

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Lucy"

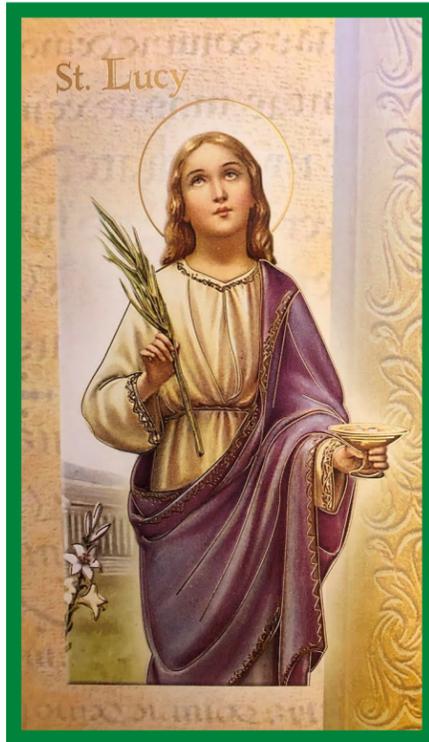
St. Lucy is a virgin and martyr of Syracuse in Sicily, whose feast is celebrated on December 13th.

According to tradition, St. Lucy was born to rich and noble parents in the year 283. Her father was of Roman origin, but his early death left her dependent on her mother, whose name, Eutychia, suggests a Greek heritage.

Like so many of the early martyrs, Lucy had consecrated her virginity to God, and she hoped to devote all her worldly goods to the service of the poor.

Her mother, Eutychia, arranged a marriage for her, but for three years she managed to postpone the marriage. Lucy prayed at the tomb of St. Agatha to change her mother's mind about her faith. As a result, her mother's long illness was cured, and she consented to Lucy's desire to live for God.

St. Lucy's rejected bridegroom, Paschasius, denounced Lucy as a Christian. The governor planned to force her into prostitution, but when guards went to fetch her, they could not move



her, even when they hitched her to a team of oxen.

The governor then ordered her to be killed instead.

After a gruesome torture which included having her eyes torn out, she was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set afire, but the fire quickly died out.

She prophesied against her persecutors, and she was then executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger.

According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius that he would be punished.

When the governor heard this, he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes.

However, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them.

When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

This, along with the meaning of her name ("light" or "lucid"), led to her patronage of eyes—the blind, those with eye troubles, and other eye ailments.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
December 21, 2025 † 4th 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

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

Monday	12/22/2025	8:00 am	Helen Husar (D)	1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday	12/23/2025	8:00 am	Walter Husar (D)	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday	12/24/2025	6:00 pm	Clark Hay (D)	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Thursday	12/25/2025	9:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Friday	12/26/2025	12:00 pm	Sami Pedersen (D)	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday	12/27/2025	5:00 pm	Eleanor Higgs (D)	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15
Sunday	12/28/2025	9:00 am	Sam LeFevre (L)	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15
Sunday	12/28/2025	12:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Today's Homily

EVERYONE HAS, at times during life, experienced moments of doubt, confusion and anxiety.

In this gospel story we find Joseph in a state of embarrassment because Mary, his betrothed, is with child. Being a man of honor he felt the right thing to do was to break his ties and divorce her informally.

At the last moment an angel appeared to him in a dream explaining that the child Mary would give birth to was the work of the Holy Spirit. He was told not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife, and to adopt her child as his own.

Today's Gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Hence, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David.

As we focus on today's readings in which Joseph plays a role, we can glean some insights and lessons about God and our path of discipleship.

First, as we hear in the story, God invites Joseph's cooperation on his plan of salvation. We see this in Scripture time and again, and it is true in our lives as well.

If we were in God's seat, we might choose to force people into submission and to comply with our will, but this is not how God operates. God wants to win us over



and wants to see us participate in the building up of his kingdom.

Second, what is the obstacle the angel identifies in the heart of Joseph? Fear. Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife into your home, says the Angel. Do not be afraid to do this strange thing that runs counter to what you know, to what seems sensible, and even just.

Might this be true in our own lives? Might we be afraid to move forward with a choice we know in our hearts is what God wants us to do, but hesitant because it just doesn't make sense from a worldly perspective?

As Advent draws to a close, let us spend some time pondering these two questions: How is God inviting me to cooperate with the slow work of building up his kingdom—in my own heart, in my family and friendships—and in the community? And examining my heart, how is fear posing an obstacle to my cooperation?

As we ponder these questions, let us ask St. Joseph to intercede for us, and show us how to respond with graciousness and humility—with trust and courage—to the Lord's invitation.

Joseph was a man who gave everything in the service of Christ. His example gives us courage to face problems in a similar spirit and to keep on believing when all seems hopeless.

Along with Mary, he is singled out as the one who can best prepare us for Christmas. We are asked to receive Christ as freely and fully into our hearts as he did, and make the major decisions of our lives based on what was given to us from God.

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

The 4th Week of Advent—The Candle of Love



On the 4th and final Sunday of Advent, the purple candle is lit. The 4th candle is also called the **Angel's Candle**.

During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the boundless love that God has for us, which is revealed in the birth of His Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love shared with us by the Angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

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Las Posadas

Join the Hispanic Ministry as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, from now until **December 24th at 6 p.m.** Our Hispanic ministry would love to invite anyone who would like to attend our evening events as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. For more information, please call **Ruby** at (541) 350-8833 or **Yuri** at (509) 910-6798, or contact the parish office.

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A Christmas Gift from Fr. Joseph

For Christmas, **Fr. Joseph** is gifting parishioners the book, *Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy*, by Matthew Kelly and *Los Siete Pilares de la Espiritualidad Católica*, también por Matthew Kelly. These are available in the narthex.

Christmas Brunch

Fr. Joseph is hosting a Christmas Potluck Brunch on **December 25th at noon**. If you're spending the holiday alone and would like to join us, you're warmly invited. We aim to ensure that no one is alone this Christmas. Please bring a favorite dish to share, and we will provide the turkey and ham.

Please call the parish office at (541) 447-6475, or email stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com to let us know if you will be coming.

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Pro-Life Coordinator

St. Joseph Parish is seeking a new Pro-Life Coordinator. If you are interested, contact **Darlene** in the parish office.

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Calendars and Offertory Envelopes

The 2026 Offertory envelopes are in the narthex of the church. If you do not currently receive envelopes but would like to, please get in touch with the parish office. The 2026 calendars are also available in the narthex.

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Poinsettias

Please do not water the poinsettias! A designated parishioner will take care of that. We aim to keep them beautiful for everyone's enjoyment.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger
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 ♦ Tara Lamb

Christmas Mass Schedule



Day	Date	Mass Times	Event
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