

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Tapestry of Life" (author unknown)

As I faced my Maker at the last Judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But, as my Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare, and empty, like binding air. Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My Angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness and death, and false

accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been.

I stood up and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide.

I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image—it was the face of Jesus Christ!

Then our Lord stood before me. And with warmth and love in His eyes, He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

—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 27, 2023 † 21st 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 👈

Monday	08/28/2023	No Daily Mass	—	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday	08/29/2023	No Daily Mass	—	1 Thes 2:1-8; Mark 6:17-29
Wednesday	08/30/2023	No Daily Mass	—	1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	08/31/2023	No Daily Mass	—	1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
Friday	09/01/2023	No Daily Mass	—	1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	09/02/2023	5:00 p.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Sunday	09/03/2023	9:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher (D)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Sunday	09/03/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Joseph (L)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THREE CLERGIES—a Lutheran, a Catholic, and an Episcopalian—ended up at the Pearly Gates one day. It was St. Peter's day off, so Jesus was administering the entrance exam.

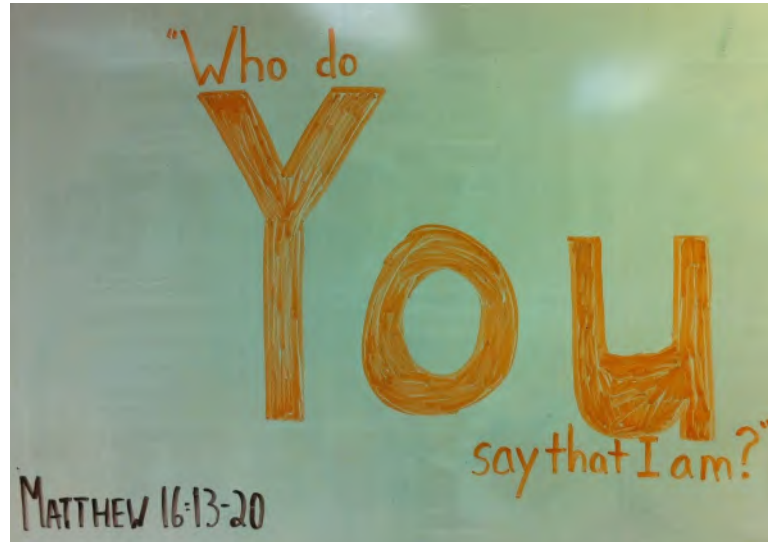
"The question is simple," He said. "Who do you say that I am?" The Lutheran stepped forward and began, "The Bible says . . ." but Jesus interrupted and said, "I know what the Bible says; who do *you* say that I am?" The Lutheran said, "I don't know," and fell through a trapdoor to that other place.

The Catholic stepped forward and began, "The Pope says . . ." But Jesus interrupted him. He said, "I know what the Pope says. Who do *you* say that I am?" "I'm not sure," he said. He, too, promptly fell through the trapdoor to that other place.

Jesus turned to the Episcopalian and asked, "Who do you say that I am?" The Episcopalian replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!" Then, just as Jesus smiled and gestured for the Pearly Gates to be opened, the Episcopalian continued, "but on the other hand . . ."

Who do people say that the Son of Man is? This is the question that Jesus asks of His disciples. They had different answers, like some say John the Baptist or Jeremiah, or a prophet. Jesus takes the question further: But who do *you* say that I am? It is Simon Peter who speaks up. He speaks with confidence. He does not begin by saying, "Well, I think" or "I suspect" or "in my opinion . . ." Rather, he asserts, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus, in turn, approves Peter's words and gives him teaching and ruling authority in His Church. Thus, Jesus establishes a "Magisterium" in His Church to serve the spiritual and physical needs of the Church members. By Jesus' statement, *I will give you the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven*, He gives Peter and his successors the power to bind and to loose



(make laws; exercise authority) in the Church, and the assurance that their decisions will be ratified in Heaven.

The question for the disciples is a question for all of us: Who do *we* say that Jesus is?

With God's grace, we will acknowledge Him. With God's help, we will recog-

nize Jesus. We will take time each day to say hello to Him. With God's grace we will be confident in our recognition. We will not say, "Well I think, or in my opinion." Rather, with God's grace, we will say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And in so saying, we will trust Him. And though our own, simple faith, God will be able to do great things.

Then Jesus will become a living experience for us—as our God protecting us and providing for us in our life's journey, loving us, forgiving us, helping us, and transforming our lives and outlook. Our personal experience of Jesus will also lead us to praise and thank God in all the events of our lives—both good, pleasant, *and* painful—realizing that God's loving hands are behind everything.

We need to accept and experience Jesus as our Lord and personal Savior: This means that we are accepting Jesus as our Good Shepherd, our Divine Savior, and our Redeemer.

Next, we need to surrender our lives to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. That surrender requires that we freely give all areas of our lives to Jesus and radiate to all around us Jesus' sacrificial *agape* love, unconditional forgiveness, overflowing mercy, and committed service. The joy, the love, and the peace that we find in Jesus need to be reflected in the way we live our whole lives.

We also surrender our lives to Jesus by rendering humble, loving service to others with the strong conviction that Jesus is present in every person.

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Fr. Joseph on Vacation

Fr. Joseph will be on vacation until **Friday, September 29th**—in time to celebrate 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 until Fr. Joseph returns on **Friday, September 29th**, so daily Mass will resume on **Friday, September 27th**.

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 for Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. (English) and 12 p.m. (Spanish).

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Religious Education Resumes in the Fall



Please come register your children in the Parish Hall, Room #1, from **September 5th to September 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. Thank you, we look forward to seeing you and your children.

—Barbara Dalton, DRE

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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.



"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.

As of August 22nd, 50 St. Joseph Parish families have participated. Thanks to these families, we are at 104% of our participation target of 48 families, and at 98% of our financial target!

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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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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**. Please come by the Parish Office for a registration form, or contact **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814.