

Fr. Joseph's Corner

Our Lives Have a Purpose

EVERY LIFE HAS A PURPOSE. Every life has meaning. We get many opportunities to become better persons if we keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open. The following story invites us to reflect about the purpose of our lives on this earth, and I want to share it with you:

A few years ago, a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Detroit. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner.

In their rush to catch the plane home and, with tickets and briefcases, one of the salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table that held a display of apples for sale.

Apples flew everywhere! Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding—ALL BUT ONE!

The man paused, took a deep breath, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, asking one of them to call his wife and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor. He was glad he did because the 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration—and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her—no one stopping, and no one caring about her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her and gathered up the apples. He put them back on the table and helped to organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you OK?"

She nodded through her tears. He then continued, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister? Are you Jesus?" He stopped in midstride and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus. He is good, kind, caring, loving, and He would never have bumped into your display in the first place.

The girl gently nodded and said, "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather these apples. He sent you to help me. Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

Then slowly the man made his way to the gate to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

If we claim to know Jesus, we should live, walk and act as He would. That is our destiny—to be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference, as we live in a world that is blind to His love, life, and grace. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. We are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked us up on a hill called Calvary. He paid in full for our damaged fruit—our sinful lives. We take things for granted. Let us be grateful to God for all the wonderful blessings He has given to our lives and share the blessings with others. Be a blessing for others because God has blessed you abundantly.

—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 ♦ Brittany

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
February 18, 2024 † The 1st 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	02/19/2024	8:00 a.m.	Anita Mierla (D)	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	02/20/2024	8:00 a.m.	Steve Riney (D)	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	02/21/2024	6:00 p.m.	Delbert Marquez (L)	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	02/22/2024	8:00 a.m.	Carol Moore (L)	1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
Friday	02/23/2024	12:00 p.m.	Sami Pedersen (L)	Ez 8:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	02/24/2024	5:00 p.m.	Nancy Hoffman (D)	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
Sunday	02/25/2024	9:00 a.m.	James & John Thompson (D)	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
Sunday	02/25/2024	12:00 p.m.	Ernesto Castro Duarte (D)	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily—The 1st Sunday of Lent

Lent begins with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come to everybody, not only to Jesus, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them.

The primary purpose of Lent is spiritual preparation for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The Church tries to achieve this goal, leading her children to metanoia or "repentance" by the reordering of their priorities and the changing of their values, ideals, and ambitions—through fasting, prayer, and self-control.

Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today's readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly. The first reading tells us how man irrevocably broke the original covenant God had made with Adam and Eve, and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism, which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ.

In the second reading, St. Peter reminds the Church that an outward sign of the New Covenant that God made with His people through Jesus is Baptism, which makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, we are told how Jesus faced and defeated the tempter by His 40 days of prayer and penance in the desert immediately after His baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching His Messianic mission. The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel.

Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us though the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies. Formerly, the six weeks of Lent meant a time of severe penance as a way of purifying ourselves from our sinful habits and getting ready to celebrate the Paschal



Mystery (the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), with a renewed commitment to follow Christ. Now, the Church leaves the Lenten practice of penance to the good will and generosity of individual Christians.

However, Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word, and deed. It is also a time to assess our relationships

with our family, our friends, our working colleagues, and other people with whom we come in contact—especially those of our parish. We should examine whether we are able to make any positive contribution to other people's lives and to eradicate the abuses, which are part of our society.

Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by participating in the Mass each day, or at least a few days during the week. We can also set aside some part of our day for personal prayer, spend some time reading Scripture, alone or—better still—with others.

We can set aside some money that we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes, and give it to an organization such as St. Vincent de Paul, which takes care of the less fortunate in our society.

We have many opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent, and we have the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays. Make it a point to participate in them and receive the special graces from the Lord. We will get many opportunities to do some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy every day during the season of Lent. Let us make use of them. Repenting and fighting against temptations and evil is a lifetime's task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; he achieved that only in his death.

Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given us the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us, so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.

February—The Month of the Holy Family

Meetings

- February 20th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall
- March 4th—Youth Group at 6 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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Benediction

This year, Benediction will be on the **last weekend of every month**—except for Easter weekend.

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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 Supper

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

- February 23—Hispanic Ministries
- March 1—Acolytes
- March 8—Pro Life
- March 15—Knights of Columbus
- March 22—Religious Education

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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 information and/or to register call Bryce at (541) 388-4004 or go to: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference.

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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 (se pronuncia retro vay) ayuda a las en los momentos difíciles de su matrimonio. Retrouvaille es para las parejas que desean tener un redescubrimiento en su matrimonio y mejorar su comunicación. Puede visitar <https://helpourmarriage.org/es> para conocer testimonios. 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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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 more information and application, go to: dioceseofbaker.org/canney-scholarship or contact **Mark French** at Mark@DioceseofBaker.org.