

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"All He Had to Offer" (author unknown)

His house was in a poor area of the community. A church there had a "Bus Ministry," and a man came knocking on his door one Saturday afternoon. The child came to the door and greeted the Bus Pastor. The Bus Pastor asked if his parents were home, and the small boy told him that his parents take off every weekend and leave him at home to take care of his little brother. The Bus Pastor could not believe what the child said and asked him to repeat it. The youngster gave the same answer.

The Bus Pastor asked if he could come in to talk to him. They went into the living room and sat down on an old couch with the foam and springs exposed. The Bus Pastor asked the child, "Where do you go to church?"

The young boy replied, "I've never been to church in my whole life." The Bus Pastor thought to himself about the fact that his church was less than three miles from the child's house. "Are you sure that you have never been to church?" he asked again.

"I'm sure I haven't," the child replied.

Then the Bus Pastor said, "Well, son, more important than going to church, have you ever heard of baptism and the greatest story ever told?"

Then he proceeded to share the Gospel with this little 9-year-old boy. The young lad's heart began to be tenderized, and at the end of the story, the Bus Pastor asked if the boy wanted to receive this free gift from God. The youngster exclaimed, "Of course!"

The child and the Bus Pastor got on their knees, and the lad invited Jesus into his little heart and received the free gift of salvation. They both stood up, and the Bus Pastor asked if he could pick up the child for church the next morning.

"Sure," the boy replied.

The Bus Pastor got to the house early the next morning and found the lights off. He let himself in, snaked his way through the house, and found the little boy asleep in his bed. He woke him up and his brother and helped get them dressed.

They got on the bus and ate a doughnut for breakfast on their way to church. Keep in mind that this boy had never been to church before.

The church was a real big one, and the little child just sat there, clueless of what was going on.

A few minutes into the service, these tall, unhappy-looking guys walked to the front and picked up some wooden plates. One of the men prayed, and the child, with utter fascination, watched them walk up and down the aisles. He still did not know what was going on.

Suddenly, like a bolt of lightning, it hit him what was going on! These people must be giving money to Jesus. He reflected on the free gift of life he had just received 24 hours earlier. So, he searched his pockets—front and back—and could not find a thing to give Jesus.

By this time the offering plate was being passed down his aisle and, with a broken heart, he just grabbed the plate and held on to it.

He finally let go, and watched it pass on down the aisle. He turned around to see it passed down the aisle behind him. And then his eyes remained glued on the plate as it was passed back and forth, back and forth—all the way to the rear of the sanctuary.

Then he had an idea. This little 9-year-old boy, in front of God and everybody, got up out of his seat. He walked about eight rows back, grabbed the usher by the coat, and asked to hold the plate one more time.

Then he did the most astounding thing I have ever seen. He took the plate, sat it on the carpeted church floor, and stepped into the center of it. As he stood there, he lifted his little head up and said, "Jesus, I don't have anything to give you today, but just me—I give you me!"

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
January 5, 2025 † The Epiphany of the Lord 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	01/06/2025	8:00 a.m.	Anne MacDonald (D)	1 Jn 3:00-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	01/07/2025	8:00 a.m.	Graham Family (D)	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	01/08/2025	12:00 p.m.	Lu & Jody Streetman (D)	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	01/09/2025	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday	01/10/2025	12:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	01/11/2025	5:00 p.m.	Popesh Family (D)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Sunday	01/12/2025	9:00 a.m.	Thad Davis (L)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Sunday	01/12/2025	12:00 p.m.	Herculano Vargas Ruiz (D)	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

ONE OF THE favorite images of Christmas is that of the wise men traveling by camel through a star-lit night. One star dominates the sky as they arrive on the crest of the hill overlooking Bethlehem. When the star appeared, these wise men must have been living a certain type of life. But when they saw the star, they decided to follow it. They stopped whatever they were doing.

They were ready to take risks because they knew the meaning of this special star. The journey must have been a long trip from a country far away in the east. There have been dangers, too, along the way.

For them, it was a journey to the faith. The wise men, through the grace of God, came to faith in Jesus. To us, the wise men's gifts might seem to be rather useless, but what do you give this child who is the all-powerful God—who controls the stars to such an extent that a particularly bright star travels westward and stops over the place where Jesus and His parents were staying? Their gifts were symbolic adoration to the Divine King. When God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for our salvation, what can we give in return? The best gifts that we can offer the Christ-child are the gifts of ourselves.

