

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

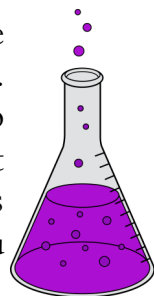
### "A Physics Lesson" (Author Unknown)

Every year Professor Lee would give the same lecture to his students. Basically, he would say, "If I drop this glass beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it, not even if you pray to your GOD!"

You see, Professor Lee was an atheist, and he would say that last part with a great deal of contempt in his voice and on his face. No student ever challenged the professor for fear of looking foolish in front of everyone.

But one year, a Freshman had decided that he would challenge Professor Lee. He knew that this class would be subjected to this lecture—just as previous classes had heard it for several years. The Freshman had asked Richard Harvey to pray for him two weeks before the infamous lecture was to be given once again. The Freshman explained that he was tired of God being mocked, and he felt that God must be tired of it, too. He was going to give all the Glory to God and explain that it had nothing to do with himself—that all the power was God's alone.

Richard agreed, and he did indeed pray for the next two weeks—and on the day of the lecture, he decided he would go to witness the challenge. Sure enough, the moment came when Professor Lee said, "If I drop this glass



beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it—not even if you pray to your GOD!" The Freshman immediately stood up and challenged Professor Lee, who gladly took the challenge. He then gave the Freshman a moment to say his prayer.

The student thanked God for giving him the opportunity to let the Lord's power be shown. He gave thanks to Jesus for the blood he had shed, and for the power of His name. He asked for forgiveness for not having prevented God from being mocked up until then, and thanked God for preventing the beaker from breaking when Professor Lee dropped it. He denied that there was any personal credit to be given to himself and gave all the Glory to God.

The room was silent. All eyes were now on Professor Lee as he raised the beaker and let go of it. As everyone looked on, the beaker tilted ever so slightly in mid-air, as it descended toward the concrete floor—and its imminent destruction. The beaker hit the professor's shoe, rolled across the floor, and bumped into the lectern *unscathed*. The room erupted in cheers and laughter.

Professor Lee never gave that lecture again!

—*Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*



### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Mike Mulvihill  
 Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger ♦ Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Lloyd Rodgers  
 Pierre Jones ♦ Sammi Pedersen ♦ Steven Clifton ♦ Jordan Ortega ♦ Chuck Renwick  
 John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
 December 10, 2023 † 2nd Sunday of Advent

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>

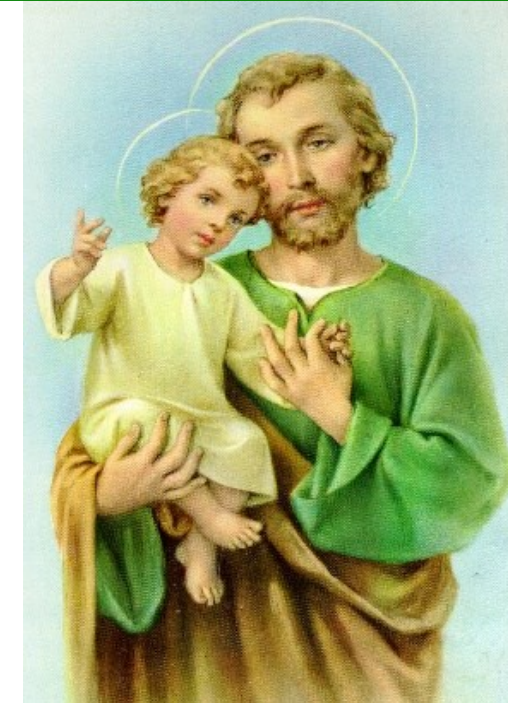
Email: [stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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



### 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	12/11/2023	8:00 a.m.	Clarence Avila (D)	Is35:1-10;Lk5:17-26
Tuesday	12/12/2023	8:00 a.m.	Charles Popish (D)	Zec2:14-17;Lk1:26-38
Wednesday	12/13/2023	12:00 p.m.	Lorraine Popish (D)	Is40:25-31;Mt11:28-30
Thursday	12/14/2023	8:00 a.m.	LaVern West (D)	Is41:13-20;Mt11:11-15
Friday	12/15/2023	6:00 p.m.	Mike Sturza (D)	Is48:17-19;Mt11:16-19
Saturday	12/16/2023	5:00 p.m.	Kara Bachand (D)	Is61:1-2a,10-11;1Thes5:16-24;Jn1:6-8,19-28
Sunday	12/17/2023	9:00 a.m.	Andy Vandehey & Family (L)	Is61:1-2a,10-11;1Thes5:16-24;Jn1:6-8,19-28
Sunday	12/17/2023	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St. Joseph (L)	Is61:1-2a,10-11;1Thes5:16-24;Jn1:6-8,19-28

