

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“The Struggles of Our Life” by Dan Western

ONCE UPON A TIME, a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed as though just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil—without saying a word to his daughter.

The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After 20 minutes, he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her, he asked, “Daughter, what do you see?” “Potatoes, eggs and coffee,” she hastily replied.

“Look closer” he then said, “and touch the potatoes.” She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it.

After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

“Father, what does this mean?” she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs, and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity—the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting; but in the boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with its thin outer shell protecting the liquid interior—until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

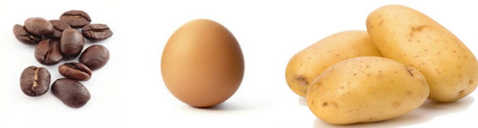
“Which one are you?” he asked his daughter.



When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?”

Moral of the story: In life, things happen around us, and things happen to us. But the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it, and what you make out of it. Life is all about leaning, adopting, and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



Would you rather be the potato, the egg, or the coffee bean?

Diocese of Baker Family Camp: August 3–6

Catholic families coming together, having fun, and celebrating what it means to be families fully alive in Christ! Family outing adventures, prayer, learning, games, crafts, men's & women's sessions, campfire, and s'more!

Registration is open through the Diocese website at: DioceseofBaker.org

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, Ken Dalton, Joan Holland, Jordan Ortega, Chuck Renwick, and John Huthmacher



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
July 9, 2023 † 14th 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

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	07/10/2023	8:00 a.m.	Patricia Carroll (D)	Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday	07/11/2023	8:00 a.m.	Lucretia Stehly (L)	Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday	07/12/2023	12:00 p.m.	Leanne Caldwell (L)	Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday	07/13/2023	8:00 a.m.	Judy Stehly (D)	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15
Friday	07/14/2023	12:00 p.m.	Mary Graham (D)	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday	07/15/2023	5:00 p.m.	Charles Popish (D)	Isa 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Sunday	07/16/2023	9:00 a.m.	Frank J Vetter (D)	Isa 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Sunday	07/17/2023	12:00 p.m.	Gilberto Lopez (D)	Isa 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

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

Today's Homily

**"Take my yoke upon you
and learn from me, for I am
meek and humble of heart."**

Matthew 11:25-30
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

DURING THE U.S. Independence Day celebrations on July 4th, most Americans probably heard all, or part, of the Emma Lazarus poem inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. . . . Send

these, the homeless tempest-tossed to me." *Today's readings, especially the Gospel, give the same message in a more powerful way: "Take my yoke . . . and you will find rest" (Matthew 11:29).*

In the first reading, the prophet Zechariah consoles the Jews living in Palestine under Greek rule, promising them a "meek" Messianic King of peace riding on a donkey, who will give them rest and liberty.

In the second reading, Paul tells the first-century Christian community in Rome about two yokes; namely, the "flesh" and the "Spirit," and he challenges them to reject the heavy and fatal yoke of the flesh and accept the light yoke of the Spirit of Jesus. Christian spirituality, according to Paul, proceeds from the initiative of the Holy Spirit and means living in the realm of the "Spirit" as opposed to the "flesh."

In the Gospel, Jesus offers rest to those "who labor and are burdened" if they will accept His "easy yoke and light burden." By declaring that His "yoke is light," Jesus means that whatever God sends us is made to fit our needs and our abilities exactly. The second part of Jesus' claim is: "My burden is light." Jesus does not mean that the burden is easy to carry, but that it is laid on us in love, that it is meant to be carried in love, and that love makes even the heaviest burden light.

In Palestine, ox-yokes were made of wood and were made to fit the ox comfortably. The yoke of Christ can be seen as the sum of our Christian responsibilities and duties. To take the yoke of Christ is to enter into relationship with Christ as His loving servants and subjects and to conduct ourselves accordingly. The yoke of Christ is not just a yoke *from* Christ but also a yoke *with* Him.

