

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Elizabeth of Hungary"

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, also known as St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, was born in Hungary on July 7, 1207, to Hungarian King Andrew II and Gertrude of Merania. From the moment her life started, she was burdened with responsibilities that came with being a royal.

While Elizabeth was very young, her father arranged her marriage to Ludwig IV of Thuringia, a German nobleman. Because of this plan, Elizabeth was sent away at the age of four to receive her education at the court of the Landgrave of Thuringia.

Elizabeth's mother, Gertrude, was murdered in 1213 when Elizabeth was just six years old. According to history, the murder was carried out by Hungarian noblemen because of the conflict between Germans and Hungarian nobles. From that point on, Elizabeth's outlook on life and death dramatically changed, and she turned to prayer in her pursuit of peace.

Happiness returned to her young life in 1221 when she was officially married to Ludwig, whom she loved deeply. The couple had three beautiful children; two of them became members of nobility, and the third entered religious life, becoming an abbess of a German convent.

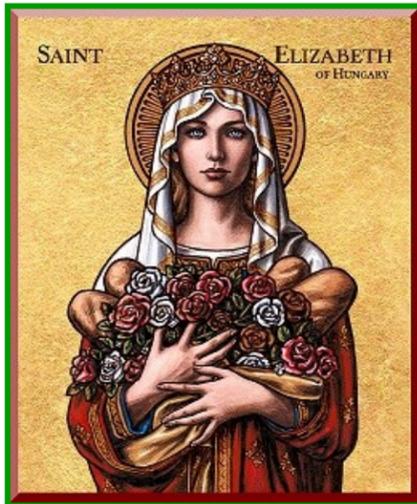
Elizabeth continued to live a life dedicated to prayer and helping the poor. Ludwig, now one of the rulers of Thuringia, supported all of Elizabeth's religious efforts even though she was part of the royal court.

She began to lead a simple, austere life, practiced penance, and committed herself to charitable works. She used her royal status to further her charitable mission.

In 1223, Franciscan friars arrived in Thuringia and taught 16-year-old Elizabeth all about Francis of Assisi's ideals. She then decided to live her life in his image. She wore simple clothing and dedicated time each day to deliver bread to hundreds of poor people in her land. Ludwig and Elizabeth had significant political power and showed remarkable generosity toward the poor.

In 1226, when disease and floods hit Thuringia, Elizabeth began caring for the victims. It is said she even gave away the royal clothing and goods to those affected. Elizabeth built a hospital and provided for nearly a thousand poor people each day.

Elizabeth's life was filled with love and faith. However, tragedy struck when Ludwig died from illness in 1227. It is said that upon hearing the news, she said, "He is dead. He is dead. It is to me as if the whole world died today!" His remains were laid to rest at the Abbey of Reinhardsbrunn, and Elizabeth vowed never to remarry and to live a life like a nun, despite pressure from relatives.



Her vows included celibacy and a commitment to complete obedience to her confessor and spiritual director, Master Conrad of Marburg. His treatment of Elizabeth was very strict and often harsh. He held her to a standard that many thought impossible to reach. He administered physical beatings and sent her children away. Nonetheless, she remained loyal to her vow, even offering to cut off her own nose so she would be too ugly for any man to desire.

In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Third Order of St. Francis. After receiving her dowry, Elizabeth founded a hospital in honor of St. Francis, where she personally cared for the sick. She tended to the ill and supported the poor.

Elizabeth's life was deeply devoted to God and to her charitable work. She died at the age of 24 on November 17, 1231, in Marburg, Hesse.

One of her most famous miracles happened while she was still alive—the miracle of roses. It is said that during one of her many secret trips delivering bread to the poor, Ludwig encountered her and asked questions to dispel suspicions that she was stealing treasures from the castle. He requested her to reveal what was under her cloak, and when she did, a vision of white and red roses appeared. To Ludwig, this signified God's protection. In other accounts, it was her brother-in-law who found her. Elizabeth's story is one of the earliest that links Christian saints with roses.

Another living miracle involved a leper lying in the bed she shared with her husband. Her mother-in-law discovered that Elizabeth had placed a leper in the bed and, enraged, informed Ludwig. Annoyed by the situation, Ludwig removed the bedclothes, and instantly the "Almighty God opened the eyes of his soul, and instead of a leper he saw the figure of Christ crucified stretched upon the bed."

After her death, miraculous healings started happening at her graveside near her hospital. Examinations were conducted for those who had been healed from 1232 to 1235. The investigations, along with testimony from Elizabeth's handmaidens and companions, and the widespread popularity she enjoyed, provided sufficient grounds for her canonization. Pope Gregory IX canonized her on May 27, 1235.

