

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "The Bridge" (Author unknown)

There once was this railroad turntable bridge that spanned a large river. During most of the day, the bridge sat parallel with the tracks, allowing ships to pass freely on both sides. But at certain times each day, a train would come along, and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing the trains to cross. A switchman sat in a small shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed.

One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance through the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train's light. He stepped to the controls and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance when he was to turn the bridge into position.

He turned the bridge, but to his horror, found that the locking control didn't work. If the bridge was not locked into position securely, it would wobble back and forth at the ends when the train came onto it. This would cause the train to "jump" the track and go crashing into the river. This train was a passenger train with many people aboard. He left the bridge turned across the river, and hurried across to the other side of the river where there was a lever he could use to operate the lock manually. He could hear the rumble of the train now. He took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply pressure to keep the mechanism locked.

Many lives depended on this man's strength. Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his con-

trol shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold: "Daddy, where are you?" His 4-year-old son was crossing the bridge looking for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "Run, run!" But the train was too close, the boy's tiny legs wouldn't make it across the bridge in time.

The man almost lifted the lever to run to snatch up his son and carry him to safety, but he realized he could not get back to the lever in time. Either the people on the train or his little son must die. He took just a moment to make his decision.

The train sped swiftly and safely on its way, and no one aboard was aware of the tiny, broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the rushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of a sobbing man still clinging tightly to the lever long after the train had passed. They didn't see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked to tell his wife how he had sacrificed their son.

Now if you can comprehend the feelings that went through this man's heart, you can understand the feeling of our Heavenly Father when He sacrificed His Son to bridge the gap between us and eternal life. How does He feel when we speed along through life without giving a thought to what was done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ? Can there be any wonder that He caused the earth to tremble and the skies to darken when His only Son died?

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

### 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 ♦ Karen Evans ♦ Brittany  
Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither  
Terri Hintze ♦ Nancy MacDonald

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 17, 2024 † The 5th 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](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	03/18/2024	8:00 a.m.	Margaret Riney & Family (L)	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	03/19/2024	8:00 a.m.	The Tocher Family (L)	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Wednesday	03/20/2024	12:00 p.m.	NO DAILY MASS	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	03/21/2024	8:00 a.m.	NO DAILY MASS	Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday	03/22/2024	12:00 p.m.	Zena Bassett (L)	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	03/23/2024	5:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47
Sunday	03/24/2024	9:00 a.m.	Frank Davis Jr (L)	Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47
Sunday	03/24/2024	12:00 p.m.	Bricia & Apolinar Toledo (D)	Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

### TODAY'S READINGS

**FOCUS** on the approaching death of Jesus which Paul considers a priestly sacrifice and John considers the moment of Jesus' "exaltation" and "glorification." The readings offer us a challenge.

Just as Jesus became the *Promised Messiah of Glory* and the *Conquering Son of Man* by offering His life for others, we, too, if we would come to Heaven, must die to self by loving obedience, spending our lives in self-giving sacrificial service.

**The first reading**, taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, explains how God will replace the Old Covenant of Judgment with a New Covenant of Forgiveness of Sins. This New or Renewed Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah was fulfilled, at least in part, through Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection.

**In the second reading**, St. Paul tells the Hebrews that it is by Jesus' suffering and death, in obedience to His Father's will, that Jesus established the New Covenant. Using metaphors of the "sown wheat grain" and the "*spent life*" in today's Gospel, Jesus teaches the lessons St. Paul will repeat.

**The Gospel of today** hints at Jesus' inner struggle in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant. However, Jesus accepts the cross as His "hour," meaning the stepping-stone to His passion, death, Resurrection, and exaltation.

Jesus also considers His "hour" as the way of glorifying His Heavenly Father and of being glorified by His Father. In addition, it is the way by which all people will be drawn into the saving action of God. Finally, the "lifting up" of Jesus on the cross, and later into Heavenly glory by Resurrection and Ascension, is the assurance of our



own exaltation and glorification, provided we accept our crosses.

**Today's Gospel** teaches us that new life and eternal life are made possible only by the death of the self through obedience, suffering, and service.

Salt gives its taste by dissolving in water. A candle gives light by having its wick burned and its wax melted. The oyster produces a priceless pearl by transforming a grain of sand through a long and painful process. Loving parents sacrifice themselves so that their children can enjoy a better life than they themselves have had. Let us pray that we may acquire this self-sacrificing spirit, especially during Lent.

Only a life spent for others will be glorified—sometimes here in this world—but always in Heaven. We know that the world owes everything to people who have spent their time and talents for God and for their fellow human beings. Mother Teresa, for instance, gave up her comfortable teaching career, and with just 5 rupees (17 cents) in her pocket began her challenging life for the "poorest of the poor" in the crowded slums of Calcutta. We see similar cases in the history of great saints, scientists, and benefactors of mankind in all walks of life. They chose to burn out rather than to rust out. Examples are the Rockefeller Foundation for scientific progress and the Bill Gates Foundation for AIDS Research. Let us, too, spend ourselves for others.

Let us learn to live this Lenten period by "burning out"—spending our time and talents for others around us by humble, selfless, and self-giving service. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can" (John Wesley).

## March—The Month of St. Joseph

### The Month of St. Joseph



St. Joseph is a key figure in Christianity, and he is known as the earthly father of Jesus Christ—and husband of the Virgin Mary—Jesus' mother. However, the historical accounts of Joseph's existence have mostly been blurred, and one of the four Gospels has no mention of his life at all. He was only mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, John, and Luke; and these are the sources of information about Joseph's life.

He was said to be a descendent of King David and married Mary after she became pregnant with a child, while still being a virgin.

After he married Mary, he came to know about her pregnancy and planned to divorce her quietly. However, according to the Gospels, an angel from heaven told him about her being the future mother of the Son of God. Following this, he decided to reconsider his decision and live with Mary.

To save his family from the wrath of King Herod, Joseph settled in Nazareth. The Gospels do not mention his death. However, it has been assumed that he died in 1 AD, before Jesus' crucifixion.

In the Catholic traditions, Joseph is regarded as a Patron Saint. His Feast Day is on **Tuesday, March 19th**.

*O God, Father of all, grant that through the intercession of St. Joseph, the Church may be a place of kindness and compassion.*

*May the grace of salvation, won for us by the son of Joseph and Mary, sustain us in all our works, and bring us at last to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen*

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### Meetings

- **March 19th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**
- **April 1st—Youth Group at 6 p.m.**

### No Daily Mass

**Fr. Joseph** will be in Baker City for the Chrism Mass on **March 20th and 21st**, so there won't be daily Mass on those days.

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### Friday Soup Suppers

Every Friday during Lent, after the 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross, there a soup supper put on by our volunteers.

- **March 22nd—Religious Education**

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### Lenten Schedule

- † **Chrism Mass in Baker City is on Thursday, March 21st, at 11 a.m.—Invitations are on the table in the narthex.**
- † **Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 23rd, at 5 p.m.**
- † **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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### We Have New Acolytes!

Congratulations to our new Acolytes, Roy Beyer, Carl Becker and Mike Carroll. Let's keep them in our prayers.

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### Youth Group

Our Youth Group is really coming together. If you would like to join us, either as a member or a volunteer, please contact **Ruby Ruiz, Jackie Cearley** or **Vivian Sanchez**. There are a lot of fun plans on the horizon. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 1st**.

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### Divine Mercy Cenacle Group

The Divine Mercy Cenacle Group would like to invite everyone who is interested in reading *St. Faustina's Diary*. We will begin on **Monday, April 8th, at 9 a.m., in Classroom #4**, which is the day following the Sunday of Divine Mercy.