

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### The Purpose of Lent



**T**he primary purpose of Lent is spiritual preparation for the celebration, recalling Jesus' death on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to "repentance." It is a type of conversion—the reordering of our priorities and the changing of our values, ideals, and ambitions—through fasting, prayer, and mortification.

Lenten observances are also intended to lead us to our annual solemn renewal of Baptismal vows on Holy Saturday. Through Baptism, we are called to live justly, to love God with all our being, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to build the kingdom of God by our acts of charity.

#### Life Messages:

(1) Let us make Lent a time of renewal of life by penance and of prayer: Formerly, the six weeks of Lent meant a time of severe penance as a way of purifying ourselves from our sinful habits and getting ready to celebrate the Paschal mystery (the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), with a renewed commitment to follow Christ.

Now, the Church leaves the Lenten practice of penance to the good will and generosity of individual Christians. However, Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word, and deed.

It is also a time to assess our relationships with our family, friends, working colleagues and other people we come in contact with—especially those of our parish.

We should examine whether we are able to give any positive contribution to other people's lives and to eradicate the abuses that are part of our society.

(2) Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by:

- (a) participating in the Mass each day or at least a few days in the week;
- (b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer;
- (c) reading some Scripture—alone or, better still—with others;
- (d) setting aside some money that we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment or clothes, and giving it to an organization that takes care of the less fortunate in our society;
- (e) abstaining from smoking or alcohol;
- (f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent and participating in the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays;
- (g) visiting the sick and those in nursing homes and doing some acts of charity, kindness and mercy every day during Lent.

(3) Let us use Lent as a time to fight daily against the evil within us and around us: Repenting and fighting against temptations and evil are lifetime tasks. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; He achieved that only in His death. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.

—*Prayerful wishes, Father Joseph*

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
March 2, 2025 † 8th 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 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	03/03/2025	8:00 a.m.	Keaton & Kinley Kurtz (L)	Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday	03/04/2025	8:00 a.m.	Cobey Giovanini (L)	Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday	03/05/2025	8:00 a.m.	Kittie Ryan McMillan (L)	Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Wednesday	03/05/2025	6:00 p.m.	Richard Moore (D)	Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	03/06/2025	8:00 a.m.	Rhia Monroe (L)	Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Friday	03/07/2025	12:00 p.m.	Jan Biggs Lindsey (L)	Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	03/08/2025	5:00 p.m.	Lloyd Rodgers (D)	Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13
Sunday	03/09/2025	9:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13
Sunday	03/09/2025	12:00 p.m.	Prospero Villagomez (D)	Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



## Today's Homily

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Jesus draws our attention to practical points of Christian living and challenges us to use our words as He used His in His preaching and healing ministry—to heal, to restore, and to bring back life, joy, and hope.

Today's readings also instruct us to share our Christian life, love, and spiritual health by our words, and to avoid gossiping about and passing rash, thoughtless, pain-inflicting judgments on others, thus damaging their good reputation and causing them irreparable harm.

The First Reading from Sirach reminds us that, just as a tree is judged by its fruit, so too are we judged by the words we speak. "When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear" (Sirach 27:4). In other words, trials, difficulties, and even casual conversations often reveal what is truly inside of us. If our hearts are full of love, truth, and kindness, that is what will naturally flow out in our words and actions. But if our hearts harbor anger, resentment, or pride, these will eventually be exposed as well.

In the second reading, St. Paul advises the Corinthian Christians "to be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain," instead of wasting time on useless and sinful conversations, which bring punishment instead of the victory of resurrection and eternal reward.

Jesus asks a critical question in today's Gospel: "Can a blind person guide a blind person?" (Luke 6:39). This is a challenge for all of us—especially those in leadership—whether priests, parents, teachers, or anyone who influences others. If we ourselves are spiritually blind, how can we guide others toward Christ? This is

why ongoing conversion, prayer, and self-examination are essential.

We should avoid judging others because no one, except God, is good enough to judge others; i.e., because only God sees the whole truth, and only He can read the human heart. Hence, only He has the ability, the right, and the authority to judge us.

We do not see all the facts or circumstances or the power of the temptation which has led a person to do something evil. We are often prejudiced in our judgment of others, and total fairness cannot be expected from us, especially when we are judging those near or dear to us.