St. Elizabeth's feast day is celebrated on November 17th. She is the patron saint of bakers, beggars, brides, charities, children who have died, homeless people, hospitals, the Sisters of Mercy, and widows. St. Elizabeth is often depicted with a basket of bread to show her devotion to the poor and hungry. She is also portrayed in honor of the "Miracle of Roses" and the "Crucifix in the Bed."

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
November 16, 2025 † 33rd 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

OCIA ♦ Jim Friese / OCIA (Spanish) ♦ Yurizet Villasana

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 / READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

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| Monday | 11/17/2025 | 8:00 am | Lila Gerke (D) | 1 MC 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43 |
| Tuesday | 11/18/2025 | 8:00 am | Kathleen Withrow (L) | 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10 |
| Wednesday | 11/19/2025 | 12:00 pm | Clarence Avila (D) | 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28 |
| Thursday | 11/20/2025 | 8:00 am | Bishop Liam Cary (L) | 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44 |
| Friday | 11/21/2025 | 12:00 pm | Clark Hay (D) | 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48 |
| Saturday | 11/22/2025 | 5:00 pm | Ethan Edgerly (L) | 2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43 |
| Sunday | 11/23/2025 | 10:00 am | St Joseph Parishioners (L) | 2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43 |

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

A MOTHER TELLS her 10-year-old son, “If you study hard all year and earn passing grades, next summer I will buy you a new bicycle.” In other words, if her son does not study hard and does not earn passing grades, he will not receive a new bicycle next summer. A man goes to a store and tells the manager, “If you can get me the carpet I want, I will buy it from you.” In other words, if the store manager cannot get the carpet, the man will not buy it.

Have you noticed that by reversing what is being said, we often understand it better? For example, Jesus said, “By your endurance you will gain your souls” [Lk. 21:19]. Reversing these words, we get, “If you do not endure, you will lose your souls.” This highlights two crucial points: first, the need to endure; second, the salvation of the soul. The first is essential to achieve the second. Why must we endure to be saved?

Today's readings answer that by teaching us the importance of endurance: in righteousness (First Reading), in imitating the saints (Second Reading), and in living faith (Gospel). To summarize, we must persevere in our living faith through righteousness and imitation of the saints.

In the First Reading from Malachi [Mal. 4:1-2], the Lord says, “See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up,” says the Lord of hosts, ‘so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.’ ” [Mal. 4:1] This means evildoers will be wiped out completely. When they die, there will be no tombstone to mark their graves; over time, their memory will fade from the minds of future generations until no one remembers they ever existed. But those who revere the Most Holy Name of Jesus will be raised by the Lord, sanctified, and taken to a safe place where harm can never reach them—Heaven, the eternal realm where the Lord reigns as Shepherd.

During the Second Reading from 2 Thessalonians [2 Thess. 3:7-12], we hear St. Paul's strong words for those who fail to imitate the saints: he admonishes the disorderly, saying they should work to support themselves [2 Thess. 3:10]. Why were some unwilling to work? Like today, some believed Jesus was about to return and establish His Kingdom, so why bother working? It seemed easier to wait for Jesus to fix everything. But that's wrong! Living in idleness, they became bored with themselves and meddlesome, engaging in gossip, rumors, slander—things that lead to discord and division, neglecting productive work for God's glory. St. Paul commands and urges



them, in the Lord Jesus, to work quietly and support themselves [2 Thess. 3:12]. Every Christian capable of working must do so, not relying on others' income or wealth. His intent is not to be harsh but to restore order to the church where disorder had entered.

Reviewing today's Gospel [Luke 21:5-19], Jesus talks about Jerusalem's fall. While describing this event, people thought it meant the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

As Jesus neared the end of His earthly ministry, many followers recognized Him as the Messiah and wanted to crown Him king. When He spoke about destruction or war, they assumed His reign was near. But they were mistaken because “The Kingdom of Jesus was not of this world” [Jn. 18:36].

This false idea has continued through generations. Some people pick parts of Gospel chapters and take them out of context. For example, Luke 19 repeats Matthew 24 and Mark 13, where Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen” [Lk. 21:32; Mt. 24:34; Mk. 13:30]. This was about events in Jesus' lifetime; 40 years later, those alive then saw His prophecies come true.

