

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Priest Who Thought He Failed" (author unknown)

The parish priest of a small town arrived at church encouraged and motivated to perform the evening Mass. But the hour passed, and the town did not come. After 15 minutes, three children entered; after 20 minutes, two young people entered. So, the priest decided to start the Mass with only the five people. During the course of the Mass, a couple came in and sat on the last bench in the church.

While the priest preached and explained the Gospel, another half-dirty person came in with a rope in his hand. Disappointed and not understanding the cause of the weak involvement of the faithful, the priest celebrated the Mass with love and preached with enthusiasm and zeal.

On his way home, he was robbed and beaten by two thieves who took his briefcase where his Bible and other valued belongings were. Arriving at the parish house, he bandaged his wounds. Then he described that day as: "The saddest day of my life, a failure of my ministry, and the most unfruitful day of my career; but, . . . never mind. I do everything *with* God and *for* Him.

After five years, the priest decided to share this story with the church parishioners. When he was finished telling his story, a couple stood up and said, "Father, the couple in the story that sat at the back was us. We were on the brink of separation because of several problems and disagreements in our home. We finally decided to divorce, but first we decided to go to church one last time as a couple, and then each of us would follow our own path. But we left the thought of divorce aside after listening to your homily that night. As a consequence, today we are here with our home and family restored."

After the couple spoke, one of the most successful entrepreneurs who helped with the livelihood of the



church stood and asked to speak. Given the opportunity, he said, "Father, I am the person who came in half dirty and with a rope in my hand. I was on the verge of bankruptcy—lost in drugs—and my wife and kids had left me on account of my behavior. That night, I tried to kill myself, but the rope broke, so I went out to buy another one. When I got on my way, I saw that the church was open, and I decided to go in—even though I was really dirty and had a rope in my hand. That night, your homily pierced my heart, and I walked out of there a changed person. Today, I'm off the drugs, my family returned home, and I have become a very successful businessman in this town."

At the sacristy entrance gate, the deacon shouted, "Father, I was one of those thieves who stole your belongings. The other one died that same night while we were doing another robbery. In that briefcase, there was a Bible, and I read it every time I woke up in the morning. After all that reading, I decided to apply it to my life and participate in this church."

The priest was shocked and so moved, he started crying along with the faithful. After all, the night that he had regarded as one of total failure was really a very productive night!

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Exercise your calling (work / mission) with dedication and zeal.

Give it your best every day because you are an instrument of good for someone's life.

In the worst days of your life, you can still be a blessing to someone else.

God can use the "bad circumstances" of a life to produce the best for others.

—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 15, 2023 † 28th 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](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	10/16/2023	8:00 a.m.	Lorraine Jones (D)	Rom 1:1-7; Lk 29-32
Tuesday	10/17/2023	8:00 a.m.	Elind Edgerly (L)	Rom 1:16-25; Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday	10/18/2023	12:00 p.m.	Frank Davis, Jr. (L)	2 Tm 4:10-17b; Lk 10:1-9
Thursday	10/19/2023	8:00 a.m.	John Arian (D)	Rom 3:21-30; Lk 11:47-54
Friday	10/20/2023	12:00 p.m.	Amber Davis (L)	Rom 4:1-8; Lk 12:1-7
Saturday	10/21/2023	5:00 p.m.	Mike Bachand (L)	Is 45:1, 4-6; 1Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21
Sunday	10/22/2023	9:00 a.m.	Gary Bailey (D)	Is 45:1, 4-6; 1Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21
Sunday	10/22/2023	12:00 p.m.	Ramiro Morales (D)	Is 45:1, 4-6; 1Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S Scripture Readings

offer us a standing invitation to the everlasting joy of the *Heavenly banquet* and a loving warning to stay ever ready for this Heavenly banquet by constantly wearing the *wedding garment*, i.e., remaining in a state of grace.

All three readings describe how a loving and providing God sees to it that there is abundant food for His people.

Scripture Lessons:

In the first reading, Isaiah describes the Messianic banquet on the Lord's mountain in the Holy City of Jerusalem, which Yahweh is preparing for His people. The "good news" is that it is a great feast of "rich food and choice wines." But, for the children of Israel, the "bad news" is that Yahweh invites *all* people, including Gentiles, to the banquet.

