

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Baseball Game Between Heaven and Hell"
by Charles Foster, "K" Company, 19th Regiment

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs.

They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single—because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up, and then he threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one.

Three more pitches and then Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were now loaded.

The Lord then turned to Freddy and said, "I'm now going to bring in my star player." And up to the plate stepped Grace.

Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team then actually relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking they could still win the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch.



To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head, and sent him crashing on the ground. Then it continued over the fence for a home run! The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game.

Freddy answered that he did not know why. So, the Lord explained, "If your Love, Faith, and Wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith, and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you Home."

Psalm 84:11: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk up rightly."

Jesus Test: This is an easy test. You score 100 or zero. It's your choice. If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow the directions. Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father."

—*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 8, 2024 † 2nd 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	12/09/2024	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Monday	12/09/2024	6:00 p.m.	John & Irene Kutcher (D)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	12/10/2024	8:00 a.m.	Earl Miller (D)	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	12/11/2024	12:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	12/12/2024	8:00 a.m.	Sarah MacDonald (D)	Zec 2:14-17Lk 1:26-38
Friday	12/13/2024	12:00 p.m.	Amanda Valdez (L)	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	12/14/2024	5:00 p.m.	Camerino Ortiz & Margarita Lopez (D)	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Sunday	12/15/2024	9:00 a.m.	Clair Drexler (D)	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Sunday	12/15/2024	12:00 p.m.	Herculano Vargas Ruiz (D)	Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE SECOND SUNDAY of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in the praying community. Finally, we are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His *Second Coming*, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist challenges us to prepare the way for the salvation of "all flesh," including our own, by a true repentance leading to the renewal of our lives. Quoting Isaiah, John declares that he has come to prepare a royal road in our hearts for our Savior, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation, to God.

John called people to repent as a way of preparing their hearts and lives for the Lord's visit. He is calling us, too, to get ready for something so great that it fills our emptiness with expectation. A smooth road means nothing to God, but a repentant heart means a great deal. Hence, the truly important goal for us is to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord.

We don't live in a perfect world, and we don't look to this world to see God's salvation. For salvation, we have to look to Jesus—Jesus present in Scripture, Jesus present in the Sacraments, Jesus present in our coming together in his name, Jesus present in the lives of his followers. Perhaps if we began to see Jesus in each other and in ourselves, and started to treat one another (and ourselves), as we would treat Jesus, more of the world might come to see God's salvation.

We need to prepare the way for the Messiah in our hearts: We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls which have resulted from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our faith. We have to



straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. If we have been pushing God off to the side of our road, if we have been saying to Him that we

don't really have the time for Him, now is the time for us to get our priorities straight. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism. As a society we might have to dismantle unfair housing policies, employment disparity, economic injustice, or racial and ethnic biases.

We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and our fellow-human beings: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. There are basically two reasons why people who have recognized their sins fail to receive forgiveness for them. The first is that they fail to repent. But the second is that they fail to forgive.

Jesus is very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14 and 15. He says, "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Is there someone I need to forgive today? We must not let what others have done destroy our lives. We can't be forgiven unless we forgive. We must release our bitterness if we are to be able to allow God to do His healing work in our lives.

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

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

Advent Schedule

- † **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 2nd Week of Advent—The Candle of Hope



The second candle to be lit is also a purple candle. This candle symbolizes faith and the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. It calls you out to prepare the way of the Lord.

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Religious Retirement Collection This Weekend

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

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Respect Life

This month—through Monday, December 23rd— 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.

Thank you very much for your generosity, and God bless you all this Advent Season.

—Ari Ampudia, akatth@yahoo.com

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.

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Christmas Day Brunch

Fr. Joseph is hosting a CHRISTMAS BRUNCH on Wednesday, December 25th. If you aren't going away, if you aren't having a large family gathering, if you are alone, you are welcome. We don't want anyone to be alone this Christmas. Please call **Darlene** in the Parish Office at: (541) 447-6475 or send her an email to: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com. Come celebrate with our family!

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Retrouvaille

Is it time for you and your spouse to work on your marriage together?

—4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE—

The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening.

Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i).

Join Oregon Retrouvaille as we host a working weekend for couples struggling in their marriages by couples who have been there in the struggle.

Come **January 31 through February 2, 2025** at the Canby Grove Retreat Center in Canby, Oregon. For confidential information about or to register for the program: (503) 225-9191 or email: portland@retrouvaille.org or visit us at: Helpourmarriage.org.