

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"In Your Hands" (author unknown)

A couple vacationing in Europe went strolling down a little street and saw a quaint little gift shop with a beautiful teacup in the window. The lady collected teacups and she wanted this one for her collection, so she went inside to purchase the teacup, and as the story goes, the teacup spoke and said:

"I want you to know that I have not always looked like this. It took the process of pain to bring me to this point. You see, there was a time when I was just clay, and the Master came, and he pounded me, and he squeezed me and he kneaded me and I screamed: 'STOP THAT.' But he just smiled and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he took me and put me on the wheel, and I went round and round and round and round . . . and while I was spinning and getting dizzy and dizzy, I screamed again, and I said, 'Please get me off this thing! Please get me off!' And the master was looking at me and he was smiling, as he said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he took me and walked toward the oven and he shut the door and turned up the heat. I could see him through the window of the oven, and it was getting hotter and hotter, and I thought, 'He's going to burn me to death!' So I started pounding on the inside of the oven, and I said, 'Master, let me out! Let me out! Let me out!' And I could see that he was smiling as he said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he opened the door, and I was fresh and free, and he took me out of the oven and put me on the table. And then he got some paint and a paintbrush, and he started dabbing me and making swirls all over me, and I started to gag and I said, 'Master, stop it . . . stop it . . . stop it, please! You're making me gag!' And he just smiled as he said, 'Not yet.'

"Then very gently he picked me up again, and he started walking toward the oven. I said, 'Master! NO! Not again, pleeeeeease!' He opened the oven door, and he slipped me inside, and he shut the door. And this time he turned the heat up twice as hot as before, and I thought, 'He's going to kill me!' I looked through the window of the oven, and I started to pound on it, saying, 'Master! Master! Please let me out! Please let me out!' I could see that he was smiling, but I also noticed a tear trickle down his cheek as I watched him mouth the words, 'Not yet!'

"Just as I thought I was about to die, the door opened and he reached in ever so gently and took me out, fresh and free, and placed me on a high shelf and he said, 'There, I have created what I intended. Would you like to see yourself?' I said, 'Yes,' and he handed me a mirror. I looked and I looked again, and I said, 'That's not me. I'm just a lump of clay.'

"He said, 'Yes! That IS you, but it took the process of pain to bring you to this place. You see, had I not worked you when you were clay, then you would have dried up. If I had not subjected you to the stress of the wheel, you would have crumbled. If I had not put you into the heat of the oven, you would have cracked. If I had not painted you, there would be no color in your life. But it was the second time in the oven that gave you the strength to endure. And now you are everything that I intended you to be—from the beginning!'

"And I, the teacup, heard myself saying something I never thought I would hear myself saying: 'Master, forgive me, I did not trust you. I thought you were going to harm me. I did not know you had a glorious future and a hope for me. I was too short-sighted, but I want to thank you. I want to thank you for the suffering. I want to thank you for the process of pain. Here I am! I give you myself—fill me, pour from me, use me as you see fit. I really want to be a vessel that brings you glory within my life!'

Even though this anecdote is somewhat accurate, I do not believe God places us in these areas. But He does use them when we are in them to help us grow.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
November 19, 2023 † 33rd 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	11/20/2023	8:00 a.m.	Martha Ruyter (D)	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday	11/21/2023	8:00 a.m.	Rita Rodgers (D)	2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday	11/22/2023	12:00 p.m.	Ethan Edgerly (L)	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday	11/23/2023	8:00 a.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44
Friday	11/24/2023	12:00 p.m.	Mary Putnam (L)	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 Lk 19:45-48
Saturday	11/25/2023	5:00 p.m.	Carolyn McDermott (D)	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46
Sunday	11/26/2023	9:00 a.m.	Eduardo & Cecilia Ortiz (D)	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46
Sunday	11/26/2023	12:00 p.m.	Navorina Valdovinos (D)	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

ACCOUNTABILITY

MATTHEW 25:14-30

www.spiritofjesus.org

ON THIS 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, we reflect on the Gospel message of vigilance and readiness. In the parable of the talents, Jesus speaks of the master entrusting his servants with various talents according to their abilities. The master's return signifies the second coming of Christ, urging us to be vigilant in using our God-given gifts for the service of others.

