

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### "A Day in God's Court" (author unknown)

**A**fter living a "decent" life, my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in a waiting room of what I thought to be a courthouse. The doors finally opened, and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around, I saw the "prosecutor"—he was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil-looking guy I had ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left, and there sat my "lawyer," a kind and gentle-looking man whose appearance seemed very familiar to me.

Then the corner door flew open, and there appeared the judge in full, flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as he moved across the room, and I couldn't take my eyes off him. He took his seat behind the bench and said, "Let us begin."

The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan, and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell." He proceeded to tell of the lies that I told, things that I had stolen, and when I had cheated others in the past. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life. The more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own lawyer, as the prosecutor told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at this Satan guy for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently, not offering any form of defense at all. I knew I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life, too. Couldn't that at least "equal out" part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, "This man belongs in hell! He is guilty of all that I have charged, and there is not a person who can prove otherwise. Justice will finally be served this day."

When it was his turn, my lawyer first asked if he might approach the bench. The judge allowed this—over the

strong objection of Satan—and beckoned him to come forward. As he got up and started walking, I was able to see him now in his full splendor and majesty. I realized why he seemed so familiar. This was Jesus representing me—my Lord and Savior! He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge, "Hi, Dad." Then He turned to address the court: "Satan was correct in saying that this man has sinned. I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wages of sin should be death, and this man deserves to be punished."

Then Jesus took a very deep breath, turned to His Father, and with His arms outstretched, He proclaimed to the court: "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life, and he has accepted me as his Savior, so he is mine." My Lord continued, "His name is written in the Book of Life, and no one can snatch him away from me. Satan still does not yet understand that this man is not to be given justice—but, rather, mercy." As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, turned to look at His Father, and went on, "There is nothing else that needs to be done—I've done it all."

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed down the gavel as He bellowed the following words: "This man is free—the penalty for him has already been paid in full. **CASE DISMISSED!**"

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, exclaiming: "I won't give up! I'll win the next one!"

I asked Jesus, as He gave me my instructions for where to go next, "Have you ever lost a case?" Jesus lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone who has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you did: **PAID IN FULL.**" Oh, what a blessing! There is no greater commandment than to love your neighbor as yourself!

—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 30, 2023 † 17th 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	07/31/2023	8:00 a.m.	James Friese & Frank Kmiecik (D)	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday	08/01/2023	8:00 a.m.	Stuart MacDonald (D)	Ex 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday	08/02/2023	12:00 p.m.	Sandy Serrano (D)	Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday	08/03/2023	8:00 a.m.	John MacDonald (L)	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
Friday	08/04/2023	12:00 p.m.	Meghan Nash (L)	Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday	08/05/2023	5:00 p.m.	Curtis S Morris, Sr. (D)	Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pet 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Sunday	08/06/2023	9:00 a.m.	Tom MacDonald (L)	Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pet 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Sunday	08/06/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Joseph (L)	Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pet 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

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

## Today's Homily

TODAY'S READINGS teach us that Faith in Jesus as our God and Savior and sacrificing everything in life to do the will of God are equivalent to discovering—and possessing the most valuable treasure—

or the pearl of great price. In other words, keeping a personal relationship with Jesus, remaining in a state of grace, and sharing His view of life are the most beautiful and the most precious things in the world.

**The first reading** tells us how the young King Solomon opted for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing His will. That is why he requested of God the gift of prudence, “An understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong,” so that he might govern God’s people properly. The Lord God was pleased with Solomon’s request and granted him “a wise and discerning heart,” which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom.

**In the second reading**, Paul teaches that, “All things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” This is true of all who accept a close relationship with God as their greatest treasure.

**In the Gospel**, using three mini parables and one concluding simile, Jesus teaches us that God’s Kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing that treasure demands from us a total commitment if we are to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God’s reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God’s Kingdom will be rewarded.

Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, status, or pleasure. Often, we are locked into regrets over the past, or focused too much on the future. As a result, the enriching present passes us by, and the treasure is never discov-

**"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field..."**  
~Matthew 13:44a



ered. Thus, the really valuable pearl of sharing in God’s life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to

do the will of God by following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world’s joys and pleasures within the framework of God’s Commandments. Right now, it is for us to use the time given to us to go in search of the pearl of great price and to help others in their search. We are challenged to search and discern where the Lord is calling us so that we may know what path to take.

Let us remember that whenever we fight against discrimination, whenever we trust completely in God, whenever our selflessness conquers selfishness, whenever our love overcomes sin and our Faith overcomes suffering, whenever we render humble service to others, we are doing the will of God as it is done in Heaven. Hence, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. The pearl of great price in this life is also found in our human relationships: a happy family, good friends, and people who love and accept us, even if neither we nor they are perfect. We must give all we have to possess this great pearl because, through selfishness and self-worship, we can destroy entirely the bond of love joining us to God and each other, a bond that otherwise would flourish, surviving in spite of sickness, disease, or geographical distance, and growing stronger when death divides us.

Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world’s joys and pleasures within the framework of God’s Commandments. When we do so, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth.

## August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Executive Committee Meeting

There is an Executive Committee meeting on **Wednesday, August 2nd, at 3 p.m.** in the parish hall.

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### Crook County Fair Volunteers Needed!



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

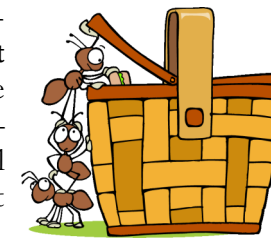
The St. Joseph’s Respect Life Committee will be hosting a Pro-Life booth this year, and we are in need of many volunteers to be in the booth. We will have teams of two to serve for two hours each.

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

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### 2023 Parish Potluck 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, supplied by those fabulous Knights of Columbus chefs. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite picnic side dish or desert. 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 for August 13th**, and join us for Mass followed by good food and fun

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### Holy Day of Obligation

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is **Tuesday, August 15th**. Mass will be held at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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### Ride Share Volunteers

If you are interested in giving someone who lives here on Peters Road a ride to the **12 p.m. Mass on Sundays**, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

—Thank you!

### Acolyte Volunteers

St. Joseph Parish is requesting applications from parishioners who wish to become Acolytes. Applications must be from male parish members who are in good standing.

This is a commitment requiring participation in several workshops or private/online classes. The primary purpose of an Acolyte is to aid the Priest in the celebration of the Mass.

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### Stress in Your Marriage?



Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even how to 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](http://helpourmarriage.org) for testimonials, confidential information or to register for the **August 25th-27th** weekend in Canby, OR or send an email to: [portland@retrouvaille.com](mailto:portland@retrouvaille.com) or you may call (503) 225-9191.

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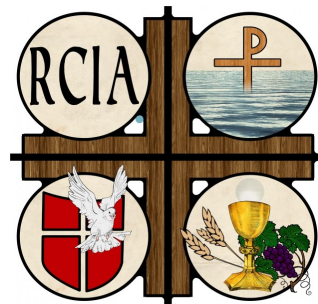
### ACTS Study Group

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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### 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.