

Fr. Joseph's Corner The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is coming back home to the Father. This sacrament also brings an inner healing to each individual.

Three very important and radical changes take place when an individual does his or her Confession: (1) The wounds caused by sin are healed, (2) The penitent is freed from evil forces, and (3) The capacity to do good is strengthened by the grace one receives from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It really brings an inner healing to those who seek it with sincere repentance. "Whoever confesses his sins . . . is already working with God. God indicts your sins; if you also indict them, you are joined with God.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation also has Scriptural roots. The New Testament is full of instances where Jesus forgives sins for which He was accused by the Pharisees and Sadducees as blaspheming—as it was understood that only God can forgive the sins of others.

The most memorable stories in the bible are:

- (1) The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- (2) The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:11)
- (3) The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:40-43), and
- (4) Peter after his betrayal of Jesus.

Every encounter is very personal and intimate. For example, the adulterous woman who was publicly humiliated and condemned by the people, was forgiven by Jesus. He forgives—He does not condemn.

Jesus says, "The Son of Man has not come to call the virtuous but to call the sinners to repentance" (Luke 19:10). He came to call the sinners and, therefore, He was accused of being a glutton, a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus accepts us when we acknowledge that we are sinners.

Today, more people seem to ask why go to a priest for Confession to tell our sins? Why not go directly to God?

When we are sick, we go to a doctor. He gives medicine. He is not the one who heals. You might have seen the caption, "We give medicine—God heals." But, someone has to give medicine—and it has to be a human being. The one who gives medicine is not God. God does the healing.

In the same way, the priest at the confessional is only taking the place of a doctor. He is there in the place of Christ. He absolves sins in the name of Jesus. It is Jesus who forgives—it is God who forgives.

At the Mass, when the priest says the prayer over the bread and wine, we believe that the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. In the same way, when the priest forgives sins and absolves us, it is Jesus who does it. It is Jesus who forgives us. He said to Peter, "If you forgive sins, they are forgiven. If you retain them, they are retained" (John 20:23).

Jesus gave that power to forgive sins, so the priest is a tangible sign of God's presence. He is God's "agent," but he is very much flesh and blood like any one of us.

Therefore, Confession is much more than going to a counselor or a psychiatrist. A counselor doesn't forgive sins. God's grace comes with forgiveness. The blood of Jesus washes our sins. God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness come to us through Christ and His Church. He has bought for us this grace with His blood.

The Church not only calls us to humble repentance, but it also intercedes for us and helps us toward on-going conversion.

—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 Hay ♦ Angie Hay

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

May 5, 2024 † 6th Sunday of Easter

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| 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

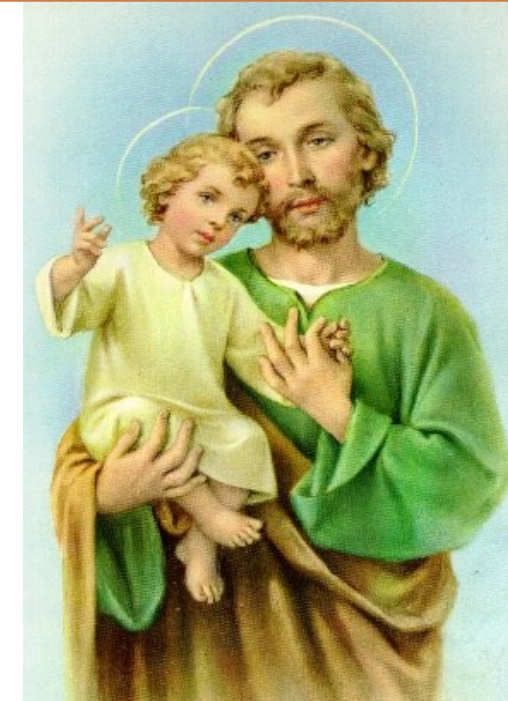
Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

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

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| Monday | 05/06/2024 | 8:00 a.m. | Clark Hay (L) | Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26--16:4a |
| Tuesday | 05/07/2024 | 8:00 a.m. | Bud Redfern (D) | Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11 |
| Wednesday | 05/08/2024 | 7:00 p.m. | Susan McLinton (D) | Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15 |
| Thursday | 05/09/2024 | 8:00 a.m. | Ron Lattin (D) | Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20 |
| Friday | 05/10/2024 | 12:00 p.m. | Mary Luckey (D) | Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23 |
| Saturday | 05/11/2024 | 5:00 p.m. | Clark Hay (L) | Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20 |
| Sunday | 05/12/2024 | 9:00 a.m. | Helen Nehls (D) | Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20 |
| Sunday | 05/12/2024 | 12:00 p.m. | Mothers of St. Joseph Parish (L) | Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20 |

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

passages declare the profound truth that those who believe in Christ are to obey His commandment of love: *Love one another as I have loved you.*

In the first reading, Peter teaches us that God shows no partiality in His love and that

there are no boundaries to abiding in love. God loves everyone, both the Jews and the Gentiles, and He wants everyone to be saved through His son, Jesus. That is why God welcomed the Roman centurion Cornelius as the first non-Jew to become a Christian. The reading tells us how God also allowed the Gentiles who heard Peter's speech to receive the same Holy Spirit and His gifts that Peter's Jewish audience had received on the day of Pentecost.