In actual fact, the gold, frankincense and myrrh from the wise men are trivial and quite useless for the God of all creation, and the savior of all people. He has all the gold, frankincense and myrrh He ever needs. After all, He is the creator and owner of all these gifts. But as useless as these gifts are for God, they are a sign of the way the wise men gave of themselves. We each have a journey to make to Jesus because none of us is yet fully converted, and each of us has corners in our hearts and lives in need of Jesus' healing and redemption.

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, we are strongly reminded that we must continue to seek out God's presence in our lives and in our world. Having celebrated Christ's birthday a few days ago, the



Church is now asking us to consider how we must still search for Christ. The "search" here is not in the sense that we are searching for something that we have never found. Rather, we are continuing to look for a deeper knowledge and experience of the Christ in whom we already believe.

One of the facts that today's Gospel gives us is that the wise

men came with special gifts for the newborn king. The Gospel writer tells us they went into the house, and when they saw the child with His mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshiped Him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to Him. We may wonder—gold, frankincense and myrrh—what strange gifts for a newborn child.

If the eastern visitors had been wise women, the baby Jesus would have received more sensible gifts—baby food, "nappies," clothes to replace the swaddling clothes, "bunny rugs," and even a proper baby's crib. Again, we are told, "The wise men . . . knelt down and worshiped Him." Here are these men—learned, wealthy wizards of the east, non-Jews and probably pagans—kneeling at the tiny infant's feet of the true God. And, while they paid homage, they would have realized that even the gift of themselves was something far too small for this king of kings.

What we give to our Lord may seem so trivial, modest and poor, but if they are representative of the giving of ourselves to God, this is our most important gift. Even then, this is still so small in comparison to what God has gifted to us.

Like the wise men, all of us are on a journey to get closer to Jesus, our Savior. Like the wise men, we too are relying on the grace of God to lead us to the light of Jesus, our Savior. Like the wise men, let us offer ourselves at His feet. The Epiphany reminds us:

May our hearts seek Christ. May our hearts find Christ. May our hearts love Christ.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

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The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus." It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us.

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A Special Thank You Note from Fr. Joseph

Thank you to **Karin Davis, Sue Williams, Cookie Benton, Ruby Ruiz, Holly LeFevre and all others for decorating the inside and outside of the Church and Rectory.** You all did such a BEAUTIFUL JOB!

Thank you to **Chuck, Diane and Brant Giovanini** for everything they do for our Parish, but specifically for cleaning our Church all year long! It does not go unnoticed and is much appreciated.

Thank you to **Bob Leonard, Larry Locher, Tom MacDonald and the Maintenance Committee.** I appreciate all you do to keep our buildings and grounds running smoothly.

Thank you to **Maureen Bristow and all the choir members** for creating such a beautiful sound each week.

Thank you to **Heather Mattioda, Hope Burke and Gari Lynn Tocher** for blessing us with their beautiful voices and music on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to **Barbara Dalton, Colleen Budde, Cheyenne Edgerly, Gari Lynn Tocher and the rest of the Religious Education volunteers.** I appreciate everything you do for our children.

Thank you to **all the other volunteers** who make up our parish and show up every week. We would not have a Parish without the selfless support from you!

Thank you to **Jim Friese and our generous Knights of Columbus** who are always there giving our parish and the community their support.

—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 your information.



Forms of payment accepted are: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and Apple Pay. You can also go to our website: stjosephsprineville.org. If you would like help getting set up or if you have questions, please come into the Parish Office. Text: **GIVE** to (541) 366-6550.

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Respect Life

"Through the Incarnation and Birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him. . . . Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world." (USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities) "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

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Retrouaille

A Lifeline for Marriage—Retrouaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track, the opportunity to rediscover each other, and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. Call today to register for the **January 31–February 2nd** weekend at the Canby Grove Retreat Center in Oregon.

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage." As we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, let us give homage to the presence of God in our marriages by participating in an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on **February 21st–23rd**, in Beaverton, Oregon.

To apply for your WWME experience, go to the website at: rediscoverthespark.org. For information, call (503) 704-0836 or email: 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