

Fr. Joseph's Corner The Precious Pearl

THE CHEERFUL GIRL with bouncy golden curls was almost five. Waiting with her mother at the checkout stand, she saw them: a circle of glistening white pearls in a pink foil box "Oh please, Mommy. Can I have them? Please, Mommy, please?" Quickly the mother checked the back of the little foil box and then looked back into the pleading blue eyes of her little girl's upturned face "A dollar ninety-five? That's almost two dollars! If you really want them, I'll think of some extra chores for you, and in no time, you can save enough money to buy them for yourself. Your birthday's only a week away, too, and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma."

As soon as Jenny got home, she emptied her penny bank and counted out 17 pennies. After dinner, she did more than her share of chores, and she went to the neighbor and asked if she could pick dandelions for 10 cents.

On her birthday, Grandma did give her another new dollar bill, and at last she had enough money to buy the necklace. Jenny loved her pearls. They made her feel dressed up and grown up.

She wore them everywhere—Sunday school, kindergarten—even to bed. The only time she took them off was when she went swimming or had a bubble bath. Mother said if they got wet, they might turn her neck green.

Jenny had a very loving daddy, and every night when she was ready for bed, he would stop whatever he was doing and come upstairs to read her a story. One night when he finished the story, he asked Jenny, "Do you love me?" "Oh yes, Daddy. You know that I love you." "Then give me your pearls." "Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have Princess—the white horse from my collection—the one with the pink tail. Do you remember, Daddy? The one you gave me. She's my favorite." "That's okay, Honey. Daddy loves you. Good night." And he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

About a week later, after the story time, Jenny's daddy asked again, "Do you love me?" "Daddy, you know I love you." "Then give me your pearls." "Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have my baby doll—the brand new one I got for my birthday. She is so beautiful, and you can have the yellow blanket that matches her sleeper." "That's okay. Sleep well. God bless you, little one. Daddy loves you," and as always, he brushed her cheek with a gentle kiss. A few nights later when her daddy came in, Jenny was sitting on her bed with her legs crossed Indian style. As he came close, he noticed her chin was trembling and one silent tear rolled down her cheek.

"What is it, Jenny? What's the matter?" Jenny didn't say anything but lifted her hand up to her daddy. And when she opened it, there was her little pearl necklace. With a little quiver, she finally said, "Here, Daddy. It's for you." With tears gathering in his own eyes, Jenny's kind daddy reached out with one hand to take the dime-store necklace, and with the other hand he reached into his pocket and pulled out a blue velvet case with a strand of genuine pearls and gave them to Jenny. He had them all the time. He was just waiting for her to give up the dime-store stuff so he could give her the genuine treasure.

So, it is with our Heavenly Father. He is waiting for us to give up the cheap things in our lives so that he can give us beautiful treasure. Isn't God good? Are you holding onto things which God wants you to let go of? Are you holding on to harmful or unnecessary partners, relationships, habits, and activities which you have come so attached to that it seems impossible to let go? Sometimes it is so hard to see what is in the other hand but do believe this one thing: God will never take away something without giving you something better in its place.

The greatest gifts happen when you share love and touch others' hearts!

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

Prayer for the Gift of Life

O God, Who adorns creation with splendor and beauty, and fashions human lives in Your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of Your hands, and renew among Your people a readiness to nurture and sustain Your precious gift of human life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
February 25, 2024 † The 2nd Sunday of Lent

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	02/26/2024	8:00 a.m.	Nicanor Mendoza (D)	Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	02/27/2024	8:00 a.m.	Don & Maxine York (D)	Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	02/28/2024	4:00p.m.	Cathy Anderson (D)	Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday	02/29/2024	8:00 a.m.	Sophie Schoenstein (D)	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Friday	03/01/2024	12:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	03/02/2024	5:00 p.m.	Keaton & Kinley Kurtz (L)	Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Sunday	03/03/2024	9:00 a.m.	Mary Husar (D)	Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Sunday	03/03/2024	12:00 p.m.	Camerino Ortiz Toledo (D)	Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

The common theme of today's readings is the challenge for metamorphosis or transformation, especially during this Lent season. How?

