

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### "A Chinese Legend" (author unknown)

ONCE UPON A TIME, in the heart of the Eastern Kingdom, lay a beautiful Garden. And there in the cool of the day, the Master of the Garden went to walk. Of all the denizens of the Garden, the most beautiful and the most beloved was a gracious and noble Bamboo tree. Year after year, Bamboo grew yet more noble and gracious, conscious of his Master's love and watchful delight, but modest and gentle withal. And often when Wind came to revel in the garden, Bamboo would cast aside his grave stateliness to dance and play—merrily tossing, swaying, leaping, and bowing in joyous abandon—doing the Great Dance of the Garden that most delighted the Master's heart.

Then one day, the Master himself drew near to contemplate Bamboo with eyes of curious expectancy. And Bamboo, in a passion of adoration, bowed his great head to the ground in loving greeting. The Master spoke: "Bamboo, I would use thee." Bamboo flung his head to the sky in utter delight. The day had come—the day for which he was made, the day for which he had been growing hour by hour, this day in which he would find his completion and his destiny. His voice was low: "Master, I am ready. Use me as thou wilt."

"Bamboo," the Master's voice was grave, "I would fain take thee and cut thee down."

A trembling of great horror shook Bamboo. "Cut me down? Me . . . whom thou, Master, hast made the most beautiful in all thy Garden? Cut me down? Ah, not that! Use me for thy joy, O Master, but cut me not down!"

"Beloved Bamboo," the Master's voice grew even graver still. "If I cut thee not down, I cannot use thee."

The Garden grew still. Wind held its breath. Bamboo slowly bent his proud and glorious head. There came a whisper. "Master, if thou cannot use me but thou cut me down, then do thy will."

"Bamboo, my beloved Bamboo, I would cut thy leaves and branches."

"Master, Master, spare me! Cut me down and lay me in the dust, but wouldst thou take from me my leaves and branches also?"

"Bamboo! If I cut them not away, I cannot use thee." The Sun hid his face. A listening Butterfly glided fearfully away.

Bamboo shivered in terrible expectancy, then whispering low, "MASTER, CUT AWAY!"

"Bamboo, Bamboo, I would cleave thee in twain, and cut out thine heart, for if I cut not so, I cannot use thee."

Then the noble Bamboo bowed down low and said, "MASTER, MASTER! THEN CUT AND CLEAVE!"

So did the Master of the Garden take Bamboo and cut him down, and hack off his branches, and strip off his leaves, and cleave him in twain, and cut out his heart.

And lifting him gently, he carried him to where there was a spring of fresh, sparkling water in the midst of his dry fields.

Then putting one end of the broken bamboo in the spring and the other end into the water channel in his field, the Master laid down gently his beloved Bamboo.

And the spring sang welcome, and the clear sparkling waters raced joyously down the channel of Bamboo's torn body into the waiting fields.

Then rice was planted, and the days went by, and the shoots grew, and harvest came.

On that day was Bamboo, once so glorious in his stately beauty, yet more glorious in his brokenness and humility. For in his beauty, he was life abundant; but, in his brokenness, he became a channel of abundant life to his Master's world.

—*Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

### Please Pray for Those on Our 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, Joan Holland, Jordan Ortega, Chuck Renwick, John Huthmacher, and Ed McNamara



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
July 23, 2023 † 16th 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 ♦ Very 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](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 ♦ 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	07/24/2023	8:00 a.m.	Pete Waters (D)	Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday	07/25/2023	8:00 a.m.	Pimental Family (L)	2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28
Wednesday	07/26/2023	12:00 p.m.	Robert Andrew (D)	Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday	07/27/2023	8:00 a.m.	John Kutcher (D)	Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Matthew 13:10-17
Friday	07/28/2023	12:00 p.m.	Robert Fowls (D)	Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23
Saturday	07/29/2023	5:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	1 Kingdoms 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52
Sunday	07/30/2023	9:00 a.m.	Theresa Davis (L)	1 Kingdoms 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52
Sunday	07/30/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Joseph (L)	1 Kingdoms 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

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

## Today's Homily

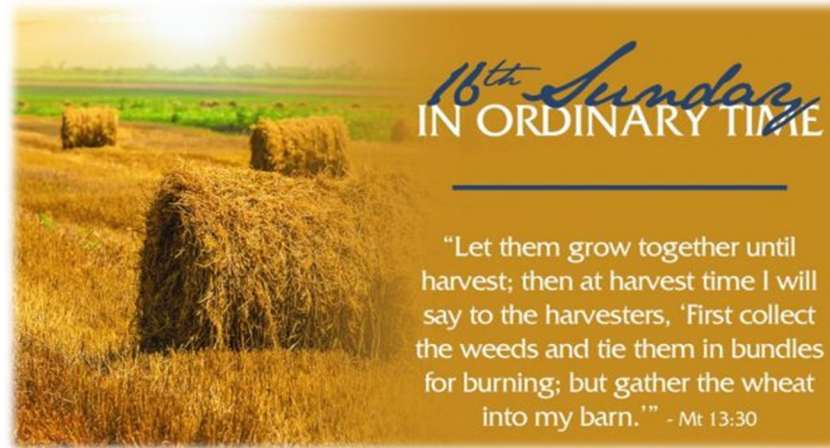
**T**oday's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God—Who is hopeful that the so-called “weeds” among us will be converted. They warn us that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church, or society, or the family based on unwarranted and hasty judgment.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom shows us a merciful and patient God, rather than the disciplining and punishing God presented in the book of Genesis. The second reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Romans, reminds us that the Spirit of God constantly empowers us in our prayers and in our weakness. So, we should be patient with ourselves and with others.

