

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"Grains of Sand: The Beggar's Rags" (Author Unknown)

A beggar lived near the king's palace. One day he saw a proclamation posted outside the palace gate. The king was giving a great dinner. Anyone dressed in royal garments was invited to the party. The beggar went on his way. He looked at the rags he was wearing and sighed. "Surely only kings and their families wore royal robes," he thought. Then slowly an idea crept into his mind. The audacity of it made him tremble. Would he dare?

He made his way back to the palace. He approached the guard at the gate and said, "Please, sire, I would like to speak with the king." "Wait here," the guard replied. In a few minutes, the guard was back. He said, "His majesty will see you now," and he led the beggar inside. "You wish to see me?" asked the king.

"Yes, your majesty. I want so much to attend the banquet, but I have no royal robes to wear. Please, sire, if I may be so bold, may I have one of your old garments so that I, too, may come to the banquet?"

The beggar shook so hard that he could not see the faint smile that was on the king's face. "You have been wise in coming to me," the king said. He called to his son, the young prince. "Take this man to your room and array him in some of your clothes." The prince did as he was told, and soon the beggar was standing before a mirror, clothed in garments that he had never dared hope for. "You are now eligible to attend the king's banquet tomorrow night, said the prince. "But even more important, you will never need any other clothes. These garments will last forever." "Oh, thank you," he cried.

But as he started to leave, he looked back at his pile of dirty rags on the floor and hesitated. What if the prince was wrong? What if he would need his old clothes again? Quickly he gathered them up and left.

The banquet was far greater than he had ever imagined, but he could not enjoy himself as he should. He had made a small bundle of his old rags, and it kept falling off his lap. And because the food was being passed around quickly, the beggar missed out on some of the greatest delicacies.

Time proved that the prince was right. The clothes lasted forever. But the poor beggar grew fonder and fonder of his old rags. And as time passed, the people seemed to forget the royal robes that he was wearing. They only saw the little bundle of filthy rags he clung to wherever he went. They even spoke of him as the "old man with the rags."

Then one day as he lay dying, the king visited him. The beggar saw the sad look on the king's face when he looked at the small bundle of rags by the bed. Suddenly the beggar remembered the prince's words, and he realized that his bundle of rags had cost him a lifetime of true royalty.

He wept bitterly at his folly. And the king wept with him.

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new."**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez
Ben Guyer ♦ 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 ♦ Michael Kuenzi

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

February 2, 2025 † The Presentation 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	02/03/2025	8:00 a.m.	Michael Kuenzi (L)	Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday	02/04/2025	8:00 a.m.	Kari McKay (L)	Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	02/05/2025	12:00 p.m.	Clark Hay (D)	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	02/06/2025	8:00 a.m.	J.T. Tauton (D)	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13
Friday	02/07/2025	12:00 p.m.	Bud Redfern (D)	Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	02/08/2025	5:00 p.m.	Lloyd Rodgers (D)	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11
Sunday	02/09/2025	9:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11
Sunday	02/09/2025	12:00 p.m.	Rev. John Baumgartner (D)	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL presents the head of the Holy Family, Joseph, faithfully obeying God's law given through Moses concerning the purification of the mother and the redeeming of the child, by presenting Mary and the Baby Jesus in the Temple. The events recounted appear elsewhere in the liturgical year but are those we traditionally celebrate today, February 2nd, with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a moment rich with symbolism and meaning. This event, described in Luke's Gospel (Luke 2:22–40), occurs 40 days after Jesus' birth when Mary and Joseph bring Him to the temple in obedience to the Law. What seems like a routine religious act becomes a profound moment of divine revelation.

In the temple, two elderly figures, Simeon and Anna, recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. Simeon, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims Jesus as a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel. Imagine the significance: a baby, carried by humble parents, is declared the Savior of the world.

Simeon and Anna show us something crucial: the ability to see God's presence in ordinary moments. They spent their lives in prayer and expectation, and because of their faith, they were able to recognize the Messiah in the infant Jesus. Do we have that same openness to encounter God in the seemingly small and ordinary events of our daily lives?

This feast is often associated with light, as reflected in Simeon's words. The light of Christ shines in the darkness, offering hope and salva-

tion to all. Today, we hold candles not only as symbols of Jesus, the light of the world, but also as reminders that we, too, are called to reflect His light.

The question is: How are we shining that light in our lives? In a world often filled with division, despair, and uncertainty, we are called to bring the light of Christ to those around us through acts of kindness, compassion, and justice.

This feast also reminds us of the cost

of discipleship. Simeon tells Mary, "A sword will pierce your own soul too." This prophecy points to the suffering Mary will endure as the mother of the Redeemer. Mary teaches us what it means to trust in God completely, even when His plan leads us through pain and sacrifice.

We, too, are called to make sacrifices in our journey of faith. Perhaps it is the sacrifice of our time to help someone in need, or the courage to stand up for what is right. Like Mary, we are invited to trust that God's plan, though not always easy, is always good.

As we reflect on this feast, let us ask ourselves: Are we living as light-bearers in the world? Do we bring hope to those who are lost, joy to those who are sorrowful, and faith to those who are searching?

The Presentation of the Lord reminds us that Jesus came not only to save us but to send us. We are called to carry His light into the world, so that all may know His love and truth.

May we, like Simeon and Anna, have the eyes to see Christ in our midst, the faith to trust in His promises, and the courage to share His light with others.

February—The Month of the Holy Family



On January 22nd, more than 20 of the faithful gathered to pray for the legal protection of unborn children. Fr. Cunningham of St. Thomas Church in Redmond joined us to lift our hearts and join our prayers for those who have no voice. The Respect Life Ministry is overjoyed by the outpouring of support we received on this very important day. Thank you again for joining us.

We want to continue to invite everyone to join us every Thursday to pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet outside of Planned Parenthood in Bend (2330 NE Division St.) from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We must stand up for LIFE—the most important of human rights!

National Marriage Week

National Marriage Week is February 7–14. Check out the Diocesan home page (DioceseOfBaker.org) for access to: National Marriage Week Resources, including an At-Home Couples' Retreat in English and Spanish, Reflections for Meditation on Marriage, in English and Spanish.

Additionally, National Marriage Week will host a live-stream every night on the **"8 Essentials of Lasting Love."** All livestreams will be at 5 p.m. PT.

Also, the Knights of Columbus have created an inspiring, free series of five, 14-minute videos called the **"Mission of the Family."**

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February Meetings

- ◆ February 4th, at 3 p.m., Liturgical Committee
- ◆ February 11th, at 3 p.m., Executive/Finance Committees
- ◆ February 18, 7 p.m., Knights of Columbus

75th Jubilee Year

This year, 2025, is St. Joseph Parish's **75th Jubilee Year.** As part of this year's celebration, beginning with next week's bulletin we will look back at the previous decades—starting with the 1950s—and leading up to the **"Jubilee Celebration" on Sunday, September 14th.**

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Thank You

In honor of our 75th Jubilee year, our fabulous **Knights of Columbus** are focusing on the Beautification of our Church and Parish.

Thank you to **Wayne Montgomery, Mark Luckey, Jim Friese, Al Brown, Vincent Spalla** and **Tom Burke** for painting our parish hall, entryway, meeting room, and kitchen.

What a wonderful improvement this is for everyone to enjoy!