We have to transform our dull and sleepy spiritual life into a dynamic Christian life during Lent. Again, how?

By cooperating with the grace of God and the strengthening of the Holy Spirit through prayer, fasting, and sharing our blessings with those in need. This will renew our spiritual life during Lent, as our Spirit-filled lives begin radiating Christ's love and mercy around us.

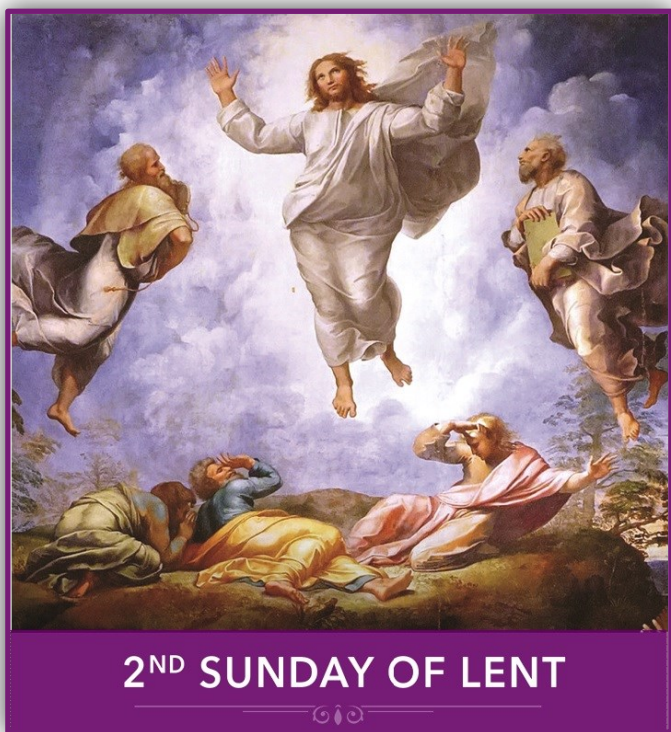
The three readings refer to transfiguration on three mountains. The first reading explains how Abraham's obedience and faith were transformed to blind obedience and trusting faith in his God, when Yahweh saved Isaac from being sacrificed on Mount Moriah, making Abraham the Father of Faith.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks about the Mount Calvary transfiguration of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God when instead of saving Him from death as He spared Isaac, God the Father permitted Jesus to die a shameful death by crucifixion, suffering horrible pain and humiliation. In other words, God showed His love for us by allowing the transformation of the glorious preaching and healing ministry of His Son to a tragic end—proving that God's love has no limits.

In the Transfiguration story in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed in His Heavenly glory, superior to Moses and Elijah on the Mountain of Transfiguration—Tabor or Hermon.

The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult His Heavenly Father and ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death, and Resurrection.

God's secondary aim was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of Jesus' Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial.



A third aim was to give Jesus the conviction that He will continue to be the Son of God, His loving Father, even during His suffering and death.

Finally, by describing the theophany of Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Every sacrament we receive transforms our lives: Baptism, for example, transforms us into children of God and heirs of heaven, while Confirmation transforms us into brave witnesses of and warriors for

Christ, and Reconciliation transforms sinners into saints.

THE "TRANSFIGURATION" IN THE HOLY MASS IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH:

In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus by transubstantiation.

Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the Apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our Source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the Source of our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others.

CHRIST'S TRANSFIGURATION GIVES US THE MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE:

In moments of doubt, during our dark moments of despair, hopelessness, pain, and suffering, the thought of our future transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and listen to His consoling words: *"This is my beloved son."* Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent, and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to Jesus in His suffering; we may share in the carrying of His cross; and finally, we may share the glory of His second "transfiguration"—namely, His Resurrection.

