

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Are You Jesus?"

Every life has a purpose. Every life has meaning. We get many opportunities to become better persons if we keep our eyes, ears and hearts open. The following story invites us to reflect about the purpose of our lives on this earth, and I want to share it with you.



A few years ago, a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home, with their tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table that held a display of apples for sale—and apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding—ALL BUT ONE! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, asking one of them to call his wife and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the floor.

He was very glad he did because the 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, the tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her—no one stopping—and no one caring about her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her and gathered up the apples. He put them back on the table and helped to organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He then continued, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly." As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him: "Mister? Are you Jesus?"

The salesman stopped in midstride and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus. He is good, kind, caring, and loving. And Jesus would never have bumped into your display in the first place!"

The girl solemnly nodded and said, "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me. Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

Then slowly the man made his way to the gate to catch the later flight—with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"



If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. That is our destiny—to be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference, as we live in a world that is blind to His love, life, and grace.

Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. We are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked us up on a hill called Calvary. He paid in full for our damaged fruit—our sinful lives.

We take things for granted. Let us be grateful to God for all the wonderful blessings He has given to our lives and share the blessings with others. Be a blessing for others because God has blessed you abundantly.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
January 19, 2025 † 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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	01/20/2025	8:00 a.m.	Daniel Gilday (D)	Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday	01/21/2025	8:00 a.m.	Ule Family (D)	Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday	01/22/2025	12:00 p.m.	Sanctity of Life & Unborn Children	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday	01/23/2025		Lloyd Rodgers (D)	Heb 7:25-8:6; Mk 3:7-12
Friday	01/24/2025	12:00 p.m.	Janet & Bob Andrew (D)	Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday	01/25/2025	5:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21
Sunday	01/26/2025	9:00 a.m.	Beth Short (D)	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21
Sunday	01/26/2025	12:00 p.m.	Ernesto Castro Duarte (D)	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

WELCOME BACK TO Ordinary Time—the longest of the Church Seasons. This is our base line, our normal; the other seasons celebrate something (Christmas, Easter) or anticipate (Lent, Advent). But good old Ordinary Time is when we cover most of the story of Jesus' life, preaching using parables with the day-to-day struggles and successes.



This week we are at a wedding in Cana where Jesus reveals Divine power by transforming water into wine. The Bible begins with one wedding, that of Adam and Eve in the garden (Gn. 2:23-24), and ends with another, the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rv. 19:9, 21:9, 22:17).

At Cana, Jesus also blesses human marriage, perhaps at that moment instituting the Sacrament of Matrimony. Throughout the Bible, marriage is the symbol of the Covenant relationship between God and His chosen people. God is the faithful Bridegroom, and humanity is His beloved bride. Let us pray for God's daily miracles in our families.

We see this theme beautifully presented in today's first reading, where Isaiah uses the metaphor of spousal love to describe God's love for Israel. God's fidelity to his people is compared to a husband's fidelity to his wife. Isaiah predicts God's salvation of Jerusalem after the return of the Babylonian exiles and visualizes it as a wedding between God and Jerusalem. Jesus' provision of abundant wine for the wedding feast in Cana signifies that the day foreseen by Isaiah has arrived.

In today's Gospel, John describes the first of the seven "signs" by which Jesus showed forth His Divinity. When the wine "ran short," Jesus' mother told Him about it. At first Jesus seemed to refuse to do anything about it. But later He told the servants to fill six large stone jars with water, and take some of the miraculously-made wine to the headwaiter. When they did so, the headwaiter expressed his surprise that such a great wine had been reserved for late use.

Let us "invite Jesus and Mary to remain with us in our homes" when we feel shortages in our family lives.

The spouses need Jesus and Mary when their dreams are gone, mutual love is dried up, the relationship becomes boring, and raising the children becomes a burden, draining all their energy. The awareness of the presence of Jesus and Mary in the family will encourage parents to create an atmosphere of prayer, Bible-reading, mutual love and respect with a spirit of forgiveness and sacrificial service at home. It will refresh and renovate family life, removing its boredom.

Let us follow Mary's instruction, "Do whatever He tells you." This is the only command given by Mary which is recorded in the New Testament, and it is a prerequisite for miracles in our families.

The Bible tells us how to do the will of God and effect salvific changes in our daily lives.

Just as Jesus filled the empty water jars with wine, let us fill the empty hearts around us with love. By the miracle of Cana, Jesus challenges us also to enrich the empty lives of those around us with the new wine of love, mercy, concern and care.

Mary's faith teaches us two important lessons:

- ◆ Bring your needs to Jesus with trust and confidence.
- ◆ Be ready to follow His instructions, even if they seem unusual or unexpected.

When we trust in Jesus and obey Him, miracles can happen.

Let us learn to appreciate the miracles of God's providence in our lives. God, often as an uninvited guest in our families, works daily miracles in our lives by protecting us from physical and moral dangers, providing for our needs, inspiring us and strengthening us with His Holy Spirit.

Let us also appreciate the miracle of the Real Presence of the Lord on the altar where God transforms our offering of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Knights of Columbus Meeting

The Knights will meet on **Tuesday, January 21st, at 7 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.

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Respect Life



In honor of the National Day for Human Sanctity on **Wednesday, January 22nd**, the Respect Life ministry would like to invite everyone to a **Prayer Vigil in front of the Bend Planned Parenthood from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**

(2330 NE Division St.). St. Thomas and St. Francis parishes will both be present as well as clergy.

Please help us make this year's **Roe v. Wade Day** one for the books as we join in prayer for the lawful protection of the unborn. God bless you all, and we can't wait to see you there.

Please text or call **Ari at (541) 675-7962** with questions and to arrange a carpool.

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➔ Schedule Change ◀

On **Thursday, January 23rd**, there will be a **Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., in Sisters**. There will not be Mass at 8:00 a.m. here.

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Cathedral Conservation Collection

Have you been to St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City?

If you have, then you know how beautiful this historic church is and how blessed we are to call it our Mother Church. Although parishioners and visitors from afar have enjoyed its quiet grace for over 100 years, it was the local parishioners who have watched over its welfare.



In 2024, the front steps of the Cathedral were completely removed and replaced. This project was the largest improvement to date and a large balance due must be paid before any further repairs can be done. The Diocese is inviting us all to participate in the **Cathedral Conservation Collection held once a year on or near January 24th, the Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales, our patron saint**. The Fund is managed by the Diocese and will be used for major repairs of the building only.

Some of the major repairs since 2019 this collection has already made possible are: 1) the boiler replacement, 2) the church ceiling remodel, 3) exterior stone repairs, 4) plumbing upgrades, and 5) the replacement of the front steps to the church finished in 2024.

Routine maintenance of the church building will continue to be supported by the local parishioners. Please participate in this worthy collection. ***It's the mother church of the diocese . . . it belongs to you!***

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Youth Mass

There will be a Youth Mass on **Wednesday, January 29th, at 4 p.m.** This is so that all the Religious Education Students can attend. If you can, please come to support our students.

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Retrouvaille

You Can Help Your Marriage! There is only one week left to sign up for Retrouvaille. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? When was the last time you said, "I Love You"?

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Come from **Friday, January 31st, to Sunday, February 2nd**, in Canby, Oregon. For confidential information about or to register for the program call **(503) 704-7382** or send an email to: 6026r@helpourmarriage.org. Also visit: www.helpourmarriage.org or www.oregonretrouvaille.com.

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