

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“New Set of Footprints” (author unknown)

Now, imagine you and the Lord Jesus walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying in the pace. But your prints are in a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures and returns.

For much of the way it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come in line with the Lord's—soon paralleling His consistently. You and Jesus are walking as true friends.

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: your footprints that once etched the sand next to the Master's are now walking precisely in His steps. Inside His large footprints are the smaller “sand prints,” safely enclosed. You and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles. But gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the larger footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually, they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints—they have become one!

Again, this goes on for a long time. But then something awful happens. The second set of footprints is back, and this time it seems even worse. The zigzags are all over the place—stop—start—deep

gashes in the sand—a veritable mess of prints. You're amazed and shocked, but this is the end of your dream.

And now you speak: “Lord, I understand the first scene with the zigzags, fits and starts, etc. I was a new Christian, just learning. But you walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you.”

“That is correct.”

“Yes, and when the smaller footprints were inside of yours, I was actually learning to walk in your steps. I followed you closely.”

“Very good. You have understood everything so far.”

“But then the smaller footprints grew and eventually filled in with yours. I suppose that I was actually growing so much that I was becoming more like you in every way.”

“Precisely.”

“So, this is my question, Lord: Was there a regression or something? The footprints went back to two, and this time it was worse than the first.”

The Lord smiles—and then laughs. “You didn't know?” He says, “That was when we danced!”

The Lord will turn your mourning into dancing!

—*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 8, 2023 † 27th 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	10/09/2023	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Jon 1:1-2:2 11; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday	10/10/2023	8:00 a.m.	Ryan O'Connell (D)	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday	10/11/2023	12:00 p.m.	Dale Geiman (L)	Jon 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday	10/12/2023	8:00 a.m.	Garilynn Tocher (L)	Mal 3:13-20b; Lk 11:5-13
Friday	10/13/2023	12:00 p.m.	Esther Bailey (D)	Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday	10/14/2023	5:00 p.m.	Duncan Osgood (L)	Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14
Sunday	10/15/2023	9:00 a.m.	Theresa Overton (L)	Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14
Sunday	10/15/2023	12:00 p.m.	Claudio Hernandez & Trinidad Vargas (D)	Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

The common theme of today's readings is the necessity of bearing fruit in the Christian life. The readings warn us of the punishment for "spiritual sterility."

In today's first reading, called, *Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard*, the Prophet describes God's care of, and expectations for, His Chosen People. God's Chosen People failed to bear fruit—despite the blessings lavished upon them by a loving and forgiving God. Further, they were poor tenants in the Lord's vineyard. Hence, God laments: "I expected My vineyard to yield good grapes. Why did it yield sour ones instead?"

In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 80), the Psalmist pleads with God to look down from Heaven and to "take care of this vine," knowing that if any good is to come of the vine, it will be the doing of God—not the people.

In the second reading, Paul tells the Philipians about the high expectations he has for them, reminding them that they need to become fruit-producing Christians by praying and giving thanks to God, and by practicing justice, purity, and graciousness in their lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells an allegorical parable in which the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel as God's special people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel. The story emphasizes the failure of the tenants—the Chosen People of God and their leaders—to produce fruits of righteousness, justice, and mercy.

Giving a theological explanation of Israel's history of gross ingratitude through the parable, Jesus reminds us Christians that, since we are the "new" Israel, enriched with additional blessings and provisions in the Church, we are ex-



pected to show our gratitude to God by bearing fruits of the kingdom—fruits of the Holy Spirit—in our lives, giving Him all the Glory.

Are we good fruit-producers in the vineyard of the Church? Jesus has given the Church everything necessary to make Christians fruit-bearing:

- † The Bible to know the will of God.
- † The Sacrament of Holy Orders to consecrate bishops, priests, and deacons to lead the people in God's ways.
- † The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the remission of sins.
- † The Holy Eucharist as our spiritual food.
- † The Sacrament of Confirmation for a dynamic life of Faith.
- † The Sacrament of Matrimony for the sharing of love in families—the fundamental unit of the Church.
- † The Sacrament of (Last) Anointing to restore and strengthen spiritual life and bring mental, emotional, and physical healing as well—if that is what God wills.
- † Role models in thousands of saints.

We are expected make use of these gifts to produce fruits for God.

Are we fruit-producers in the vineyard of the family? By the mutual sharing of blessings, by sacrificing time and talents for the members of the family, by humbly and lovingly serving others in the family, by recognizing and encouraging each other, and by honoring and gracefully obeying our parents, *we become* producers of "good fruit" or good vines in our families, and give God the Glory for these accomplish-

October—The Month of the Holy Rosary

Public Square Rosary



Please join us in praying a "Public Square" Rosary on **Saturday, October 14th, at 12 noon**, at the public square, located west of City Hall and north of the Courthouse.

Who: Catholics from St. Joseph's joining 22,000 similar rallies nationwide.

Why: To offer reparation for the waves of sacrilege, blasphemy, anti-religious hatred within our society and countless sins which are committed against the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the most Immaculate Heart of Mary.

For more information, call **Gary at (541) 447-5001**.

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Holy Hour

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

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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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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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Saints Carnival

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

"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 just \$15 per person, and it 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 believe that he needed to become a Catholic and how we should look at broken Christianity.

The SNL Committee will sell tickets after the Masses on the weekends of **October 14/15, 21/22, and 28/29**, or through the St. Thomas Parish Office.

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

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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 handmade items, crafts, handiwork (woodwork, flower art, knitted and crocheted items, paintings, etc.), baked goodies, candies, jams and jelly, etc.

We will also be serving a not-to-be-missed 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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Coats for Kids

To Our Wonderful Parish Family: Thanks so much for your donations to the "Coats for Kids" drive. We met our goal of 100 coats for the children in our parish and community!

On **Saturday, November 14th, from 9 to 11 a.m.**, in the Parish Hall, we will be giving these winter coats to the children in our Parish. The sizes are for boys and girls from kindergarten to high school. The Knights of Columbus are proud to serve our Parish Community.

—Thank you, **Grand Knight Jim Fries**.

