

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Devil's Convention" (Author Unknown)

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles & knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken.

So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, Angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

"Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds," he answered.

"Tempt them to spend, spend, spend—then borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6 or 7 days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work.

"Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, VCR, CDs, and their PCs going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ.

"Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering, free products, services, and false hopes.

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies instead.

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion.

"Let them be involved in soul winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause."

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments, causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there.

Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.

PS: I once heard it said that "Busy: is:

B—being
U—under
S—Satan's
Y—yoke

—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
Jordan Ortega ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara
Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand ♦ Karen Evans ♦ Ellen Suing ♦ Brittany

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
January 28, 2024 † The 4th 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

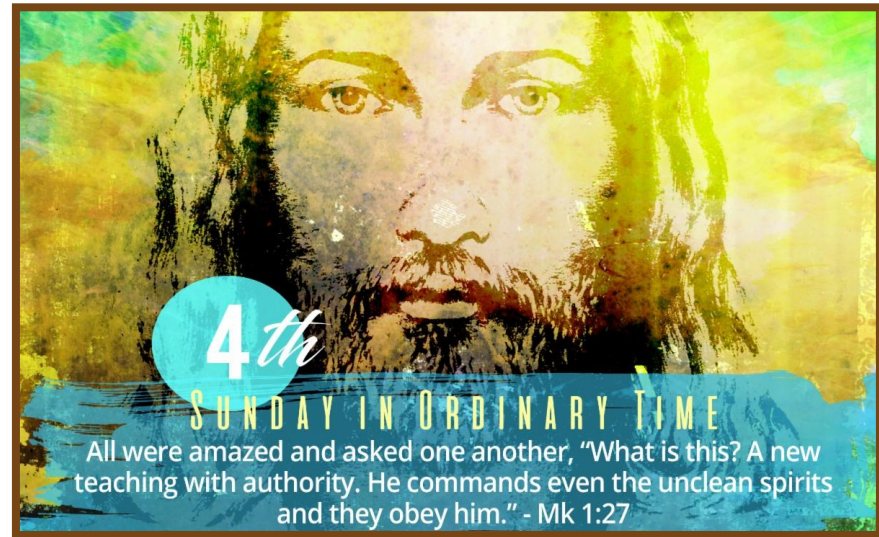
The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

👉 Please Call the Parish Office to Have a Mass Intention Reserved 👈

Monday	01/29/2024	8:00 a.m.	Renato Mendoza (D)	2 Sam 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday	01/30/2024	8:00 a.m.	Christina Bolter (D)	2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday	01/31/2024	4:00 p.m.	Hannah Koivisto (D)	2 Sam 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	02/01/2024	8:00 a.m.	Albina Stagnoli (L)	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13
Friday	02/02/2024	12:00 p.m.	Stephan K Bannon (L)	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Saturday	02/03/2024	5:00 p.m.	Janet Andrew (D)	Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39
Sunday	02/04/2024	9:00 a.m.	Dorothy Doumichelle (D)	Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39
Sunday	01/2/04/2024	12:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St Joseph (L)	Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily



THE COMMON THEME of today's readings is Divine authority, as exercised in this world by the prophets of the Old Testament in their messages, by the Apostles (including St. Paul), in their writings and teaching in the New Testament, and by Jesus in His teaching and healing ministry.

In today's Gospel, Mark describes one sample Sabbath day of Jesus' public life. Jesus joins in public worship in the synagogue as a practicing Jew, heals the sick, drives out evil spirits and prays privately. People immediately noticed that Jesus teaches with authority and heals with Divine power. Jesus explains the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people, He answered with authority.

In every Jewish settlement of more than 10 families there is a synagogue. The synagogue was a place of instruction and Sabbath prayers. The synagogue service consisted of three parts—**prayer, the reading of God's word, and the exposition of it** made by anyone who wished to do so.

