

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### “God Leads a Pretty Sheltered Life” (Author Unknown)

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's Throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly—not with cringing shame but with embittered belligerence.

“How can God judge us? And how can He know about suffering?” snapped a scoffing brunette. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number for a Nazi concentration camp. “We endured terror, beatings, torture, and death!”

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil sufferings He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light; where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, and no hatred.

Indeed, what did God even know about what men had been forced to endure in this world? “After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life,” they said. So, each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most.

There was a Jew, a Black, an “untouchable” from India, an “illegitimate,” a person from Hiroshima, and one from a Siberian slave camp. In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last, they were ready to present their case. It was rather simple:

**Before God would be qualified to be their judge, He must endure what they had endured.**

Their decision was that God “. . . should be sentenced to live on earth—as a man!” But because He was

God, they set certain safeguards to make sure that He could not use His divine powers to help Himself. The conditions were the following:

- 1) Let Him be born a Jew.
- 2) Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted.
- 3) Let Him champion a cause so just—but so radical—that it brings down upon Him the hatred, the condemnation, and the attacks of every major traditional religious authority.
- 4) Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard, or smelled.
- 5) Let Him try to communicate God to man.
- 6) Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends.
- 7) Let Him be indicted on false charges and tried before a prejudiced jury and cowardly judge.
- 8) Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing.
- 9) Let Him be tortured and let Him die!
- 10) But let Him die the most humiliating death—as a common criminal—and with common thieves!

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people. However, when the last had finished pronouncing His sentence, there was a long silence. No one moved. No one uttered another word.

**Because suddenly they all knew—that God had already served His sentence—in Jesus!**

*—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 ♦ Doni Bachand



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
 September 24, 2023 † 25th 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)  
 Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto:joekunel55@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: St. Joseph Parish / Instagram: [st\\_josephparish](https://www.instagram.com/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 Saturdays.  
 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	09/25/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Ezra 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday	09/26/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	09/27/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Ezra 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	09/28/2023	No Daily Mass.		Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	09/29/2023	12:00 p.m.	Betty Bailey (D)	Rv 12:7-12a; Jn1:47-51
Saturday	09/30/2023	5:00 p.m.	Ken & Phyllis Tocher (D)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11, 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32
Sunday	10/01/2023	9:00 a.m.	Jerry Pimental (D)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11, 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32
Sunday	10/01/2023	12:00 p.m.	Genaro Sorelo (D)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11, 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



## Today's Homily

**THE MORAL OF TODAY'S GOSPEL** parable seems so blatantly unfair. The workers who put in a whole day's work and sweat receive the same wage as those who were there for only one hour? It makes us want to ask, "Jesus, what's going on here?"

But then we remember that envy and discontentment say everything about us, and nothing about what God is doing here. So, what is happening in this parable?

First, it's helpful to key in on Jesus' use of the phrase, *usual daily wage*. This was not a great sum by any stretch of the imagination, but subsistence money. It was just enough to live on.

All of the workers, then, needed that wage in order to supply their families with food for the day. Whether they were fortunate enough to get work first thing in the day or later in the day, the amount of money the hired workers had to earn in a day in order to survive did not change. The last group in today's parable must have thought that God answered their fervent prayers that someone, somewhere, would at least give them work before the day was through. They probably expected to receive only pennies for their labor. What a shock to get a "living wage" with which to return to their families!

The point then, it seems, is not about our sense of fairness or justice, but about the behavior of the landowner. He does not act like most owners. His

generosity is . . . well, scandalous. He offers a living wage to all who work for him—even the one-hour laborers.

The landowner understands what it takes for these workers to be able to subsist—to care for their families, to eat, to pay their taxes, and to have the self-respect and dignity of work.

When we understand that the landowner is representative of the kingdom of heaven, it starts to make sense. We get a glimpse of the Good Lord who offers salvation. It is salvation available to anyone who enters the vineyard at any time and is not diminished for one by its distribution to another. The Lord does not offer "partial" salvation, and it is certainly not salvation that we "deserve."