In the second reading, St. Paul advises the Philippians to put their trust in the power and goodness of a providing God, Who, in Jesus, has given His Church everything needed to enable His followers to participate in the Heavenly banquet.

In today's Gospel, by telling an allegoric parable of judgment in the Temple of Jerusalem two days before His arrest, Jesus accuses the Jewish religious and civil leaders of rejecting God's invitation to the Heavenly banquet given through Him, God's Son. They have rejected the invitation by not listening to the Good News preached by Jesus and by not reforming their lives.

This invitation was repeatedly extended to Israel through the prophets, including John the Baptist.



But the leadership contemporary with Jesus rejected the reality that Jesus was the fulfillment of all prophecy, refused to accept God's invitation to righteous living given through John the Baptist and through Jesus, and is now planning

to kill God's own Son, Jesus.

Hence, God is inviting the sinners and gentiles for His banquet, and that is why Jesus is keeping the company of sinners.

We need to keep wearing the wedding garment of holiness and righteousness, the state of grace, all the time, and appreciate and make use of the provision for God's graces in the Church:

- We received the "wedding garment" of sanctifying grace in Baptism, and we receive additional graces to retain it through the other Sacraments.
- Our participation in the Eucharistic celebration and in personal and family prayers helps us to recharge our "spiritual batteries" and enables us to lead spirit-filled lives.
- Jesus nourishes us in the Church through the proclamation of the Word of God and through His own Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

We need to participate in the Eucharistic banquet with proper preparation by **repenting** of our sins and by **actively participating** in the prayers and singing during Holy Mass. Participating in Holy Mass is the best preparation and source of power for our future participation in the **Heavenly banquet**.

October—The Month of the Holy Rosary

Meetings

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting on **Tuesday, October 17th, at 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall.**

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Event for Catechists of the Central Deanery

The Pastors of the Central Deanery and 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 a.m.** 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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All Saints Day— A Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, November 1st, is All Saints Day. Mass will be at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Saints Carnival

We are now accepting donations of candy (or money) for our "Saints Carnival" for our Religious Ed students on **Wednesday, November 1st.**

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All Souls Day

Thursday, November 2nd, is All Souls Day. On this day we remember and pray for all those who have died. There are Mass Intension envelopes in the Narthex to honor your loved ones. **Fr. Joseph** will be blessing gravesites at **Juniper Cemetery at 3 p.m.** Please call the office at (541) 447-6475 to add your loved ones.

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Fr. Joseph's Anniversary

Sunday, November 5th, is Fr. Joseph's 39th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. Please join us at the Knights of Columbus **Pancake Breakfast** where we will be having a celebration for him and his upcoming 40th year!



"Saturday Night Live—Catholic Style!"

Following the Vigil Mass on **Saturday, November 4th,** at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Redmond, our Annual "Oktoberfest" will be serving up a delicious German meal, complete with a "Beer Garden" for \$15 per person which includes the meal, a beverage, and a speaker! This year's guest is **Ken Hensley**, a former Baptist pastor, who will explain what led him to become a Catholic. Call the St. Thomas Parish Office for "Will-Call" tickets.

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Annual Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Christmas Bazaar will be on **Saturday, November 11th.** It's time to start thinking about donating your hand-made items, crafts, handiwork (woodwork, flower art, knitted and crocheted items, paintings, etc.), baked goods, candies, jams, jellies, etc. We will also be serving a lunch of enchiladas and tamales—along with chips and salsa—all prepared by our Ladies of the Parish. If you would like to donate, please call or text **Nancy at (541) 508-9872.**



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Word of Life

O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin, Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own.

By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectation. Ask your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness to the profound dignity of every person, at every stage, and in every circumstance.

In that first Eucharistic procession, you carried Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need.

Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid. May our support help them to find hope and strength in the Lord. Amen.

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Store Manager Job Announcement

St. Vincent de Paul in Redmond is looking for a **Store Manager** to lead our team of dedicated employees and volunteers and who has a passion to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Retail store management experience preferred. Non-profit experience is a plus. The Salary is \$52,000–\$58,000, dependent upon experience.

Send a resume to: **Don Smith**, Executive Director, svredmond@gmail.com / St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 1477, Redmond, OR 97756.