

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Reflection on Prayer"

Today, let us reflect about Prayer. Catholic teachings on the subject of prayer are contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, where quoting St. John Damascene, Prayer is defined as, "The raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God". St. Theresa of Lisieux describes prayer as "... a surge of the heart; it is a simple look toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing trial and joy." It is a communion—communication with God.



The advice given by Jesus before he taught the disciples how to pray is worth reflecting upon. Here we find the most essential quality of prayer. He tells His disciples that it is needless to use a lot of meaningless words while praying (Mt. 6, 6-8). What does Jesus mean?

Jesus' injunction shows the central characteristic of Prayer. Prayer is essentially a disposition, an attitude, a way of life, a relationship with God, other people, and nature. St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach always. If needed, use words." In this way we can say with regard to prayer, "Pray always. If needed, use words."

By prayer, one acknowledges God's power and goodness, and one's own neediness and dependence. It is therefore an act of the virtue of religion, implying the deepest reverence for God and habituating a person to look to Him for everything.

Prayer presupposes a belief in the personality of God, His ability and willingness to hold a loving relationship with us, His personal control of all things

and of all His creatures, and all their actions.

In short, prayer presupposes faith in God and hope in His goodness. Acceptable prayer must be sincere (Heb. 10:22), offered with reverence and godly fear, with a humble sense of our own insignificance as creatures—and of our own unworthiness as sinners, with earnest importunity, and with unhesitating submission to the divine will. Prayer must also be offered in the faith that

God is the hearer and answerer of prayer, and that He will fulfill His word, "Ask and you shall receive" (Mt. 7:7, 7:8, 21:22; Mk. 11:24, Jn. 14:13-14).

To be prayerful is more important than reciting a few prayers. If we are not prayerful persons, reciting vocal prayers may not be very useful. For, we can recite any number of prayers without even thinking of God and forgetting that we are sitting in His presence. But prayerfulness means our constant awareness that we are in His presence.

- ◆ A prayerful person will be sensitive to his relationship with others.
- ◆ A prayerful person will be humble.
- ◆ A prayerful person will be generous.
- ◆ A prayerful person will be obedient, kind, and compassionate.

On the other hand, when we are focused only on vocal prayers, we may be proud, thinking "I pray enough." Such persons may be arrogant and look down upon others who may not be regular in vocal prayers.

—*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 29, 2023 † 30th 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	10/30/2023	8:00 a.m.	Curtis S. Morris, Jr. (L)	Rom 8:12-17; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday	10/31/2023	8:00 a.m.	Ruth Duff (D)	Rom 8:18-25; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday	11/01/2023	8:00 a.m.	Aden Geiman (D)	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
Wednesday	11/01/2023	6:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Green (L)	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
Thursday	11/02/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mary Dominique (D)	Wis 3:1-9; Rom 5:5-11; John 6:37-40
Friday	11/03/2023	12:00 p.m.	James & John Thompson (D)	Rom 9:1-5; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday	11/04/2023	5:00 p.m.	Julian Bachand (D)	Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday	11/05/2023	9:00 a.m.	Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya T. (L)	Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday	11/05/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Joseph (L)	Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

(L) = Living ◆ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily



MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, In today's Gospel reading, we find ourselves in the midst of a profound encounter between Jesus and a Pharisee who is testing Him with a question: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" It's a question that goes to the heart of our faith and our relationship with God, and Jesus' response reveals the very essence of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Jesus begins His answer by quoting from the Old Testament, saying, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. It calls us to give our entire being in love and devotion to God. To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind means that God should be the center of our lives. He should be the very source of our thoughts, actions, and decisions. This commandment reminds us that our relationship with God is not meant to be one aspect of our lives but the very core of our existence.

But Jesus doesn't stop there. He continues, "The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." In this simple yet profound statement, Jesus emphasizes the inseparable connection between loving God and loving our neighbor. It's as if He's saying, "You can't truly love God without loving your neighbor, and you can't truly love your neighbor without loving God."

