

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "A Christmas Present"

A friend of mine named Paul had received a beautiful automobile from his brother as a Christmas present.

On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it.

"Is this your car, Mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy was astounded.

"You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Boy, I sure wish . . ." He hesitated.

Of course, Paul thought he knew what the boy was going to wish for. He was going to wish that he had a brother like that.

But what the lad said next jarred Paul all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, and then impulsively he asked, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?"

"Oh! Yes, I'd love that," he said with a big smile.

After a short ride, the boy turned to Paul, and with his eyes aglow, he said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front on my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show all of

his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again!

"Will you stop where those steps are?" the boy asked. Paul stopped, and the boy ran up the steps.

In a little while, Paul then heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother. He sat his little brother down on the bottom step, squeezed himself up against him, and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs! His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day, I'm gonna give you one just like it . . . then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the lad to the front seat of his car. Then the older brother, with his eyes filled with tears and surprise, climbed in beside him, and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

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That Christmas Eve, Paul really learned what Jesus had meant when He said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive!"

—*Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*



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

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez  
Ben Guyer ♦ 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 17, 2023 † 3rd 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

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	12/18/2023	8:00 a.m.	Jim & Dorothy Friese (D)	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	12/19/2023	8:00 a.m.	Frank & Jean Kmiecik (D)	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	12/20/2023	12:00 p.m.	Frank Davis(D)	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	12/21/2023	8:00 a.m.	Carolyn Fowls (D)	Sg 2:8-14; Lk1:39-45
Friday	12/22/2023	12:00 p.m.	Aden & Julia Geiman (D)	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	12/23/2023	5:00 p.m.	Sarah MacDonald(D)	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	12/24/2023	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman(D)	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	12/24/2023	5:00 p.m.	Brenda Mulvihill (L)	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Sunday	12/24/2023	7:00 p.m.	Rev. Lawrence Bower (D)	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

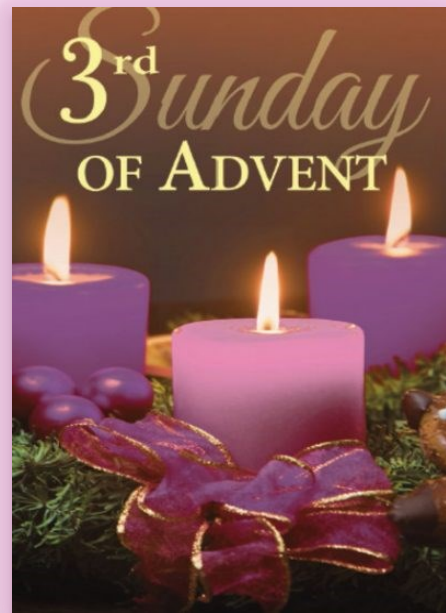
**THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** is called *Gaudete Sunday* because the Mass for today is to remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. As you will notice, we light the pink/rose candle, and the priest may wear a pink/rose vestment.

The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

**Today's Gospel** tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptist who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah. We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited messiah.

We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

By Baptism we become members of the family of Christ, the true Light of the world. Jesus said: "You are the light of the world."



Hence, our mission as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of His Church is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness.

There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom. There are others who

are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Also, many feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. All these people are waiting for us to reflect the Light of Christ, and to turn their lives into experiences of joy, wholeness and integrity.

The joy of Jesus—the joy of Christmas—can only be ours to the extent that we work with Jesus to bring joy into the lives of others. Let us remember that Christmas is not complete unless we show real generosity to those who have nothing to give us in return. We encounter Jesus in all the Sacraments. Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist.

Let us also find some spare time to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who have offended us, and pray for those whom we have offended. Finally, let us share our love with others in selfless and humble service, "doing small things but with great love" (Mother Teresa). Let us spend the remainder of this Advent season preparing "our way" before the Lord comes this Christmas.

## December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

### Advent



The third week of Advent is the rose-colored candle of Joy. It is also known as the "Shepherd's Candle." The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the mid-point of Advent.

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### Knights of Columbus

There will be a Knights of Columbus meeting on **Tuesday, December 19th, at 7 p.m.**, in the parish hall.

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### Christmas & New Year's Mass Times

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  
Saturday, December 30th, 5 p.m.: Vigil 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.

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### Calendars

The 2024 Calendars are available in the Narthex. Thank you to **Prineville Funeral Home** and the **Edgerly Family** for supplying these for the Parish.

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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.

### A Christmas Gift From Fr. Joseph

For Christmas, Fr. Joseph is gifting parishioners the books *The Rocking Chair Prophet* by Matthew Kelly and *Beautiful Eucharist*, a collection of stories and reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and present in our lives. These are available in the Narthex.

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### 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. **Doors will open at 1 p.m. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m.**

Please call or email **Darlene** in the Parish Office by **Tuesday, December 19th**: (541) 447-6475 / [stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com).

**COME CELEBRATE WITH OUR FAMILY!**

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### Marriage Saving—the Weekend Phase

During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest, who will present a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation, you will have time in the privacy of your room for discussions.

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to re-discover their marriage and improve communication. Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for confidential testimonials. 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.)