

Fr. Joseph's Corner

I saw him in the church building for the first time last Wednesday. He was in his mid-70s, with thinning silver hair and a neat brown suit.

Many times in the past, I had invited him to come to church. Several other Christian friends had talked to him about the Lord, and they had tried to share the Good News with him.

He was a well-respected, honest man with so many characteristics that a Christian should have, but he had never “put on Christ.”

I had asked him a few years ago: “Have you ever been to a church service in your life?”

We had just finished a pleasant day of visiting and talking.

He hesitated. Then with a bitter smile he told me of a childhood experience some 60 years ago.

He was one of many children in a large, impoverished family. His parents had struggled to provide food, with little left for housing and clothing.

When he was about 10 years old, some neighbors invited him to go to church with them. The Bible class had been very exciting, and he had never heard such songs and stories before. He had never heard anyone ever read from the Bible before.

After class was over, the teacher took him aside and said, “Son, please don’t come again dressed as you are now. We want to look our

best when we come worship the Lord.” He stood in his ragged, unpatched overalls, looked at his bare, dirty feet and said, “No Ma’am. I won’t ever!”

“And I never did,” he said, abruptly ending our conversation.

There must have been other factors to have hardened him so, but this experience formed a significant part of the bitterness in his heart.

I’m sure the Bible teacher meant well. But what if she had studied and accepted the teachings found in the second chapter of James?

What if she had put her arms around that dirty, ragged little boy and said, “Son, I’m so glad you are here, and I hope you will come every chance you get to hear more about Jesus!”

I prayed that I might ever be open to the tenderness of a child’s heart, and that I might never fail to see beyond the appearance and behavior of a child to the eternal possibilities within.

Yes, I saw him in the church for the first time last Wednesday. As I looked at that immaculately dressed old gentleman, lying in his casket, I thought of the little boy of long ago. I could almost hear him say, “No, Ma’am. I won’t ever!” . . . and I wept.

(By Shirley Ward, via the Vidor, a Texas church bulletin)

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 6, 2025 † 5th 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	04/07/2025	8:00 a.m.	Betty Maska (L)	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday	04/08/2025	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday	04/09/2025	—NO MASS—		Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	04/10/2025	—NO MASS—		Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday	04/11/2025	12:00 p.m.	Bob Maska (D)	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	04/12/2025	5:00 p.m.	Ken & Phyllis Tocher (D)	Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56
Sunday	04/13/2025	9:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners (L)	Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56
Sunday	04/13/2025	12:00 p.m.	Eustolia Lopez Ortiz (D)	Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE CENTRAL THEME of all three readings is a merciful God's steadfast love. The readings remind us that we should not be self-righteous and condemn the lives of others when God is calling them tenderly to conversion.

Explaining how a merciful God forgives the sins of His chosen people and leads them back from the Babylonian exile, the first reading reminds us that we, too, are forgiven, and we are saved from our own sinfulness. In the second reading, Paul presents himself as a forgiven sinner who has been completely transformed by his Faith in Christ Jesus. His life is an example of the Gospel exhortation, "*Sin no more.*" Paul loves Christ so much he wants to share in His sufferings and even in His death so that he may share Christ's Resurrection.

The sinful woman's story of sin committed, and sin forgiven in today's Gospel, shows the inexhaustible mercy and compassion that Jesus gives to repentant sinners. In addition, by making sinlessness the condition for throwing the first stone, Jesus forces the accusers to assess their own souls and to leave. Thus, He grants justice to the accusers and mercy to the sinful woman.

In our own lives, we bear witness to the Justice of God by confessing our sinfulness and resolving to avoid sin, and we bear witness to God's Mercy by accepting the for-

GO AND SIN NO MORE

John 8:1-11

Sin condemns, but Jesus forgives

giveness of our sins and promising to forgive those who have offended us.

Jesus has shown inexhaustible mercy and compassion to sinners by dying for our sins. But we are often self-righteous, like the Pharisees, and ready to spread

scandal about others with a bit of spicy gossip. We are judgmental about the unmarried mother, the alcoholic, the drug addict and the shop-lifter, ignoring Jesus' command: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

We have no right to judge others because we often commit the very faults we condemn, we are often partial and prejudiced in our judgments, and we do not know the circumstances which have led someone to sin. Hence, let us leave the judgment to our merciful God Who does read people's hearts.

We should show mercy and compassion to those who sin because we ourselves are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. We need to learn to hate the sin but love the sinners, showing them mercy, compassion, sympathy and acceptance, leading them to Jesus' ways by our own exemplary lives.

Our Lenten disciplines are to break through the hard shell of self-righteousness and look onto our hearts to see whether they are stony or flesh. Love, compassion, and upholding the dignity of our sisters and brothers are the marks of the Laws of the Kingdom of God.

April—The Month of the Holy Eucharist

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers who organized, cleaned, set up, and worked at the Ham Dinner this year.

A special **THANK YOU** to **Gary Thompson** for guiding this valued tradition.

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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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Schedule Change

There will NOT be a Mass on **Wednesday, April 9th, Thursday, April 10th, Monday, April 21st, Tuesday, April 22nd, and Monday, April 28th, through Friday, May 2nd.**

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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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Friday Soup Supper

Every Friday of Lent we have had a Soup Supper, after the Stations of the Cross, put on by our volunteers. **The last Soup Supper is this Friday, April 11th: Religious Education.**

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.

In the back of the new directory will be a Parishioners List of names, addresses, and phone numbers. This list will include the information regardless of if you have your photo taken. If you **don't** want your information to be included in the list, please contact the Parish Office.



Diocese of Baker Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Report all allegations or incidents of abuse by anyone against a minor immediately to the civil authorities.

**Report child abuse
1-855-503-SAFE (7233)
Keep Oregon's children safe**

After reporting abuse involving a minor to civil authorities please contact:

Leah Bickett, Diocese of Baker
Safe Environment Coordinator
Email: leah@dioceseofbaker.org
Phone: 541.388.4004

Reporting Misconduct (sexual or otherwise) involving clergy to adults:

Very Rev. Saji Thomas, CMI, VG
Email: vg@dioceseofbaker.org
Phone: 541.962.5574

Reporting allegations against a priest, deacon, or seminarian, please contact:

Angelina Montoya, MD
Victim's Assistance Coordinator
Phone: 541.678.5652

Reporting Sexual Misconduct involving a Bishop please contact:

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBARS)
Phone: 800.276.1562
Email: ReportBishopAbuse.org