

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"A Sweet Lesson on Patience" (by a New York City Taxi Driver)

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes, I honked again. As this was going to be my last ride of my shift, I considered just driving away, but instead I put the car in "park," and walked up to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened, and a small woman in her '90s stood before me wearing a print dress and a "pill-box" hat with a veil pinned on it—like somebody out of a 1940s movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase, and the apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she asked. I took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm, and we walked slowly to the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said, and when we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered, but she said, "Oh, I don't mind. I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked. And for the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she once worked as an elevator operator.

We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds.



She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow down in front of a particular building or corner, and she would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she gave me. It was a low building like a small convalescent home with a driveway that passed under a portico.

Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching for her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent down and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said.

"Thank you!" I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked only once, and then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments—but great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

January 12, 2025 † The Baptism 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 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	01/13/2025	8:00 a.m.	Rita & Bob Rodgers (D)	Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday	01/14/2025	8:00 a.m.	Hoover Family (D)	Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	01/15/2025	12:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	01/16/2025	8:00 a.m.	Lorraine Popish (D)	Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	01/17/2025	12:00 p.m.	Tara Lamb (L)	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	01/18/2025	5:00 p.m.	Lu & Jody Streetman (D)	Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday	01/19/2025	9:00 a.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday	01/19/2025	12:00 p.m.	Eduardo Gonzalez/Juana Nunez (D)	Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord—a moment that marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and reveals profound truths about God, His Son, and His plan for our salvation.

A Moment of Humility and Solidarity

In today's Gospel, Jesus comes to John at the Jordan River to be baptized. At first, John is perplexed: "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" John recognizes Jesus as the sinless Lamb of God, the one who has no need of repentance. And yet, Jesus insists, saying, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Here, Jesus shows us the depth of His humility. He does not stand apart from us but fully enters into the human condition.

By stepping into the waters of the Jordan, He identifies with sinners, even though He Himself is without sin.

This act foreshadows His ultimate solidarity with humanity on the cross, where He takes upon Himself the sins of the world.

A Revelation of Identity and Mission

As Jesus rises from the waters, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice proclaims, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

This moment reveals Jesus' true identity as the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. It also signals the beginning of His mission: to bring light to the nations, to heal the brokenhearted, and to free those bound by sin and death. The presence of the Holy Trinity—the Father's voice, the Son in the water, and the Spirit descending—reminds us that the mission of Christ is rooted in the eternal love and communion of the Triune God.



A Model for Our Own Baptism

The Baptism of the Lord is also an invitation for us to reflect on the meaning of our own baptism. Through this sacrament, we are united with Christ, cleansed of sin, and made children of God. The same Spirit that descended upon Jesus at the Jordan now dwells within us, empowering us to live as His disciples.

Baptism is not just a past event; it is the foundation of our Christian identity and mission. Like Jesus, we're called to humility, service, and solidarity with those in need. We're called to live in a way that reflects the Father's

words: "This is my beloved son; this is my beloved daughter."

The Challenge to Live as Beloved Children

In a world filled with division, despair, and indifference, the call of baptism is a challenge. It is a challenge to trust in God's love, even when we feel unworthy. It is a challenge to bear witness to the Gospel, even when it is inconvenient. It is a challenge to serve others, especially the poor and marginalized, even when it costs us something.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us that we are not alone in this mission. The Spirit who descended upon Jesus at the Jordan empowers us to live out our baptismal calling. And the same Father who was "well pleased" with His Son invites us to live in a way that pleases Him.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, let us renew our commitment to live as God's beloved children. Let us allow the waters of baptism to shape our lives, guiding us toward humility, service, and love. And let us trust in the power of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us to proclaim the Good News to a world in need.

May we, like Christ, rise from the waters renewed, ready to do the will of the Father and to walk the path that leads to eternal life.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Welcome to Our Newest Members



Welcome
Our New
Members

We are excited to announce that on **January 12th, at the 9 a.m. Mass**, we'll be celebrating the Rite of Acceptance for our catechumens and candidates. This is a special ceremony where we welcome those who are interested in becoming members of our parish and of the Catholic Church.

Together, we will offer prayers and blessings for their spiritual growth.

Your presence and prayers are invaluable as we support and welcome these individuals as they continue their journey of faith.

CANDIDATES:

- † Albert Brown
- † Ariana Ampudia
- † Lorena Villalobos-Reyes
- † Tara Lamb

CATECHUMENS:

- † "Adrian" Gorgonio Ramirez Zarate

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Respect Life

"When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share His love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others: so, too, others' lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-life Activities:
"How to Build a Culture of Life"

Retrouvaille

A Lifeline for Marriage—Retrouvaille 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 31st–February 2nd** weekend at the Canby Grove Retreat Center in Oregon.

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Jesus turned, saw them following Him, and said to them, "What are you looking for?"

We should be looking for the graces of God in our marriage. Discover those graces by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on **February 21st–23rd**, in Beaverton, OR.

To apply for **your** WWME experience, or to search for other dates, go to rediscoverthespark.org.

For information about WWME, call (503) 704-0836, or send an email to reservations@rediscoverthespark.org.

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Rachels Vineyard



For many, it may seem like their abortion is an event left totally in the past, yet vast evidence shows that abortion has long-lasting, life-altering effects in the lives of women and men who have experienced it.

To deal and heal from abortion, attend a life-changing Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

Contact Project Aurora for information about the **February 28th–March 2nd Retreat in Portland** at (541) 942-2861 or email to: info@project-aurora.org. Also visit our website at www.project-aurora.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 ♦ Peggy Holtz