We are called to be stewards of the talents bestowed upon us, whether they be material, intellectual, or spiritual. Like the servants in the parable, we are accountable for how we invest and share these gifts. Our faith is not passive; it demands active engagement with the world.

As we await Christ's return, let us not bury our talents out of fear or complacency, but rather multiply them through acts of love and compassion.

In a world often marked by uncertainty and challenges, our Christian duty is to be lights in the darkness, sharing the hope and love of Christ. This requires a constant awareness of the needs around us and a willingness to step out of our comfort zones. The Gospel challenges us to transform our talents into actions that build up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Let us also reflect on the oil in the lamps of the wise and foolish virgins. The oil represents our spiritual preparation and relationship with God. It's not enough to rely on the faith of others; each of us must cultivate a personal connection with God through prayer, reflection, and a life of virtue. This intimate relationship with God provides the enduring fuel that sustains our lamps and keeps our faith alive.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, let us take stock of our lives and assess how we are using the talents and resources given to us:

- ◆ Are we actively participating in God's mission, or are we passive observers?
- ◆ Are we cultivating the oil of a vibrant spiritual life, or are our lamps growing dim?

In conclusion, let this Sunday be a call to action. Let us embrace our role as stewards of God's gifts, investing them wisely for the benefit of others. May we be vigilant in our faith, always prepared for the Lord's coming. As we await the fulfillment of God's kingdom, may our lives be a testimony to the transformative power of Christ's love.

AMEN.

November—Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Mass will be at 8 a.m. For those coming to our Parish Thanksgiving Dinner, the doors will be open at 12 o'clock noon, with dinner being served at 2 p.m.

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Christmas Bazaar

THANK YOU to all the organizers, volunteers, everyone who donated items and all who supported by shopping and having lunch. It was a great success!!

Last year, with the money raised, we were able to upgrade the facilities by purchasing new shelving for the storage sheds, new linens for the kitchen, and had the floors professionally cleaned.

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ACTS



We will be starting a new Bible Study series on **Wednesday, November 29th, at 1:30 p.m., in Classroom #2:** "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Advent" by **Dr. Brant Pitre**. Everyone is welcome to join us.

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Knights of Columbus

It's that time of year again! Your Knights of Columbus are selling Christmas cards, ornaments, pins, and Advent wreaths with candles. You can purchase these items in the Parish Office during the week, or at our Sunday Coffee Hour.

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Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service will be on **Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m.** There will be five (5) Priests available, with three of them bilingual.

Children who have received Communion and are in our Religious Education classes, including Confirmation students, must be there with their parents.



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
Chuck Renwick ♦ John Huthmacher
Steven Clifton ♦ Joan Holland Jordan Ortega
Ed McNamara ♦ Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand



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St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul needs more volunteers to staff our Food Pantry at our new location, 937 NW Madras Highway. Would you like to help folks select their groceries in an "open shopping" style pantry or support our ministry in other ways? Please call **Victoria Maska** at (541) 777-7255 for more information. New Pantry hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 12 to 3 p.m., and Wednesday, 5 to 7 p.m. Thank you and God Bless.

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You Can Help Your Marriage



Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it

worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to re-discover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit helpourmarriage.org for testimonials, confidential information or to register for the **January 26–28, 2024** weekend in Beaverton, OR, or email portland@retrovaille.com or call (503) 225-9191.

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Inviting All Young Adults:

Diocesan Lenten Retreat, February 17–18, 2024

Sacrificial Love: The Redemption of Suffering, featuring **Bishop Liam Cary**. Registration fees: \$85/Single Person; \$125/Married Couple. Registration Deadline: **February 11, 2024** at the Cascade View Retreat Center, in Powell Butte, OR. For more information and to register go to: DioceseofBaker.org.

(Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)