive His grace and blessing, and **(b) to be sent out to proclaim the message**; i.e., to share with others what we have learned from Jesus—to go out and be a grace and blessing to others in turn.



Mission, evangelism, outreach, witnessing, sharing the faith with others, whatever name we give it, it is an essential part of what it means to be a Christian—not an optional, extra activity for those who feel like it.

When we are confronted with our Christian responsibility in this way, many of us begin to wonder where on earth we are going to get the courage and power to share our faith with others. And they are right—the strength we need comes from nowhere on earth. It comes directly from heaven.

As we read in today's gospel, **"Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness"** (Matthew 10:1).

Jesus does not send us out into the world empty-handed. He knows that in mission, we have to contend with rulers and authorities and with spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, he equips us beforehand with power and authority over every human and spiritual challenge we may encounter in the work of spreading God's kingdom of peace and love.

So, where do we begin, one may ask? Jesus instructed the apostles to start with **"The lost sheep of the house of Israel"** (v. 6); i.e., to start from familiar territory. Later on, He commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19); but for now, they must limit their outreach to within their own people.

Mission—like charity—begins at home. The place for us to begin, therefore, would be with the lapsed and lukewarm members of our own families and our own parishes. But we must find an avenue to give back the faith we have received. That is the only way to remain alive and vibrant in the faith like the fresh and life-giving Sea of Galilee.

Happy Father's Day

June: The Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Pro-Life Meeting

There will be a Pro-Life Meeting on **Tuesday, June 20th, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall, Room #4. For more information, please contact **Garilynn Tocher** at (541) 815-5823.

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St. Thomas Church Rummage Sale

The St. Thomas Altar Society in Redmond is having their Annual Rummage Sale in the Parish Center Gym, located at 1720 NW 19th St., on **Friday, July 7th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and **Saturday, July 8th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** (\$1 bag sale).

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Birthday Party



We will be having a birthday party for **Fr. Joseph** on **Sunday, July 9th, at 1:30 p.m.**

For more information, please contact **Darlene** in the Parish office, (541) 447-6475. We hope everyone can come and celebrate **Fr. Joseph!**

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Prayer List

David Leonard, Steve Forrester, Carl Johnson, Lyn Rodgers, Mike Mulvihill, Dolores Koivisto, Anita Marquez, Ben Guyger, Georgia Fitzgerald, Lloyd Rodgers, Pierre Jones, Sammi Pedersen, Steven Clifton, Ken Dalton, Joan Holland, Jordan Ortega, and Chuck Renwick



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Baby Bottles

A friendly reminder: It's time to turn in your baby bottles to the Parish Office. Thanks to all who have donated this year!

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Housekeeper Position Available



If you are interested in the position of Housekeeper for the Rectory, please call **Darlene** at the Parish Office, (541) 447-6475.

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House Blessings

If you would like to have your house blessed, call the Parish Office to make an appointment for **Fr. Joseph** to come out on either a **Tuesday or Wednesday at 3 p.m.**, or at any time **Fr. Joseph** is available.

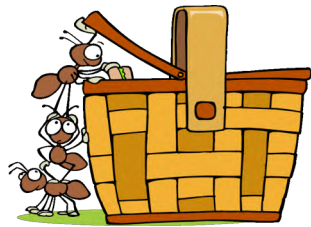
Annual Catechetical Symposium

The 2023 Annual Catechetical Symposium is from **Wednesday, July 21st, to Friday, July 23rd**, presented in English and Spanish. Inviting all parents, catechists, and parish leaders to join **Bishop Cary** and his guests for this unique opportunity to be inspired, connect, learn, and grow. Come and walk with Mary Magdalene and remember your encounters with God's glory in your faith story at the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte. For more information, call (541) 388-4004 or go to the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/symposium.

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2023 Parish Picnic

WELCOME HOME TO ALL CROOK COUNTY CATHOLICS! On **Sunday, August 13th**, St. Joseph Parish will celebrate a bilingual Mass at **10 a.m.**, immediately followed by the traditional picnic on the Parish Hall lawn east of the Church. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and carne asada—barbecued by those fabulous Knights of Columbus chefs, along with traditional picnic fare provided by our St. Joseph parishioners. Games and outdoor activities for children of all ages will be set up on the lawn adjacent to the Parish Hall. This year we extend a special welcome to all Crook County Catholics from Prineville, Juniper Heights, Powell Butte, and all surrounding areas. Mark your calendars and join us for Mass followed by good food and fun!



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2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Pledge

As of **June 13th**, **37 families** have pledged **\$17,505** toward our parish goal of **48 families** pledging **\$21,826**.

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Stress in Your Marriage

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate the conflicts with their spouse. Retrouvaille is NOT just for couples whose marriage is on the verge of divorce or considered irrevocably broken; it is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.



Visit helpourmarriage.org for testimonials, confidential information, or to register for the next program to be held on **Friday, August 25th, to Sunday, August 27th**, in Canby, or you can send an email to: portland@retrovaille.com or call: (503) 225-9191.