February—The Month of the Holy Family

Schedule Change

Daily Mass on Wednesday, February 28th, will be held at 4 p.m. INSTEAD of 12 o'clock. This is so all the Religious Education Students can attend. If you are able to, please come and support our students.

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Meetings

- **March 4th—Youth Group at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall**
- **March 19th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**



Lenten Schedule

- † **Stations of the Cross—**are every Friday Night at 6 p.m., through March 29th, with a Soup Supper to follow.
- † **Lenten Penance Service** is on Wednesday, March 13th, beginning at 6 p.m.
- † **Chrism Mass in Baker City** is on Thursday, March 21st, at 11 a.m.—Invitations are on the table in the narthex.
- † **Palm Sunday, March 24th—**Mass is at 9 a.m., and the Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.
- † **Holy Thursday, March 28th—**at 6 p.m.
- † **Good Friday, March 29th—**Way of the Cross at 3 p.m.; Passion Service and Veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.
- † **Holy Saturday, March 30th—**Easter Vigil Mass is at 7 p.m.
- † **Easter Sunday, March 31st—**Mass is at 9 a.m., and Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.

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Usted puede ayudar a su matrimonio

¿Se siente sola o solo? ¿Están frustrados o enojados entre los dos? ¿Hablar de eso lo hace más difícil la situación? Retrouvaille es para las parejas que desean tener un redescubrimiento en su matrimonio y mejorar su comunicación. Para información confidencial o para registrarse para el fin de semana en **March 15–17** en Pasco, Washington. Llame al (800) 966-7981 ó al (509) 521-3733 ó al (541) 936-2448; ó visite el sitio <https://helpourmarriage.org/es>.

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Free Piano!

Would you like a piano? There is one in the Parish Hall that we are giving away. Contact the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475 to arrange a time to pick it up.

Friday Soup Suppers

Every Friday during Lent our volunteers will provide a Soup Supper after the Stations of the Cross. This year's schedule is:

- **March 1—Acolytes**
- **March 8—Pro Life**
- **March 15—Knights of Columbus**
- **March 22—Religious Education**



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Ham Dinner

On Sunday, March 17th, St Joseph's Parish celebrates a 75+ year tradition of its **Annual St. Patrick's Day Ham Dinner.** The menu will continue to be hickory-smoked ham, split-pea soup, string beans, baked potatoes, and desert. A special tradition is **Gertrude Reif's** raisin sauce, whose recipe has been kept a secret for all these many years.

This is a Parish and Community-wide event. Please invite your extended family, neighbors, and friends to enjoy the feast. Tickets will be sold at the dinner but also available beforehand. If you would like to purchase tickets early, they are available through the Parish Office or contact **Gary Thompson at: (541) 447-5001.**

Dinner is served from 12 to 5 p.m.. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6 to 12, and under age 6 is free. Families \$35 for 2 adults and 2 kids under age 18. At no additional cost, take-out dinners will be available. Pre-orders are taken during the dining time by calling the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475. (We need paper sacks—if you have any to donate, you can drop them off at the Parish Office.)

Volunteers have traditionally donated desserts. Please drop them off on the morning of the dinner to the right of the stage but NO crème pies or any dessert that needs refrigeration.

Volunteers are needed! Please come, help, and enjoy! Call **Gary Thompson** to volunteer. **Setup is at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 16th. On Sunday, March 17th, we will have 2 shifts: 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.** We need help in the dining area, dish washing, and dessert area.

The direct benefit of the Ham Dinner is the spirit of community among us as parishioners, the community of Prineville, and Central Oregon. The Breath of the Holy Spirit has kept this tradition alive for 76 years. It is one of many things that makes St. Joseph and Prineville special!

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College Freshman Scholarship

Bishop Cary and The Legacy of Faith Foundation on behalf of the **Canney Family** are looking for a High School Senior with a GPA: 2.0+ requiring financial assistance to attend College or Trade School. Approximate value is \$2,500 per year up to two years. Applications are due **March 31st!**

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with a Priest reference. For information and application, contact **Mark French** at Mark@DioceseofBaker.org.