

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"A Prayer for Children" (by a loving child of God)

We pray for children who give us sticky kisses,
who hop on rocks and chase butterflies,
who go barefoot because their parents cannot
afford to buy them shoes,
who have shoes but can never find them.

And we pray for those who stare at photographs
from behind barbed wire,
who never squeaked across the floor in new
sneakers,
who never go to the circus, who live in an X-rated
world.

We pray for children who bring us fistfuls of
dandelions and sing off key,
who have goldfish funerals, build card-table
forts, who slurp their cereal on purpose,
who put gum in their hair, put sugar in their milk,
who spit toothpaste all over the sink,
who hug us for no reason, who bless us each night.

And we pray for those who never get dessert,
who watch their parents watch them die, who have
no safe blanket to drag behind,
who can't find any bread to steal, who don't have
any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser, whose
monsters are real.

We pray for those who spend all their allowance
before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick
at their food,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never
rinse out the tub,
who get pennies from the tooth fairy, who don't like
to be kissed in front of their friends,
who squirm in church and scream when you're on
the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose
smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in
the daytime,
who will eat anything, who have never seen a
dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody, who go to bed
hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried, and for
those who must be.
For those we never give up on, and for those who
don't have a chance.
For those we smother, and for those who will grab
the hand of anybody kind enough to offer.

—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

prayer requests

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
October 1, 2023 † 26th 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 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	10/02/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday	10/03/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday	10/04/2023	No Daily Mass	—	Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday	10/05/2023	No Daily Mass.	—	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12
Friday	10/06/2023	12:00 p.m.		Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
Saturday	10/07/2023	5:00 p.m.		Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
Sunday	10/08/2023	9:00 a.m.		Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
Sunday	10/08/2023	12:00 p.m.		Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

Today's Scripture passages warn us that it is our final decision—for or against God—our choosing to obey Him gracefully by doing His will, or our choosing to go against His will.

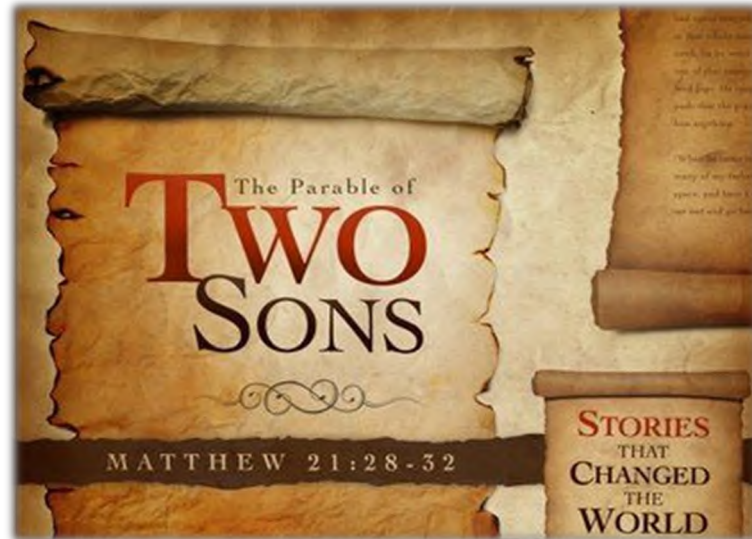
In the first reading, Ezekiel, corrects two wrong Jewish beliefs: 1) Children inherit the guilt of their ancestors, and they are punished for their sins; and 2) God is more strict than merciful.

Jesus explains through the gospel parable that God will punish us only for our sins and that God's mercy overrules strict justice. Our final choice for God, made by perfect obedience to Him, will be rewarded.

St. Paul says in the second reading today that, "It is because of Christ's perfect obedience to God's will in emptying Himself, taking human form, and humbling Himself—by accepting *even death on a cross*—that God the Father *exalted Christ, bestowed on Him the Name above every other name*, and made Jesus the recipient of universal adoration."