Hence, we should leave all judgment to God, practice mercy and forgiveness, and pray for God's grace to get rid of all forms of hypocrisy in our lives. Let us remember the warning of saints: "When you point one finger of accusation at another, three of your fingers point at you."

Before correcting others, Jesus reminds us to examine our own faults first: "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" (Luke 6:41). This does not mean we should never offer correction, but it should be done with humility and love, recognizing our own need for God's mercy.

Finally, Jesus teaches that a good tree does not bear bad fruit; nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Our words and actions flow from the condition of our hearts. This is an invitation to cultivate goodness within us—through prayer, the sacraments, and living out Christ's teachings—so that our speech and deeds reflect God's love.

May the Lord purify our hearts, so that our words may always be truthful, kind, and life-giving. And may our lives reflect the love of Christ, who speaks through us.

### 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 ♦ Nancy MacDonald ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez

## March—The Month of St. Joseph

### Lenten Regulations



**Abstinence:** Meat and poultry are removed from our meals—fish is acceptable

**Fasting:** Eat one (1) full meal and two (2) smaller meals—no snacking during the day

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

All Catholics 14 years and older are to abstain from meat and poultry on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent, and on Good Friday.

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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 Thursday, April 10th, at 11 a.m. in Baker City.
- † Palm Sunday is April 13th. Mass is at 9 a.m.; the Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.
- † Holy Thursday is on April 17th at 6 p.m.
- † Good Friday is April 18th, Way of the Cross is at 3 p.m. Passion Service and Veneration of the Cross is at 6 p.m.
- † Holy Saturday is April 19th. The Easter Vigil Mass is at 7 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday is April 20th. Mass is at 9 a.m. The Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.

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### Friday Soup Suppers

Every Friday of Lent there is a Soup Supper after the Stations of the Cross put on by our volunteers. This year's schedule is:

- March 7th: Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers
- March 14th: Hispanic Ministries
- March 21st: Acolytes
- March 28th: Respect Life
- April 4th: Knights of Columbus
- April 11th: Religious Education

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### Respect Life

The Gospel of Life is meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!

### 2025 Directory

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our photography dates are **April 23, 24, 25 and 26**. Just for participating, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a Church Directory. You will view your images right away and be able to purchase family portraits for your own memories and to give as gifts.

We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. We will be signing up for photo appointments after the weekend Masses. Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer for this. Or, you can schedule your photo appointments in the parish office at (541) 447-6475 or stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com

We are also looking for volunteers to take photos at our different events, and group Ministry photos for our Directory. If you would like to do this, please contact **Darlene** in the office.

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### Ham Dinner

On **Sunday, March 23rd**, St Joseph's Parish celebrates a 75- plus year tradition of its Annual St. Patrick's Ham Dinner. All members of our Parish, and the Prineville and Central Oregon community are invited to co-celebrate the event. The menu will continue to be: Premium smoked ham, split-pea soup, string beans, baked potatoes, & dessert.

A special tradition is **Gertrude Reif's Raisin Sauce** whose recipe has been kept secret for many years. Volunteers have traditionally donated desserts; you can drop them off the morning of the dinner to the right of the stage. No crème pies or any dessert that needs refrigeration.

This is a Parish and Community wide event. Please invite your extended family, neighbors, and friends to enjoy the feast. Tickets will be sold at the dinner but also available beforehand.

If you would like to purchase tickets early, they are available through the Parish Office or contact **Gary Thompson**.

Dinner is served from 12 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 6–12 (under 6 are free), \$40 for a family (parents and minor children). At no additional cost, take-out dinners will be available. Pre-orders are taken during the Dining Time by calling the parish office at (541) 447-6475.

Volunteers are needed! Please come, help, and enjoy. Call **Gary Thompson** at (541) 447-5001. **Set Up is at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 22nd. On Sunday, March 23rd, we will have 2 shifts: 11:30 am–2 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. We need help in the dining area, dish washing, and dessert area.**

The direct benefit of the Ham Dinner is the spirit of community among us as Parishioners, the community of Prineville and Central Oregon. The Breath of the Holy Spirit has kept this tradition alive for 77 plus years. It is one of many things that makes St. Joseph and Prineville special.

