

Fr. Joseph's Corner "The Birdcage"

A man was on the side of the road with a large birdcage. A boy noticed that the cage was full of birds of many kinds.

"Where did you get those birds?" he asked.

"Oh, all over the place," the man replied. "I lure them with crumbs, pretend I'm their friend, then when they are close, I net them, and shove them into my cage."

"And what are you going to do with them now?"

The man grinned, "I'm going to prod them with sticks, and get them really mad so they fight and kill each other. Those that survive, I will kill. None will escape."

The boy looked steadily at the man. What made him do such things? He looked into the cruel, hard eyes. Then he looked at the birds, defenseless, without hope.

"Can I buy those birds?" the boy asked.

The man hid a smile, aware that he could be on to a good thing if he played his cards right.

"Well," he said hesitantly, "The cage is pretty expensive, and I spent a lot of time collecting these birds. I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll let you have the lot—birds, cage and all—for 10 pounds and that jacket you're wearing."

The boy paused, 10 pounds was all he had, and the jacket was brand new and very special. In fact, it was his prized possession.

Slowly, he took out the 10 pounds and handed it over, and then even more slowly he took off his jacket, gave it one last look, and then handed that over, too. And then—well, you've guessed it—he opened the door and let the birds go free.

The enemy of the world, Satan, was on the side of life's road with a very large cage.

The man coming toward him noticed that it was crammed full of people of every kind: young, old, and from every race and nation.

"Where did you get these people?" the man asked.

"Oh, from all over the world," Satan replied. "I lure them with drink, drugs, lust, lies, anger, hate, love of money and all manner of things. I pretend I'm their friend, out to give them a good time, and then when I've hooked them, into the cage they go."

"And what are you going to do with them now?" asked the man.

Satan grinned. "I'm going to prod them, provoke them, get them to hate and destroy each other; I'll stir up racial hatred, defiance of law and order; I'll make people bored, lonely, dissatisfied, confused and restless. It's easy. People always listen to what I offer them and—what's even better—blame God for the outcome!"

"And then what?" the man asked.

"Those who do not destroy themselves, I will destroy. None will escape me."

The man stepped forward. "Can I buy these people from you?" he asked.

Satan snarled, "Yes, but it will cost you your life." So Jesus Christ, the Son of God, paid for your release, your freedom from Satan's trap, with His own life, on the cross at Calvary. The door is open, and anyone, whom Satan has deceived and caged, can be set free."

—Prayerful wishes, Father 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
Michael Kuenzi ♦ Nancy MacDonald ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Charlie McDermott ♦ Susan McDermott

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 16, 2025 † 2nd Sunday of Lent

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	03/17/2025	8:00 a.m.	Ryan Pennhollow (L)	Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday	03/18/2025	8:00 a.m.	Blaine Tocher (L)	Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday	03/19/2025	12:00 p.m.	Clark Hay (D)	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Thursday	03/20/2025	8:00 a.m.	Carol Robertson (L)	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Friday	03/21/2025	12:00 p.m.	Eli Monroe (L)	Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday	03/22/2025	5:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9
Sunday	03/23/2025	10:00 a.m.	Martiniano Lopez Gonzalez (D) Artemio Lopez Gonzalez (D)	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE COMMON THEME of today's readings is metamorphosis or transformation. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

The first reading describes the transformation of Abram, a pagan patriarch, into a believer in the one God (Who would later "transform" Abram's name to Abraham), and the first covenant of God with Abraham's family as a reward for Abraham's Faith and obedience to God.

In the second reading, St. Paul argues that it is not observance of the Mosaic Law and circumcision that transforms people into Christians; and hence, that Gentiles need not become Jews to become Christians. St. Paul urges us to stand firm in our Faith and to live a life of discipleship with Jesus now, so that we may share in a glorious future later.

In the Transfiguration account in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of His Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah, and might be strengthened in their time of trial. On the mountain, Jesus is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the Transfiguration experience is a Christophany; that is, a manifestation or revelation of Who Jesus really IS. Describing His Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

The "transfiguration" in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength: In each Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or



transformed into the living Body and Blood of the crucified, risen, and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength—strength against temptations—and our renewal during Lent.

In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of

our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others. Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed.

For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness.

The Transfiguration offers us a message of encouragement and hope: In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transfiguration in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is My beloved Son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord, that through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may become closer to Him in His suffering, and we may share in the carrying of His cross so that we may finally share the glory of His Transfiguration.

We need "mountain-top experiences" in our lives. We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James, and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent. Fasting for one day can help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking. The hunger we experience can put us more closely in touch with God, and make us more willing to help the hungry. The crosses of our daily lives also can lead us to the glory of transfiguration and resurrection.

March—The Month of St. Joseph

Lenten Schedule

- † Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 6 p.m. from March 7th to April 11th. A "soup supper" follows in the Parish Hall.
- † Lenten Penance is Wednesday, March 26th, 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.; 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/Veneration of the Cross is at 6 p.m.
- † Holy Saturday is April 19th; Easter Vigil Mass 7 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday, April 20th, Mass is at 9 a.m. 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 21st Acolytes, March 28th Respect Life, April 4th Knights of Columbus, April 11th Religious Education**

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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 parish members, Prineville/Central Oregon communities are invited. The menu is: Premium smoked ham, split-pea soup, string beans, baked potatoes, and 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 12–4 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 6–12 (under 6 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 a.m. to 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. 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 so special.

St Joseph Feast Day: March 19th

St. Joseph's feast day is celebrated on **March 19th** in the Roman Catholic Church. This date is significant as it honors his role as the earthly father and guardian of Jesus; there is also a separate celebration on May 1st, known as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, which focuses on his role as a carpenter and worker.

—Patron Saint of: Workers, Fathers, Carpenters, Universal Church. St. Joseph holds the title of patron saint for various groups and causes.

—In a dream, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and delivered a divine message. The angel explained that Mary's pregnancy was the result of the Holy Spirit's intervention, and the child she carried was the Son of God. The angel instructed Joseph to take Mary as his wife, and to name the child Jesus, which means "God saves."

—Another significant event involving St. Joseph is the Flight into Egypt. After the birth of Jesus, King Herod became threatened by the news of a new king in Bethlehem and ordered the massacre of all male infants under the age of two in the region. To protect Jesus from this threat, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the child. St. Joseph promptly obeyed, and the Holy Family sought refuge in Egypt until Herod's death. This event underscores St. Joseph's role as the protector of Jesus and his willingness to act decisively to keep the Holy Family safe.

—Despite his lack of spoken words, St. Joseph's actions and obedience to God's guidance speak volumes about his character and faith. His willingness to accept the challenging circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth and upbringing, as well as his prompt response to divine messages in dreams, highlight his deep trust in God and his role in God's plan for the salvation of humanity.

—St. Joseph's example continues to hold great significance for Catholics and Christians around the world. He is seen as a model of humility, faith, and obedience to God's will. St. Joseph's life demonstrates the importance of family, fatherhood, and the sanctity of work. Many individuals and families turn to St. Joseph in times of need, seeking his intercession and guidance in matters related to family, employment, and spiritual life. His enduring relevance in the modern world reflects the timeless values and virtues he exemplified.

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2025 Directory

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our photography dates are **April 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th**. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a church directory. You will view your images right away and have the chance to purchase family portraits for your own memories and to give as gifts. You can schedule your photo appointments in the parish office: (541) 447-6475 / stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com.