

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "Friendship"

The great man, George Washington, gives us this sound advice: "Be courteous to all, but be intimate with a few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks and adversity before it can be called friendship."

Friendship is made up fundamentally of two elements: affection and communication—the heart and the mind—to love each other and to know each other. The most remarkable aspect of friendship is that of a free association of two persons free to join and free to part. No other relationship is based on such an absolute freedom of choice. It is through friends that we get to know ourselves. Self-knowledge is the starting point; an essential condition for every quest, human or divine—and paradoxically, self-knowledge cannot be attained by self alone.

Each one needs a friend to see his/her face. In the same way, each one needs a friend to see his/her soul and understanding. "Friendship means sympathy and love," says Boyd Barret. "It is like a chain that binds two souls into one. Such friendship cannot break down easily. Friendship is a most noble relationship but, to be called noble, it must be unselfish and true." Friends are not born. They are made. One might call it a kind of magnetic attraction that draws two people together.

The foundation of a friendship is laid on faith and understanding. It is cemented by love and trust. Dr. Abel Bonnard says, "In love, one has the need of being believed, and in friendship of being understood."

Friendship is not what we take from others but what we give to others—not so much material gifts—but gifts of compassion, sincerity, understanding, etc. Good friends help to maintain equanimity of mind and to lead a happy life—even in tiring circumstances.

As R.L. Stevenson once remarked, "A friend is a present you give yourself." Friendship, no doubt, is a many-splendored thing if handled carefully. Otherwise, it turns into a nightmarish experience. Friendship is like a rose flower, beautiful and refreshing, but it has thorns that will pierce if not handled properly. The pain of a prick from a thorn certainly lasts longer than the inhalation of the enchanting fragrance.

Thoughtfulness is one of the chief ingredients of a friendship. It is the person who always says, "I'll help" who shows the quality of his/her friendship. "A friend in need is a friend, indeed." Friendship is like a chain that binds two souls together. Therefore, friends should be ready to help each other. He who keeps one's company in prosperity, and shrinks away in time of need, can never be a real friend. Rather, those who warn us against whatever is wrong are our real friends.

The Bible says in the Book of Ecclesiasticus that "A faithful friend is like a safe shelter. Whoever finds one has found a rare treasure." Only those who fear God can find such a treasure. We need friends in our lives. We need friends to act like a shield—to stand firm in our happiness, as well as our sorrows. We require friends to give meaning to our lives—to make them more sublime and cheerful.

—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 ♦ Donna Bailey  
Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Clark Hayes

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 28, 2024 † 5th Sunday of Easter

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	04/29/2024	8:00 a.m.	Morris Gerke (D)	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday	04/30/2024	8:00 a.m.	Dee Wettstein (D)	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday	05/01/2024	12:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Gn 1:26-2:3; Mt 13:54-58
Thursday	05/02/2024	8:00 a.m.	Dee Wettstein (D)	Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
Friday	05/03/2024	12:00 p.m.	Dee Wettstein (D)	1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14
Saturday	05/04/2024	5:00 p.m.	Dee Wettstein (D)	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
Sunday	05/05/2024	9:00 a.m.	Children of Howard Tocher (L)	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
Sunday	05/05/2024	12:00 p.m.	Rev AJ Fisher (D)	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



## Today's Homily

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS** emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing the Spirit's fruits of kindness, mercy, charity, and holiness.

**The first reading**, taken from the *Acts of the Apostles*, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former fanatical Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, a man now entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest; namely, the mission to the Gentiles.

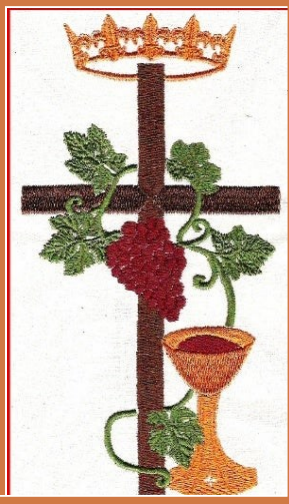
**In today's second reading**, John, in his first letter to the Church, explains that only if we remain united with Christ by putting our Faith in Him and drawing our spiritual strength from Him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love.

**In the Gospel**, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses His favorite image of the vine and branches to help His disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with Him and the necessity of their maintaining it. They are not simply rabbi and disciples. Their lives are mutually dependent—as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with Him should be like.

Jesus makes the unique claim that He is the true and ideal vine, and His disciples are the living and fruit-producing branches. To be fruitful, one must be joined to the true vine—Christ. Pruning is an essential part of growing fruit-producing branches.

Even a well-pruned branch cannot bear grapes unless it abides in the vine. Jesus reminds us that we cannot bear fruit either unless we abide in Him, just as He abides in us. Jesus says, "I am the vine. You are the

I am the  
vine. You  
are the  
branches.  
Remain  
in Me!



branches." What Jesus means is that by abiding in Him we will bear much fruit, and that apart from Him we can do nothing. Abiding in Christ means that God has to be inside us, and we have to be inside God. We abide in Christ by drawing near to God, and by experiencing His being near to us, or by living every moment as He has commanded us to do, with the radiant presence of Christ all around us.

