

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"St. Leo the Great"

St. Leo the Great, also known as Pope Saint Leo I, was born into a Roman aristocratic family. His response to God's call transformed him into one of the greatest popes in Christian history. In fact, he was the first pope to be given the title "the Great."

Pope Leo was deeply committed to his role as pope. He considered it a privilege to sit in the Chair of St. Peter, serving as the servant of the servants of God.

He worked very hard as "Peter's successor." Over time, Leo earned a reputation as one of the best administrative popes of the early Church. But he was much more than that.

During his reign, he tirelessly fought to preserve the unity of the Church and its faith—and to protect his people from invasions by armies aiming to destroy the Church and the Christian influence on the culture she promoted.

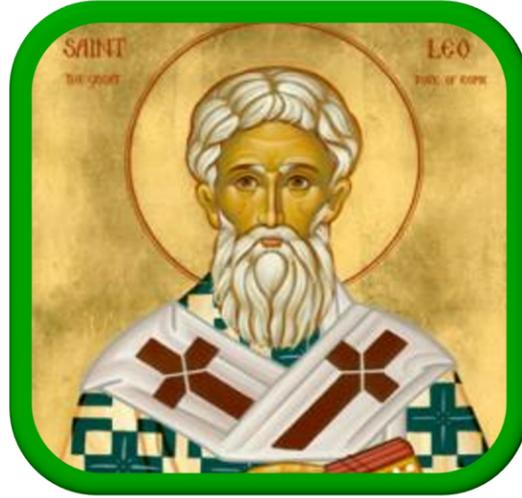
Pope Leo I centered his pontificate on four main areas. He consistently worked to oppose and eliminate numerous heresies threatening the Western Church. Among them was Pelagianism, which involved denying Original Sin and failing to recognize the importance of God's grace for salvation. The core of the Pelagian error was the mistaken idea that we can improve ourselves without God's grace and help. The other major heresy threatening the Church was Manichaeism.

This heresy denied the goodness of the human body, creation, and even matter itself. It failed to understand the full implications of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. In fact, it degraded the human body.

In short, it saw everything material as evil. That contradicts the teachings of both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. It also rejects the core message of the Gospel.

During this same period, some Eastern Christians started questioning the Church's teaching on the relationship between Jesus' humanity and divinity and how to explain this Christian mystery.

In response, Leo resolved the doctrinal disagreement with a letter that clearly outlined the Church's official teaching on Jesus Christ as One Person possessing both a human and divine nature that cannot be separated. This deeply thoughtful and theologically insightful letter



reconciled the conflicting parties. It maintained the core teaching regarding Jesus Christ. Lastly, it affirmed the fullness of what occurred during the Incarnation and its implications for all men and women baptized into Jesus Christ.

To this day, Leo's letter is celebrated and praised, not only for bringing peace but also for defending the fullness of Christian truth and doctrine. It helped the entire Church to more fully embrace the core of the Gospel message about who Jesus is—and who we can become in Him, as we cooperate with grace.

Along with his strong faith and remarkable theological wisdom, Pope Leo I was also brave. He led Rome's defense against Attila the Hun's barbarian invasion of Italy in 452 by acting as a peacemaker. Pope St. Leo dedicated much of his focus to the pastoral care of his people. He motivated and supported charitable efforts in parts of Rome deeply impacted by famine, refugees, and poverty. To him, being a Christian was not just about accepting the Gospel intellectually, but living it out in a world full of pain, suffering, and needs.

Pope Leo I was known for his deeply spiritual sermons. With his words, Leo connected with the daily needs and interests of his people. It was his reputation as an "instrument of the call to holiness, well-versed in Scripture and ecclesiastical awareness" that helped him become one of the greatest popes in Church history.

Leo died on November 10, 461. He wished to be buried as close as possible to St. Peter's tomb. His body was initially placed at the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica but was later moved inside the basilica in 688.

Pope Leo I's papacy is considered one of the most significant in Church history. Almost 100 sermons and 150 letters from Leo I have been preserved; one of these is still used today in the Office of Readings on Christmas.

In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV declared Leo I a Doctor of the Church. Pope Leo I clearly believed that everything he did and said as pope represented Jesus Christ and St. Peter. He carried out his office and vocation with strong faith, great pastoral care, and excellence. His feast day is celebrated on November 10th.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
November 9, 2025 † Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

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| 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

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 | 11/10/2025 | | | Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6 |
| Tuesday | 11/11/2025 | | | Wis 2:23-3:9; Lk 17:7-10 |
| Wednesday | 11/12/2025 | | | Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19 |
| Thursday | 11/13/2025 | | | Wis 7:22b-8:1; Lk 17:20-25 |
| Friday | 11/14/2025 | | | Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37 |
| Saturday | 11/15/2025 | 5:00 pm | St Joseph Parishioners (L) | Mal 3:19-20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19 |
| Sunday | 11/16/2025 | 11:00 am | Ladislao Robles, Eduardo & Cecilia Ortiz (L) | Mal 3:19-20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19 |

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily—Gospel of John 2:13-22

TODAY'S GOSPEL PRESENTS a powerful account of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem. He drove out the merchants and moneychangers with righteous anger over the unjust commercialization of a House of Prayer and the exploitation of poor pilgrims in the name of religion.

