

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“Just Came to Tell You . . .” (author unknown)

A MINISTER PASSED through his church in the middle of the day. He decided to pause by the altar to see who had come in to pray.

Just then the church door opened, and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw that the man had not shaved in a while.

His shirt was a little shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed. But the man knelt down, bowed his head, then rose and went away.

In the days that followed, at noon time always came this chap. Each time he knelt just for just a moment, with a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, as robbery was a main fear. He decided to stop the man to ask him, “What are you doing here?”

The old man said that he worked down the road, and lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time—finding strength and power.

“I stay only for a moment, you see, because the factory is far away. As I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN

SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP,
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ON HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.

SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME, JIM, JUST CHECKING IN.

Now, the minister feeling foolish, told Jim that it was fine. He told the man he was welcome to come in and pray anytime.

“Time to go,” Jim smiled and said, “Thanks,” as he hurried to the door. The minister knelt at the altar—he'd not done it before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, and he met with Jesus there. And then as his tears flowed freely, in his heart he repeated old Jim's prayer:

I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN

SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP,
AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN.

DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ON HOW TO PRAY,
BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.
SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME, JIM, JUST CHECKING IN.

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim had not come in. As more days passed without him, he began to worry about Jim. So, he went to the factory to ask about him and learned that Jim was ill. The hospital staff was worried, too, as he'd given them all a thrill.

For the week that Jim was with them brought changes in the ward. His smiles, a joy contagious. Changed people were his reward.

The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so very glad. Because no flowers, calls, or cards had come—not a visitor had he had.

So, the minister stayed close by his bed. He voiced the nurse's concern. “No friends show they care for you, and I don't know where to turn.” Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and said with a winsome smile, “The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know He sits right there, takes my hand, leans over, and He says:

I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM,
HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN,

SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP,
AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN.

I ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY.
I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.

AND SO, JIM, THIS IS JESUS, JUST CHECKING IN.

Now this is what it is all about, not buildings, or clothes, but a relationship that goes beyond the wisdom of this world.

—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
November 4, 2023 † 31st 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	11/06/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mildred Kappel (D)	Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday	11/07/2023	8:00 a.m.	Emerson Edgerly (L)	Rom 12:5-16b; Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday	11/08/2023	8:00 a.m.	Mike Mulvihill (L)	Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33
Thursday	11/09/2023	8:00 a.m.	Jerry Pimental (D)	Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; 1Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
Friday	11/10/2023	12:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8
Saturday	11/11/2023	5:00 p.m.	Mary Bachand (L)	Wis 6:12-16; 1Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13
Sunday	11/12/2023	9:00 a.m.	Lisa Burley (D)	Wis 6:12-16; 1Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13
Sunday	11/12/2023	12:00 p.m.	Genaro Sotelo (D)	Wis 6:12-16; 1Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING from Matthew 23:1–12 offers us a powerful message about humility, leadership, and the nature of true greatness in the kingdom of God. In this passage, Jesus confronts the religious leaders of his time, the Scribes and the Pharisees, who were known for their outward displays of piety but often lacked true humility and compassion in their hearts.

Jesus begins by acknowledging the authority of the Scribes and Pharisees. He tells His disciples and the crowds to do what they say, for they sit on Moses' seat, signifying their role as interpreters of the Law. However, Jesus quickly issues a warning, saying, "But do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they preach." This contrast between words and deeds serves as a central theme in this passage.

In our own lives, it's easy to fall into the trap of saying the right things but failing to live them out. We may attend church, say our prayers, and speak of love and compassion, but if our actions do not align with these beliefs, we too can be guilty of the same hypocrisy. Jesus calls us to genuine faith—one that is rooted in the heart and expressed in our actions.

Jesus then highlights the ostentatious behavior of the religious leaders. He points out that they do everything to be seen by others, wearing long robes and phylacteries, seeking the best seats at feasts, and desiring to be called "Rabbi" or "Teacher." This is an important lesson about the danger of seeking recognition and honor from others, rather than seeking to serve and glorify God.

True greatness in the kingdom of God is not measured by titles or the praise of others. Instead, Jesus says, "The greatest among you will be your servant." He calls us to humility, to put the needs of others before our own desires for recognition and status. It's a reminder that the Christian life is one of selflessness and sacrificial love.



Furthermore, Jesus encourages us not to use titles such as "Rabbi," "Father," or "Master" to exalt ourselves. He is not prohibiting the use of such titles in the Church but cautioning against using them to elevate one's own status. In the eyes of God, we are all brothers and sisters, equal in His sight. It's a message of equality and unity in the body of Christ.

The Lord also reminds us that those who

exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. This principle underscores the importance of humility in our faith journey. When we seek to exalt ourselves and assert our own importance, we risk distancing ourselves from God's grace. But when we humble ourselves and acknowledge our need for God's guidance and grace, we open ourselves to His blessings.

In the final verses, Jesus encapsulates this message by saying, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." This is a profound truth that we should carry with us in our daily lives.

In conclusion, this passage from Matthew 23 reminds us of the importance of living a life of true faith, characterized by humility, service, and authenticity. We are called not just to speak words of faith but to live them out in our actions. We are called to avoid the trappings of seeking recognition and honor for ourselves and, instead, to focus on serving others and glorifying God.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us in embracing a life of humility and selflessness, always seeking the path of true greatness in the kingdom of God. May we find joy in being servants of God and our brothers and sisters, and in doing so, may we experience the exaltation that comes from our loving Father in heaven. Amen.

November—Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Congratulations, Fr. Joseph, on your Ordination Anniversary today, November 5th!

Meetings

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

There is a Liturgical Meeting on **Wednesday, November 15th, at 3 p.m.**, also in the Parish Hall.

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Annual Christmas Bazaar



The Annual Christmas Bazaar is on **Saturday, November 11th.**

You can drop off your donated items on **Friday Nov 10th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We hope to see everyone there on **Saturday from 9 to 2**, enjoying this wonderful event and having a delicious lunch. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

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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.

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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!



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, Oregon. You may also email portland@retrovaille.com or call (503) 225-9191.

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Now Hiring!

The Diocese of Baker is looking for an integral, collaborative, dynamic team player who can bring the necessary skillset to provide creativity, organization, and a passion for managing the sites God has blessed us with.

This role provides a unique, full-time opportunity for an employee who is able to multitask:

- ▶ While hosting / managing our Retreat Center business,
- ▶ While providing building maintenance of our three sites, and
- ▶ While hiring / managing support services and effectively communicating to leadership.

Working in alignment with the Chief Operating Officer and the Staff, this person will have relationship, administrative, and project-management responsibilities.

The candidate must also be a practicing Catholic in good standing.

For more information about this position, please go online to: dioceseofbaker.org/job-opportunities, or contact **Mark French** at Mark@DioceseofBaker.org.