

Fr. Joseph's Corner

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another.

Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough, and we'll be more content when they are.

After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We'll certainly be happy when they are out of that stage.

We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, are able to go on a nice vacation, when we retire.

The truth is, there is no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself, and decide to be happy anyway.

One of my favorite quotes is from Alfred D. Souza. He said:

“For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin—real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.”

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.

Therefore, take pleasure in every moment you have. Treasure it even more because you shared it with someone special—special enough to spend your time with—and remember that time waits for no one. . . .

So, stop waiting—until you finish school, or until you go back to school, or until you lose ten pounds, or until you gain ten pounds, or until you have kids, or until your kids leave the house, or until you start work, or until you retire, or until you get married, or until Friday night, or until Sunday morning, or until you get a new car or home, or until your car or home is paid off, or until spring, until summer, until fall, until winter, until you are off of welfare, or until the first or the fifteenth, or until your song comes on, or until you die—to decide that there is no better time than right now to be happy. . . .

Happiness is a journey, not a destination. I've learned that in whatever state I am to be content.



Philippians 4:11:

O Lord, give me the grace to be content with what You give to me!

No! More than that, let me rejoice in all You send me.

It's your choice! A good attitude—it's your choice. Work like you don't need money. Love like you've never been hurt.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
January 26, 2025 † 3rd 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 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	01/27/2025	8:00 a.m.	J.T. Tauton (D)	Heb 9:15, 24-28; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday	01/28/2025	8:00 a.m.	Bud Redfern (D)	Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	01/29/2025	4:00 p.m.	Sami Pedersen (L)	Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday	01/30/2025	8:00 a.m.	Rev. M.J. Kelly (D)	Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25
Friday	01/31/2025	12:00 p.m.	Marie Smith (D)	Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	02/01/2025	5:00 p.m.	Albina Stagnoli (L)	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Sunday	02/02/2025	9:00 a.m.	Mary Dominique (D)	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Sunday	02/02/2025	12:00 p.m.	Rev. David J. Hazen (D)	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL, presenting Jesus' "inaugural address" in the synagogue of Nazareth in which He outlines a theology of total liberation, marks a great moment in Jesus' ministry. The Scripture readings for today focus our attention on the importance and liberating power of the Word of God as "sacramental," making God present in our midst. The readings challenge us to listen to the Word, accept it into our hearts, then put it into practice as we live out our lives, thus liberating ourselves and others from all types of bondages.

Today's Gospel describes how, on a Sabbath, Jesus stood before the people in the synagogue of His hometown, Nazareth, reading and interpreting what Isaiah had prophesied about the Messiah and His mission. Jesus claims that He is One sent "to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberation to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and freedom for the oppressed"—language that reflects the Biblical year of Jubilee. To the great amazement and disbelief of His own townsmen, Jesus declares that Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled at that very moment "in your hearing," because the prophecy foretells and describes Jesus' own mission and ministry. Jesus' mission is still to give liberation to everyone who will listen to His "Good News," accept it and put it into practice. Luke reports that surprise and admiration were the initial reactions of the people who were astonished at the power and eloquence of this son of their soil.

We need to receive Christ's freedom, live it out, and pass it on to others: As members of Christ's Mystical Body, we share in the freeing, saving mission of Jesus. However, even after we have chosen to believe in Jesus, to accept His teachings and to live them out in our lives, we are still in bondage. We are captives of sin, and only Christ can set us free. We are often blinded by our evil habits, addictions, and need for financial security. Pride and prejudice can make us

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."
Luke 4:18



blind to the needs of the less fortunate, prompting us to fear and avoid them, rather than to love and help them. We can also be blind to the presence of God within ourselves and others. We are often not free to listen to a lonely, heart-broken neighbor. We can be prisoners of materialism and consumerism, chained to pleasure, power, money, and control of everyone and everything in our world. Accordingly, we need to be freed and raised to a higher, richer level of life. Once we receive true liberation from Christ, we need to *share* it with those we encounter in our daily lives—in our families, communities, parishes and workplaces.

We need to let the power of the Holy Spirit fill us, and to be ready to have miracles done through us. Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus performed miracles because He was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the same Spirit to His disciples: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. . . . He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). To this very day, the Holy Spirit is available to all believers who sincerely ask Him to dwell in their hearts. If we fail to receive, and then to use, His power and His gifts, we are left with nothing but our natural abilities, and we will be unable to be used as instruments in His freeing miracles. Miracles occur every day through weak human instruments, although they may be less spectacular than the ones Jesus performed. People whose minds are ravaged by fear and hatred can be miraculously filled with peace and kindness. Those whose hearts are crippled with bitterness and anger can be made gentle and peaceful. Perhaps others, whose relationships with their spouses are strained, can be miraculously healed by love and faithfulness. These are true miracles, performed by the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, often making use of human instruments. Let us be ready to become Spirit-filled instruments of Christ's saving freedom.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Youth Mass

There will be a Youth Mass on **Wednesday, January 29th, at 4 p.m., instead of 12 p.m.** This is so that all the Religious Education Students can attend. If you can, please come and support our students.

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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.

If you have not been there, the Cathedral, built in 1906, is located in Baker City. 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 Cathedral Conservation 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,
- (5) and the most recent was 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!"

Respect Life

"There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt, and how best to apply them.

But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment to never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled, or desperate that life may seem.

In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God, and the dignity of the human person created in His image."

—USCOCB

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Online Giving

Text **GIVE** to (541) 366-6550



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Memorial of St. Blaise

On **Monday, February 3rd**, we will celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise of Sebastes. We will have the Blessing of the Throats at the 8 a.m. daily Mass.

