

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "The Stranger" (Author Unknown)

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind, each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play "big brother," and develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors. Mom taught me to love the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening. If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so life-like that I would often laugh or cry as I watched. He was like a friend to the whole family. The stranger was our storyteller.

He took Dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies. He even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind, but sometimes Mom would quietly get up while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places, go to her room, read

her Bible, and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt an obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house—not from us, from our friends, or adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge, the stranger was never confronted.

My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home—not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely (probably too much and too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than 30 years have passed now since that stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents' den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk, and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him T.V.

—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  
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 23, 2025 † 3rd 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](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	03/24/2025	8:00 a.m.	John Schoenstein (L)	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday	03/25/2025	8:00 a.m.	Eileen Karl (D)	Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday	03/26/2025	12:00 p.m.	Margaret Halsey (L)	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	03/27/2025	8:00 a.m.	Rev. John Bradley (D)	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday	03/28/2025	12:00 p.m.	Frank Davis, Jr. (L)	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	03/29/2025	5:00 p.m.	Mike Mulvihill (D)	Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	03/30/2025	9:00 a.m.	For St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday	03/30/2025	12:00 p.m.	Ailyn Sanchez (L)	Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

ALL THREE OF today's readings speak of God the Father's mercy and compassion, even in disciplining His children by occasional punishment in the form of natural or manmade tragedies, while giving them second chances to repent of their sins and renew their lives, despite their repeated sins. God expects us to show our repentance and renewal of life, especially during Lent, by producing fruits of love, mercy, forgiveness, and selfless service, instead of remaining like a barren fig tree in Christ's Church.



their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, Jesus also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence, one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."

**We need to live lives of repentance:**  
 (a) We never know when we will meet a tragedy of our own. Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings, and receive from him mercy, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life.  
 (b) There is no better way to take these words of Jesus to heart than to go to sacramental confession, and there is no better time to go to confession than during Lent. (c) Repentance helps us in life and in death. It helps us to live as forgiven people and helps us to face death without fear.

**We need to be fruitful trees in God's orchard.** Lent is an ideal time "to dig around and manure" the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, humble service, and sensitivity to the feelings of others.

**We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us.** Our merciful Father always gives us second chances. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love through the sacrament of reconciliation—the "Sacrament of the second chance."

**The first reading** tells us how God showed His mercy to His chosen people in Egyptian slavery by giving them Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v. 6) revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush and assured Moses of His Divine presence with His people and of His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. God declared His intention to use Moses as the leader who would rescue His enslaved people. Then God revealed His name as Yahweh ("I AM Who AM") and renewed His promise to the patriarchs (v. 8), to give them a "land flowing with milk and honey."

**The second reading** warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the unfaithful Israelites in the desert who were punished for their sins by a merciful and just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding; hence, the Corinthians, and we, must be free from sexual sins and idolatry.

**Today's Gospel** explains how God disciplines His people and invites them to repent of

## March—The Month of St. Joseph

### Penance Service

Our Lenten Penance Service will be on **Wednesday, March 26th, at 6 p.m.** There will be eight (8) Priests available, with five (5) of them bilingual. Children who have received 1st Communion and are in our Religious Education Classes, including Confirmation students, must be there with their parents.

+++

### 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 is at 7 p.m.
- † Easter Sunday, April 20th, Mass is at 9 a.m. Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.

+++

### 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 28th: Respect Life
- April 4th: Knights of Columbus
- April 11th: Religious Education

+++

### 2025 Directory

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our photography dates are **April 23rd, 24th, 25th and April 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com).

### ACTS

ACTS study group will resume **Wednesday, March 26th, at 1:30 p.m., in Classroom 4.** We will watch "The Three Temptations" with Brant Pitre. Everyone is welcome to join us.



+++

### Prayer Retreat

"Encountering Jesus Through Prayer" Study, a prayer style that may benefit you and your lifestyle, on **Saturday, April 5th, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.,** at the St. Therese of Lisieux Mission Church in Halfway. **Register by March 28th.** The cost of \$25 includes breakfast, lunch, and a snack. Register at the website: [www.sttheresehalfway.org](http://www.sttheresehalfway.org).

+++

### Upcoming Events

- We are having a Bake Sale on Sunday, May 11th! We will be looking forward to donations of home-baked treats to sell.
- Fr. Joseph's 70th birthday party is on Sunday, July 13th.
- St. Joseph's 75th Jubilee Celebration is on Sunday, September 14th.

More information to follow on these events.

+++

### Chesterton High School Gala

Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei is hosting the 1st annual Gala Dinner at Faith, Hope & Charity Vineyards in Terrebonne on **Thursday, May 22nd, at 6 p.m.** The night will include a delicious meal, keynote speakers **Bp. Cary** and **Bp. Daly** (of Spokane), and lovely musical performances. Come support the Catholic High School opening in Bend this Fall. Tickets start at \$100 and are available online at: <https://chestertonmaterdei.org/hope-for-the-future-gala>.

+++

### Respect Life

"There's an everyday heroism made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life. . . . Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers' who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves. . . ." We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life"

—The Gospel of Life 86