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

**HOMECOMING IS THE** central theme of the Scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Advent. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our getting ready for Christ's "Homecoming" into our hearts and lives by **true repentance, reparation, prayer and the renewal of our lives.**

The Gospel today tells us through John the Baptist how we should prepare to receive Jesus, our Savior's "coming home," into our lives during the Advent season by repentance and the renewal of life. John preached that the appropriate behavior for those preparing "the way of the Lord" was to be baptized "as they confessed their sins." He wanted the Jews to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, leveling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality. John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan to the Jews who were familiar with ritual and symbolic washings.

We need to make use of Advent as a season of reflection and preparation. We are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas. Christmas is the time for reflection and personal renewal in preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives.

Through the section of his letter which we read today, St. Peter reminds us, on the one hand, of God's great desire to come into our lives and, on the other, of our need to be prepared for that event when it happens.

We want God's help and comfort, but we are not always prepared to change our ways to enhance genuine conversion.



*Year B*

For God to come to us, we also need to go to Him. We need to let every day become Christmas and the "Day of the Lord" for each one of us.

We need to accept Jesus instead of ignoring Him during this Christmas season. It was their stubborn pride and self-centeredness that blinded the eyes of the Jews and kept them from recognizing Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah.

The same stubborn pride, the same exaggerated sense of our own dignity, blinds the intellects of many of us today who not only fail to accept Christ and His good tidings, but also prevent others from accepting Him.

Let us accept Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord during this Christmas season and remain, or become, true Christians in our daily conduct. Let us use these days of preparation for Christmas to ready ourselves for Christ's daily coming and Second Coming, remembering that the Second Coming will occur for each one of us on the day of our death, or on the Day of the Lord, whichever comes first.

We are invited to become the preachers of the Good News: When we show real love, kindness, mercy and a spirit of forgiveness, we are announcing the truth that Christ is with us. Thus, our lives become a kind of Bible which others can read. John the Baptist invites us to turn this Advent season into a real spiritual homecoming by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Savior and His entrance into our lives.

Let us ask, with Alexander Pope, the challenging question, "What do I profit, if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world unless He is born in my heart and in my life?"

## December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

### Advent



The second week of Advent is the **Candle of Peace**. It is also known as the "Bethlehem Candle." It is in the second week of Advent that we reflect on the peace that Christ brought to mankind with His birth and incarnation. We also reflect on the peace brought by Jesus Christ, in terms of inner spiritual peace and the hope for a peaceful world.

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### Religious Retirement Collection

The Religious Retirement Collection is being held this weekend, December 9th and 10th. Thank you for your support.

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### Live Nativity

Please come to see our Religious Education students performing for you The Savior's Birth—A Nativity Skit, on **Wednesday, December 13th, at 4 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall. There will be cookies and cider with Santa following the program. We would love donations of cookies from our parishioners. You can leave them at the office in the days prior to the program.



—Thank you!

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### Christmas Week Mass Schedule

**Sunday, December 24th, 5 p.m.: Family Vigil Mass**  
**Sunday, December 24th, 7 p.m.: Spanish Vigil Mass**  
**Monday, December 25th, 9 a.m.: Christmas Mass**  
**Sunday, December 31st, 9 a.m.—Sunday Mass**  
**Sunday, December 31st, 12 p.m.—Spanish Mass**  
**Monday, January 1st, 8 a.m. Daily Mass**

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### Christmas Music

Anyone interested in helping with the music for the **December 24th, 5 p.m. Family Christmas Vigil Mass**, please call or text **Garilyn** at (541) 815-5823.

### Christmas Potluck Dinner

**Fr. Joseph** is hosting a potluck dinner on **December 25th**. 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 Christmas. Bring a favorite dish that you'd like to share, and we'll supply the turkey and ham. Please call / email **Darlene** in the parish office at: (541) 447-6475/[stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com). *Come celebrate with our family!*



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### Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for 2024 are in the Narthex. If you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to, please contact the Parish Office.

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### Stress in Your Marriage?

Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you want to help save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in supporting hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. It's for any couple who want to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit [www.helpyourmarriage.org](http://www.helpyourmarriage.org) for program information and emotional testimonials. For confidential information or to register for the **January 26-28, 2024 weekend** at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center in Beaverton, Oregon, 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 or to register, go to: [DioceseofBaker.org](http://DioceseofBaker.org). (Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)