In the parable in today's Gospel, a man with two sons tells both to go out to work in the vineyard. The first son says he will not go, but later he regrets his refusal and goes to work. He represents tax collectors and public sinners who refused to obey God's commandments. But, after listening to John the Baptist and Jesus, they repented and became eligible for eternal reward.

The second son says that he will go, but he does not. He represents the chief priests and the elders, the Scribes, and the Pharisees. By their pride and *refusal to obey God's call to repentance*



by John the Baptist and Jesus, these so-called religious people excluded themselves from eternal reward. This teaches us the necessity of offering a continual "Yes" to the saving act of God.

Even when we say "No," God gives

us several chances of conversion to repent and do His will.

We need to do God's will every day. Each one of us is responsible to God for every one of our actions, and the just God will punish or reward each individual according to that person's actions.

Because we are *not sure about the moment of our death*, our only guarantee of dying in God's friendship is to *live in that friendship always, saying "Yes," to God by doing His will.*

It is never too late for us to repent, to be converted, and to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our life. If we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to *knock at the door of God's mercy.* God can—and will—do for us what in His mercy He did for the repentant tax-collectors and harlots in the parable.

Hence, every morning we must pray for the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit to do God's will, and *every night we need to repent* of our sins, and ask God's pardon and forgiveness.

We are not sure when we will have to say goodbye to our dear and near ones and to this world. If we are in serious sin, we are to get reconciled with God, the Church, and our brothers and sisters *through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

Let us remember that it *is never too late* for us to turn back to God, ready to do His will.

October—The Month of the Holy Rosary

Daily Mass

There will not be daily Mass on **Tuesday, October 2nd through Thursday, October 5th.**

Fr. Joseph will be at the Annual Clergy Retreat.

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Respect Life



October is "Respect Life" month. On **Sunday, October 8th, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.,** there will be a demonstration in front of the Courthouse. Signs will be provided.

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The Fiat Project

This is an eight-month program designed to accompany women in their 20s and 30s to discern God's call and accept it as their mission. The overall goal is for young women to grow in holiness and realize that no matter what vocation God calls them to—consecrated life, marriage, or consecrated virginity—each vocation is meant to be lived in a deep relationship with Christ and at the service of the Church and the world.



- ◆ For Catholic, single women in their 20s and 30s
- ◆ Each session includes prayer, formation, discussion, and fellowship
- ◆ Monthly group meetings on Zoom
- ◆ Spiritual accompaniment from October to May
- ◆ Kick-off: **Saturday October 14th**
- ◆ *No set cost to participate but asks for you to contribute based on your ability

For more information, or to register, scan the QR Code above or visit us at: fiatproject@salesiansisterswest.org

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Holy Hour

Holy Hour will be on Sunday, October 15th, at 5 p.m.



"Saturday Night Live—Catholic Style!" St. Thomas Catholic Church, November 4th

SNL has been putting on parish-wide events for the last 15 years and follows the **Saturday, November 4th Vigil Mass**, with a themed meal and an inspirational talk by a LIVE Catholic speaker.

Our annual "Oktoberfest" serves up a delicious German meal with a "Beer Garden." It's the best bargain in town for just \$15 per person—which includes the meal, a beverage, and speaker! This year's guest is **Ken Hensley**, a former Baptist pastor, who will explain what led him to believe that he needed to become a Catholic and how we should look at broken Christianity.

The SNL Committee will sell tickets at St. Thomas after Mass on **October 14th/15th, 21st/22nd and 28th/29th**, or through the St. Thomas Parish Office.

Join us for a great evening of food, fellowship, and faith!

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Event for Catechists of the Central Deanery

The pastors of the Central Deanery and the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis have partnered to bring you an in-person event designed to ***Energize, Empower and Encourage your Catechetical Team on October 28th, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas in Redmond.***

Refreshments and registration will begin at 8:30 am. This will be an event to "go beyond" the Catechetical Symposium. There will be opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, asking questions, and taking back practical tips to the parish.

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U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

The sale in the trafficking business today dwarfs the numbers involved in the slave trade of the past. Billions of dollars are generated today using people as products to be bought and sold in a global market.