

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"A Day in God's Court"

After living a "decent" life, my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened, and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table.

As I looked around, I saw the "prosecutor"—he was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil looking person I had ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left, and there sat my lawyer, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed very familiar to me.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the judge in full, flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room, and I couldn't take my eyes off of Him. He took His seat behind the bench and said, "Let us begin."

The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan, and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell." He proceeded to tell of the lies I had told, of things that I had stolen, and of when I had cheated others in the past. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life. The more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, not even my own lawyer, as the devil told of sins that I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I knew I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good things in my life, too. Couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, "This man belongs in hell! He is guilty of all that I have charged, and there is not a person who can prove otherwise. Justice will finally be served this day."

When it was His turn, my lawyer first asked if He might approach the bench. The judge allowed this over

the strong objections of Satan and beckoned Him to come forward.

As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him now in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar—this was Jesus representing me—my Lord and my Savior! He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge, "Hi, Dad," and then He turned to address the court.

"Satan was correct in saying that this man has sinned. I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wages of sin is death. And this man deserves to be punished." Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life, and he has accepted Me as His Savior, so he is Mine!"

My Lord continued, "His name is written in the Book of Life, and no one can snatch him from Me! Satan still does not yet understand that this man is not to be given justice, but rather—mercy." As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and went on, "There is nothing else that needs to be done—I've done it all!"

The Judge lifted His mighty hand, and He slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips: "This man is free—the penalty for him has already been paid in full. CASE DISMISSED!"

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving and exclaiming, "I won't give up! I'll win the next one!"

I asked Jesus, "Have you ever lost a case?" Christ lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone who has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you: PAID IN FULL."

Oh, what a blessing! There is no greater commandment than to love your neighbor as yourself!

—*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 Gadotti ♦ Barbara Hopla
Gilbert Marquez ♦ David Pedersen ♦ Jim MacDonald

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

May 4, 2025 † 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

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	05/05/2025	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	05/06/2025	8:00 a.m.	Pope Francis (D)	Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	05/07/2025	12:00 p.m.	Jim MacDonald (L)	Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday	05/08/2025	8:00 a.m.	Terri Hintze (D)	Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
Friday	05/09/2025	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday	05/10/2025	5:00 p.m.	David Pedersen (L)	Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30
Sunday	05/11/2025	9:00 a.m.	Mothers of St Joseph Parish	Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30
Sunday	05/11/2025	12:00 p.m.	Lourdes Soliz (D)	Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL NARRATIVE shows us the rehabilitation of Peter, who denied Jesus three times in the courtyard of Caiaphas, repented, and then received Primacy in the Church from Jesus. The Gospel also shows us God in search of man, even when man tries to evade Him.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit transformed Peter, whom Jesus had appointed head of his Church, from a man fearful of powerful men into a brave witness to the Resurrection. Peter stands before the Jewish Supreme Court—the Sanhedrin—boldly announcing that he and the others must obey God rather than men.

The second reading, taken from Revelation (the Apocalypse), presents John's vision of the Risen Lord as the glorified "Lamb of God," enthroned in Heaven. The whole of Revelation is an expression of Christian hope in the Risen Lord.

Today's Gospel tells the post-Resurrection story of our merciful Savior Who goes in search of His band of disappointed and dejected disciples. The incident proves that Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances were not mere hallucinations.

In the first part of today's Gospel, the risen Jesus appears to His disciples and gives them a symbol of their mission in a miraculous catch of fish followed by a grilled-fish breakfast prepared by Jesus himself.

The second part is a dialogue between Jesus and Simon where Simon is asked three times whether he loves Jesus, and he answers that he does, as if in reparation for his triple denial of Jesus.

The two metaphors used in the story; namely, fishing and shepherding, are the duties of the Church in her missionary work. Peter, as a forgiven sinner, is chosen for the quality of his love to serve



as a leader in a community of brothers and sisters. As his primary mission, Peter is given the care of the vulnerable lambs and sheep; he is told that fidelity to this mission will lead him to martyrdom.

We need to open our eyes, ears and hearts wide to

see, hear, and experience the Risen Lord coming into our lives in various forms, circumstances, and events.

The Risen Lord blesses us with success and achievements. We often fail to acknowledge the presence of the Risen Lord behind our unexpected successes, great achievements, and promotions at work, miraculous healings, and success in relationships. He is right there in our parties, celebrations, and occasions of rejoicing.