Finally, in the Gospel *parable of the wheat and the weeds*, Jesus presents a wise and patient God—Who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world until the harvest, and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends: “Let the wheat and the weeds [darnel] grow together till the harvest time.” In other words, God is “delaying” the end of the world for repentant sinners, giving them more time, and offering them the graces of strength and good will so that they may get reconciled with Him. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who seem to us to fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian.

**We need to practice patience.** First, we need to be patient with ourselves. We may not get everything done perfectly this week, but so what? Then we must be patient with others—those who annoy us by the way they drive their cars, those whose opinions differ from ours, those who make too much noise and disturb us, and those who make our spiritual progress more difficult by their bad example and counter-witnessing. Let's practice patience, remembering that, in the end, it is God who controls. Let us patiently and lovingly treat the “weeds” in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to Heaven, especially by our good example and our fervent prayer for their conversion.

**We need allow God to judge us and others as “weeds” or wheat:** This parable was told so that we might



not go around judging others as “weeds” or wheat. Judgment is the function of God the Father and His angels. Instead, the parable asks us to take a close look at our own life with the understanding that, with God's grace, one can judge one's own heart, then repent and bear good fruit. It is a time to look at our own sins

and at the way we conduct our own life, then to make a decision about our own repentance so that, with God's grace, we can turn around and bear fruit for Jesus. Our Gospel lesson asks us whether we are secure in our Faith life. Are we secure in the knowledge that one day we will be judged as wheat or “weed”? How often have we been a “weed” in the garden of the Lord? Would we, knowing what we know now, like to have been plucked up at those times? God is so merciful that He allows evil to exist in order that what is good may grow. He allows evil to exist because He can turn it into good. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of Faith. In God's field we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace as we do His will, and to share His Word and love with others.

**We need to grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the “weeds” for Jesus to take care of.** We live in a violent and impassioned culture. Christians often appear self-righteous, suggesting that those who disagree with them are the “weeds” in the garden of life. Some they judge as “too radical” and others as too “old-fashioned” and “traditional.” Some they judge as embracing doctrinal errors—others as not having any doctrine at all. Some they condemn for not caring for the poor—others for caring for them too much.

We often forget that appearances can be deceptive. The old saying, “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, then it's a duck,” may be true in the secular realm, but not in the Kingdom of God. If one talks like a Christian, sings like a Christian, etc., it doesn't necessarily mean he or she is a real Christian. While we do our best to exercise right judgment as to what is or isn't correct (Jn 13:35; I Jn 2:5, 3:10), the final determination will be made by God. Evil will coexist with good until the second coming of Jesus. The Good News is that growth and maturity are probably the most effective forms of “weed control.”

In the end, it's enough to know that we are “seeds” who have been planted by the “Son of Man,” and that we're part of a healthy harvest that will someday be reaped by the angels of God.

## July: The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

### Diocese of Baker Family Camp

Register NOW for Family Camp starting on **Thursday, August 3rd, to Saturday, August 6th.** We have Catholic families coming together, having fun, and celebrating what it means to be families fully alive in Christ! There will be family outing adventures, learning, prayer, games, crafts, men's and women's sessions, campfires, and more at the Cascade View Center in Powell Butte!

Registration is still open through the Diocese website at: [DioceseofBaker.org](http://DioceseofBaker.org).

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### Crook County Fair Volunteers Needed!



The Crook County Fair is just right around the corner! **It starts Thursday, August 9th, and goes through Saturday, August 12th, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

The St. Joseph's Respect Life Committee will be hosting a Pro-Life booth this year, and we are in need of many volunteers to be in the booth. We will have teams of two to serve for two hours each.

Please sign up by calling **Gari Lynn** at (541) 815-5823. Thank you.

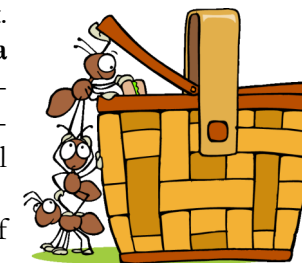
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### 2023 Parish Picnic

**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.

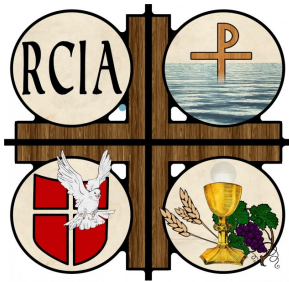
Those fabulous Knights of Columbus chefs will be barbecuing hamburgers, hot dogs and *carne asada*—along with traditional picnic fare—provided by our St. Joseph parishioners. Games and outdoor activities for children of all ages will be set up on the lawn adjacent to the Parish Hall.

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!



### RCIA

- ⇒ Do you know anyone who would like to become a Catholic?
- ⇒ Do you know a Catholic who needs Confirmation?
- ⇒ Would you like to know more about the Catholic religion?



RCIA classes will begin on **Tuesday, September 12th—time still to be determined.** Please come by the Parish Office for a registration form, or contact **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814.

You can also email **Jim** at: [kkpeaches2@msn.com](mailto:kkpeaches2@msn.com) to register or for more information.

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### Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary— A Holy Day of Obligation

We honor and show our gratitude and praise to God for the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Feast of her Assumption—body and soul—into heaven, **on Tuesday, August 15th. Mass times are at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

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### ACTS Study Group

We have resumed the ACTS Study Group on **Wednesdays at 1:30** in the Parish hall. We are currently watching “The Chosen,” season 3. Everyone is welcome to join us.

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### Thinking About Separation or Divorce?

Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/> for testimonials, confidential information, or to register for the weekend of **August 25th–27th** in Canby, Oregon.

Or send an email to: [portland@retrouvaille.org](mailto:portland@retrouvaille.org) or call (503) 225-9191.