

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“A Physics Lesson” (Author Unknown)

Every year, Professor Lee would give the same lecture to his students. Basically, he would say, “If I drop this glass beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it—not even if you pray to your GOD!”

You see, Professor Lee was an atheist, and he would say the last part with a great deal of contempt in his voice and on his face. No student ever challenged the professor for fear of looking foolish in front of everyone.

One year, a freshman decided to challenge Professor Lee. He knew his class would be subjected to this lecture, just as classes had heard it for several years. He asked Richard Harvey to pray for him two weeks before the infamous lecture was to be given again. The freshman explained that he was tired of God being mocked, and felt that God must be tired of it, too. He was going to give all the Glory to God and explain that it had nothing to do with himself—that all the power was God's alone.

Richard agreed, and he did indeed pray for the next two weeks.

On the day of the declamation, Richard had that period free and decided to go witness the challenge. Sure enough, the moment came when Professor Lee made it by proclaiming, “If I drop this glass beaker, gravity will cause it to hit the concrete floor, and it will break. There is nothing that will stop it—not even if you pray to your GOD!”

The Freshman stood up and challenged his professor. Lee took the challenge and gave the freshman a moment to say his prayer.

The student thanked God for giving him the opportunity to let the Lord's power be shown, gave thanks to Jesus for His shed blood and the power of His name, asked for forgiveness for not preventing God from being mocked up until then, and thanked God for preventing the beaker from breaking when Professor Lee dropped it. He denied that there was any personal credit to be given to himself and gave all the Glory to God.

The room was silent. All eyes were on Professor Lee as he raised the beaker and let go of it. As everyone looked on, the beaker tilted ever so slightly in mid-air as it descended toward the concrete floor and its imminent destruction. It hit the professor's shoe, rolled across the floor, and bumped into the lectern unscathed. The room erupted in laughter.

Professor never gave that lecture again.

—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 ♦ Brittany
 Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither
 Terri Hintze ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Jeanne Hackett

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
 August 25, 2024 † 21st 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	08/26/2024	8:00 a.m.	Robert Graham (D)	2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday	08/27/2024	8:00 a.m.	Francis McKay (D)	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday	08/28/2024	12:00 p.m.	Walter Pentkowski (D)	2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	08/29/2024	8:00 a.m.	John Kutcher (D)	1 Cor 1:1-9; Mk 6:17-29
Friday	08/30/2024	12:00 p.m.	Meghan Livefree (L)	1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	08/31/2024	5:00 p.m.	Nello Giovanini (D)	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sunday	09/01/2024	9:00 a.m.	Jody Streetman (D)	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sunday	09/01/2024	12:00 p.m.	Souls in Purgatory (D)	Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

The Words of Eternal Life

John 6:60-69

21st Sunday in Ordinary Times



THE READINGS CHALLENGE us to consider our own responses to God's call and to reaffirm our commitment to living as disciples of Jesus.

In the first reading, Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel and presents them with a choice: "If it is displeasing to you to serve the Lord, choose today whom you will serve." Joshua makes it clear that serving the Lord requires a deliberate decision. He leads by example, declaring, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

This passage highlights the importance of making a clear and conscious decision to follow God. The Israelites had to decide whether they would continue to serve the Lord, who had led them out of slavery and into the Promised Land, or turn to the false gods of their ancestors or the surrounding nations.

The Gospel presents a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry. After teaching about the Eucharist, many of Jesus' disciples struggle to accept His words: "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" As a result, many of His followers leave.

Jesus then turns to the Twelve and asks, "Do you also want to leave?" Peter responds with a profound declaration of faith: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

This moment underscores the challenge of discipleship. Jesus' teaching was difficult for many to accept, and it required a deep level of trust and commitment. Peter's response highlights the essence of faith: even when we don't fully understand, we trust in Jesus because He alone has the words of eternal life.

The readings today are about choices. In the first reading, Joshua challenges the Israelites to choose whom they will serve. In the Gospel, Jesus presents His disciples with a choice: to stay with Him or to walk away. These choices are not just about saying yes or no to an idea; they are about committing our lives to something—or someone—greater than ourselves.

