

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Request for Transfer" (author unknown)

To: Commander and Chief,
Spiritual Armed Forces, Jesus Christ

Dear Lord:

I am writing this to You to request a transfer to a desk job. I herewith present my reasons: I began my career as a private, but because of the intensity of the battle You have quickly moved me up in the ranks. You have made me an officer and given me a tremendous amount of responsibility. There are many soldiers and recruits under my charge. I am constantly being called upon to dispense wisdom, make judgments, and find solutions to complex problems. You have placed me in a position to function as an officer when, in my heart, I know I have only the skills of a private.

I realize that You have promised to supply all I that would need for the battle. But Sir, I must present to You a realistic picture of my equipment. My uniform, once so crisp and starched, is now stained with the tears and blood of those I have tried to assist. The soles of my boots are cracked and worn from the miles I have walked trying to enlist and encourage the instructed troops. My weapons are marred, tarnished, and chipped from constant battle against the enemy. Even the Book of Regulations I was issued has been torn and tattered from endless use. The words are now smeared.

You have promised You would be with me throughout, but when the noise of the battle is so loud and the confusion is so great, I can neither see nor hear You. I feel so alone. I'm tired. I'm discouraged. I have Battle Fatigue. I would never ask You for a discharge. I love being in Your service. But I humbly request a demotion and transfer. I'll file papers or clean latrines. Just get me out of the battle—please, Sir!

Your Faithful, but Tired, Warrior

TO: Faithful, but Tired, Soldier,
Spiritual Armed Forces

LOCATION: The Battlefield

SUBJECT: Transfer

Dear Soldier:

Your request for transfer has been denied. I herewith present My reasons: You are needed in this battle. I have selected you, and I will keep My Word to supply your needs. You do not need a demotion or transfer. (You'd never cut it on latrine duty!) You need a period of "R&R"—Renewal and Rekindling. I am setting aside a place on the battlefield that is insulated from all sound and fully protected from the enemy. I will meet you there, and I will give you rest. I will remove your old equipment and "make all things new." You have been wounded in the battle, My soldier. Your wounds are not visible, but you have received grave internal injuries.

You need to be healed. I will heal you. You have been weakened in the battle. You need to be strengthened. I will strengthen you and be your strength. I will instill in you confidence and ability. My Words will rekindle within you renewed love, zeal, and enthusiasm.

Report to Me tattered and empty. I will refill you.

Compassionately,
Your Commander-in-Chief,
Jesus Christ

Request
DENIED

—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 ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Duncan Osgood



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
August 20, 2023 † 20th 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. – 4:30 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

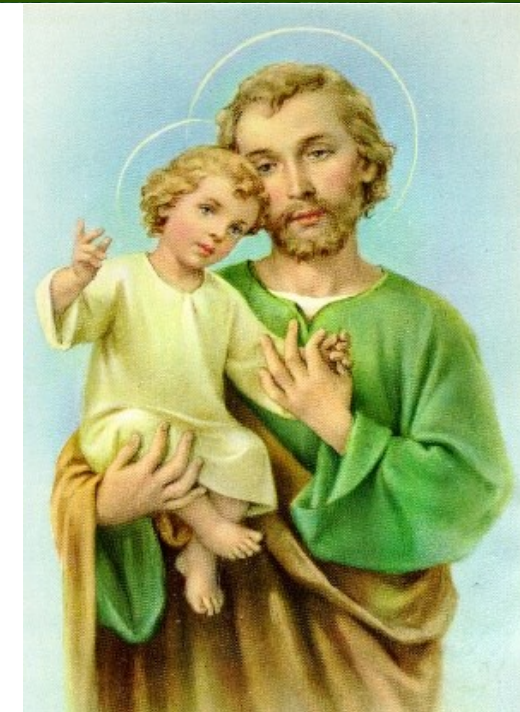
Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Joseph Parish / Instagram: st_josephparish

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 👈

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| Monday | 08/21/2023 | 8:00 a.m. | Donald L Clark (D) | Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 |
| Tuesday | 08/22/2023 | No Daily Mass | — | Judges 6:11-24; Matthew 19:23-30 |
| Wednesday | 08/23/2023 | No Daily Mass | — | Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16 |
| Thursday | 08/24/2023 | No Daily Mass. | — | Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 |
| Friday | 08/25/2023 | No Daily Mass | — | Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40 |
| Saturday | 08/26/2023 | 5:00 p.m. | Gordon Olsen (D) | Isiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 |
| Sunday | 08/27/2023 | 9:00 a.m. | Robert Kovisto (D) | Isiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20 |
| Sunday | 08/27/2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Parishioners of St. Joseph (L) | Isiah 22:19-23; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20 |

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

A story is told that one day a certain curious person in heaven asked St. Peter: "How many Hindus are in Heaven?" St. Peter replied: "No Hindus." Then he asked: "How many Muslims?" "Not even one," replied St. Peter. The man was surprised. He said: "Oh! Then, there are only Christians in Heaven?" "No there are no Christians in Heaven," replied St. Peter. "How many Catholics?" asked the man. St. Peter replied: "No Catholics either." Then St. Peter continued, "Heaven is not meant for a particular group of people. Here there is no distinction between Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, or Christians because all are welcome in heaven, for here they are ALL children of God."

