

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“Biography of St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552)”

Feast Day: December 3rd

Patron Saint of: Missionaries † Missions of Asia † Navigators

St. Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1506, at the Castle of Xavier in the Kingdom of Navarre (present-day Spain). He came from a noble Basque family. His early years were marked by political turmoil as the Kingdom of Navarre was caught between France and Spain. Despite these challenges, Francis received a strong education, eventually traveling to Paris in 1525 to study at the University of Paris, one of the most prestigious centers of learning in Europe.

There, he became a brilliant student and lecturer in philosophy—and it was in Paris that he would meet a man who would forever change the course of his life: St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Ignatius recognized Francis' gifts but also his ambition. Through persistent friendship and spiritual accompaniment, Ignatius helped Francis to understand Jesus' words more personally—especially the question: “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul?” This transformed Francis' heart.

In 1534, he and six companions, including Ignatius, took vows of poverty and chastity and devoted themselves to the service of the Church. This group would become the nucleus of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), officially approved in 1540. Francis became one of its first members and closest collaborators.

Almost immediately after the Jesuits were founded, King John III of Portugal asked for missionaries to evangelize his overseas territories. Ignatius sent Francis.

Francis left Europe in 1541 and traveled for more than a year before reaching Goa, India, the center of Portuguese missions. His work was extraordinary:

In India (1542–1549)

Francis preached tirelessly among the poor, the sick, sailors, prisoners, and children. He baptized thousands, restored many lapsed Christians, and brought new vigor to the local Church. He taught simple catechisms, often using songs and gestures. He established schools, encouraged justice in governance, and lived simply among the people.



In Southeast Asia (1549–1552)

After India, Francis traveled to Malacca, the Moluccas (Indonesia), and Sri Lanka, spreading the Gospel wherever he went.

In 1549, he sailed to Japan, becoming one of the first Christian missionaries to reach the country. He learned the language, adopted Japanese customs where appropriate, and translated Christian teachings.

His preaching won many converts, including members of the noble class.

Though seeds were planted slowly, his mission laid the foundation for a Church that would later produce countless martyrs.

Desire to Evangelize China

Francis' final and burning desire was to enter mainland China. He was convinced that evangelizing China would open doors for Christianity throughout Asia.

In 1552, he sailed to the island of Sanchian (Shangchuan) near the Chinese coast, hoping for entry into the empire. However, weakened by years of travel, hardship, and sickness, he died on the island on December 3, 1552, at age 46—alone, praying, and longing to reach the people he had hoped to serve.

Canonization and Legacy

St. Francis Xavier was canonized in 1622, along with St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Ávila, St. Philip Neri, and St. Isidore the Farmer.

He is often called the greatest missionary since St. Paul, not only because of the number of baptisms he performed—estimated in the tens of thousands—but because of:

- ◆ His method of entering cultures respectfully.
- ◆ His insistence on education and charity.
- ◆ His ability to adapt the Gospel to local customs without compromising its essence.
- ◆ His tireless zeal and deep personal prayer.

Today, his incorrupt arm is kept in Rome, and his body lies in Goa, India, venerated by millions.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

November 30, 2025 † 1st Sunday of Advent

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

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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

Monday	12/01/2025	8:00 am	Lila Gerke (D)	Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	12/02/2025	8:00 am	Albina Stagnoli (D)	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	12/03/2025	12:00 pm	Sami Pedersen (D)	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	12/04/2025	8:00 am	Cecelia Marquez (L)	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	12/05/2025	12:00 pm	Amanda Valdez (L)	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	12/06/2025	5:00 pm	Brett Edgerly (L)	Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Sunday	12/07/2025	9:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12
Sunday	12/07/2025	12:00 pm	Claudio Hernandez Lopez (D)	Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY WE BEGIN a brand-new liturgical year. The season of Advent opens before us like a beautiful doorway—inviting us to pause, to breathe, and to turn our hearts once again toward the Lord who comes. Advent is a time of waiting, yes, but it is also a time of awakening.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a strong and loving reminder: "Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

These words are not meant to frighten us. They are meant to awaken us.