Joshua's call to the Israelites is a call to commitment. He asks them to reflect on all that God has done for them and to choose whether they will continue to follow the Lord. Similarly, Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist is a moment of truth for His disciples. Following Jesus is not easy, and His teachings sometimes challenge us in ways that make us uncomfortable. But like Peter, we are invited to recognize that there is nowhere else we can go to find the fullness of life that Jesus offers.

In our lives, we face similar choices. We may not be asked to choose between serving the Lord or false gods, but we are constantly faced with decisions about how we will live out our faith. Will we follow Jesus even when His teachings challenge our understanding or our way of life? Will we commit to living out our faith in our families, our workplaces, and our communities?

The second reading reminds us that our commitment to Christ is lived out in our relationships with others. Paul's instructions to husbands and wives to love and respect each other as Christ loves the Church challenges us to embody the love and sacrifice of Christ in our daily lives. Our choice to follow Jesus should be evident in the way we treat others, especially those closest to us.

Today, as we reflect on these readings, we are invited to renew our commitment to Christ. Like Joshua, we must declare, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Like Peter, we must recognize that Jesus alone has the words of eternal life, and there is no other path to true fulfillment.

Let us ask for the grace to choose Christ each day, to trust in His words, and to live out our commitment to Him in all that we do. And as we gather to receive the Eucharist, let us remember that this is the Bread of Life that sustains us on our journey, giving us the strength to remain faithful to the One who calls us to eternal life. May we always have the courage to say with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." *Amen.*

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Road Closure



S. Main Street will be closed from **Monday, August 26th, through Tuesday, October 15th.** There will be no parking in the front of the church during this time.

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Religious Education News

Registration will be held in Room 1, **September 5th and 6th, from 3 to 6 p.m.** And **September 7th and 8th after both Masses.**

† Classes begin **Wednesday, September 11th**, for all children.

† First through Fifth grades will meet at 3:15 p.m. until 5 p.m.

† Confirmation will begin at 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.



We accept cash and checks. If you have any questions, please contact **Barb Dalton** at barblikes2read@outlook.com or call (541) 410-3720.

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RCIA



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Classes will begin on **Monday, September 9th, at 6 p.m., in Classroom 4.** Stop at the Parish Office for a registration form, call **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814 or email him at: kkpeaches2@msn.com to register or for more information.

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Ministry Fair

There will be a Ministry Fair on **Saturday, September 14th, at 6 p.m., and on Sunday, September 15th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Please stop by the Parish Hall after Mass that weekend if you have been wondering how you can volunteer in our parish. All Ministries will be represented.



Women's and Men's Retreat

The St. Benedict Lodge & Retreat Center has its annual Women's Retreat from **September 6-8** in McKenzie Bridge, with the theme: "Woman: Heart of the Home."

The Men's Retreat is from **September 20-22**, with the theme: "Giving All that You Can: Self-Control, Self-Possession, and Empowering Faith."

The cost for either retreat is \$175 PP for dorm rooms. Cabins are extra. To register, send a \$50 deposit to: St. Benedict Lodge, 56630 North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 or call (541) 822-3572..

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St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks "Do you also want to leave?" We must ask ourselves if we really want to hear the good news of His love for us and for others. Is the word of God able to break into our consciousness, change us, and call us to hear the cries of the poor?



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Diocese of Baker Job Openings

The Diocese of Baker is blessed to be made up of a committed core of individuals who are eager to serve all our parishes and parishioners. If you feel called to be part of this team, the diocese has three exciting, full-time career opportunities available today. Check the diocesan website at dioceseofbaker.org for more information.

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A Message from Pro-Life



For all who are forgotten or thrown away and especially for the poor, the sick and the aged: that God might change our hearts and move us to love them as the image of Christ.

Quote of the Week

"Adoration Is a Quiet Hour of Prayer to the Blessed Sacrament."

—Bishop Liam J. Cary