No, he offers the salvation that he knows we need and desire. We are recipients of the Lord's abundant mercy and generosity. His mercy is so outstanding that we can hope only to know, love, and serve Him all the days of our lives. And whenever someone wakes up to His offer, they are blessed.

We have no cause to be envious of the good fortune of another, for ours is equal in measure and justice. Rather, we can praise God for His continuous mercy to us. After all, serving in His kingdom is not drudgery; it is love and grace—all that we could ever hope for—all the days of our lives.



## September—The Month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary

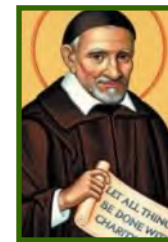
### Daily Mass

Fr. Joseph will return from vacation on **Wednesday, September 27th**, so daily Mass will resume on **Friday, September 29th**.

Also, there will not be a Daily Mass on **Monday, October 2nd through Thursday, October 5th**. Fr. Joseph will be at the Annual Clergy Retreat.

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### St. Vincent de Paul



On **Wednesday, September 27th**, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew that "God had sent him to bring good news to the poor."

Together with your gifts, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continue his work and mission in our parish.

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### Knights of Columbus— Coats for Kids

At our next Knights Breakfast on **Sunday, October 1st**, we are dedicating this breakfast to "Coats for Kids." All proceeds and donations will go toward purchasing these coats.



(You can also make donations at the Parish Office from **Monday, September 25th, through Thursday, September 28th**.)

Earlier in the year we collected some funds from our Foster Lake Resort Raffle—thank you. Hopefully, with this breakfast and your donations, we will again be able to give 100 coats to children in need in Prineville and our parish community.

We will set up a "special" Saturday morning for our parishioners prior to donating our coats to the Crook County School District representative for FAN.

Your parish Knights of Columbus Council appreciate your support in this most-needed charity for our youth.

—Thank you, *Vivat Jesus*

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### Just One Volunteer Needed!

We need someone to take over cleaning the brass candlesticks in the Church.

Please contact the Parish Office if you can volunteer or for more information.

### Pray-4-Life

Bishop Liam Cary is asking for everyone's participation in a Pray-4-Life Prayer Vigil for 40 days—beginning **Wednesday, September 27th, through Friday, November 3rd**.



Please participate in our organized Prayer Vigil Pilgrimage in Ontario—while also praying daily at our parish. It is our mission to call on the Holy Spirit to close the Ontario Planned Parenthood!

Registration is required. You can register online at [www.dioceseofbaker.org](http://www.dioceseofbaker.org) or at the Parish Office.

St. Joseph Parish has chosen the following days for the Mass and Vigil in Ontario:

- **Friday, September 29th, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, 829 SW 2nd Ave., Ontario**
- **9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Planned Parenthood Vigil**
- **10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Lunch (optional)**

Meet at **St. Joseph's at 8 a.m., Thursday, September 28th**, to travel to Ontario. (Carpooling by request. Contact **Gari Lynn** at (541) 815-5823 for more information.

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### A Healing Service

"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds" (Ps 147:3). Come join us at St. Francis Church in Bend on the Feast of the Archangels, **September 29th, at 5:45 p.m.**, for Holy Mass, followed by a Healing Service hosted by the St. Francis Parish Hearts on Fire Prayer Group.

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### Have You Ever Wondered Where the Mass is in the Bible?

Please join us for the series "The Bible and the Mass," a Journey through Scripture. Presented by Scott Hahn, on **Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish hall, Room 2**.

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### Annual St. Francis Christmas Faire

A wide variety of items will be offered on **Saturday, November 18th**, at St. Francis Church in Bend. There will be a Kids' Store (\$1–\$5), baked goods, a gift-card raffle, silent auction, lunch, and 3 caroling choirs. Proceeds benefit the Historic Church Renovation project.