

Fr. Joseph's Corner "The Circle of a Good Deed"

ONCE UPON A TIME, Arjun and a friend went for a walk around a city in India, when they saw a poor-looking fellow begging. Arjun felt pity for him and gave the beggar a bag full of 100 gold coins. The man became so very happy, and thanked Arjun profusely. Then he left for his home.

On his way home, the man saw another fellow who was begging for help. He could have spared a coin or two, but he chose not to. Then, as he neared his home, a thief robbed him of his bag of coins and ran away.

The beggar became very dejected, and so he went back out again for more begging.

The next day, when Arjun saw the same man again, he was very surprised. After getting the bag full of coins that could last a lifetime, the fellow was still begging! Arjun asked him for the reason for this, and the beggar told him about the whole robbery incident. Arjun again felt sorry for him, and so this time he gave the man a diamond.

The beggar was so very happy and left for home. Then he saw someone who needed help, but again he chose to ignore him. Upon reaching his house, he put the diamond in an empty pot for safe keeping, with a plan to cash it out later and live a wealthy life. His wife was not at home, but he was very tired, so he decided to take a nap.

Then his wife came home, picked up that empty pot, and walked down to the river to fill it up with water. She had not noticed the diamond that was in the pot. Upon arriving at the river, she put the whole pot into the running water to fill it up. She filled the pot, but the diamond was now gone into the river with the water flow!

When the beggar woke up from his nap, he went to see the diamond, but it was gone! So, he asked his wife about it. She told him she had not noticed it, and that it must have been lost in the river. He could not believe his bad luck, and so again he went back to begging.

Again, Arjun and his friend saw the fellow begging and asked him about it. Then Arjun felt bad when he heard the

diamond story and wondered if the beggar was ever to have a happy life.

But his friend, who was an Angel of God, smiled and gave that beggar just one coin, which was not even enough to buy a lunch or dinner for one person. Arjun asked, "Lord, I gave him gold coins and a diamond, that should have given him a wealthy life, yet it didn't help him. How will just one coin help this poor guy?" His friend, the Angel, said to follow that beggar and find out.

On the way, the beggar was thinking about the coin he was given. He could not even buy lunch with it. Why would he be given so little?

Then the beggar saw a fisherman who was getting a fish out of his net. The fish was struggling, and the man felt pity for the poor fish. He thought, "This one coin won't solve my problem, but why not save that fish?" So, the beggar paid the fisherman and took the fish. He put the fish in his small pot of water that he always carried with him. The fish was now struggling in the small pot of water, and then it suddenly threw a diamond from out of its mouth! The man saw it and screamed with joy, "I got it, I got it!"

And at that same point, the thief who had robbed the beggar's bag of 100 gold coins, was passing by. He thought that the beggar recognized him and would have him arrested. He got so nervous, he ran up to the beggar and apologized. Then he returned to him the bag full of 100 gold coins. The beggar couldn't believe what had just happened!

Arjun and the Angel saw all of this, and so Arjun exclaimed, "Oh, Lord! Now I understand your play."

MORAL: When you have enough to help others, don't let that chance go by. Your good deeds will always be repaid to you.

—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 ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ Reba McDermott
Stella Kirker ♦ 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 ♦ Jeanne Hackett

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
July 28, 2024 † 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

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	07/29/2024	8:00 a.m.	Barbara Dalton (L)	Jer 13:1-11; Jn 11:19-27
Tuesday	07/30/2024	8:00 a.m.	Colleen Budde (L)	Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday	07/31/2024	12:00 a.m.	Jim Friese (L)	Jer 15:10, 16-21; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday	08/01/2024	8:00 a.m.	The Smith Family (L)	Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53
Friday	08/02/2024	12:00 a.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Jer 26:1-9; Mt 14:1-12
Saturday	08/03/2024	5:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35
Sunday	08/04/2024	9:00 a.m.	Lloyd Parker (D)	Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35
Sunday	08/04/2024	12:00 p.m.	Juana Murillo (D)	Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

From her personal experience, St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) tells a story showing how the poor are more generous than the rich because they have experienced hunger and poverty.

When she learned of a poor Hindu family in Calcutta that had been starving for many days, Mother Teresa visited them and brought a big bag of rice to the mother. She was surprised to see how the mother divided the rice into two equal portions and went out with one bundle to give it to her Muslim neighbor.

When she returned, Mother Theresa asked her why she had done such a generous deed. The woman replied: "My family can manage with half the rice in this bag. My neighbor's family has several children, and they are also starving."

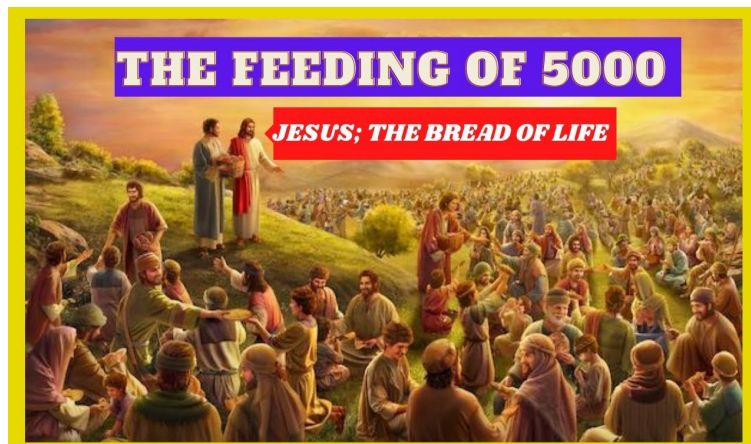
Today's Gospel tells the story of a small boy who showed this same kind of generosity. By sharing his small lunch (which consisted of five barley loaves and two dried fish), he became the instrument in Jesus' working of a miracle that fed thousands.

