

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Clare"

I have started a new series on the lives of the saints. I realize many of our people are very eager to know about different saints and their biographies.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

Clare (July 16, 1194 – August 11, 1253) was a beautiful Italian noblewoman who became the Foundress of an order of nuns now called "Poor Clares."

When she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach, her heart burned with a great desire to imitate Francis and to live a poor, humble life for Jesus.

So one evening, she ran away from home, and in a little chapel outside Assisi, gave herself to God.

St. Francis cut off her hair and gave her a rough brown habit to wear, tied with a plain cord around her waist. Her parents tried in every way to make her return home, but Clare would not.

Soon her sister, Agnes, joined her, as well as other young women who wanted to be brides of Jesus and live without any money.

St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Yet they were very happy because Our Lord was close to them all the time.

Once, He saved them from a great danger in answer to St. Clare's prayer. An army of rough soldiers came to attack Assisi, and they planned to raid the convent first.

Although very sick, St. Clare had herself carried to the wall and right there, where the enemies could see it,



she had the Blessed Sacrament placed.

Then on her knees, she begged God to save the Sisters: "O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," she prayed.

Then a voice seemed to answer her: "I will keep them always in My care."

At the same time, a sudden fright struck the attackers, and they fled as fast as they could.

St. Clare was sick and suffered great pains for many years, but she said that no pain could trouble her.

So great was her joy in serving the Lord that she once exclaimed: "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"

Many stories and allegorical tales have been created with St. Francis and St. Clare, including the popular movie and phrase "Brother Sun, Sister Moon." But the fact is that both St. Clare and St. Francis laid a foundation for what was to become one of the most influential orders of priests, friars and sisters—the Franciscans.

Many other Orders splintered from the original Franciscans, but the foundation of each group remained always a life of poverty and good Christian example—a life detached from the materialism of this world.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
August 17, 2025 † The 20th 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

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.

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 ♦ Barbara Hopla ♦ Gilbert Marquez ♦ David Pedersen

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	08/18/2025	8:00 a.m.	Francisco Vargas (D)	Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday	08/19/2025	8:00 a.m.	Rev. Bernard Popesh (D)	Jgs 6:11-24a; Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday	08/20/2025	12:00 p.m.	Sue Godat (L)	Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday	08/21/2025	8:00 a.m.	DuAyne Mulvihill (D)	Jgs 11:29-39a; Mt 22:1-14
Friday	08/22/2025	12:00 p.m.	Marissa Lowes (L)	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Mt 22:34-40
Saturday	08/23/2025	5:00 p.m.	Emberlee Giovanini (L)	Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30
Sunday	08/24/2025	9:00 a.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30
Sunday	08/24/2025	12:00 p.m.	Anneliese Sanchez (L)	Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE CENTRAL THEME of today's readings is that we should courageously live out our religious convictions and

principles in our lives, as Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus did, even if doing so should result in our martyrdom and turn society upside down. If no one is ever offended by the quality of our commitment to Christ, then perhaps we are practicing "in-offensive Christianity."

Jeremiah, in our first reading, is presented as experiencing the consequences of the burning word of God within him. Jeremiah's preaching divided the city and incited such opposition that people sought his death. He showed the courage of his prophetic conviction by telling the king that he had to surrender to the mighty army of the Babylonian empire to save Israel. The result was that Jeremiah was thrown into a deep, muddy, unused cistern to die for his "treason."

Standing in this prophetic tradition, Paul, in the second reading, challenges the Judeo-Christians to stand firm in their Faith in Jesus, ignoring the ostracism imposed on them by their own former Jewish community.

Today's readings are not cheerful—but life is not always cheerful either. Our inner peace can be destroyed by so many things . . . such as big things like war . . . to issues with bad health . . . to a disagreement with someone we love.

Jesus speaks today of the turmoil that His followers may have to suffer. On the other hand, following Jesus will make life easier.

In difficulties, His presence and His love are always with us, and it comforts us in our trials. It is natural to try to avoid suffering for ourselves. If we have a heart like Christ, we also try to offer help to others who are suffering.

