

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Don't Wait for Winter" (Contributed by Carl D. Johnson)

You know . . . time has a way of moving quickly—and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet, in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all.

I have glimpses of how it was back then with all my hopes and dreams. But here it is . . . the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise. . . . How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go . . . and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me, and winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is . . . my friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower, and I see an older person now. Some are in better, and some are in worse shape than me, but I see the great changes—not like the ones that I remember, who were young and vibrant—but like me. Their age is beginning to show, and *we* are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore—it's mandatory!



Because if I don't take a nap of my own free will, I will just fall asleep right there wherever I'm sitting!

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains—and the loss of strength and the ability to go and to do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But at least I know that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last—I do know this: that when it's over on this earth, it is not over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I had not done—and things I should have done—but, indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think.

Thus, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life—please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by all too fast.

So, do what you can today, because you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promises that you will see all the seasons of your life. . . .

Please live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember—and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

—*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
 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

September 8, 2024 † 23rd 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	09/09/2024	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday	09/10/2024	8:00 a.m.	Catarina Stagnoli (D)	1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday	09/11/2024	12:00 p.m.	Curtis Morris Jr (L)	1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday	09/12/2024	8:00 a.m.	Mitch Bailey (D)	1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38
Friday	09/13/2024	12:00 p.m.	Bill Barrus (D)	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Lk 6:27-38
Saturday	09/14/2024	5:00 p.m.	Robert Koivisto (D)	Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Sunday	09/15/2024	9:00 a.m.	Sacramento Robles (D)	Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35
Sunday	09/15/2024	12:00 p.m.	Fr. Raymond Hopp (D)	Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

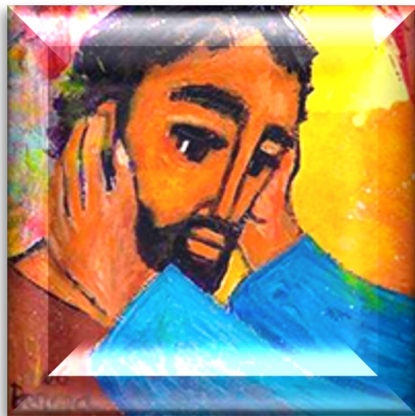
offer us an invitation to become humble instruments of healing in Jesus' hands by giving voice to the voiceless, the needy, and the marginalized in our society. Today's Scripture also invites us to open our ears to hear the word of God and to allow the Holy Spirit to loosen our tongues to convey the Good News of God's love and salvation to others.

The first reading (Is 35:4-7), reminds us that God's eyes are constantly focused on the helpless. He especially cares for "the frightened, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute." And He encourages the powerless to "be strong and fearless."

This is why, in today's second reading (James 2:1-5), the apostle gives us some basic and challenging principles of social justice. He exhorts Christians to show no partiality based on external appearance and to practice God's "preferential option for the poor." He warns the faithful against scorning or shaming the poor while showing special consideration to the rich.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus, by healing a deaf and mute man, fulfills Isaiah's Messianic prophecy, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped." The ailments listed by Isaiah are symbolic of our interior illnesses: blindness to the needs of our neighbor, unwillingness to hear God's voice, and the inability to speak words of praise and gratitude. Through this miracle story, Mark also reminds us that no one can be a follower of the Lord without reaching out to the helpless.

The section selected from Mark's Gospel begins with the healing of a deaf man and ends with the healing of a blind man in the non-Jewish area of the Decapolis. What we see is not simply the healing of a physical defect, but a concrete sign of the transforming power of God's Love.



The power of God's Love is working in our lives to transform sorrow into joy, sickness into health, and death into new life. The dumb man who is unable to communicate also symbolizes our own communication problem vis-à-vis God.

In order to perceive and proclaim God's message, we need to be transformed. The miracle is not only about the physical healing of a person who was deaf and dumb. It also points to the opening of a person's ears so that he may hear the word of God, and the loosening of his tongue so that he may speak his profession of faith in Jesus. The miracle has great relevance to us because a person can have perfect hearing, and yet not hear the word of God, have perfect speech, and yet be unable to make an act of faith.

We need to help Jesus to heal the deaf and the mute today. Jesus desires to give us his healing touch in order to loosen our tongues so that He may speak to the spiritually hungry through us. He invites us to give him our hearts so that He may touch the lives of people here in our own day through us, just as He touched the lives of millions through saintly souls like Francis of Assisi, Damien of Molokai, Vincent de Paul and Mother Teresa. Like them, we are also invited to become the voice of the "poorest of the poor," the helpless, the downtrodden and the unwanted who are set aside by the "new economy," or who cannot even "speak plainly and fearlessly" about their concerns.

Jesus' touch will reveal to us how we neglect, scorn or shame some people, while showing favor to others. His compassionate touch will help us to hear the cries of the poor and the sick. It will teach us to show kindness, mercy and consideration to others. His healing touch will also help us to convey peace and hope to those around us.

September—The Month of the Sorrows of Mary

RCIA

RCIA classes will begin **Monday, September 9th, at 6 p.m.**, in classroom 4. We are also offering RCIA in Spanish. Come by the Parish Office for a registration form.

Contact **Jim Friese** at (541) 991-2814, or email kkpeaches2@msn.com for more information.

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Religious Education News



- † Children's classes begin **Wednesday, September 11th.**
- † First through Fifth Grades meet from **3:15 to 5 p.m.**
- † Confirmation class meets from **6 to 7:30 p.m.**

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

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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!**

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted children

A Mass and rosary will be held in the St. Francis Historic Church in Bend on **Saturday, September 14th, at 8 a.m.** All are encouraged to attend this Pro-Life event for the millions of souls lost to abortion through the years.

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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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Spanish Couples Retreat

The Hispanic Ministry at St. Thomas Church is hosting a Couples Retreat in Spanish on **Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th.**

For more information, send an email to **Fr. Caleb** at: parochial-vicar@stthomasredmond.com.

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Pro-Life Conference

Join us for the Diocese of Baker Pro-Life Conference on **Saturday, October 12th, from 8:30 a.m to 4 p.m.**, at St. Francis Church in Bend. The cost is \$25 per adult (scholarships are available), and teens and children are FREE. Bring the whole family! Continental breakfast and B-B-Q lunch will be provided. Childcare is available at no charge. Live interpretation in Spanish will also be available.

For more information and/or to register, please go to: dioceseofbaker.org or call **Bryce** at (541) 388-4004.

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Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

The next retreat is from **Tuesday, October 15th, to Thursday, October 17th**, in Eugene for those whose lives have been impacted by abortion(s). The weekday timing provides an opportunity for those not able to attend on a weekend. Lodging, meals, and materials are included in the cost of \$300. Financial assistance is also available!

For more information, call Project Aurora at (541) 942-2861, or visit the website: www.RachelsVineyard.org.