

Fr. Joseph's Corner

The year that is drawing to a close has been filled with much angst but also with blessings of fruitful fields and healthy skies. We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven.

These bounties are so constantly enjoyed by us that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, and we are often unmindful of the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

Thanksgiving Day is set aside to remember, in a special way, all God's gifts and blessings that He has showered upon each one of us, to come to Him offering our hearts laden with gratitude, and to fervently pray, saying, "Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love."

Now, gratitude may seem obvious and easy, but it isn't. It not only involves going out of our way, but it requires humility. It is said that "Gratitude is the odor of humility, and one cannot be humble without being honest." Only when we are "down to earth" can we be grateful because gratitude acknowledges our dependence upon another; it is recognition that we are in some measure indebted.

Thomas Aquinas taught that gratitude is not indeed a legal requirement but, rather, "It depends chiefly on the heart." Gratitude can be called a social virtue, which is a kindness given for a kindness received.

Catholics are especially aware of giving thanks for the source and submission of their Christian

lives in *eucharistia* (thanksgiving); i.e., the Eucharist. In liturgy, we express our gratitude: "It is right and just—our duty, and our salvation—to give you thanks. . . ."

People who are grateful to God do not obey the law out of fear of punishment or hope for reward; they follow the way of Christ precisely because they are grateful.

Samuel Johnson noted, "Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people." Along with love, it is a primary characteristic of the follower of Christ.

To be thankful, must we be reminded of what to say every time God gives us those things for which we pray? No! We shouldn't have to be told to say, "Thank you!" It should come naturally—as an echo when we're given something great.

"Thanks" should be like the shadow, which cannot be separated from the gifts and blessings we receive from God or others. Moreover, "thankfulness" is more than a mere word.

Actually, it is a positive mental attitude, focused on God, and we are grateful for all the benefits that are ours as believers. It is a life-style rooted in the disposition of our hearts!

Someone once said, "Thanksgiving is good, but 'thanks-living' is better."

So, we say:

"Lord, I thank You for Your faithfulness and love."

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.

In Everything Give Thanks!

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

November 24, 2024 † Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Sunday

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 GENACLE 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	11/25/2024	8:00 a.m.	Ethan Edgerly (L)	Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday	11/26/2024	8:00 a.m.	Joanne Ryan (D)	Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday	11/27/2024	12:00 p.m.	Kathy Ryan Anderson (D)	Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday	11/28/2024	8:00 a.m.	Hattie Penhollow (L)	Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a; Lk 21:20-28
Friday	11/29/2024	12:00 p.m.	Kate Edgerly (L)	Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday	11/30/2024	5:00 p.m.	Mike Mulvihill (D)	Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28
Sunday	12/01/2024	9:00 a.m.	Mike Sturza (D)	Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28
Sunday	12/01/2024	12:00 p.m.	Rev. Benjamin Kiernan (D)	Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily: "Christ the King"

TODAY, AS WE celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Church invites us to reflect on the nature of Christ's kingship and what it means for our lives. This feast, established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, reminds us of the enduring truth that Christ reigns over all creation, not with the power and authority of earthly kings, but with the grace and love of a servant leader.



It tells us that Christ's reign is not about domination but about love—especially for the vulnerable and marginalized. When we care for the least among us, we encounter Christ Himself. Every act of kindness becomes an expression of His love. In a world often divided by conflict and inequality, Christ's kingship challenges us to build bridges, foster reconciliation, and serve with humility.

The Gospel reading (Matthew 25:31-46) paints a vivid image of Christ the King as a shepherd separating sheep from goats at the final judgment. The criteria for this judgment are surprising: not wealth, power, or status, but acts of love, compassion, and service to the least among us.

1. Christ's Kingdom of Truth

In today's society, where misinformation and relativism often prevail, we are reminded that Christ came to bear witness to the truth. As He tells Pilate in John's Gospel: "My kingdom does not belong to this world" (John 18:36). His kingdom is rooted in the eternal truth of God's love and justice.

This calls us to be people of truth—honest in our relationships, just in our dealings, and courageous in standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult. Being part of Christ's kingdom means aligning our lives with His truth and allowing it to guide our decisions.

2. Christ's Kingdom of Love

The image of Christ as a King who identifies with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned is a radical one.

3. Christ's Kingdom of Service

Unlike worldly kings, Christ models leadership through service. At the Last Supper, He washed the feet of His disciples and commanded them to do the same. He showed us that true greatness lies in serving others.

For us, this means living out our faith in concrete ways. It means feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, forgiving those who hurt us, and working tirelessly for justice and peace. As members of His kingdom, we are called to be His hands and feet in the world.

Conclusion: A Kingdom of Hope

The Solemnity of Christ the King is also a reminder of the hope we have in His ultimate victory. Despite the challenges we face—personal struggles, societal injustices, and global crises—we trust that Christ's kingdom will prevail.

As we approach Advent, let us renew our commitment to live as faithful citizens of Christ's kingdom. Let us strive to embody His truth, radiate His love, and serve with His humility, so that, at the end of time, we too may hear the words: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). *Amen.*

November—Month of the Souls in Purgatory



Thanksgiving Mass

Mass is at 8 a.m. Thanksgiving Day, November 28th.

+++

Monday, December 9th— A Holy Day of Obligation

In 2024, December 8th is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, so the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to **Monday, December 9th**. Mass times are at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

+++

Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

ACTS

We are starting a new series, "Why We Confess" by Brant Pitre. Everyone is welcome to join us on **Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Room 2.**

+++

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. 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.



+++

Snow Removal

'Tis the season for snow. We need to have clear walkways before all Masses. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up if you will help clear snow at the times listed on the sheet. In general, we need someone an hour before the weekday Mass and two hours before weekend Masses. Only sign up if you are available at the times listed on days that we get snow.

+++

Formed

The best Catholic content all in one place. It's easy and free to register:

- 1) Visit formed.org/signup
- 2) Enter our parish zip code or name
- 3) Enter your name and email
- 4) Enjoy!



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

