

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“The Son and the Train” (Author Unknown)

There was a man who had a 4-year-old son. He had only one job, and that was to switch the track for the trains in his area. The switch was across the bridge from his house.

One night, he went out to switch the tracks and they jammed. So he had to use a bar to push them over and hold them, or otherwise the train would derail and kill hundreds of people.

As he was holding the rail, his son started to come toward him on the tracks over the bridge.

When he noticed his son, he yelled, But his son, who was intent on reaching his father, did

not hear his voice over the noise of the train that was racing toward him.

The man had to choose who would die—his son—or all the people on the train.

As the train passed by, the people on board had no idea why this man holding a bar had tears running down his cheeks. They just went about their activities as if nothing had been done to preserve their lives.

As you think about this story, think about Jesus, because God did the same for us.

Yes, you may have read this before, but it is one of those stories that I believe needs to be read more than once.

—*Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*



St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
March 30, 2025 † 4th 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	03/31/2025	8:00 a.m.	Murra Miller (D)	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	04/01/2025	8:00 a.m.	Bernie Jones (L)	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	04/02/2025	4:00 p.m.	For the Youth of St Joseph (L)	Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	04/03/2025	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday	04/04/2025	12:00 p.m.	Patrice Tosi (D)	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	04/05/2025	5:00 p.m.	Lloyd Rodgers (D)	Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
Sunday	04/06/2025	9:00 a.m.	Alejandra Robles & Sacramento Ortiz (D)	Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
Sunday	04/06/2025	12:00 p.m.	For the Parishioners (L)	Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

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 ♦ Lyn Rodgers ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Jeanne Hackett ♦ Peggy Holtz
Michael Kuenzi ♦ Nancy MacDonald ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Charlie McDermott ♦ Susan McDermott

Today's Homily

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT marks the mid-point in the Lenten preparation for Easter. Traditionally, it is called *Laetare Sunday* (Rejoice Sunday). This Sunday is set aside for us to recall God's graciousness and to rejoice because of it.

In many ways, we have been dead, but through God's grace, we have come to life again; we have been lost, but have now been found. We have every reason to rejoice. Hence, each of the three readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance, and the confession of our sins, and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land.

In the second reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthian Christian community to rejoice because Jesus has reconciled them with God by His suffering and death.

The Pharisees and Scribes of Jesus' time measured others by the observance of the letter of the Law. They couldn't understand how a man of God could allow tax collectors and sinners to keep company with Him (Cf. Luke 15:1-2).

In this context, Jesus told a story about a man and his two sons (Ref. Luke 15:11-32), which is familiarly known as the story of the Prodigal Son. In fact, it is the story of a Loving Father. This father's behavior was so unconventional that it confronts the Pharisaic concept of God. It subverted the measuring yard of those who listened to this story.

When his younger son returns home after squandering his share of the patrimony, alienating himself from the society and his religion, and making himself disgustingly unclean by being with pigs, his father ran to the boy, clasped him, and kissed him tenderly. He ordered a bath for his son, gave him new garments (a sign of honor) and a golden signet ring (sign of authority and trust). By ordering sandals for the feet of his son, the father signaled



his reacceptance as his son. The killing of the fatted calf, especially raised for the Passover Feast, meant that the entire village was invited for the grand party given in the returned son's honor.

Then, the hard-working, law-abiding, self-righteous elder son questioned his father. He could not understand the love and mercy of his father. Like many of us "good Christians," the

elder brother had already disowned him (his younger brother) as a prodigal son beyond redemption. He is looking for justice like most of us. Even when his father tells him, "My son, you are with me always, and all I have is yours," he is still angry (Luke 5:31). It is like us Christians who have all the inheritance of the Church—the Sacraments, spiritual nourishment, the Word of God, and Eucharistic Communion with Our Lord, we refuse to forgive others.

If our Father in heaven is so loving that He came to the service of humanity, including the prodigal sons and daughters, how much more we should be prepared to forgive others and be at their service. Let the Lenten discipline help us to be like our Father in Heaven.

Like God, the father in the parable was ready to forgive both of his "sinful" sons even before they repented. St. Thomas Aquinas explains that God already forgives us as soon as we repent, even before we go to confession or perform any penance. The forgiveness that the father offers in the parable parallels the forgiveness God offers in real life. That's why Jesus in the Gospels frequently describes God more like a defense attorney than a prosecuting attorney.

We need to accept the fact that we are all prodigal children who have squandered our Father's inheritance. Lent is a time to "pass over" from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation.

The story of the Prodigal Son asks each of us an important question: Will you accept the Father's forgiveness and partake of the banquet, or will you remain outside? Lent is a time to transform hatred into love, conflict into peace, and death into eternal life.

March—The Month of St. Joseph

Group Photos

On **Wednesday, April 2nd, at 6 p.m.**, on the Church steps, we will be taking group photos to go into the new Parish Directory of the following Ministries: **Knights of Columbus, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Respect Life, and Religious Education.** Please attend if you are a member of one of these groups.

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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.
- † 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.

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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:

- ☺ April 4th: Knights of Columbus
- ☺ April 11th: Religious Education

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WorldWide Marriage Encounter

"He cured many who were sick with various diseases." Is your marriage suffering from lack of communication or kindness? Are you looking for a way to bring your marriage back to its fullness? Jesus can cure all! Learn how by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience from **Friday, April 4th, through Sunday, April 6th**, in Beaverton, Oregon.

To apply for *your* WWME Experience, or to search for other dates, please go to: rediscoverthepark.org.

For more information about WWME, call (503) 704-0836, or send an email to: reservations@rediscoverthepark.org.

Diocese of Baker Men's Conference!

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: April 5th** in Bend or **IN SPANISH: April 12th**, in The Dalles. For more information and/or to register: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference or call Bryce at (541) 388-4004.

¡Conferencia de Hombres de la Diócesis de Baker!

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 INGLÉS: 5 de Abril** en Bend o **en ESPAÑOL: 12 de Abril**, en The Dalles. Para obtener más información y registrarse: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference o llame a Bryce al (541) 388-4004.

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Meeting for the Jubilee Pilgrimage

There will be a meeting on **Friday, April 11th, at 3 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall to plan for the Jubilee Pilgrimage. All heads of Ministries +1 should attend. The Bishop's monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament is traveling from the Cathedral to all parishes as part of our diocesan Jubilee Year celebrations. In this "reverse pilgrimage," Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will come to each parish to be adored and worshiped.

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2025 Directory

It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our photography dates are **April 22nd, 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. Call (541) 447-6475 or send an email to: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com.

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Summer Positions Available

We are looking to fill two part-time summer positions for the Cascade View Retreat Center on Alfalfa Rd. The positions are: **1) Assistant Groundskeeper:** primarily duties include mowing and irrigation. Hours are very flexible, 8-20 hours per week. **2) On-call Housekeeper:** primary duties include room/facility prep prior to a retreat and vacuuming, laundry, and overall cleaning after a retreat. Approximately 6-8 hours per retreat.

Applicants are asked to be a minimum of 18 years of age and a practicing Catholic. If interested, please call the Diocese Facilities Manager, **Joe Graziano**, at (541)-526-8049, or send an email to: joe@dioceseofbaker.org.