Jesus is telling us that the most dangerous thing in our spiritual life is not making mistakes—it is falling asleep, becoming spiritually careless, drifting away little by little.

We all know how easy it is to fall asleep spiritually. We get busy with work, family, schedules, and responsibilities. We become distracted by our phones, our problems, our worries. Advent invites us to lift our eyes again and remember what truly matters. It is not a season of pressure; it is a season of grace. God invites us to wake up from routine, to look at life with fresh eyes, and to make room for Him.

St. Paul, in the second reading, says: "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. . . . Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." This is powerful language. The "works of darkness" are not only big sins—they are also the small habits that slowly pull us away from God: impatience, harsh words, lack of prayer, resentment, selfishness, gossip, and indifference to the poor. Advent invites us to let these go, to step into the light of Christ, and to begin again.

The first candle of the Advent wreath is the candle of hope. Hope is not simply wishing that things will get better. Christian hope is confidence that



Christ is already at work in our lives, even when we cannot see it. Hope is knowing that God is faithful. Hope is believing that the darkness will never overcome the light.

Every year Advent reminds us of three important comings of Christ: His first coming—born in Bethlehem, humble and poor, a child among us. His coming today—in the Eucharist, in prayer, in the sacraments, and in every person we serve. His coming at the end of time—when He will gather all creation into His kingdom of peace.

This triple coming gives meaning to our waiting. We are not waiting for something uncertain. We are waiting for Someone who has already come and continues to come every day.

When Jesus says, "Stay awake," He is inviting us to live each day with purpose. To be awake means:

- ◆ To be aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of our day.
- ◆ To choose kindness, forgiveness, and patience even when it is difficult.
- ◆ To pray a little more, to slow down, to listen.
- ◆ To serve those who are in need—because Christ often comes to us in disguise.

Advent is a journey, and the first step is always the same: wake up. Wake up to God's love. Wake up to His presence. Wake up to the beauty and meaning of life. Wake up to the hope He brings. As we light the first candle today, let us ask the Lord for the grace to stay awake—not with fear, but with joyful expectation. May this season renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and prepare us to celebrate the birth of Christ with deep gratitude and love.

*Come, Lord Jesus—
may we be ready when you come.*



November 30th—The 1st Sunday of Advent



ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Mass Times	Event
Monday	12/08/25	8 a.m./6 p.m.	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday	12/13/25	10 a.m.	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday	12/17/25	6 p.m.	Advent Penance Service
Wednesday	12/17/25	4 p.m.	Nativity Play by our Religious Education Students
Wednesday	12/24/25	6 p.m.	Christmas Vigil Bilingual
Thursday	12/25/25	9 a.m.	Christmas Mass
Thursday	01/01/26	8 a.m./6 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The 1st Week of Advent—The Candle of Hope

The first candle lit in the first week of Advent is purple. This candle represents hope. In the first week of Advent, we remember the Prophet Isaiah, who anticipated the birth of Jesus. This first candle also symbolizes the anticipation of the Messiah's arrival.

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Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8th, is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 13th, is the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" celebration. It will begin at 6 a.m. for *Manañitas. Café y pan dulce* will follow the Rosary in the church basement. Mass will be at 11 a.m., and the celebration will be held in the Parish Hall after Mass.

A Novena will be observed 9 days before the festival. The Rosary will be held at 6 p.m. from December 4th to December 12th.

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Directory Update

Because of unexpected issues, our directory has been delayed again. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Religious Retirement

Aging religious need your help. "Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 81. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service.

On the weekend of December 13th and 14th, there will be a special collection. Please give to the Religious Retirement Fund.

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Live Nativity

Please come and see our Religious Education students perform "The Savior's Birth—A Nativity Skit" on Wednesday, Dec. 17th, at 4 p.m., in the Parish Hall. There will be cookies and cider with Santa after the program. We would appreciate donations of cookies from our parishioners. You can leave them in the kitchen in the days leading up to the play. Thank you.

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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 with their parents.

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