

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“Two Traveling Angels” (Author Unknown)

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room.

Instead, the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, “Things aren't always what they seem.”

The next night, the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they would have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked, “How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him,” she accused. “The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die!”

“Things aren't always what they seem,” the older angel replied. “When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Because the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night, as we slept in the farmers' bed, the Angel of Death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem.”

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That is exactly what happens sometimes when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until sometime later.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people become friends and stay for a while, leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts, and we are never quite the same because we have made a good friend!

Yesterday is history—tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift—that's why it's called the present! Live and savor every moment—this is not a dress rehearsal!

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Right now somebody is thinking of you . . . somebody is caring about you . . . somebody misses you . . . somebody wants to talk to you . . . somebody wants to be with you . . . somebody hopes you aren't in trouble . . . somebody is thankful for the support you have provided . . . somebody wants to hold your hand . . . somebody hopes everything turns out all right . . . somebody wants you to be happy . . . somebody wants you to find him or her . . . somebody is celebrating your successes . . . somebody wants to give you a gift . . . somebody thinks that *you* are a gift . . . somebody loves you . . . somebody admires your strength . . . somebody is thinking of you and smiling . . . somebody wants to be your shoulder to cry on.

*—God Bless You and
Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

TWO TRAVELING ANGELS

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
July 27, 2025 † The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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	07/28/2025	8:00 a.m.	Frank M Vetter (L)	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday	07/29/2025	8:00 a.m.	Bill Houck (D)	Ex 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Jn 11:19-27
Wednesday	07/30/2025	12:00 p.m.	Mary Graham (D)	Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday	07/31/2025	8:00 a.m.	Robert Koivisto (D)	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
Friday	08/01/2025	12:00 p.m.	Theresa Davis (L)	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-6, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:47-53
Saturday	08/02/2025	5:00 p.m.	Ken Dalton (L)	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
Sunday	08/03/2025	9:00 a.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
Sunday	08/03/2025	12:00 p.m.	Efren Aguilar/Maria Guadalupe Ramirez (D)	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

MANY OF US have likely struggled with understanding the ways that God answers prayer. We have asked for something—healing for a loved one, freedom from a particular vice, or maybe clarity in discernment—perhaps God's answer seemed to be no . . . or even worse—nothing.

This is a common experience, and the good news today is that our Sacred Scriptures show us that this is a deeply human experience throughout all of time. From the outcries of the prophets, of kings, of Job, the psalmist, and other ancestors in faith, those who have put their trust in God down through the centuries have felt this longing or frustration or confusion again and again. We are not alone in this struggle.

Fortunately, that is only half of the good news. The Bible is not the story of those who reached out to God, felt frustrated with the lack of response, and then walked away to live for ever in this longing.

No! All of Scripture witnesses to another, much more fundamental truth: **God is faithful, God is merciful, and God hears our prayers.**

In the Gospel passage, after teaching a model prayer, Jesus instructs His disciples to pray to God, their Heavenly Father, with the same boldness, daring, intimacy, conviction, persistence, and perseverance that Abraham displayed in the first reading, and the friend in need in the parable employed. He gives us the assurance that God will not be irritated by our requests or unwilling to meet them with generosity.

If there was one word that best describes the characteristic of a good prayer life, it would be persistence. Our Lord, Himself, very clearly illustrates this truism in today's Gospel.

Many consider the "Our Father" to be the perfect prayer model. Not just because our Lord taught it Himself, but because it provides all the elements of what a good prayer life should entail.

First, it recognizes God as Our Father and gives Him the glory and praise that He is due. Second, it provides for petitions in which we ask God for His blessings. Third, it provides us with the opportunity to recognize our own sinfulness and to ask for forgiveness. Finally, it forces us to realize that God knows better than we do what is best for us—and therefore submit to *His* will and not *ours*.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus tells them to call God Father, or Abba. He goes on to say: "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds, and the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

God does indeed listen to our prayers. However, it's only logical that He waits to see how committed we are to what we are praying for. Is this really something we want from God, or is it just some passing fancy that would be nice, but it is really not all that important?