This life of intimate union with Christ in the Church is maintained by the spiritual help common to all the faithful—chiefly by active participation in the Liturgy. Those of us who do not abide in Jesus will wither and be thrown away, just as withered branches are thrown into the fire to be burned. Fruit-bearing in Christian life is not just of our own making. It is the sign that Christ is working in us and through us.

We need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us.

A second means of pruning is practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions, and aberrations. Cordial mingling with people of different cultures, races, religions, and orientations in our neighborhood and society enables us to prune away our selfish and prejudicial tendencies and to treat others in our society with Christian charity and openness. Jesus prunes, purifies, and strengthens us by allowing us to face pain and suffering, contradictions, and difficulties with courage of our Christian convictions. Let us abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in Him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine and draw their life from the vine. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily and meditative reading of the Bible, and selfless, loving acts of kindness, mercy, and forgiveness enable us to abide in Jesus, the true vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

## April—The Month of the Holy Eucharist

### St. Joseph's Feast Day

1. Declared by Pope Pius XII and is celebrated on **May 1st** as the **Feast of St. Joseph the Worker**. This date is also International Workers' Day and believed to reflect Joseph as the Patron Saint of Workers.
2. Symbols associated with Joseph include the carpenter's square and lily. The carpenter's square not only symbolizes Joseph's trade but also the concept of truth. The lily, represents purity and Joseph's celibate marriage to the Virgin Mary.
3. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers and working people, among others.
4. Joseph is also considered to be the patron saint of the New World, China, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Peru, Vietnam and several cities and dioceses. There is an image of a sleeping St. Joseph, a weary traveler fleeing with his family to Egypt – and a replica of one Pope Francis keeps in his room. The Pope places notes of special intercession on pieces of paper under the statue.
5. On the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph beginning Dec. 8, 2020 through Dec. 8, 2021. In an **opinion column for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Daniel Joyce, S.J. '88**, Executive Director of Mission Programs, described the Pope's official opening of a yearlong celebration as "a global call for solidarity and a renewed way of being family in the post-pandemic world."
6. Although we know Joseph as a working carpenter, he is descended from royal lineage, the line of David.
7. Joseph is portrayed in works of art with grey hair and a beard, an older figure next to Mary and Jesus, and often in the background. In the Pope's Apostolic Letter entitled, ***Patris Corde***, he wrote, "In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father. He watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel: 'In the wilderness . . . you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you traveled' (Deuteronomy 1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life."
8. The scriptures mention nothing of Joseph's age and previous life.
9. The first apostolic mission entrusted by the Pope to the Society of Jesus was given on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1539. On this auspicious feast day, the mission of the Jesuits began—and continues to this day around the world.
10. Saint Joseph's title as the "Terror of Demons" signifies his powerful intercession against evil forces, offering protection and strength to those in spiritual battles.

### Religious Education News

**1st Holy Communion:** The ceremony will be on **Saturday, May 4th, at 5 p.m. Mass.** **Fr. Joseph** will hear Confessions **on the morning of May 4th at 9 a.m.** Parents are welcome. Dress attire: Girls will wear a white dress and boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt and a black tie.

**Confirmation:** **Bishop Cary** will perform the ceremony on **Wednesday, May 8th, at 7 p.m.** Pictures will be at **6:30 p.m. with Bishop Cary, Fr. Joseph**, and a group photo.

**Fr. Joseph** will hear Confessions for candidates on **Tuesday, May 7th, starting at 4 p.m.** All Candidates and their Sponsors must be present. Dress attire: Girls will wear a modest dress. Boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt, and a red tie. All candidates will wear red robes.

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### Respect Life

We will be having our annual Baby Bottle Drive beginning on **Mother's Day, May 12th**. Please take a baby bottle and fill it with cash, checks, etc., and return it to the Parish Office by **Father's Day, June 16th**. All proceeds will benefit local Pro-Life organizations. Please feel free to donate all year to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

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### Yard Sale

Our Youth Group is having a Yard Sale **Saturday, May 18th!** As you begin your spring cleaning, please bring your gently used items to the Parish Hall by **May 16th**. Your contributions make a difference! We are raising money to attend the Diocese of Baker Summer Camp. Thank you for your generosity.

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### National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

**"Come Follow Me."** Jesus is coming **Sunday and Monday, May 26th/27th**, as the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage travels through Eastern Oregon to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Join **Bishop Cary** in greeting and accompanying our Lord through a state in need of his merciful and healing presence. For more details, and to register for any events along the Oregon route, please visit [DioceseofBaker.org/NEP](http://DioceseofBaker.org/NEP).

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### St. Joseph's Holy Family Youth Ministry

We are thrilled to introduce "St. Joseph's Holy Family Youth Ministry" to our parish community! **Join us on the last Monday of each month, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**, in the church basement. Our first meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know the youth members with fun "ice-breaker" activities.

Middle School and High School students are warmly invited to be part of this exciting new ministry. Come and grow in faith and fellowship with us!