

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"I Will Move the Rock" by Sheiliah Manuel

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin—when suddenly his room filled with light—and the Savior appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained to the man that he was to push against the rock with all his might.

And this he did, day after day. For many years, the man toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the un-moving rock, pushing with all his might.

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Seeing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, Satan decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man's mind such as: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't budged. Why kill yourself over this? You are never going to move it," thus giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure.

These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man even more. "Why kill myself over this, indeed?" he thought. "I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort, and that will be good enough."

And that he planned to do, until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which

you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

To this the Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me, and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to me, with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed.

But is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have.

Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient, and to push, and to exercise your faith, and to trust in my wisdom. This you have done."

Then the Lord said, "I, my friend, will move the rock."



At times when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him.

By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains; but it is still God who moves the mountain!

—*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 18, 2025 † 5th 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	05/19/2025	8:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Swanson (D)	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday	05/20/2025	8:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Vetter (D)	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday	05/21/2025	12:00 p.m.	Clark Hay (D)	Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday	05/22/2025	8:00 a.m.	Irene Kutcher (D)	Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
Friday	05/23/2025	12:00 p.m.	Jim MacDonald (L)	Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday	05/24/2025	5:00 p.m.	Tuff Penhollow (L)	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29
Sunday	05/25/2025	9:00 a.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (D)	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29
Sunday	05/25/2025	12:00 p.m.	Gilberto Lopez (D)	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29
(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased				

Today's Homily

AS WE JOURNEY through the Easter season, the Church continues to draw us deeper into the mystery of the Risen Lord. Today, on this Fifth Sunday of Easter, we encounter a moment of profound intimacy and urgency in the Gospel. Jesus has just washed the feet of His disciples. Judas has gone out into the night to betray Him. And in this poignant moment, Jesus turns to those who remain and gives them a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

Today's Gospel passage gives us the secret of Christian renewal as the faithful practice of Jesus' new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus has added a new element to the Old Testament command of love by telling us that the true test of discipleship is to love other people in the same way that he has loved us. Hence, the renewal of Christian life means a radical change of vision and a reordering of our priorities in life.

At first glance, this may not seem new. The command to love is found throughout Scripture. But what is new is the measure of that love: "As I have loved you." This is no longer just "love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus raises the bar. We are to love as He has loved—completely, sacrificially, with mercy and humility.

Let us ask ourselves: How did Jesus love us?

- ◆ He loved with action, not just words.
- ◆ He embraced the leper, welcomed the sinner, fed the hungry, and lifted the broken.
- ◆ He washed the feet of His disciples—even the one who would betray Him.
- ◆ And ultimately, He gave His life on the Cross for us.



We are asked to love as Jesus loved in the ordinary course of our lives. This means that we should love others by allowing ourselves to be moved with pity for them. We love others by responding to their everyday needs. We can show love by materially sharing with those who have less. We love others by comforting and protecting those who have experienced loss. We love others by serving others in every possible way, no matter how small. We love others by forgiving rather than condemning, by challenging rather than condoning. We love others by responding to the call of God in our lives and by walking in the footsteps of Jesus. We love others by making sacrifices for them. This is how the world will know that we are the Disciples of Christ.

This kind of love is not always easy. It stretches us. It challenges our comfort zones. It demands forgiveness, patience, humility, and compassion. Yet, this is the mark of true discipleship. Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In a world so often marked by division, anger, and self-interest, this kind of Christ-like love becomes a powerful witness. It's not through our buildings or programs or even our knowledge of Scripture that the world will know we are Christians—it is through our love. As we gather at the Eucharist, we receive the love of Christ made flesh for us. Let that love transform us. Let it shape our homes, our parishes, and our communities. Let it be the heartbeat of our lives.

This Easter season, may we live out the new commandment—not only in moments of inspiration, but in the daily, often hidden acts of kindness, forgiveness, and generosity. And in doing so, may we truly be the face of the Risen Christ to the world.

May—The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage of the Blessed Sacrament Photos



Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated baked goods, volunteered their time, and stopped by our Bake Sale! We made **\$849.00**. That will be enough to buy several portable air-conditioning units for the kitchen and parish hall.

+++

Bishops Annual Appeal

The Bishop's Annual Appeal: *Pilgrims of Faith* begins this week. We are reminded to trust in God's love and guidance as they inspire others to find their path to the Father through Hope. Registered parishioners will receive a letter from **Bishop Cary** and a packet in the mail.

Many important diocesan and parish programs that help thousands in our diocese every year are made possible by your generosity, such as clergy formation, parish ministry leadership and catechesis, family faith resources, youth and young-adult ministries, and diocesan outreach ministries.

For more information, please visit the diocesan website at: dioceseofbaker.org.

+++

Pope Leo XIV

"Every day I say to myself: Lord, all this is in your hands. Give me the grace I need to bring this task to a successful conclusion. And as I have tried to do throughout my religious life, I said yes, go ahead with the great adventure of being a follower of Christ."

—Pope Leo XIV

Respect Life

The Respect Life ministry would like to invite EVERY-ONE to their first meeting this year, if you are passionate about Life, want to get involved in pro-life work, if you're looking for fellowship and friendship with like-minded individuals, please join us for pizza, drinks and dessert on **Monday, June 9th, at 6 p.m.**, in the parish hall. We look forward to celebrating Life with you! Any questions or for more information, please call **Ari** at **(541) 675 7962**.

Together we can be the voice for the voiceless!

+++

Summer Camp

REGISTER NOW FOR DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPS:

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

All youth camps are at Lake Creek Youth Camp near John Day. Two Family Camp Locations to choose from: **Cove Christian Camp** near LaGrande, **July 26–29**, or **Camp White Branch** between Redmond and Eugene (near McKenzie Bridge), **July 31–August 3**. Registration is open for all camps. Go to: 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).