

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### “The Day I Was Too Busy” (Author Unknown)

“**M**ommy, look!” cried my daughter, Darla, pointing to a chicken hawk soaring through the air. “Uh huh,” I murmured, driving, lost in thought about the tight schedule of my day.

Disappointment filled her face. “What’s the matter, Sweetheart?” I asked, entirely dense.

“Nothing,” my seven-year-old said. The moment was gone. Near home, we slowed to search for the albino deer that comes out from behind the thick mass of trees in the early evening. She was nowhere to be seen. “Tonight, she has too many things to do,” I said.

Dinner, baths, and phone calls filled the hours until bedtime. “Come on, Darla, time for bed!” She raced past me up the stairs. Tired, I kissed her on the cheek, said prayers and tucked her in.

“Mom, I forgot to give you something!” she said. But my patience was gone. “Give it to me in the morning,” I said. But she shook her head. “You won’t have time in the morning!” she retorted. “I’ll take time,” I answered defensively.

Sometimes no matter how hard I tried, time flowed through my fingers—like sand in an hourglass—never enough. Not enough for her, for my husband, and definitely not enough for me.

She wasn’t ready to give up yet. She wrinkled her freckled little nose in anger and swiped away her chestnut brown hair. “No, you won’t! It will be just like today when I told you to look at the hawk. You didn’t even listen to what I said.”

I was too weary to argue; she hit too close to the truth. “Good night!” I said, and shut her door with a resounding thud.

Later though, her gray-blue gaze filled my vision as I thought about how little time we really had until she was grown and gone. My husband asked, “Why so glum?” And so, I told him.

“Maybe she’s not asleep yet. Why don’t you check,” he said with all the authority of a parent in the right. I followed his advice, wishing it was my own idea.

I cracked open her door, and the light from the window spilled over her sleeping form. In her hand I could see the remains of a crumpled paper. Slowly I opened her palm to see what the item of our disagreement had been.

Tears filled my eyes. She had torn into small pieces a big red heart with a poem she had written titled, “Why I Love My Mother!”

I carefully removed the tattered pieces. Once the puzzle was put back into place, I read what she had written:

**Why I Love My Mother**  
**Although you’re busy,**  
**And you work so hard,**  
**You always take time to play.**  
**I love you Mommy because**  
**I am the biggest part of your busy day!**

The words were an arrow straight to the heart. At seven years old, she had the wisdom of Solomon.

Ten minutes later I carried a tray to her room, with two cups of hot chocolate with marshmallows and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. When I softly touched her smooth cheek, I could feel my heart burst with love.

Her thick dark lashes lay like fans against her lids as they fluttered, awakened from a dreamless sleep, and she looked at the tray.

“What is that for?” she asked, confused by this late-night intrusion.

“This is for you, because you are the most important part of my busy day!”

She smiled and sleepily drank half her cup of chocolate. Then she drifted back to sleep, not really understanding how strongly I meant what I said.

*—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*

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

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ 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 ♦ Karen Evans ♦ Ellen Suing

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
**January 21, 2024 † The 3rd 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](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	01/22/2024	8:00 a.m.	Delbert Marquez (L)	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday	01/23/2024	8:00 a.m.	Fr. Cornelius Kiely (D)	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	01/24/2024	12:00 p.m.	Katie Marquez (L)	2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday	01/25/2024	8:00 a.m.	Ellena Marquez (L)	Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18
Friday	01/26/2024	12:00 p.m.	Margaret Marquez (L)	2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	01/27/2024	5:00 p.m.	Barbara Marquez (L)	Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Sunday	01/28/2024	9:00 a.m.	Bud Redfern (D)	Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Sunday	01/28/2024	12:00 p.m.	Jackie Cearley (L)	Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



## Today's Homily

OUR LIFE IS full of mysteries. Our faith is a mystery, our call is a mystery. Whatever we are, whoever we are, guided by our God, and that itself is a mystery.

It is not because we are perfect human beings, we have all the virtues needed, but it is because of the immense mercy and love of God, which he showed to us through His Son Jesus.

The main theme of today's readings is God's call to discipleship, with the response of **repentance, conversion, and renewal of life** expected from us.

The first reading tells us how the prophet Jonah was called by God to go to Nineveh to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. Though Jonah tried to run away from God, finally he goes to Nineveh and preached to the people **the need for repentance and turning away from their sins, and converting and renewing their lives.**

The King of Nineveh, along with the people—and even the animals—promptly responded to God's word as preached by His prophet, repenting in sackcloth with a fast—just on the chance that the Lord God “might” spare them.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus came to Galilee and began preaching, challenging people to **repent and believe** in the **Gospel**. Just as John did, Jesus also called for **repentance**, meaning **a change in one's mind or in the direction of one's life, setting new priorities**. Repentance also means hating sin, not just being sorry for the consequences of one's sins.