Just like the man in our story, God is waiting for us to be persistent in our requests. Only then, do we demonstrate our sincerity of praying. When something is important enough that we continually ask, we should expect to receive. When something is important enough that we continually seek, we should expect to find it. And when something is important enough that we continually knock on God's door, we should expect Him to open the door for us to know how to obtain it.

The bottom line is: God loves us. He knows what we want before we ask Him. He wants what is best for us. God does listen! But, how committed are we? Are we persistent with God?

Persistence is a gift that not only helps God to determine our sincerity, but also provides us with the time for reflection as to whether what we feel is important, truly is.

Pray that we are able to decipher what is truly good in our lives and then exercise the virtue that God is wanting us to show—persistence.

July—The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

Please Pray for our Bishop Liam

We request your prayers for **Bishop Cary**. He experienced an unfortunate fall and broke his leg. Please pray for a quick recovery.

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Jubilee Committee

There will be a Jubilee Committee meeting on **Tuesday, July 29th, at 4 p.m.**, in the parish hall.

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ACTS

ACTS Bible Study will restart on **Wednesday, July 30th, at 1:30 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall, Room #4. We will begin watching Season 5 of "The Chosen." Everyone is welcome to join us as we watch and discuss the latest season of the show.

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Respect Life

The Respect Life Ministry is seeking volunteers for this year's Deschutes County Fair Booth. We need volunteers for **Thursday, August 7th, Friday, August 8th, and Saturday, August 9th**. The shifts are in 2- or 4-hour increments. There must always be two people at the booth. The fair opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. We need coverage for all 11 hours of each day.

Please get in touch with **Garilynn** at (541) 815-5823 or **Ari** at (541) 675-7962 to sign up. Without volunteers, we will not be able to have a booth.

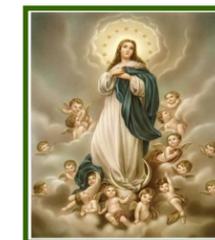
Thank you all for your help!

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Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—A Holy Day of Obligation

We honor and show our gratitude and praise to God for the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Feast of her Assumption—body and soul—into heaven, on **Friday, August 15th**.

Mass times are at 8 a.m. and at 6 p.m.



Religious Education News

Registration will take place on **August 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st, from 2–6 p.m. in Room 1 of the parish hall**. If you cannot make these dates, please call to make an appointment with **Barb Dalton** at (541) 410-3720.

If you registered your child for Confirmation classes last year, there is no need to register again. Those 18 children will have their ceremony in May 2026. No other sign-ups are available for this year; this class is closed.

The registration fee is \$50. A \$20 late fee will be charged for late registrations. However, there will be no registration during classes.

All classes will begin on the second Wednesday in September (Sept. 10th). Please keep referring to this Parish Bulletin for updates. Thank you, **Barb Dalton, Director of Religious Education / (541) 410-3720**.

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Welcome to Bishop-Elect Thomas Hennen!

Pope Leo XIV has accepted the resignation of our **Bishop Liam Cary** from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Baker, and he has appointed **Fr. Thomas Hennen**, of Davenport, Iowa, as our new Bishop-elect of Baker. The announcement was made at a Press Conference held on Thursday, July 10th, at the Pastoral Center in Redmond. He will be installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Baker on Monday, **September 29th**.

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Marriage Saving—the Weekend Phase

During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a series of presentations is given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a communication technique that enables you to take a thorough look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation, you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the previous presentation.

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/> for testimonials, confidential information or to register for the **August 22–24 Retreat** in Canby, OR, or call (503) 225-9191, or send an email to: portland@retrouvaille.org.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyer
Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Pierre Jones ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ Barbara Gadotti ♦ John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara
Brittany ♦ Duncan Osgood ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither ♦ Lyn Rodgers ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee ♦
Jeanne Hackett ♦ Peggy Holtz ♦ Michael Kuenzi ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Charlie McDermott ♦ Susan McDermott
Barbara Hopla ♦ Gilbert Marquez ♦ David Pedersen