In the second reading, John defines God as love and explains that He expressed His love for mankind by sending His son to die for us humans *as expiation for our sins*. This Divine love gives us the command as well as the duty to love one another as we have been loved by God. Because God has loved us first, we can—and should—love God in return, to love ourselves properly, and to love one another.

After telling the Parable of the "Vine and the Branches" in today's Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples that we are to obey His commandment of love just as Jesus has obeyed His Heavenly Father's will by fulfilling His commandments and remaining inseparably bonded with His Father.



Jesus' unconditional, forgiving, selfless, sacrificial love for us must be the criterion of our love for others. The highest expression of this love is our willingness to lay down our lives as Jesus did, for people who don't deserve it.

The goal and result of our abiding in

love, in God, will be perfect joy. Jesus no longer calls us slaves—now He calls us "friends." He tells us that He has chosen us, and that, if we use Jesus' name, we can ask the Father for anything.

We need to cultivate an abiding, loving friendship with Jesus, and to express it in our relationships with others by loving them and showing them trust, faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy and sacrifice.

We need to be persons for others: Jesus demonstrated the love of God, His Father, for us by living for us and dying for us. Hence, as Jesus' disciples, we are to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for others. This is what parents spontaneously do, sacrificing themselves, their time, talents, health, and wealth for their children; or, in other words, by spending themselves for their children.

The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by treating everyone as a friend, giving everyone the respect he or she deserves. Let us remember that Christ's own love was not limited to the people he liked and, hence, that we should close our minds to thoughts of revenge.

May—The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Religious Education News

Confession: Fr. Joseph will hear Confessions for candidates on **May 7th starting at 4 p.m.**

Confirmation: Bishop Cary will say the ceremony on **May 8th at 7 p.m.** Pictures will be at **6:30 p.m. with Bp. Cary, Fr. Joseph** and a group photo. All candidates and their sponsors must be present. Dress attire: Girls will wear a modest dress. Boys will wear black slacks, white shirt, and a red tie. All candidates will wear a red robe.

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St. Joseph's Holy Family Youth Ministry

St. Joseph's Holy Family Youth Ministry is having a **Mother's Day Fundraiser on May 12th after the 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Masses.** Stop by the Parish Hall to purchase beautiful roses and participate in our raffle! The winners will be announced at **10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Your support will help our new Youth Group thrive. See you there!

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Respect Life

We will also 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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Our Lady of Fatima

The world-famous, historic International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of *Our Lady of Fatima* will be visiting St. Joseph Catholic Church on **Thursday May 23rd, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.** There will be more information to follow.

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Introducing Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei

With the esteemed blessing of Bishop Cary, we are thrilled to introduce the Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei, a forthcoming joyfully Catholic Classical High School set to enrich Central Oregon in the fall of 2025. Join us in prayer for its success and consider supporting us as we prepare for this endeavor. For inquiries or to offer support, contact Board Chair Kevin Smith at (719) 761-0511 or info@chestertonmaterdei.org. Stay connected with our progress on our website and social media.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

"Come, Follow Me."

Jesus is coming **May 26–27**, 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.

◆ Doctors, Nurses, and EMTs are needed to volunteer at all events of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage on **May 26–27.** Visit DioceseofBaker.org/NEP for more details or call the Pastoral Center at (541) 388-4004 to help.

◆ **Pope Francis** approved a plenary indulgence for the faithful participating in any part of the National Eucharist Pilgrimage, including those unable to leave their homes who join their hearts prayerfully with the pilgrimage. The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will travel through the heart of Oregon on **May 26–27.** Visit DioceseofBaker.org/NEP for more details.

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Memorial Garden

Bob Leonard and Family recently completed a major parish improvement project in memory of **Kathie Leonard** who passed away in 2022. Several years ago, the trees in front of the parish hall began to damage the sidewalk and street. As a result, the trees were removed, leaving us without a landscape feature for this area. In 2023, **Bob** and his daughter **Shannon** donated the materials and labor to create an area for trees and shrubs. In April 2024, the **Leonards** completed the project by planting the trees and shrubs. The final step will be the installation of a memorial plaque. Our Parish thanks the **Leonard Family** for this attractive, living memorial to **Kathie**.

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Diocesan 2024 Summer Events/Dates

CASCADE VIEW RETREAT CENTER, POWELL BUTTE, OR:

June 17–19 — Quo Vadis* for boys in 8th–12th Grade

June 23–27 — Catholic Youth Camp* for 10–18 year olds

**Adult Chaperones & Volunteers Needed*

OUR LADY OF ANGELS, HERMISTON, OR:

July 12–14 — Annual Symposium

CAMP WHITE BRANCH, MCKENZIE BRIDGE, OR:

July 27–30 — Family Camp A

Aug 1–4 — Family Camp B

For more details about these exciting events, please visit DioceseofBaker.org.