

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "Just Stay" (by Roy Popkin)

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man.

She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain from his heart attack, the old man dimly saw the young, uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent, and he reached out his hand.

The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night, the young Marine sat there in the poorly lit ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength.

Occasionally, the nurse suggested to the Marine that he move away and rest for awhile, but he refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital—the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then, she heard him say a few gentle words. But the dying man said nothing; he only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Toward dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand and went to tell the nurse.

While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, the nurse returned and started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled and said, "He was your father!"

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't there. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His Son was killed in Iraq today, and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?"

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, William Grey.

THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE NEEDS YOU . . .  
JUST BE THERE. JUST STAY!"

—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](https://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 22, 2024 † 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas

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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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	12/23/2024	8:00 a.m.	Edward Ordway (D)	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday	12/24/2024	6:00 p.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Wednesday	12/25/2024	9:00 a.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday	12/26/2024	8:00 a.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Friday	12/27/2024	12:00 p.m.	LaVern West (D)	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday	12/28/2024	5:00 p.m.	James Friese, Sr. & Frank Kmiecik (D)	1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
Sunday	12/29/2024	9:00 a.m.	Jim Friese (L)	1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
Sunday	12/29/2024	12:00 p.m.	Maria de Jesus Sanchez & Procopio Sanchez (D)	1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

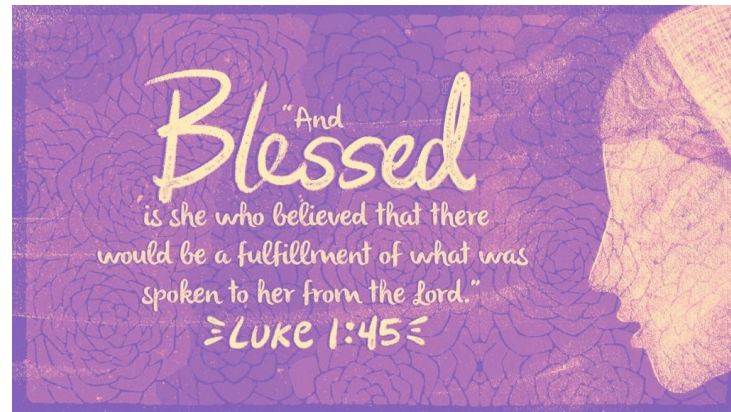
## Today's Homily

**TODAY'S READINGS** remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. They suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect, loving obedience to His will, with cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

Today's Gospel tells us how Mary, a village girl carrying Jesus in her womb, made a difference in the lives of her cousin Elizabeth and of the child, John, in her womb. John, as he grew up, helped Mary's Son to transform the history of mankind by preparing the way for the Messiah. The starfish story suggests that each person, no matter how unimportant, may truly benefit from our work, and that any service, however small, is valuable. The story also shows how seemingly hopeless problems can be solved by taking the first step.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.

We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. We can make a real difference in the lives of others by carrying Jesus to them. However, we cannot give what we do not possess. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing his rebirth within us. Thus, he enables us to share his love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate caring. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas gift we can give. God wants each of us—like Mary—to



Carry to those around us the Lord of Life. It is easy to send flowers, Christmas cards or gifts. To give the gift of oneself, however, is the greatest gift of all. Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God.

Let us share with them the Spirit of God, the Spirit of consolation, of courage, of peace and joy, just as Mary did. During the Christmas Season, God calls us into action as He did Mary. Is there anyone we know who is lonely, in a nursing home, ill or bedridden? Can we help him or her with a brief visit? Is there extra food in our pantry that a poor family could use? We have many organizations through which we can help such families.

We need to recognize the real presence of the Emmanuel (God Is with Us) and say "yes" to Him: The Visitation of Mary reminds us that, through his holy ministry, Christ continues to be present among his people. The same Christ "dwells among us" in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our sanctuary. The same Jesus who dwelt in Mary's womb and who caused John to leap in Elizabeth's womb now dwells among us in our liturgy and in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus has come—he lives with us and in us through the Holy Spirit. What is expected of us during this Christmas week is the readiness to say "Yes!" to the Father, "Yes!" to Jesus, "Yes!" to all that we will experience in the coming year and "Yes!" to every call that God makes and will make on us.

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. They suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect obedience to His will, in cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger  
Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Pierre Jones ♦ Sammi Pedersen ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ Reba McDermott  
John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Brittany Duncan Osgood ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither  
Doni Bachand ♦ Terri Hintze ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Jeanne Hackett

## December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

### The 4th Week of Advent—The Candle of Peace

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the last candle is lit, which is purple. This candle represents peace and reminds us of the importance of Peace as the true savior of the world is coming. The Fourth Candle, also called the Angel's Candle, symbolizes love and the message of God's love that the angels announced at Christ's birth.



### Parish Office Closed

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THIS WEEK.

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### 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com), or text Darlene at (541) 729-1810. Come celebrate with our family!

### 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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### 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](http://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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### Respect Life

**Did you know?** The Respect Life Ministry meets at Planned Parenthood in Bend (2330 NE Division Street) every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. We would love to see you there! Ride Sharing is available. For any questions, please call Ari at (541) 675-7962.

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### Retrouvaille

**Stress in your marriage?** Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel stressed, bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship and don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouses about it. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for emotional testimonials and program information. For confidential information or to register for the January 31–February 2, 2025, Oregon weekend at Canby Grove Retreat Center in Canby, OR, call (503) 225-9191.