The Risen Lord is present in our pains and suffering: Acts 9:1–13 tells us how the Risen Lord transformed the life of Saul by pushing him down onto the Damascus Road and making him temporarily blind. The same Jesus often visits us in the form of accidents, illnesses, the loss of dear ones, pain, suffering, and problems in relationships.

The Risen Lord visits us through our friends and well-wishers: He is present in those who visit us and encourage us in our sad and desperate moments. The Risen Lord visits us in the form of unexpected help from the least expected persons in our dire needs.

The Risen Lord is present in our Christian worship: He is present on our altars during the Holy Mass to share His life with us; He is present in the words of Holy Scripture; He is there in the Sacraments, and He is there where two or three are gathered in his name (Mt 18: 20)

May—The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Jubilee Pilgrimage of the Blessed Sacrament

The Bishop's Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament arrives at Noon on **Tuesday, May 6**. We will meet at the Church at **11 a.m.** for the welcome. There will be **Adoration each day from 7:a.m. to 9 p.m.** Anyone can come for Adoration at any time. The Church will be open. The schedule is as follows:

◆ **TUESDAY MAY 6:**
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Divine Mercy
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—Respect Life

◆ **WEDNESDAY MAY 7:**
7 a.m. to 10 a.m.—open
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—SVdP
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.—K of C

◆ **THURSDAY, MAY 8:**
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Eucharistic Ministers
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Church Flowers
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.—SVdP

◆ **FRIDAY, MAY 9:**
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Hispanic Ministry
(Procession at 10 a.m.)

There will be Mass at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 9, instead of 12 p.m. At 10 a.m., we will process around the block.

At 11 a.m. on Friday, Fr. Joseph, along with the Knights of Columbus, will lead a car procession to deliver the Blessed Sacrament to St Patrick Church in Madras.

Everyone is welcome to join this procession!

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Pope Francis Memorial Mass

We will have a Memorial Mass to honor **Pope Francis** on **Tuesday, May 6, at 8 a.m.**

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2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal, *Pilgrims of Faith*, starts **this week**. Parishioners will receive a letter or postcard from Bishop **Cary** reminding them to trust in God's love and guidance as they inspire others to find their path to the Father through Hope.

The Diocese of Baker depends on your ongoing financial support to sustain its faith-building mission.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

Bake Sale

We will be having a **Bake Sale on Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**, to raise money for cooling units for the kitchen. We are looking for donations of baked goods (none that require refrigeration). You can bring them to the parish hall on **Friday, May 9th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Any Questions? Please call **Darlene** in the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475.

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Respect Life

We will be having our annual Baby Bottle Drive beginning on **Mother's Day, May 11**. Please take a baby bottle and fill it with cash, checks, etc. and return it to the Parish Office by **Father's Day June 15**. There is also a fund on our Online Giving set up for you to donate there.

All proceeds will benefit our Respect Life Ministry to be a voice for life. We are raising money for the Pro-life Conference that will be held at St. Thomas in October.

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Summer Camp

REGISTER NOW FOR DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPS:

- ◆ **Youth Camp: June 18–22**, current 4th–8th graders.
- ◆ **Youth Camp Leaders: June 18–22**, current 9th–12th graders
- ◆ **Quo Vadis: June 23–26**, current 8th–12th grade young men.

All youth camps are at Lake Creek Youth Camp near John Day. Two Family Camp Locations to Choose from this Summer! **Cove Christian Camp:** near LaGrande, **July 26–29**, or **Camp White Branch:** between Redmond and Eugene (near McKenzie Bridge), **July 31–August 3**.

Catholic families coming together, having fun, and celebrating what it means to be fully alive in Christ!

Registration is open for all camps through the Diocese website: **DioceseofBaker.org**.

SEEKING HELP WITH ONE OR BOTH YOUTH CAMPS: **Summer Catholic Youth Camp, June 18–22**, is seeking:

- ◆ 1 RV to borrow for the priest
 - ◆ 12–15 Adults: 10 Chaperones (21+), 1–2-Nurses/EMTs, and 1 Musician; 2–5-YA (18–20)
- Quo Vadis, June 23–26**, is seeking:
- ◆ 2–3 RVs to borrow for clergy
 - ◆ 5–11 Adults: 4 Male Chaperones (21+), 1–2-Nurses/EMTs, and 1–5-YA (18–20)