Anyone today expecting these events to happen soon is mistaken; they will not. As Paul said, we should not wait idly but continue working in the Holy Spirit, awaiting Christ's return, the Judgment, and Resurrection. During this waiting, we must persevere through suffering, taking up our crosses as Jesus did, to reach eternal glory. Jesus warned us, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and ‘The time is near!’ Do not follow them” [Lk. 21:8]. When Jesus said, “By your endurance you will gain your souls” [Lk. 21:19], He was referring to the suffering the early Church endured after His crucifixion, death, and Resurrection. He warned that some families would be divided, with some accepting Christ and others rejecting Him, which could lead to martyrdom or betrayal.

Although this prophecy was for His time, His words still apply today: we are called to persevere in our faith, as is repeatedly echoed in the New Testament. “To those who patiently seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life” [Rom. 2:7, 5:3-5, 8:25, 14:4]. Some of us have lighter crosses, living blessed lives, but others face heavy burdens from persecution—fearing harm or death for their faith in places like England, Africa, Indonesia, or the Philippines. We must pray for them to persevere, so they are not among those who deny Christ. As we celebrate the Holy Mass, let us pray for each other to endure until the end and achieve our salvation.

November—The Month of the Souls in Purgatory

Souls in Purgatory

IN HONOR OF NOVEMBER BEING DEDICATED TO THE SOULS IN PURGATORY, PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Robert Maska, Bob & Doris Thompson, Don Thompson, John Thompson, James Thompson, Charles & Lorraine Popish, Earl Miller, Murra Miller, Jim Miller, Susan McClintock, Matthew Schiedler, Nancy Dorr, Andrew Pine, Jake Lewis, Shayne Benson, BJ Barrus, William Barrus, Patricia Carroll, Patrick Carroll, Peter Carroll, Cathy Anderson, Albina Stagnoli, Sami Pedersen, Carol Moore, Tomas Valerio, Maria Luisa Diaz, Mario Valerio, Pablo Reynoso, Nemoria Sanchez Lopez, Fidel Villasana Posada, Eric Soto, Pedro Olguin, Maria Sanchez Lopez, Odilon Sanchez, Ignacia Madrina de Yuri, Donna Waters, Pete Waters, Kim Waters, John Marsh, Prospero Villagomez, Francisco Vargas, Socorro Martinez, Cecilia Vargas, Amparo Vargas, Juana Murillo, Families of Selmer Swanson, Families of Frank Vetter, Maria Valdovinos, Benigno Ruiz, Elena Vargas, Ilario Ruiz, Modesta Ruiz, Refujio Vargas, LaVern West, Earlene & Emmett Johnson, Bob & Rita Rodgers, Bob & Janet Andrew, Neil Rodgers, & Lloyd Rodgers

Liturgical Meeting

There will be a liturgical meeting on **Tuesday, November 18**, at 4 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

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Acolyte Installation

On **Sunday, November 23rd**, there will be a bilingual Mass at 10 a.m. **Bishop Hennen** will be here for the Rite of Installation. We have five new Acolytes being installed.

We will have a potluck lunch afterward, so please bring your favorite salad, hot dish, or dessert.

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3rd Annual St. Joseph's Thanksgiving

Father Joseph is hosting our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our parishioners on **Thursday, November 27th**. If you aren't traveling, having a large family gathering, or are alone, you are welcome to join. We don't want anyone to spend Thanksgiving alone. There is no charge, but we need to know by **Tuesday, November 18th** if you plan to attend so we can prepare enough food.

Please call Darlene in the Parish Office at: (541) 447-6475 or email: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com. Celebrate with your parish family!

Advent Penance Service

Our Advent Penance Service is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17th**, at 6 p.m. All students who have received Communion are expected to attend the Advent Penance Service with their parents.

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Retrouaille

Not willing to give up on your marriage? There is hope!

Retrouaille is a program designed to help struggling couples restore and strengthen their marriage. It helps a husband and wife reconnect by rekindling the love, trust, and commitment that first brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting or even broken marriages and facilitating reconciliation for couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouaille is a peer ministry made up of volunteer couples who can teach you the tools for healthy communication, building intimacy, and healing—just as they have done in their own marriages. Join Oregon Retrouaille as we host a weekend for couples struggling in their marriage, led by couples who have been through it themselves. The event takes place **January 30–February 1, 2026**, in Canby, Oregon.

For confidential information or to register for the program call 1 (503) 225-9191 or email to: StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org or visit us at Helpourmarriage.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

**David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyer
Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ 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 ♦ Sam LeFevre and the LeFevre family ♦ Joanie Holland ♦ Kerry Loving**