

Fr. Joseph's Corner

According to recent studies . . . a great number of priests quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life. Most don't even quit because of financial reasons.

Priests quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion!

Until you're a priest, you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of the night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on your heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a person's absence or distance.

Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message—how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis.

Being told you need to do better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better.

Priests invest their whole life into people, and yet people will turn their backs on their pastor at the first sign of a storm, usually without a conversation.

- ◆ Priests stand in the middle of disputes.
- ◆ Priests stand in the middle of gossip.
- ◆ Priests council broken marriages.
- ◆ Priests comfort those who have suffered loss.

Priests navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your priest craves the very best for you—all of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship with God.

- ◆ Priests see the posts.
- ◆ Priests hear the whispers.
- ◆ Priests are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves.
- ◆ Priests pour out and pour out—rarely being poured into.

What keeps a priest going? YOU!

- ◆ You—the person who is genuinely hungry.
- ◆ You—the person who worships with passion and freedom.
- ◆ You—the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.
- ◆ You—the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.
- ◆ You—the one who walks through the door for the first time because you're in search of peace, hope, and community.

- ◆ Pray for your priest.
- ◆ Serve with your priest.
- ◆ Talk with your priest.
- ◆ Encourage your priest.

They are human. They need YOU more than you think!

“Behind each priest, there is a demon fighting for his fall. If we have the language to criticize them, we must have twice as much to pray for them” (St. Therese of Avila).

—*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 ◆ Roy Beyer



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

December 1, 2024 † 1st Sunday of Advent

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	12/02/2024	8:00 a.m.	Kim Hendrickson (L)	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	12/03/2024	8:00 a.m.	Sami Pedersen (L)	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	12/04/2024	12:00 p.m.	Desiree Stover (L)	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	12/05/2024	8:00 a.m.	Gary Bailey (D)	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	12/06/2024	12:00 p.m.	Brett Edgerly (L)	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	12/07/2024	5:00 p.m.	Thea Giovanini (D)	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-68-11; Lk 3:1-6
Sunday	12/08/2024	9:00 a.m.	Koivisto Family (L)	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-68-11; Lk 3:1-6
Sunday	12/08/2024	12:00 p.m.	Eduardo Gonzalez/Juana Nunez (D)	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-68-11; Lk 3:1-6

(L) Living ◆ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily



Stay Awake! Preparing for the Coming of the Lord!

TODAY, WE BEGIN ADVENT—a season of hope and preparation. The word Advent means “coming,” and it reminds us of two important events: Christ’s first coming at Bethlehem, and His second coming at the end of time.

The Gospel Calls Us to Vigilance: “Be on guard. Stay awake!”

Advent is a time to reflect on how we are preparing for Christ’s coming—not just at Christmas—but also in our daily lives and at the end of time.

Be Watchful: The Call to Spiritual Readiness.

In the Gospel (Luke 21:25–28, 34–36), Jesus describes cosmic signs and urges us to, “Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is near.” These dramatic images remind us of the uncertainty of life—and the certainty of Christ’s return.

Advent Invites Us to Watchfulness.

Not a fearful waiting, but an active, hopeful anticipation to recognize God’s presence in the here and now, especially in the people and moments we often overlook.

Spiritual readiness means living each day as though it were our last, trusting in God’s love and mercy.

Are we awake to the signs of God’s presence in our lives? Do we live with hearts ready to welcome Christ, or are we distracted by worldly concerns?

Avoid Distractions: Focus on What Truly Matters!

Jesus warns, “Do not let your hearts be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the worries of life.”

In our world, it’s easy to get lost in “busyness,” consumerism, or anxiety. Especially during this time of year, we can become preoccupied with material preparations for Christmas and forget its true meaning.

Advent Invites Us to Pause, Simplify, and Focus on What Truly Matters:

- ◆ Our relationship with God, our care for others, and our spiritual growth.
- ◆ What distractions keep us from fully embracing the season of Advent?
- ◆ How can we carve out time for prayer, reflection, and acts of love during this busy season?

Advent: A Season of Hope and Renewal!

St. Paul, in the second reading (1 Thessalonians 3:12–13), prays that our love may “increase and overflow” as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

- ◆ Advent is a season of hope—a time to renew our faith and deepen our love for God and one another.
- ◆ It is a time to reconcile, to forgive, and to make a place for Christ in our hearts and lives.
- ◆ Just as we prepare our homes for Christmas, we are called to prepare our souls for the coming of our Savior.

How can we use this Advent season to grow in love, hope, and faith? Are there relationships in need of healing or areas of our life that need renewal?

As we light the first Advent candle, let it remind us to stay awake, be watchful, and prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming.

Let us not get lost in the distractions of the season, but instead focus on what truly matters: growing in faith, hope, and love.

May this Advent be a time of spiritual renewal as we await the joy of Christmas and the ultimate joy of Christ’s return.

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception



- † **Monday, December 9th, Mass at 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.**
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- † **Wednesday, December 11th, at 6 p.m.**
Advent Penance Service
- † **Saturday, December 14th, Mass at 10 a.m.**
Our Lady of Guadalupe
- † **Wednesday, December 18th, at 3:30 p.m.**
Nativity Play by our Religious Education students
- † **Tuesday, December 24th, Mass at 6 p.m.**
Christmas Vigil Family Mass
- † **Wednesday, December 25th, Mass at 9 a.m.**
Christmas Mass
- † **Wednesday, January 1st, Mass at 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.**
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

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The 1st Week of Advent—The Candle of Hope

The first candle lit on the first week of Advent is a purple candle. This candle represents hope. In the first week of Advent, we recall the Prophet Isaiah, who anticipated the birth of Jesus. This first candle also represents the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah.

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Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service will be on **Wednesday, December 11th, at 6 p.m.** There will be 6 Priests available, with 4 of them bilingual.

All students who have received Communion will be expected to attend the Advent Penance Service—with their parents—on December 11th at 6 p.m.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 14th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. **The celebration begins at 6 a.m. for Manañitas**, the Rosary is after that, followed by coffee and bread in the church basement. **Mass is at 10 a.m.** The celebration will be held in the Parish Hall after Mass.

Online Giving

You can make a one-time donation or set up for a recurring donation. After texting, or scanning the QR Code, follow the prompts and enter in your information. Forms of payment accepted are: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and Apple Pay.

You can also access this by going to our website: stjosephsprineville.org.

If you would like help getting set up or, if you have any questions, please come in to the Parish Office.

Text: **GIVE** to (541) 366-6550.



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Religious Retirement

Aging religious need your help. “Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Celeste Burgos, 80.

Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of more than 24,000 senior Sisters, Brothers, and religious order Priests who have dedicated their lives to service.

Next weekend, **December 7th and 8th**, please give to the Religious Retirement Fund.

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Formed

Thanks to a generous donation, we now have Formed to offer to all our parishioners. Go online or download the app on your TV to sign up.

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Pro-Life

“The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs, and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

—USCCB Secretariat of ProLife Activities

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Holy Humor

When Adam was asked what his favorite holiday was, he said, “It’s Christmas, Eve.”