This teaching, my dear friends, is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. It's a call to love God and love one another, and it's not just a suggestion; it's a commandment. This love extends beyond our comfort zones, beyond our family and friends, and even beyond our own preferences. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, and our neighbor includes everyone, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances.

The love that Jesus speaks of is not just a warm and fuzzy feeling. It's a love that is active and sacrificial. It's a love that gets involved, that reaches out to the marginalized and forgotten, that forgives even when it's difficult, and that seeks reconciliation. It's a love that can be challenging, especially when faced with those who are difficult to love. But it's precisely in those challenging moments that our love can shine most brightly, reflecting the love of Christ.

So, how do we live out these two greatest commandments in our daily lives? First, we must nurture our relationship with God. We do this through prayer, Scripture reading, and participating in the sacraments. We give God the first place in our hearts and minds, seeking to know Him more deeply and to grow in love for Him.

Second, we love our neighbor. We do this by being attentive to the needs of those around us, by showing kindness and compassion, by standing up for justice and mercy, and by being peacemakers. We are called to be agents of love in a world that often seems divided and filled with hatred.

And as we strive to live out these commandments, we must remember that we are not alone. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us and the example of Jesus to follow. We have a community of believers to support us in this journey of love.

In conclusion, my dear brothers and sisters, let us take to heart the words of Jesus today. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. These are not just words to be spoken but a way of life to be lived. By embracing these two greatest commandments, we become true disciples of Christ, and we bring His light and love to a world that so desperately needs it. May our love for God and our love for one another be a testimony to the transformative power of Christ's love. Amen.

October—The Month of the Holy Rosary



Wednesday, November 1st, is **All Saints Day**. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Parish Office will be closed on this day.

Thursday, November 2nd, is **All Souls Day** when we remember and pray for all those who have died. There are Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex to honor your loved ones, and **Fr. Joseph** will bless gravesites at Juniper Cemetery at 3 p.m. Please call the Parish 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' **Pancake Breakfast** where we will be having cake and celebrating him and his upcoming 40th year!

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Executive Meeting

There is an Executive Meeting on **Wednesday, November 8th, at 3 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall.

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Annual Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Christmas Bazaar is on **Saturday, November 11th**. We need your hand-made items, crafts, handiwork (woodwork, flower art, knitted and crocheted items, paintings, etc.), baked goodies, candies, jams and jelly, etc., and gently used Christmas items. We are also serving a lunch of enchiladas and tamales, along with chips and salsa, all prepared by our Ladies of the Parish. Please call or text **Nancy** at (541) 508-9872 to donate your items.

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Memorial Garden

The new stonework in front of the Parish Hall has been done in memory of **Kathie Leonard**. Kathie had started to upgrade this area prior to her illness. Memorial Garden by the Leonard family with contributions by RC Pavers, Central Oregon Block, Oregon Precast, and family and friends. Plantings will be done in the future.

1st Annual St. Joseph's Thanksgiving

We are hosting our first Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thursday, November 23rd**. If you aren't going away, if you aren't having a large family gathering, if you are alone, you are welcome. We don't want anyone to be alone this Thanksgiving.

There is no charge! However, we do need to know if you will be attending by **Wednesday, November 15th**, so that we prepare enough food.

Please call or email **Darlene** in the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475 / stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com.

Join us to celebrate with our parish family!

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Formed

We now have Formed! This is an On-Demand Catholic streaming service, and there is no charge for parishioners. There are thousands of movies, programs, audio books for all ages, and also offered in Spanish.

To sign up, go to Formed.org/signup. Select your parish, and enter your name and email. There are no codes or passwords to remember. In addition to your web browser on your computer or SmartTV, this is also available on iOS, AppleTV, Roku, Android and Amazon Fire. Just go to your appstore and search for Formed.

We hope everyone signs up. And a big **Thank You** to our wonderful Knights of Columbus for their generous donation and sponsoring this for the entire Parish!

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Word of Life

"Hope is always possible. To those who care for the sick, the scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because 'remaining' by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains. Healed by Jesus, we become men and women called to proclaim His healing power and provide care for our neighbors, until the very end."

—USCCB Secretariat of ProLife Activities