**Believing** in the Gospel demands from the hearers **a resolution to take Jesus' words seriously, to translate them into action, and to put trust in Jesus' authority**. Jesus preached the **Gospel**, or Good News, **that God is a loving, forgiving, caring, and merciful Father Who wants to liberate us and save us from our sins through His son Jesus.**

By describing the call of Jesus' first disciples—**Andrew, Peter, James and John**—today's Gospel also emphasizes **how we, sinners, are to respond**



**to God's call with total commitment by abandoning our accustomed style of sinful life.**

Jesus started His public ministry immediately after John the Baptist was arrested.

According to Mark, Jesus selected four fishermen: Andrew, his brother Peter, with James and his brother John, right from their fishing boats.

Jesus wanted these ordinary, hard-working people as assistants for his ministry because they would be very responsive and generous instruments in the hands of God.

The two greatest aspects of discipleship in Mark are **being with Jesus and sharing in his mission**. Disciples are invited to be with Jesus on a great spiritual journey and to share in Jesus' mission of proclaiming God's Kingdom in word and deed.

Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick.

**We are called individually to a way of life or vocation:** Whatever our vocation may be, our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be. As St. Francis de Sales puts it, we are expected to bloom where we are planted.

**Our call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation.** It is strengthened through the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and, for those so called, made manifest in the sacraments of Matrimony or Holy Orders. **The amazing truth is that God is relentless** in calling us back to Himself even when we stray away from Him.

**Let us be thankful to God for His Divine grace of calling us to be members of the true Church.** Let us remember that it is our vocation in life as Christians **to transmit Christ's Light through our living, radiating Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness, and humble service to all in our society.**

## January—Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

### Meetings

- Monday, January 22nd—Youth Group Formation Planning at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
- Tuesday, January 30th—Liturgical Meeting at 3 p.m. in Fr. Joseph's Office.
- Tuesday, February 6th—Finance/Executive Meeting at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall

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### Pro-Life Day of Prayer



Monday, January 22nd, is set aside as the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” The Church has directed all Dioceses of the USA that January 22nd shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for

the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

**Because it falls on a Monday this year,** St.

Joseph's Respect Life Committee invites all people of our Church family to join us for an hour Prayer Vigil for life on **Sunday January 21st, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.,** on 3rd St., in front of the Crook County Courthouse. Signs will be provided. Please arrive 10 minutes early to pick up your signs. Know you are a voice for the voiceless by your life witness, prayers and political action.

In addition, the USCCB also sponsors an annual, nationwide novena called “9 Days for Life,” which encompasses the liturgical observance of the Day of Prayer. Each day for nine days, a different intention is featured, accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information as we pray for the respect and protection of every human life.

Visit [respectlife.org/9-days-for-life](http://respectlife.org/9-days-for-life) for more information on the annual campaign.

Every first (1st) Friday of the month for our Parish Adoration from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. will be dedicated for Pro-Life intentions.

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### Music Coordinator

We are looking for a Music Coordinator for the **5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass**. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475.

### Support your Mother Church through the 2024 Cathedral Conservation Collection (CCC)

We sincerely appreciate your generous contribution to the Cathedral Conservation Collection in 2023. The fund balance at the end of 2022 stood at just over \$200,000, and we were blessed to add \$94,133 with last year's collection. But, the replacement of the front steps is estimated to cost approximately \$750,000. We are reaching out to kindly request your support once again this year through a 2nd collection taking place **next weekend, January 27th/28th.**



There is also an insert letter from **Fr. Joseph** in the Parish Bulletin this week, and we ask that you pick up a yellow envelope in the church vestibule or pew for the 2nd collection. Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Church. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

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### Inviting Young Adults, 18–39: Diocesan Lenten Retreat

*“Sacrificial Love; The Redemption of Suffering”*  
February 17th & 18th\*

Come begin your Lenten journey with engaging speakers (including Bishop Liam Cary, Sr. Ignacia Carrillo, FMA, Fr. Caleb Cunningham), Eucharistic Adoration with an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (with Bishop Cary, Fr. Mena, or Fr. Cunningham), time for personal prayer and reflection, small group fellowship, and Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Cary at the beautiful, peaceful Cascade View Retreat Center, Powell Butte. For more information, or to register, please visit [dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org). (Supported by the BAA.) \*early/late arrival/departure available by request.

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### Diocese of Baker Men's Conference in Spanish & English!

Join Catholic men from around the diocese for talks that inspire, conversations that give strength, and prayer that will help us become the husbands, fathers, and brothers God is calling us to be. Join us!

**IN SPANISH:** February 24th in The Dalles

**IN ENGLISH:** March 16th in Redmond.

For more info and/or to register: [dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference](http://dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference) or call Bryce at (541) 388-4004.