The merchants charged excessive prices for animals used in sacrifices, and the moneychangers imposed unfair commissions for exchanging pagan coins for Temple currency. The Temple Jesus cleansed was the one in Jerusalem, originally built by Solomon in 966 BC and reconstructed by Zerubbabel in 515 BC after the Babylonians destroyed it.

It was last renovated by King Herod the Great, a project he began in 20 BC. The abuses that enraged Jesus were 1) turning a sacred place of prayer into a noisy marketplace, and 2) the unfair business tactics of animal merchants and moneychangers, encouraged by the Temple authorities. Therefore, Jesus made a whip of cords and drove away the animals and moneychangers, quoting Zechariah the prophet, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace" (Zechariah 14:21).

Catholic commentary on John 2:13-22 highlights the "cleansing of the temple" as a symbolic act of zeal for God's house and a prophetic statement about the coming of the new temple, which is Jesus' own body.

The passage is seen as a confrontation of commercialism corrupting worship, where Jesus defends the poor and the sacredness of God's presence. It calls be-



lievers to be a living temple of God, cleansed of sin and commercialism, through ongoing spiritual renewal of their hearts and souls.

Jesus' actions are driven by "zeal for your house," as quoted from Psalm 69:9, revealing His righteous anger toward the corruption within the Temple.

The merchants and money changers were exploiting worshippers, turning God's house into a "marketplace" and taking advantage of the poor with inflated prices. This act serves as a powerful metaphor for today, calling for the removal of commercialism and distractions from worship and spiritual life.

Jesus' response to the Jews demanding a sign is the prophecy, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it." The Jews misunderstand, thinking of the physical Temple that took 46 years to build. However, Jesus is speaking of the "temple of his Body," referring to His death and resurrection.

This clarifies that the proper dwelling place of God is not a physical building but Jesus Himself, and by extension, the Church, which is His living body on earth.

The passage reminds us that the Church and each believer are called to be a living temple, free from the impurities of commercialism, greed, and sin. Just as the physical temple needed cleansing, so do our hearts and souls require ongoing spiritual work and renewal. The focus is on preparing our hearts to be receptive to God's Word and presence, rather than being distracted by external things or material gain.

November—The Month of the Souls in Purgatory

Father Joseph's Ordination Anniversary



On Sunday, November 16th, there will be a Bilingual Mass at 11 a.m. Immediately afterward, we will have lunch to celebrate Father Joseph's 41st Anniversary. Please join us in the Parish Hall as we honor our Pastor.

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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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Raffles

The Hispanic Ministry is also holding a raffle for a 7-quart Crockpot. And there is a chance to win a 50-inch VIZIO Smart TV. Tickets for both items cost \$10.

The drawing for both the TV and the Crockpot will take place on Sunday, November 23rd. You can buy tickets for the raffle items at the Parish Office.

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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

Help Your Marriage: Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Retrouaille is for any couple who wants to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.



Visit helpourmarriage.org for testimonials, confidential information, or to register for the January 30-February 1, 2026, weekend in Canby, Oregon. You can also email StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org or call (503) 225-9191.

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Bishop's Annual Appeal

We have reached 97% of our goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal! A sum of \$685,308 has been contributed by 1,727 families. A special congratulations goes out to the 27 parishes that have already met or exceeded their target goals:

Holy Family, Arock, Holy Family, Christmas Valley, Holy Redeemer, La Pine, Holy Trinity, Sunriver, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chiloquin, Our Lady of the Snows, Gilchrist, Our Lady of the Valley, La Grande, St. Anthony, North Powder, St. Catherine, Fossil, St. Charles, Juntura, St. Francis, Milton-Freewater, St. Helen, Pilot Rock, St. James, Bly, St. John, Paisley, ST. JOSEPH, PRINEVILLE, St. Katherine, Enterprise, St. Mary, Elgin, St. Mary, Hood River, St. Mary, Pendleton, St. Mary, Wasco, St. Patrick, Madras, St. Peter, The Dalles, St. Pius X, Wallowa, St. Richard, Adel, St. Thomas, Crane, St. Thomas, Plush, St. William, Ione.

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Save the Date!

Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei High School invites you to our Annual Vision Dinner—"A Joyful Adventure" on Saturday, February 7th, at the Bend Elks Lodge. Enjoy an evening of fellowship & inspiration! Learn more at chestertonmaterdei.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