The central theme of today's readings is that we should courageously live out our religious



convictions and principles in our lives, as Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus did theirs, even if doing so should result in

our martyrdom and turn society upside down.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, preaches the word of God which continues to divide families, a word which, He knew, would lead ultimately to His death. The fire Jesus brings is the fire of love and the fire of hope. Fire purifies like gold in the furnace. When the fire of Christ's love burns in us, it burns away selfishness, sin, and fear. But fire also demands a decision—we can't be lukewarm.

The disruption, division and revolution that Jesus and His true followers cause in society by the fire of sacrificial love and the fire of justice is necessary to re-set what's fractured, put right what's dislocated, and cleanse what's infected. In other words, the curative pain caused by Jesus' ideas and ideals is necessary for the establishment of a real shalom (Peace) of God.

Even though Jesus brings a sword and causes division, He is the source of true and lasting peace. In pursuing His mission, He brings division because some follow Him and others oppose Him. We must make a decision to follow Him or not, to share His "baptism" or not. This choice can result in division—even within families.

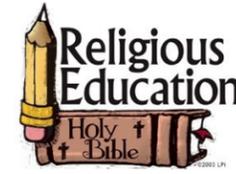
We should have fire in our hearts: On the day of our Baptism, we received the light of Christ and were instructed to keep that torch burning brightly until the return of Christ Jesus.

In addition, the Holy Spirit was sent into our hearts at Confirmation to help set us on fire. "He who is on fire cannot sit on a chair."

So, as Christians on fire, we have to inflame people to care, to serve, and to bless one another with all the gifts of Faith. We should allow that fire to burn off the impurities in us and to bring out the purity of the gold and silver within us.

August—Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Religious Education News



Registration will take place this week on **August 18th, 19th, and 20th, from 2 to 6 p.m., AND ON August 21st from 9 a.m. to 1 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 (9/10/2025). Please keep referring to this Parish Bulletin for updates. Thank you, **Barb Dalton, Director of Religious Education / (541) 410-3720.**

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Mexican Martyrs' Relics

Mexican Martyrs' Relic Veneration Service at St. Patrick's Church in Madras, OR, is on **Tuesday, August 19th:**

5:00 p.m.	Veneration
6:00 p.m.	Holy Mass—bilingual
6:45 p.m.	Veneration Service
8:00 p.m.	Retrieve the Relics

And on **Wednesday, August 20th, with a Mass at 12:15 p.m.** at the Historic St. Francis Church in Bend, with a Veneration Service after Mass.

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Stress in Your Marriage?

This is the last week to sign up for Retrouvaille!

The program is for married couples who feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some individuals experience coldness and simply shut down, while others face conflict and arguments, and they struggle to change the situation or communicate effectively with their spouses.

Retrouvaille is for any couple wanting to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/> for testimonials, confidential information, or to register for the **Friday, August 22nd, to Sunday, August 24th,** event in Canby, Oregon. Or send an email to: portland@retrouvaille.org or call (503) 225-9191.

OCIA—Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

This program prepares candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. We welcome new members into the Catholic Church through a process of education, faith sharing, and rituals known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). This process includes prayer, study, and discussion.

Several Rites, which occur within the Mass, are part of this process. The OCIA is organized into a series of ceremonial steps and learning periods, culminating in full initiation through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

- ◆ Do you know anyone who would like to become a Catholic?
- ◆ Do you know a Catholic who needs Confirmation?
- ◆ Do you want to know more about the Catholic religion?

OCIA classes will start in **September.** They will be available in English and Spanish. Visit the Parish Office to pick up a registration form or for more details.

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St. Joseph's 75th Jubilee

St. Joseph Church is 75! We will have a Jubilee Celebration on **Sunday, September 14th. There will be a bilingual Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Dedication and Reception Lunch at 12:30 p.m.** We need many volunteers for this event. If you'd like to help, please contact the Parish Office.



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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us—and persevere in running the race that lies before us—while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus."

Learn to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus in your marriage at the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience, taking place on **Friday, October 24th, to Sunday, October 26th,** in Beaverton, Oregon.

To apply for your WWME experience, or find other dates, please visit rediscoverthespark.org.

For information about WWME, call (503) 704-0836, or send an email to: reservations@rediscoverthespark.org.