

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### "A Love Story" (Author Unknown)

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sun rise. Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. And as I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me.

He asked, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs, and the rest of my body, and then wondered about how many things I wouldn't be able to do—the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be tough, Lord, but I would still love you."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world, and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

Then the Lord asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?" How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts.

I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song; but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks.

So, I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise your name."

And then the Lord asked, "Do you really love me? With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes, Lord! I love you because you are the one and true God!"

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why, in times of peace, do you stray the farthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray in earnest? Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why

seek me only in times of worship? Why ask for things so selfishly? Why ask so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why, in times of persecution, do you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my name?"

I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed my word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers, and I have answered them all. DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this?

When my heart had cried out, and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me, Lord. I am unworthy to be your child."

The Lord answered, "That is my grace, my child."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of your days. I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done?

I asked God, "How much do you love me?"

The Lord stretched out his arms, and I saw his nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.



—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
February 16, 2025 † 6th 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)**

**Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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	02/17/2025	8:00 a.m.	Gloria Wilcox (D)	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	02/18/2025	8:00 a.m.	Lu & Jody Streetman (D)	Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	02/19/2025	12:00 p.m.	Peggy Buselli (D)	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	02/20/2025	8:00 a.m.	Daniel Gilday (D)	Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33
Friday	02/21/2025	12:00 p.m.	J. T. Tauton (D)	Gn 11:1-9; Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	02/22/2025	5:00 p.m.	Michael Mulvihill (D)	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38
Sunday	02/23/2025	9:00 a.m.	Zena Bassett (L)	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38
Sunday	02/23/2025	12:00 p.m.	Rev. Cletus Kirkpatrick (D)	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

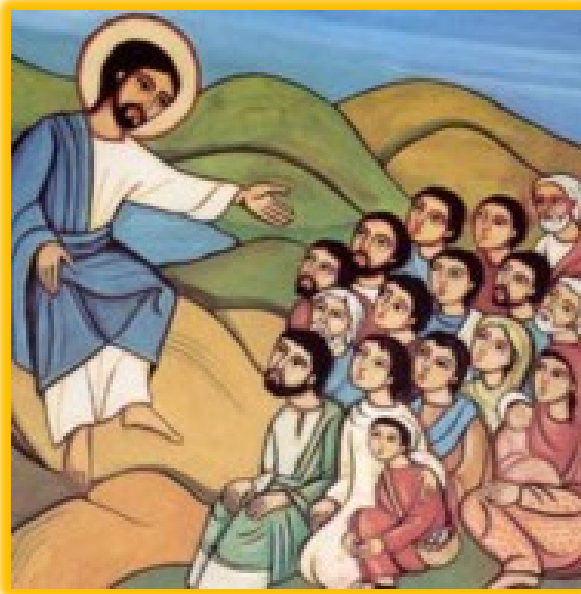
EVERY SUNDAY, we are invited to this holy celebration to observe the Lord's day and bring to Him our needs. And He knows we do not come empty-handed. When we walk through the doors, we carry with us all the emotions we face in our lives. We come with our fears, anxieties, joys and thanksgivings, and God welcomes us.

Every week, we hear the scriptures. Some are very familiar; some not as familiar as others. But each time we are invited to open our ears and our hearts to consider what the passage is saying to us right now. For example, today we heard Luke's passage of the Sermon on the Plain. We heard that Jesus was preaching to a crowd that had gathered around him.

Today, in this place, we are that crowd. We are gathered around to listen to His Word. And Jesus is speaking directly to us. We are the poor, the hungry, the grieving, the hated. We are yearning for something more. Jesus knows this. He is here with us. And He is telling us we will be lifted up and will overcome our challenges.

Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need, and when we work to uplift them, thus declaring our "option for the poor," as Jesus did. Contrary to popular belief, wealth, health, power and influence are not the source of true happiness. The word "beatitude" means "blessedness" in a double sense: both enjoying God's favor and enjoying true or supreme happiness.

