

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### "The Story of the Advent Wreath"

Once upon a time, in a season of quiet anticipation, the Advent Wreath emerged as a symbol of hope and expectation. Its story begins centuries ago, rooted in Christian traditions, weaving a narrative of light, faith, and the journey toward the birth of Christ.

The circular shape of the wreath, an evergreen, represents the eternal nature of God's love—a love that knows no beginning or end. Set upon this wreath are four candles, each with a distinct purpose in telling the story of the Advent season.

As the first candle is lit, the flame of Hope flickers. Its glow penetrates the darkness, reminding believers of the anticipation surrounding the coming of the Messiah. This candle serves as a beacon, guiding hearts toward the promise of a Savior.

The second candle, representing Peace, is ignited. Its light radiates a message of tranquility, echoing the angelic proclamation of "Peace on Earth." In the midst of a chaotic world, this candle beckons us to find serenity in the promise of Christ's arrival.

The third candle, a symbol of Joy, is kindled. Its cheerful flame dances in celebration of the imminent birth of Jesus. Joy permeates the air as the anticipation grows, and hearts prepare to welcome the Christ child.

The fourth candle, embodying Love, joins the luminous ensemble. Its radiance embodies the essence of God's love, which culminates in the gift of His Son. As the Advent season progresses, the

flame of love reminds us to share this divine love with one another.

On Christmas Day, a central candle—the Christ Candle—is placed at the heart of the wreath, shining brilliantly to signify the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World.

With this, the story of the Advent Wreath completes its annual cycle, leaving behind a trail of flickering flames and a legacy of faith renewed.

And so, each Advent season, the wreath stands as a testament to the enduring hope, peace, joy, and love found in the Christ child, inviting believers to journey once more through the timeless tale of anticipation and divine arrival.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



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

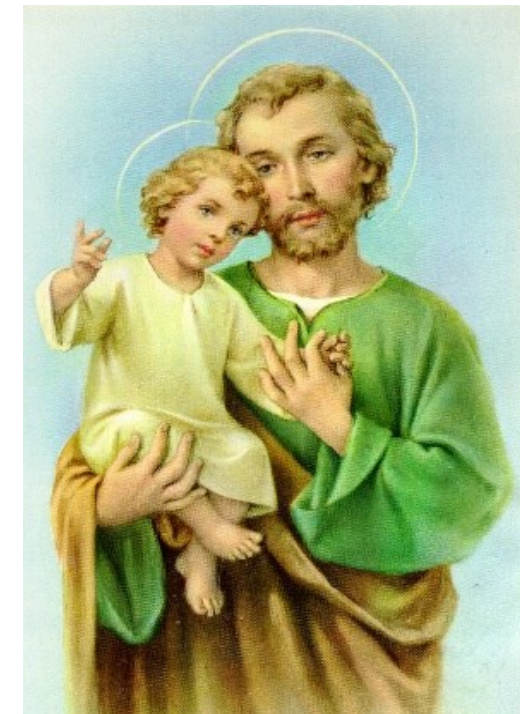
David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Lyn Rodgers ♦ Mike Mulvihill  
 Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger ♦ Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Lloyd Rodgers  
 Pierre Jones ♦ Sammi Pedersen ♦ Steven Clifton ♦ Jordan Ortega ♦ Chuck Renwick  
 John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni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

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

### 150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

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

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	12/04/2023	8:00 a.m.	Janet Andrew (D)	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	12/05/2023	8:00 a.m.	Margie Denton (D)	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	12/06/2023	12:00 p.m.	Brett Edgerly (L)	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	12/07/2023	8:00 a.m.	Laine Musil (D)	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	12/08/2023	8:00 a.m.	Maurice Gerke (D)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday	12/08/2023	6:00 p.m.	Howard Tocher Family (L)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday	12/09/2023	5:00 p.m.	Faye McDermott (D)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Sunday	12/10/2023	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Patrick McCarthy (L)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Sunday	12/10/2023	12:00 p.m.	Herculano Vargas Ruiz/Maria Vargas Guzman (D)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

THE FIRST SUNDAY of Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year. Amidst the excitement of preparing for the Christmas festivities, the season of Advent reminds us that we have to make preparations for the deeper meaning of what Christmas is all about—God's presence among His people in the person of Jesus Christ. His coming on Christmas Day fills us with hope and gives us encouragement that amidst all life's troubles our future is secure because it is in God's hands.

There is a note of high hope about this Advent season. It proclaims the message that God has not abandoned His people. He has sent His Son among us to come to our aid and free us from our sins.

This holy season celebrates the abiding presence of Christ in the world and His birth in each of our hearts. It tells us about the beginning and future ending of the story of our redemption. While we look forward to Christmas, and the celebration of Christ's birthday, we cast a glance into the future and to that great day when Christ will come in glory.

In the meantime, we are to wait in joyful hope for our Lord and Saviour to be revealed, and so we pray: *Maranatha—Come, Lord Jesus.*

Echoed and re-echoed throughout the reading is the warning to "Be on your guard. Stay awake because you never know when the time will come." It is a grim reminder that a day of reckoning lies ahead. To be found wanting and unworthy of the kingdom on that occasion will be painfully frustrating. The choice is Christ or catastrophe.

The real challenge of Advent is to prepare ourselves—in body and soul—for that great mo-



ment, by letting God's presence and power get to work in our lives.

Life is incomplete without God, and we are useless and inadequate without His presence. He alone can satisfy our deepest longings and fill us with inner peace.

Advent makes us aware of our need to turn to God in hope and humble prayer, begging Him to save us. It is a time for soul searching and renewal, for becoming more conscious of our sins, and asking pardon and forgiveness.

If we have abandoned God, or neglected prayer or broken the commandments, now is the time for us to make a fresh start at building a closer relationship with Him. There is not much point in Christ coming into our world if He is not at home and alive in our hearts.

God values our response to His love. Above all, Advent is a season when as Christians we reach out to the disadvantaged and bring them the joys of Christ.

We are invited to listen to the voice of God in the countless ways He speaks to us every day and recognize His love. The challenge of God in Jesus is around every corner, at work, on the street, while we are with friends, or at home in the dull routine of life.

There is no day when He does not knock at the door of our hearts. One way we can let Him in is by availing ourselves of the opportunities to serve and be neighborly in our community. We pass through this world but once, and any good we have to do should be done now. While Advent is about waiting for God to come into our lives, it is good to remember that God has been waiting for us longer than we have been waiting for Him.

## December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

### Advent



The first week of Advent is the candle of Hope. It is also known as the "prophecy candle."

It is in this first week of Advent that we remember Old Testament prophecies of the Coming of the Messiah. The color purple is to symbolize the royalty of Jesus Christ.

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### Advent Penance Service

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

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

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### Holy Day Of Obligation

**This coming Friday, December 8th,** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass times are at **8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

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### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

The Hispanic Ministry invites you and your family to the Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe **next Sunday, December 10th, with Mañanitas at 6 a.m.,** followed by the Rosary. Then Mexican hot chocolate and Mexican bread will be served in the church basement. **Mass is at 12 p.m.,** followed by a Potluck Reception in the Parish Hall with Folklore dances and family entertainment.



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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.

### Religious Retirement Collection

The Religious Retirement Collection is being held on the weekend of **December 9th and 10th.**

Pope Francis noted, "There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." As we approach the Annual Religious Retirement Collection, we are all reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows. Instead, the prayer and ministry of older priests are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. 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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### 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/or to register, please go to: [DioceseofBaker.org](http://DioceseofBaker.org). (Supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)