All three readings today speak of the expansive and universal nature of the "Kingdom of God," in contrast with the theory that salvation was to be offered first to the Jews and then, through them *alone*, to the rest of the world. Although God set the Hebrew people apart as His chosen race, He included all nations in His plan for salvation and blessed all the families of the earth in Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).

By declaring through the prophet Isaiah **in the first reading**, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples," God reveals the truth that in His eyes, there is no distinction among human beings on the basis of race, caste, or color. The long-expected Messianic kingdom was intended not only for the Jews but for all nations as well.

In the second reading, Paul explains that, although the Jews were the chosen people, many of them rejected Jesus as the promised Messiah and, consequently, God turned to the Gentiles who received mercy through their Faith in Jesus.

In the Gospel story, Jesus demonstrates that salvation was meant for the Gentiles as well as for the



Jews by healing the daughter of a Gentile woman as a reward for her strong Faith. Thus, Jesus shows us that God's mercy and love are available to all who call out to Him in Faith.

We need to persist in prayer with trustful confidence. Although the essential parts of prayer are adoration and thanksgiving, the prayer of petition, like the prayer of contrition, plays a big part in our daily lives. Christ himself has told us to ask Him for these needs: "Ask and you shall receive."

Asking with fervor and perseverance proves that we have the "great Faith" we

need to receive what Christ wants to grant us in response to our requests. But we must also realize, and remember, that we do not always get exactly what we ask for. Rather, God gives us what He knows we really need, what He wants us to have, and what is really best for us. As Christians, we also know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. But if the prayer is sincere and persevering, we will always get an answer—one which is better usually than what we asked for.

We need to pull down our walls of separation and share in the universality of God's love. Very often we set up walls that separate us from God and from one another. Today's Gospel reminds us that God's love and mercy are extended to all who call on Him in Faith and trust—no matter who they are. In other words, God's care extends beyond the bounds of race and nation to the hearts of all who live, and God's House should become a House of Prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray and work sincerely so that the walls with which our pride, intolerance, fear, and prejudice have raised in us may crumble.

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Fr. Joseph on Vacation

Fr. Joseph will be on vacation beginning on **Tuesday, August 22nd**. He will return by **Friday, September 29th** in time for the 12 p.m. Daily Mass. Please keep him in your prayers for a safe journey.

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Daily Mass

There will be NO daily Mass beginning **Tuesday, August 22nd**. It will resume on **Friday, September 29th**.

Fr. Joe Reeves will be here for Confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., for Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m., and Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. (English) and 12 p.m. (Spanish).

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Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. This is the last chance to register for the weekend of **August 25th–27th**, in Canby, OR. **Call (503) 225-9191 NOW!**

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Religious Education Resumes in the Fall



Please register your children in the Parish Hall, Room #4, **September 5th to the 8th, from 3 to 6 p.m.** You can also set up an appointment with **Mrs. Dalton** if these dates do not work for you. Call (541) 410-3720. Do not register in the office! Cash or check is accepted—no credit cards please. The fee is \$40 per child.

—*Barbara Dalton, DRE*

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RCIA

† Do you know of 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**. Come by the Parish Office for a registration form, or contact **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814.

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.



Get Involved

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"The Mystery of Faith"

2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Pledge

This year, the diocesan-wide Appeal 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.

We have completed the third month of the 2023 Bishops Annual Appeal. As of **August 8th, 48 families** have participated. Thanks to these families, we are at **90%** of our financial target. Every gift is important—no matter the size. If you can't make a gift, then write "AMEN" on your Donor Card which will count as your family's participation toward our parish goal.

For more information, visit the Diocesan Website at: <https://dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal>.

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Facebook and Instagram



St. Joseph Parish Facebook: [St. Joseph Parish](#)



St. Joseph Instagram: [st._josephparish](#)

Follow along and keep up to date with our Parish!

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Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to take over cleaning the brass candlesticks in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

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Receipts

If you have any receipts from Erickson's and Wagner's, you can turn them in, and we will get a rebate. There is a box located in the Narthex.

—*Thank you., Darlene*