In the first reading, Jeremiah tells us that true happiness consists in our placing our trust



in God and in putting our trust in His promises. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs His disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow and persecution. "Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted and denounced," because in poverty, we recognize our dependence on God; in hunger, God's providence; in sorrow for sins,

reconciliation with God; and in persecution, the true joy of standing for the Faith with heroic convictions.

Jesus knows the justice we seek. He knows we will be satisfied, joyful, and filled. He knows this because He knows how much God loves us. It echoes the true wisdom that the Lord shared in Jeremiah: Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord; whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream. Our faith will sustain us no matter what circumstance we may encounter.

Trust can be extremely difficult to sustain, and our hardships are not to be taken lightly. But God is asking us to believe in His goodness and promises; He knows what we are yearning for, and we will find fullness in Him.

Soon, we will celebrate the Eucharist. This holy sacrifice offers us tremendous grace. It is a grace that invites us to feast in its fulness and strengthen our ability to trust in the Lord.

Whatever cares we brought in with us, let us leave with the knowledge that we are not alone. Our yearning for more is not the final word, but we must maintain our confidence in the Lord.

May we be open to trust and grow in our understanding of God's tremendous love for us.

## February—The Month of the Holy Family

### February Meetings

- ◆ February 18th, 7 p.m., Knights of Columbus
- ◆ February 18th, 7 p.m., Respect Life

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### Respect Life

Ari Ampudia and Garilynn Tocher would like to invite everyone to the 1st Respect Life meeting of the year. They are joining the Knights of Columbus at their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, February 18th, at 7p.m.**, in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are invited. Pizza and beverages will be provided.

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### Lenten Schedule

- † Ash Wednesday is on March 5th. Masses are at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- † Stations of the Cross are every Friday Night at 6 p.m., beginning March 7th to April 11th. A "soup supper" will follow in the Parish Hall.
- † Lenten Penance is on Wednesday, March 26th, beginning at 6 p.m.
- † The Chrism Mass is on Thursday, April 10th, at 11 a.m. in Baker City.

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### Website

Our website, [stjosephsprineville.org](http://stjosephsprineville.org) is being transformed and updated thanks to **Albert Brown**. He would like to hear from our ministries about what they would like to see added to the website. This could include such things as a glossary of prayers, key documents, or other resources that would be helpful to the parish. If you have any pictures of parish events, he can also add those. You can email them to [stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com).

Make sure to visit our website to stay informed in what is happening in our parish!

### Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei

Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei is actively looking for anyone with experience in **Grant Writing** to assist in fundraising efforts for the Catholic High School opening in Bend this Fall. If you have any experience in **Non-Profit Grant Writing** and would be willing to share your talents, please contact [cochesterton@gmail.com](mailto:cochesterton@gmail.com).

—Thank you! Mater Dei, pray for us!

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### Diocese of Baker Men's Conference in English and in Spanish

Join Catholic men from around the diocese for talks that inspire, conversations that give strength, and prayer that will help us become the husbands, fathers, and brothers God is calling us to be. Join us **IN ENGLISH on April 5th** in Bend. For more information and to register, please visit: [dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference](http://dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference) or call **Bryce** at (541) 388-4004.

[Únase a hombres católicos de toda la diócesis para charlas que inspiran, conversaciones que dan fortaleza y oraciones que nos ayudarán a convertirnos en los esposos, padres y hermanos que Dios nos llama a ser. Únase a nosotros **en ESPAÑOL en 12 de Abril** en The Dalles. Para obtener más información y registrarse visite: [dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference](http://dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference) o llame a **Bryce** al (541) 388-4004.]

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### 2025 Directory

We are creating a new pictorial Parish Directory. This is free for everyone. Photos will be taken from **Wednesday, April 23rd, to Saturday, April 26th**. Sign-ups for picture appointments will begin in March. You can also schedule in the Parish Office. Everyone who is photographed will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and a directory.

### 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 ♦ Michael Kuenzi