

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Empty Chair" (Author Unknown)

A man's daughter had asked the local pastor to come and pray with her father. When the pastor arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed.

The pastor assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?"

"I'm the new pastor at your church," he replied.

The pastor continued, "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh, yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man.

"Would you mind closing the door?"

A little puzzled, the pastor shut the door.

"I've never told anyone this—not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church, I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head, so I abandoned any attempt at prayer until one day about four years ago, my best friend said to me: 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest: sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, *I'll be with you always*. Then just speak to Him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now.'"

"So, I tried it and liked it so much that I do it for a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

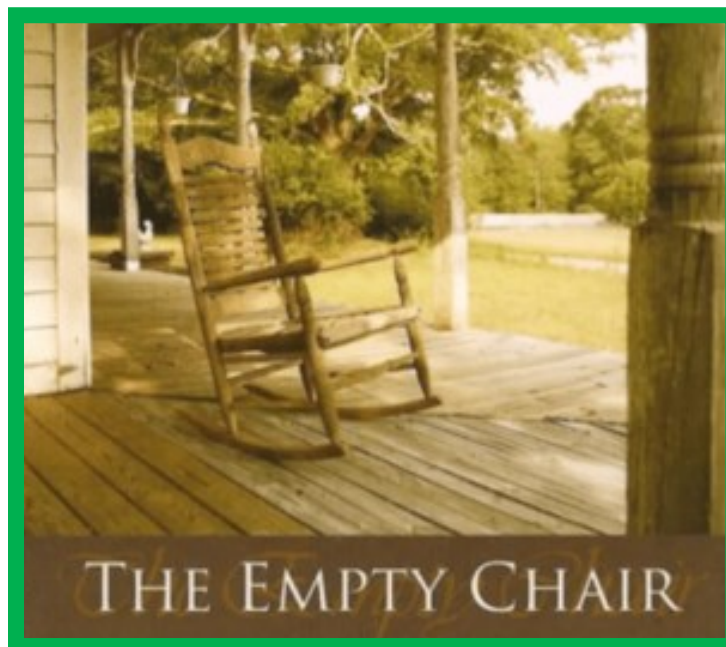
The pastor was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the pastor that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he seem to die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange—in fact, beyond strange—kinda weird. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed."

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
September 1, 2024 † 22nd 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

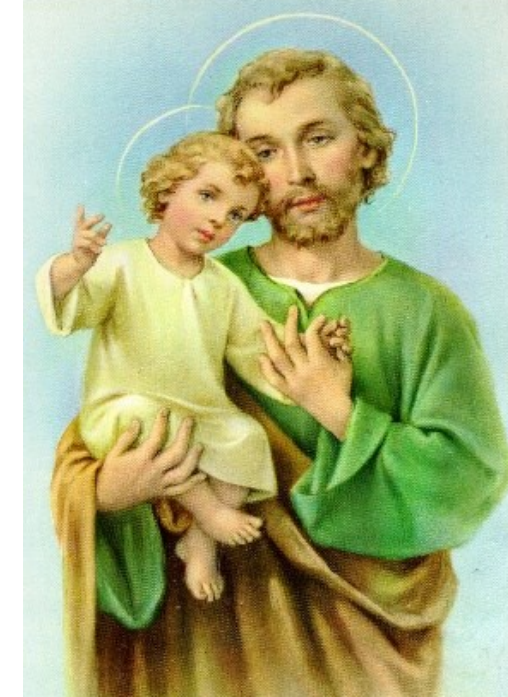
Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

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	09/02/2024	8:00 a.m.	James Friese & Frank Kmiecik (D)	1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	09/03/2024	8:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher (D)	1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	09/04/2024	12:00 p.m.	Curtis Morris Sr (D)	1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	09/05/2024	8:00 a.m.	Charles Popish (D)	1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11
Friday	09/06/2024	12:00 p.m.	Marisa Lowes (L)	1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday	09/07/2024	5:00 p.m.	Patrick Carroll (D)	Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37
Sunday	09/08/2024	9:00 a.m.	The Tocher Family (L)	Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37
Sunday	09/08/2024	12:00 p.m.	Juana Murillo (D)	Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

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

John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Brittany ♦ Duncan Osgood

Doni Bachand ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither ♦ Terri Hintze

Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Jeanne Hackett

Today's Homily

FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS, **Mother Teresa** worked in the slums of Calcutta, India. She worked among the most forsaken people on earth. You and I would recoil from most of the people that she touched every day—the dispossessed, the downtrodden, the diseased, and the desperate. And yet, everybody who met Mother Teresa remarked on her warm smile.