A yoke is fashioned for a pair—for a team working together. So, we are not yoked alone to pull the plow by our own unaided power; we are yoked together with Christ to work with Him using His strength. By saying that His "yoke is easy" (11:30), Jesus means that what-

ever God sends us is made to fit our needs and our abilities exactly.

Accept the light burden of Jesus' teaching.

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burden is meant to be carried in love, and love makes even the heaviest burden light.

When we remember the love of God—when we know that our burden is to love the God Who loves us—then the burden becomes easy. By following Jesus, a man will find peace, rest, and refreshment.

We are burdened by many other things: business, concerns about jobs, marriage, money, health, children, security, old age and a thousand other things. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (11:28). Jesus is asking us today to cast away our burdens and take on His yoke. This is because, unlike the burdens we bear, His yoke is easy and His burden light. The yoke of Jesus is the love of God. By telling us: "Take my yoke . . . and you will find rest" (11:29), Christ is asking us to do things the Christian way. When we center in God, when we follow God's commandments, we have no heavy burdens.

We need to unload our burdens on the Lord This "unloading" is the main purpose of our personal and family prayers and one of the functions of Divine Worship in the Church. During our daily prayers in the evening, we ask God's forgiveness for the sins and failures of the day and receive the consoling assurance that we are reconciled with God and our fellow human beings. During the Holy Mass in our Parish Church, we place our stress-filled lives on the altar and allow Jesus to cool down the overheated radiators of our hectic lives. We also unload the burdens of our sins and worries on the altar and offer them and ourselves to God during the Holy Mass.

We are called, not only to find peace, refreshment, and rest for ourselves, but also to live the kind of life through which others, too, may find God's peace, God's refreshing grace, and the joy of placing their lives in God's hands.

July: The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

2023 Christmas Bazaar

It's time to put on our "thinking caps" for the St. Joseph Annual Christmas Bazaar that will be held on **Saturday, November 11th!**

There will be an Organizational Meeting on **Tuesday, July 11th, at 10 a.m.**, in the Parish Hall. Please come and share ideas. We are looking forward to another successful year. Questions? Please call **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872.

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ACTS Study Group

We are resuming the ACTS study group on **Wednesday, July 12th, at 1:30 p.m.** We are starting "The Chosen," Season 3. Everyone is welcome to join us..

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Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed at **Noon on Thursday July 13th.**

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Holy Hour

The Holy Hour will be on **Sunday, July 16th, at 5 p.m.**

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Eucharistic Ministers



**EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTERS**

There will be a Training/Refresher Course on **Wednesday, July 19th, at 1:15 p.m.** for all new and current Eucharistic Ministers.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in joining this ministry, please call **Cathy Baxter** at (541) 233-3888.

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Annual Catechetical Symposium

The 2023 Annual Catechetical Symposium is from **Wednesday, July 21st, to Friday, July 23rd**, presented in English and Spanish.

All parents, catechists, and parish leaders are invited 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, or to sign up, please visit the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/symposium.

2023 Parish Picnic

"Welcome Home" to all Crook County Catholics! **On Sunday, August 13th**, St. Joseph Parish will celebrate a **bi-lingual 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!

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2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Pledge

This year, the diocesan-wide participation goal is 21% and the supporting financial target is \$675,000. For our Parish the participation goal is **48 families** with a supporting target of **\$21,826**. As of **July 4th**, **43** parish families have pledged **\$18,680** toward our goal of **48 families** pledging **\$21,826**. For more information, visit <https://dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal>.

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Retrouvaille

This is a program for any couple who would like to re-discover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit helpourmarriage.org for testimonials, confidential information and/or to register for **August 25–27, 2023** in Canby, OR, email portland@retrovaille.com or call (503) 225-9191.

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U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Slavery persists throughout the world in various forms in developed and developing countries. Human trafficking (slavery) in the U.S. is an active criminal business operative throughout the country. Work with us to stop it. Please go to: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org> or write to us at: U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114.

