

Fr. Joseph's Corner "The Christmas Gift" (Author Unknown)

A friend of mine named Paul received an automobile from his brother as a Christmas present.

On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it.

"Is this your car, Mister?" the boy asked.

Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Boy, I wish . . ." He hesitated.

Of course, Paul knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said next jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

"I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, and then impulsively he asked, "Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?"

"Oh! Yes, I'd love that," he said with a big smile.

After a short ride, the boy turned to Paul, and with his eyes aglow, he said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front on my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his

neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop where those steps are?" the boy asked.

Paul stopped, and the boy ran up the steps.

In a little while, Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. The boy was carrying his little crippled brother.

The lad sat his brother down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him, and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs! His said his brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day, I'm gonna give you one just like it . . . And then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul then got out and lifted the crippled boy into the front seat of his car. The older brother, with his eyes filled with tears and surprise, climbed in beside him, and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve, Paul really learned what Jesus had meant when He said: "It is more blessed to give than it is to receive."

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

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.

St. Joseph Catholic Church 150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754 December 15, 2024 † 3rd 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	12/16/2024	8:00 a.m.	Andy Hermreck (D)	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	12/17/2024	8:00 a.m.	Dorice Ordway (D)	Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
Wednesday	12/18/2024	12:00 p.m.	Tara Lamb (L)	Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday	12/19/2024	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Fidler & Jean Kmiecik (D)	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
Friday	12/20/2024	12:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Isiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Saturday	12/21/2024	5:00 p.m.	Caroline Fowls (D)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Sunday	12/22/2024	9:00 a.m.	Claire Drexler (D)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45
Sunday	12/22/2024	12:00 p.m.	Maria Vargas Nunez (D)	Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE CENTRAL THEME of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, *Gaudete in Domino semper* ("Rejoice in the Lord always").

Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice.

According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests.

We are called to a change of life. John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look at ourselves. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must then examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Start where you are, John says. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. John's voice is sober and runs counter to the



intoxicating voices around us. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption, and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. Hence, let us celebrate the memory of Jesus' first advent at Bethlehem by preparing for Jesus' daily advent into our lives, welcoming, loving, and serving Him—present in other people—delighting in Jesus' presence in our own souls and lives, and waiting for Jesus' third advent or "second coming" ("Parousia") at the end of the world with joyful expectation.

What should we do in preparation for Christmas? This is the same question the Jews asked John. His answer to them and to us is the same: "Repent and reform your lives," and prayerfully wait for the Messiah.

Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, urgently calls us to more fervent prayer—particularly her Rosary—with fasting and penitential sacrifices. Let us remember that the Mass is the most powerful of prayers.

We must be a Eucharistic people, living and experiencing the presence of Jesus in our hearts and adoring Him in His Tabernacle. Let us remember that conversion is an ongoing process effected by our daily cooperation with Jesus, Whom we encounter in the Sacraments.

Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us read the Bible and pray the Rosary daily. We might also fast once a week all year round, rather than just in Advent and Lent; after all, we sin all year round! Let us have the courage of our Christian convictions to turn off TV programs that show explicit sexual behavior, violence and the use of foul language. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service.

"Do small things but with great love" (St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Mother Teresa").

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

The 3rd Week of Advent—The Candle of JOY

The third candle to be lit is the pink candle, which represents Joy. This candle reminds us that Jesus' coming is near as we reach the middle point of Advent. The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*, which symbolizes the nearness of Christ's coming.



Advent / Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 18th, 4 p.m.

Nativity Play by our Religious Education students

Tuesday, December 24th, Mass, 6 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Family Mass

Wednesday, December 25th, Mass, 9 a.m.

Christmas Mass

Wednesday, January 1st, Mass, 8 a.m.

and 6 p.m. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Parish Office Closed

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS WEEK.

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Religious Retirement

Women and men religious offer gratitude. "My sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says **Sr. Teresa Korycka**, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit: retiredreligious.org.

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Respect Life

Respect Life is running a "Pajama Drive" for the Pregnancy Resource Center. We are collecting **new** pajamas for children, sizes 18 months to 4T, and pajamas, robes, slippers and socks for pregnant and post-partum mothers. You can drop these off at the Parish Office through **Monday, December 23rd**. Thank you and God bless you all this Advent Season.

—Ari Ampudia, akatth@yahoo.com

Christmas Day Brunch

Fr. Joseph is hosting a CHRISTMAS BRUNCH on Wednesday, December 25th, at 11 a.m. If you aren't going away, if you aren't having a large family gathering, if you are going to be alone, you are welcome. We don't want anyone to be alone this Christmas.

Please call the Parish Office at: (541) 447-6475, or send an email to: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com, or text **Darlene** at (541) 729-1810. Come celebrate with our family!

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Diocese of Baker Jubilee

All are invited to attend the Feast of the Holy Family Mass on Sunday, December 29th, at 9:30 a.m., at the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales in Baker City, as **Bishop Cary** opens the Year of Jubilee 2025 in the Diocese of Baker. Our Cathedral has been named as our diocesan pilgrimage site for the Year of Jubilee. For more details, please visit DioceseofBaker.org/Jubilee.

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Calendars and Offertory Envelopes

The 2025 offertory envelopes are in the Narthex of the Church. If you do not currently receive envelopes, but would like to, please contact the Parish Office. The 2025 Calendars are also available in the Narthex.

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A Christmas Gift from Fr. Joseph

For Christmas, Fr. Joseph is gifting parishioners the newest Matthew Kelly book, "The Three Ordinary Voices of God." These are available in the Narthex

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Holy Humor

"Christmas Shopping"

Christmas was just a couple of weeks away, and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner: "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's no offense," said the judge. And then he asked: "How early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the store opened."



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