How, after almost 50 years of working in conditions like that, did she keep a warm smile on her face? Mother explains that it is interesting. “When I was leaving home in Yugoslavia at age of 18 to become a nun, my mother told me something beautiful and very strange. She said, ‘You go put your hand in Jesus’ hand and walk along with him.’” And that was the secret of Mother Teresa’s life ever after.

Today’s readings explain what true religion is. It is not simply a scrupulous, external observance of rules, laws, traditions and rituals. It is a loving, obedient relationship with God expressed in obeying His Commandments, worshipping Him, recognizing His presence in other human beings and rendering them loving and humble service. Prayers, rituals, sacraments and religious practices only help us to practice this true religion in our daily lives.

The first reading explains that religion is a Covenant relationship with a caring, providing and protecting God, fostered by keeping His Commandments given through Moses. God gave Israel the Law so that the Israelites might keep their Covenant with Yahweh and thank Him for His love and fidelity to His Chosen People. The Law was also intended to keep them a united, holy and intelligent nation, proud of their powerful, protective, single God.

In the second reading, St. James defines true religion as keeping the word of God and doing His will by helping the needy, the poor, and the weak in the community. He challenges Christians to become “doers” of the Word, not merely “hearers.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes true religion as serving God and all His children with a pure and holy heart. The Gospel explains the encounter of Jesus with

Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.

James 1:22

the Sanhedrin observers and the Pharisees who had been sent to assess Jesus’ unique, controversial teachings. These experts had found His teachings an open violation of the “Traditions of the Elders” and His implied and spoken claims blasphemous.”

It was in the 5th century BC that the scribes started adding oral traditions as interpretations and practical applications of the Mosaic Law.

The Pharisees observed them and insisted that all the Jews should also do so. The original noble purpose was to sanctify the daily lives of the people, making them “holy as God is holy.”

Jesus uses the occasion as a teachable moment to give them the following lessons:

- 1) Don’t teach human doctrines as dogmas.
- 2) Internal disposition, purity and holiness are more important than external ritual observances.
- 3) Keep your heart holy as it is the source of sins, vices and evil habits. The observance of traditions and of washing rituals does not correct the internal motivations and inclinations that really defile people.
- 4) External piety without internal holiness is hypocrisy.

We need to learn and keep the spirit of the Church’s laws and ritual practices. For example, our Sunday obligation is intended to allow us to worship God in the parish community, to offer our lives to God, to ask His pardon for sins, to thank God for His blessings, and to receive Divine life and strength from Him in Holy Communion. Our daily family prayers are meant to thank God for His blessings, to present the family’s needs before God, to ask pardon for sins, and to maintain the spirit of unity and love in the family.

Let us avoid the tendency to become “cafeteria Christians”—that is, to choose certain Commandments and Church laws to follow, and ignore all the others—as we would choose certain food items and ignore others in a cafeteria.

September—The Month of the Sorrows of Mary

Thank You!



Thank you to all who volunteered to put on our parish picnic, and to all who attended and provided a dish to share! Special thanks go to our **Knights of Columbus** for setting up, supplying, and cooking! And special thanks to **Barb Dalton** who organized, set up and entertained the kids! I appreciate you all.

—Fr. Joseph

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September—Month of the Sorrows of Mary

September is dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary. The Seven Sorrows or “dolors” are events in the life of Mary that caused excessive sorrow in her Immaculate Heart, sorrows in which she was especially united to Jesus. We are encouraged to contemplate these events daily:

- 1) *The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)*
- 2) *The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)*
- 3) *The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)*
- 4) *The Meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Road to Calvary (John 19:17)*
- 5) *The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)*
- 6) *Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)*
- 7) *Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)*

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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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A Message from Pro-Life

For the elderly who, in sickness, approach death: that in their weakness, they find strength and, in their suffering, see the cross of Christ.

RCIA

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



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

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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.

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40th Jubilee Celebration

In honor of **Fr. Joseph’s 40th Ordination Anniversary**, we will be having a Jubilee Celebration on **Sunday, September 22nd.** **Bishop Cary** will be here for a Bilingual Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a Potluck Luncheon (please bring a salad). We hope everyone can come and celebrate **Fr. Joseph!**

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Bishops Annual Appeal

We have just completed the fourth month of the 2024 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. As of **Monday**, our parish has pledged **\$23,050** toward our goal of **\$22,879** or **101%** of goal. Every gift is important—no matter the size. If you have not had the time until now, this week is the perfect opportunity to return your Donor Card with your gift. For more information, visit <https://dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal>.

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Job Openings

The Diocese of Baker has three exciting, full-time career opportunities available. Please check the diocesan website at dioceseofbaker.org for all the details.

