

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### “Things Happen for a Reason” (by Roy Popkin)

The new pastor and his wife were assigned to their first ministry—to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn. When they saw the church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18th, they were just about finished. On the 19th, a terrible rain storm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church, and his heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked and caused a large area of plaster to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, he headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it, went back to the church, but it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it, so the pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he worked to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. He could hardly believe how beautiful it looked, and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. “Pastor,” she asked, “Where did you get that tablecloth?” The pastor explained, and the woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman—and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. She explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people. But when the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was

going to follow her the next week, but he was captured, put in prison, and she never saw him or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made him keep it for the church. He then insisted on driving her home as it was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island, and she was only in Brooklyn for the day to do a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, just continued to sit in one of the pews and stare ahead. The pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. Then the man came up to ask the pastor where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war, and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike! He told the pastor of how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and how he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years in between.

The pastor then gently asked the man if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island to the house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and then saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine!



[This is a true story, submitted by Pastor Rob Reid, who says, “God does not work in mysterious ways. I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today, to guide you and protect you, as you go along your way. His love is always with you, His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through. So, when the road you're traveling on seems difficult at best, just remember that I am here praying, and God will do the rest. When there is nothing left but God, that's when you find out that God is all you need.]

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
December 29, 2024 † The Holy Family 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](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 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	12/30/2024	8:00 a.m.	Stuart MacDonald (D)	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday	12/31/2024	8:00 a.m.	Gotchnik Family (D)	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday	01/01/2024	8:00 a.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday	01/01/2024	6:00 p.m.	Lloyd Rodgers (D)	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Thursday	01/02/2024	8:00 a.m.	Scotty & Elaine McLean (D)	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Friday	01/03/2024	12:00 p.m.	Callie & Brinlee Smith (L)	1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Saturday	01/04/2024	5:00 p.m.	Pat Ryan Sr. (D)	Is 60:1-6; Eph3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Sunday	01/05/2024	9:00 a.m.	Darlene Counts (D)	Is 60:1-6; Eph3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Sunday	01/05/2024	12:00 p.m.	Very Rev. John Heinrich (D)	Is 60:1-6; Eph3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

**THE SUNDAY AFTER** Christmas is celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family.

Christmas itself is the feast of God entering a family to stay with the humans. It appears that God thought it to be wise to start the decisive phase of salvation history from a family.

In the story of the fall, the very first negative consequence of sin was visible in the family of the first parents. They distanced themselves from God, blamed one another, and their life together became difficult, painful, and filled with suffering.

God deemed it fit to restore the broken family bonds as an important step toward the restoration of the ruptured relationship the human race had with God. When God sent His son as the member of the family of Joseph and Mary, He was undoing the mistakes of the first parents.

The Church has always presented the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model family for Christians to imitate, calling it to be the Holy Family. But, for the people living in the 21st Century, there is very little that makes it attractive to them.

Jesus' family was just too simple and ordinary. It was a family that lived under the threat of the powerful and the influenced—evicted to Egypt from their homeland, and forced to live as migrants in Galilee. It did not have any financial or social security. It struggled hard to win its daily bread, and it didn't receive any privileges from any quarters.

Many of the features that we cherish and long for were absent in the family of Jesus. Still, the Church calls it a model family and a holy family. **Do you know why?**

**It's because in this family, Jesus, the Word incarnate, was its center. His bonds of love and respect for the family members were very strong, and the only philosophy of its members was to seek the will of God and to obey it.**

Any family that follows these principles would be a model family always and everywhere.



**Parents must learn to keep Jesus at the center of their married life.** It would help them tackle many problems that might arise in their life. If Jesus is the center of their life, they would learn the art of making the family from Jesus' perspective. Letting Jesus enter our families and keeping Him at its center is the big challenge the couples of our time face.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus entering the homes of many. When Jesus enters a home, He leads its members to a deeper understanding of the Word of God (as happened in the home of Martha and Mary). When He enters a home, He invites them for a change

of heart (as happened in the home of Zacchaeus). He gives them healing (as happened in the home of Peter), and He restores life to its fullness (as happened in the home of Jairus). His presence guarantees solutions to the most waxing problems affecting it (as happened in the wedding home at Cana). Yet many are still afraid to let Jesus in—into their home.

The other noticeable characteristic in the Holy Family was its commitment to follow the will of God in everything. All the Holy Family members sought the will of God wholeheartedly. There was no trace of selfishness and vested interest in their life.

Their unwavering faith in the providence of God enabled them to accept the joys and sorrows of life with serenity. They didn't complain about anything but accepted every happening he family with humility. They were convinced that whatever happened was the Lord's doing. This attitude of theirs increased their love and respect for one another. They trusted each other as they trusted God. So they stood united in the ups and downs of their lives.

What we see in the families around us is the lack of openness to God and one another and the consequent disunity. When we push up our own selfish agenda, it will hurt both God and other members of our family.

On this feast day of the Holy Family, let us recollect what the Psalmist has to say: "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

## December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

### A Christmas Gift from Father Joseph

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



### *New Year's Day Mass Schedule*

**Wednesday, January 1st,  
8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***



### 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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### Snow Removal

'Tis the season for snow. We need to have clear walkways before all Masses. There is a signup 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 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.

### 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 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](http://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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### Retrouvaille

**Marriage Saving—the Weekend Phase** During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation, you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the previous presentation. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for program information and emotional testimonials. For information or to register for the **January 31–February 2, 2025** weekend at the Canby Grove Retreat Center in Oregon, call (503) 225-9191.

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### World Wide Marriage Encounter

"And His commandment is this: we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as He commanded us." Learn to love your spouse more fully on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience (WWME) on **February 21–23, 2025** in Beaverton, Oregon. To apply for your **WWME Experience** or to **search for other dates**, go to [rediscoverthespark.org](http://rediscoverthespark.org). For information about WWME, call (503) 704-0836 or email: [reservations@rediscoverthespark.org](mailto:reservations@rediscoverthespark.org).

### **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