"You give them something to eat." The gospel story teaches that Jesus meets the most basic human need—hunger—with generosity and compassion. Today's readings also tell us that God really cares about His people and that there is enough—and more than enough—for everybody.

As Christians, we need to commit ourselves to share what we have with others, and to work with God in communicating His compassion to all.

God is a caring Father, and He wants our cooperation to be part of His caring for all of us—His children. That's what the early Christians did. They generously shared what they had with the needy. They were convinced that everything they needed to experience a fulfilling life was already there—in the gifts and talents of the people around them.

People of our time need to be encouraged to share, even when they think they have nothing to offer. Whatever we offer through Jesus will have a life-giving effect on those who receive it.



We are shown two attitudes in today's Gospel story: that of Philip and that of Andrew (John 6:7–9).

Philip said, in effect: "The situation is hopeless; nothing can be done." But Andrew's attitude was: "I'll see what I can do, and I'll trust Jesus to do the rest."

Let us have Andrew's attitude! God blesses those who share their talents with loving commitment. This is illustrated by Mother Teresa who went to serve the slum dwellers of Calcutta with just 20 cents in her pocket.

When she died 49 years later, God had turned those original 20 cents into 80 schools, 300 mobile dispensaries, 70 leprosy clinics, 30 homes for the dying, 30 homes for abandoned children, and 40,000 volunteers from all over the world to help her.

We can also begin our own humble efforts at "sharing" right in our parish by participating in the works of charity done by organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, and so many other volunteer groups.

We may say, "I do not have enough money or talent to make any difference." However, we need to remember that the small boy in the story had only five barley loaves and two dried fish! We all have something.

If you have never trusted God with your time, or your talent, or your treasure . . . all your resources . . . this is the time to start! Let us offer ourselves and whatever we have to God saying, "Here is what I am and what I have, Lord; use me; use it."

And He will bless us and bless our offering, amplifying it beyond our expectations.

When we give what we have to God, and we ask Him to bless it, it is then that the miracle happens.

We, too, can perform wonders in our own time and place, by practicing the four "Eucharistic verbs" of Jesus:

- 1) Take humbly and generously what God gives us;
- 2) Bless it by offering it to others in God's love;
- 3) Break it off from our own needs and interests for the sake of others; and,
- 4) Give it away with joy-filled gratitude to God who has blessed us with so much.

July—The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

ATTENTION!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, **Fr. Joseph's vacation** has been delayed. Mass will continue as usual.



Monday, July 29th

Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany, friends of Jesus whom he loved.

In your time with our Savior He taught you, wept with you, and showed you miracles.

Great was your devotion to Him.

Although we cannot be present with Jesus as you were, pray that we have the faith that you did, so that with Martha we may say, "Yes, Lord . . . I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who has come into the world." Amen.

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RCIA

- † Do you know anyone who would like to become a Catholic?
- † Do you know a Catholic who needs Confirmation?
- † Would you like to know more about the Catholic religion?

RCIA classes will begin in **September**. Come by the Parish Office for a registration form, call **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814, or email: kkpeaches2@msn.com to register or for more information.

☛ **There will be an introductory/information meeting on Wednesday, August 7th, at 6 p.m., in Classroom #2 in the Parish Hall**

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St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel, Jesus supersedes both the apostles' and the crowds' expectations: with little he feeds many. . . . Jesus is the sign of God's lavish presence and love.

Your donation to the Society of St Vincent de Paul is indeed a sign of God's extravagant love to the lonely and the poor.

Religious Education News

Parents, please start thinking about your child's education. Sacraments are not the only time your child can attend Religious Education Classes. We offer Wednesday Classes for 1st through 5th Grades, and upper-class Confirmation Classes in the evening. Holy Communion and Confirmation are each a two-year course. They both start this fall. Sign-up dates will be announced in this Bulletin soon.

We are in need of a 5th Grade, Upper-Class Teacher. Please send inquires to **Barb Dalton** at barblikes2read@outlook.com or call (541) 410-3720.

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Marriage Saving—The Weekend Phase



During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation, you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the previous presentation.

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/> for testimonials, confidential information, or to register for the **Friday, August 23rd, to Sunday, August 25th** weekend retreat in Canby, Oregon.

Or send an email to: portland@retrovaille.com, or call (503) 225-9191.

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Encountering Jesus: "A Call to Holiness, Healing, and Mission"

Come join us for a day with **Dr. Mary Healy**—Author, Speaker, and Catholic Biblical Scholar—on **Saturday, September 2st, from 8 a.m. to 5 pm.** at the St Francis Church on 27th Street in Bend.

Registration is now open! Please go to <https://www.stfrancisbend.org/mary-healy-event.html> for more details and to register.

