

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“God Leads a Pretty Sheltered Life!”

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's Throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly—not with cringing shame—but with embittered belligerence. “How can God judge us? And how can He know about suffering?” snapped a scoffing brunette woman. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. “We endured terror, beatings, torture, and death!”

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for their evil suffering He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light; where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred. Indeed, what did God know about what men had been forced to endure in this world? “After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life,” they said.

So, each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a Black man, an “untouchable” from India, an “illegitimate,” a person from Hiroshima, and one from a Siberian slave camp.

In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last, they were ready to present their case. It was rather simple: Before God would be qualified to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God “. . . should be sentenced to live on

earth—as a man!” But because He was God, they set certain safeguards to make sure that He could not use His divine powers to help Himself. The conditions were the following:

- 1) Let Him be born a Jew.
- 2) Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted.
- 3) Let Him champion a cause so just but so radical that it brings down upon Him the hatred, the condemnation, and the attacks of every major traditional and established religious authority.
- 4) Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard, or smelled.
- 5) Let Him try to communicate God to men.
- 6) Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends.
- 7) Let Him be indicted on false charges—tried before a prejudiced jury and a cowardly judge.
- 8) Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing.
- 9) Let Him be tortured and let Him die! But let Him die the most humiliating death—as a common criminal—and with common thieves!

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people. However, when the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one moved. No one uttered another word. For suddenly they all knew . . . God had already served His sentence in Jesus!

—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 ♦ 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 10, 2024 † The 4th 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	03/11/2024	8:00 a.m.	Rhian Aizzy Candagan (D)	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	03/12/2024	8:00 a.m.	Lynda Smith (L)	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	03/13/2024	12:00 p.m.	Hattie & Tuff Penhollow (L)	Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	03/14/2024	8:00 a.m.	Clint Giovanini (D)	Ex 32:7-14; 5:31-47
Friday	03/15/2024	12:00 p.m.	Nikki Plumb (L)	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	03/16/2024	5:00 p.m.	Harold Godat (L)	Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Sunday	03/17/2024	9:00 a.m.	Blaine Tocher (L)	Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Sunday	03/17/2024	12:00 p.m.	Prospero Villagomez (D)	Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT is called *Lætare* (Rejoice) Sunday, from the first words of the day's liturgy. Because this Sunday occurs in the middle of Lent, as *Gaudete* Sunday is celebrated midway through Advent, *Lætare* Sunday reminds us of the Event we look forward to at the end

of the penitential season. As on *Gaudete* Sunday, rose-colored vestments may replace violet, and flowers may grace the altar.

In Lent, these outward signs symbolize the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection, a joy which cannot be contained even in this penitential Season, though we still refrain from *Alleluias* and the singing of the *Gloria* until the magnificence of the Easter Vigil.

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we see the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great—a pagan conqueror—to become the instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon.

In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus.

John 3:16 is probably the best loved verse in the Bible, and it has been called "everybody's text" and the "Gospel of the Gospels." *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.*

This is the summary of the Gospel message of salvation through Christ Jesus. This text is the very essence of the Gospel. It tells us that the initiative in all salvation is God's love for man. As St. Augustine puts it: "God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love." It also explains to us the universality of the love of God. God's motive is love and God's objective is salvation.



Those who actually receive eternal life must believe in the Son.

When we walk according to the teachings of Christ, we are walking in the Light.

If we oppose these teachings, we oppose Christ Himself; hence, we are walking in darkness.

In today's text, we are told, *Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.* There are many dark corners in our world. Addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, sexual immorality, environmental irresponsibility, and lack of purpose among so many of us—especially among young people—are a few of these dark corners. It is very easy to pretend that these dark corners don't exist.

Our lives matter to God, and He knows all about the dark corners in our lives. He wants us to stop hiding our sin in the dark and demands that we expose every dark corner to His Light of life. He is giving to us the Light that not only shows up the dirt in our lives but cleans it away. He died so that we could be made new and clean. Freely, the light of His forgiveness shines into our lives, brightening up every corner, forgiving every sin, restoring our relationship with God, renewing our lives.

When we allow the light of God's forgiveness to shine in our lives, it brightens up every corner, forgives every sin, restores our relationship with God and renews our lives. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. We will experience the joy and peace of sins forgiven, of new attitudes, and of new relationships with family and friends.

We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try, with His help, to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities as we share our love with others during Lent.

March—The Month of St. Joseph

The Month of St. Joseph

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. Pope Leo XIII explains why we place so much trust in this saint: "Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life, he fulfilled those charges and those duties. . . . It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."

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Lenten Penance Service

Our Lenten Penance Service will be on **Wednesday, March 13th, at 6 p.m.** There will be five (5) Priests available, with three (3) of them bilingual. Children who have received Communion and are in our Religious Education classes, including Confirmation students, must be there with their parents.

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Meetings

☛ **March 19th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

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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.**

✠ **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.**

Friday Soup Suppers

Every Friday during Lent, after the 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross, there will be a soup supper put on by our volunteers. This year's schedule is:

- **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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In Need

We are collecting paper bags for both the Ham Dinner and to give to the SVDP Food Bank. If you have any, please turn them in to the Parish Office. Also, if you have any receipts from Thriftway or Wagners', please put them in the box in the front of the church. They are only good for a limited time for us to receive credit for our church.