In this chapter Mark tells us that in the local synagogue Jesus *taught with authority*. This means that Jesus explained the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people He answered with authority. He spoke as if He relied on no one beyond Himself. He cited no authorities or experts. Mark also records the *impact Jesus had* on those who heard Him. We are told how *amazed* people were *at the authority with which* He preached. Jesus also showed His power and authority by curing the sick and granting forgiveness to people.

In the synagogue, there was a man who was troubled by an unclean spirit. Everyone in the ancient Biblical world feared evil spirits and believed in demonic possession. People believed that demons or "unclean spirits" living

inside the people caused leprosy, lameness, paralysis, etc. Even in the 21st Century, we still believe in the existence of unclean spirits. How else can we explain the sudden explosions of anger that occur, the suicidal impulses, the intense jealousies, wild sexual fantasies, or overwhelming feelings of depression?

We, as human beings, are keenly aware of these unclean spirits. We often wonder where the "unclean thoughts" come from and why we can't rid ourselves of them.

Victory over the unclean spirit—as the devil is usually described—is a clear sign that God's salvation has come: by overcoming the Evil One, Jesus shows that He is the Messiah, the Savior, more powerful than the demons.

The demoniac cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" What does Jesus have to do with these unclean spirits that live in each one of us? The answer we find in the Gospel is equally true today: Jesus came to destroy the unclean spirits living inside of us. That is one of the reasons why Jesus came to earth in the first place and one of the reasons why He continues His presence in our lives. Jesus came to drive out those unclean spirits within us, to wash them away, to cleanse our lives of them. Let us put ourselves under His authority, and He will liberate us.

January—Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Meetings

- Tuesday, January 30th—Liturgical Meeting at 3 p.m. in Fr. Joseph's Office.
- January 28th—Hispanic Ministry at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- Tuesday, February 6th—Finance/Executive Meeting at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- February 20th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the parish hall

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

There will be a second collection this weekend (January 27th/28th), and next weekend (February 3rd/4th), to collect the CCC envelopes. *"It's the mother church of the diocese . . . it belongs to you!"*

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Welcome to our Newest Members



We are excited to announce that on January 28th, at the 9 a.m. Mass, we'll be celebrating the *Rite of Acceptance* for our catechumens and candidates. This is a special ceremony where we welcome

those who are interested in becoming members of our parish and the Catholic Church. Together, we will offer prayers and blessings for their spiritual growth. Your presence and prayers are invaluable as we support and welcome these individuals as they continue their journey of faith:

Catechumens: Shawn Hawkins, Alicia Hawkins, Keonna Buie, and Keith Buie

Candidates: Jose Vargas, Malakai Rubio, Adelaida Villagomez, and Gabriel Villagomez

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Schedule Change

Daily Mass on Wednesday, January 31st, will be held at 4 p.m. INSTEAD of 12 p.m. This is so all the Religious Education Students can attend. If you are able to please come and support our students.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Friday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord when Christ our Light entered the temple. On that day at the 12 p.m. Mass, all the candles that will be used in the liturgy throughout the year will be blessed.

You can bring your candles from home to Mass, and Fr. Joseph will bless them as well. That is why this day is also known as "Candlemas."

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Memorial of St. Blaise

On Saturday, February 3rd, we will celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise of Sebaste with the "Blessing of the Throats" at the 5 p.m. Mass.

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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.

The 1st Day of Lent

Ash Wednesday, the 1st day of Lent, is on February 14th. Mass times will be at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Young Adults, 18–39: Diocesan Lenten Retreat

Come begin your Lenten journey February 17th & 18th* with engaging speakers, Eucharistic Adoration with an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, time for personal prayer and reflection, small group fellowship, and Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Cary at the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte. For more information or to register, please visit dioceseofbaker.org. (Supported by the BAA.)

*early/late arrival/departure available by request.

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Diocese of Baker Men's Conference

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 or call Bryce at (541) 388-4004.

