

Fr. Joseph's Corner "Love"

My friend, John, always has something to tell me. He knows so much, and young men, such as I, really do need to have older, worldlier, and wiser men to tell us things. For instance: who to trust, how to care for others, and how to live life to the fullest.

Recently, John lost his wife, Janet. For eight years she fought against cancer, but in the end her sickness had the last word.

One day John took out a folded piece of paper from his wallet. He had found it, so he told me, when he tidied up some dresser drawers at home. It was a small love letter that Janet had written. The note could look like a schoolgirl's scrawls about her dream guy. All that was missing was a drawing of a heart and the names "John and Janet" written in it.

But the letter was written by a woman who had had seven children; a woman who fought for her life, and who probably only had a few months left to live.

It was also a beautiful recipe for how to keep a marriage together. Janet's description of her husband begins thus: "Loved me. Took care of me. Worried about me."

Even though John always had a ready answer, he apparently never joked about cancer. Sometimes, he came home in the evening to find Janet in the middle of one of those depressions that cancer patients so often get. In no time, he got her into the car and drove her to her favorite restaurant. John showed consideration for her, and she knew it. You cannot hide something from someone who knows better.

"Helped me when I was ill," the next line reads. Perhaps Janet wrote this while the cancer was in one of the horrible yet wonderful lulls where everything is—almost—as it used

to be before the sickness broke out, and where it doesn't hurt to hope that everything is over, maybe forever. "Forgave me a lot." "Stood by my side."

And a piece of good advice for everyone who looks on giving constructive criticism as a kind of sacred duty: "Always praising." "Made sure I had everything I needed," she goes on to write.

After that, she had turned over the paper and added: "Warmth. Humor. Kindness. Thoughtfulness."

And then she writes about the husband she has lived with and loved for most of her life: "Always there for me when I needed you." The last words she wrote sum up all the others. I can see her love for him when she adds thoughtfully: "Good friend."

I stand beside John now, and I cannot even pretend to know how it feels to lose someone who is as close to me as Janet was to him.

I need to hear what he has to say much more than he needs to talk. "John," I ask. "How do you stick together with someone through 38 years—not to mention the sickness? How do I know if I can bear to stand by my wife's side if she becomes sick some day?"

"You can," he says quietly. "If you love her enough, you can."

—*Prayerful wishes, Father Joseph*

"As long as there is
love and memory,
there is no true loss"

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 9, 2025 † 1st Sunday of Lent

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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

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| Monday | 03/10/2025 | 8:00 a.m. | Ron Lattin (D) | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46 |
| Tuesday | 03/11/2025 | 10:00 a.m. | Jody Matthews (L) | Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15 |
| Wednesday | 03/12/2025 | 12:00 p.m. | Lloyd Rodgers (D) | Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32 |
| Thursday | 03/13/2025 | 8:00 a.m. | Lyn Rodgers (L) | Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12 |
| Friday | 03/14/2025 | 12:00 p.m. | Clint Giovanini (D) | Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26 |
| Saturday | 03/15/2025 | 5:00 p.m. | Mike Mulvihill (D) | Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 |
| Sunday | 03/16/2025 | 9:00 a.m. | St Joseph Parishioners (L) | Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 |
| Sunday | 03/16/2025 | 12:00 p.m. | Carmen Ortiz (D) | Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 |

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

LENT BEGINS with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come to everybody, not only to Jesus, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them.

The first reading describes the ancient Jewish ritual of presenting the first fruits and gifts to God during the harvest festival in order to thank Him for liberating His people from Egypt and for strengthening them during the years of their trials and temptations in the desert.

In the second reading, St. Paul warns the early Christians converted from Judaism not to yield to their constant temptation to return to the observances of the Mosaic Laws. He reminds them that they will be saved only by acknowledging the risen Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The graphic temptations of Jesus described by Matthew and Luke in their Gospels are pictorial and dramatic representations of the inner struggle against a temptation that Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was trying to prevent Jesus from accomplishing His mission, mainly through a temptation to become the political Messiah of Jewish expectations, and to use His Divine power to avoid suffering and death.

We need to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means He employed: Like Jesus, every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, and is drawn to the use of unjust or sinful means to attain good ends. Jesus sets a model for conquering temptations through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the “word of



God.” Temptations make us true warriors of God by strengthening our minds and hearts. We are never tempted beyond our power.

In his first letter, St. John assures us: “The One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Hence during Lent, let us

confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), with penance and with the meditative reading of the Bible. Knowledge of the Bible prepares us for the moment of temptation by enabling us “to know Jesus more clearly, to love Him more clearly, and to follow Him more nearly, day by day,” as William Barclay puts it.

Lent is not just about giving up things; it is a time for spiritual renewal. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing for His mission, we are called to enter into a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to strengthen our faith.

By embracing these Lenten practices, we follow Jesus’ example and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

We need to grow in holiness during Lent by prayer, reconciliation, and sharing. We become resistant and even immune to temptations as we grow healthier in soul by following the traditional Lenten practices: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him and listening to Him; b) by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives by uniting ourselves with God both by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by forgiving those who have hurt us and asking forgiveness of those whom we have hurt; and c) by sharing our love with others through our selfless and humble service, our almsgiving, and our helping of those in need.

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

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: **3/14 Hispanic Ministries, 3/21 Acolytes, 3/28 Respect Life, 4/4 Knights of Columbus, 4/11 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 am–2 p.m. and 2–4:30 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.

1960s

Following **Fr. McTeigue’s** death in December of 1960, **Fr. Patrick Gaire** was appointed as Pastor of St. Joseph. In 1962, **Msgr. Mathew Crotty** was appointed as Pastor. He served until 1972.

In 1961, the Parish purchased two city lots from **John and Glora Solitz**. In 1963, we completed construction of the classroom and office section of our current Parish Hall building. The auditorium and kitchen area were completed in 1965. The annual Ham Dinner was moved to the Parish Hall from the church basement once construction was complete.

In 1962, the Parish purchased the Sherwin residence east of the Parish Hall and remodeled it into a Convent. Three nuns lived in the convent throughout the 1960s. The three nuns supported activities in Prineville, Madras, and Redmond.

Also in 1962, **Pope John XXIII** convened the Second Vatican Council. As a result of Vatican II, profound changes were enacted at St. Joseph and all Roman Catholic churches.

The altar was turned so the priest faced the congregation throughout Mass. Lay readers were added as were Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. The Communion railing was removed so parishioners could receive the Eucharist by either hand or mouth. The confessional was remodeled to enable parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Penance in private or face-to-face. Most significantly, the Mass was celebrated in English or Spanish instead of Latin. A Parish Council was formed to enable parishioners’ input to Parish activities.

In 1966, stained-glass windows were added to the main church building. Religious Education classes were moved to Wednesday afternoon, with local schools releasing students early to participate. Church activities were supported by a very active Altar Society and Knights of Columbus.

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CRS Rice Bowl—Pick Yours Up after Mass

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in dioceses throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

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What Is a CRS Rice Bowl?

CRS Rice Bowl is a staple on the table of **Catholic families** across the country during Lent. This simple cardboard box is a tool for collecting Lenten alms—and comes with a **Lenten Calendar** that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections, and stories.