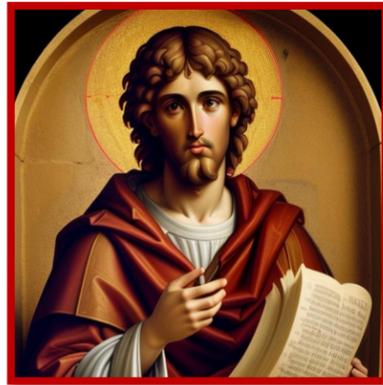


Fr. Joseph's Corner

"St. John, the Apostle"

St. John, the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John is believed to be the longest-living Apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death.



said that all those who witnessed the miracle in the Colosseum were converted to Christianity. Emperor Domitian was known for his persecution of Christians.

John is known as the author of the Gospel of John and four other New Testament books—the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. The authorship of the Gospel is attributed to the "disciple whom Jesus loved," and John 21:24 claims the Gospel of John is based on the "Beloved Disciple's" testimony.

However, the true authorship has been debated since 200. In his Ecclesiastical History, Eusebius states that the First Epistle of John and the Gospel of John are agreed to be John's. Eusebius also states that the second and third epistles of John are not John the Apostle's.

In the Gospel of John, the phrase "the disciple whom Jesus loved" or "the Beloved Disciple" appears five times, but it is not used in any other New Testament accounts of Jesus.

John, along with Peter and James, was the only witness to the raising of the Daughter of Jairus and the closest witness to the Agony in Gethsemane. John was the one who reported to Jesus that they had "forbidden" a non-disciple from casting out demons in Jesus' name." This prompted Jesus to say, "He who is not against us is on our side."

John and Peter were the only two apostles Jesus sent to prepare for the final Passover meal, the Last Supper. During the meal, St. John sat next to Jesus, leaning on Him rather than lying along the couches.

John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother.

According to Church tradition, after the Assumption of Mary, John went to Ephesus. He was later banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek Island of Patmos, where he allegedly wrote the Book of Revelation. It is said that John was banished in the late 1st Century, during the reign of Emperor Domitian, after being plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffering no injuries. It is also

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he learned from his Divine Master and constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died in Ephesus after AD 98, and a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was later converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel, with an eagle symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel." In other icons, he is shown looking up to heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciple. The feast day of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, is celebrated on December 27th.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
December 28, 2025 † The Feast of the Holy Family Sunday

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

Day	Date	Time	Intention	Readings
Monday	12/29/2025	8:00 am	Jim Friese (L)	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday	12/30/2025	8:00 am	Carol Robertson (L)	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday	12/31/2025	6:00 pm	Dan Husar (L)	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday	01/01/2025	8:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Thursday	01/01/2026	6:00 pm	Sami Pedersen (D)	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday	01/02/2026	12:00 pm	Pierre Jones (D)	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Saturday	01/03/2026	5:00 pm	Callie & Brinlee Smith (L)	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Sunday	01/04/2026	9:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Sunday	01/04/2026	12:00 pm	Jose Vargas Hernandez (D)	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE SUNDAY AFTER Christmas is celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family. Christmas itself is the feast of God entering a family to stay with the humans. It appears that God thought it to be wise to start the decisive phase of salvation history from a family.

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the Church invites us to look at family life—not as a picture-perfect ideal, but as a place where God chooses to live and work.

When we hear the words “Holy Family,” we might imagine calm evenings, obedient children, and everything running smoothly. But the Gospel tells a more honest story. This family knew anxiety and confusion. Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus in fear for three days. Joseph had already faced misunderstanding, displacement, and the responsibility of protecting his family in a dangerous world. Mary carried mysteries in her heart she did not fully understand. Holiness, here, does not mean an absence of problems—it means faithfulness in the middle of them.

The Gospel shows us a very human moment: parents losing their child. Any parent or grandparent here knows that feeling—your heart drops, panic sets in, and nothing else matters until your child is safe. Mary and Joseph finally find Jesus in the temple, and Mary says words every parent has spoken in one way or another: “Son, why have you done this to us?” And Jesus responds in a way that doesn’t fully explain everything. Still, the Gospel ends with something quiet and powerful: “He went down with them . . . and was obedient to them.”

That single line says a lot. The Son of God chose obedience. He chose family life. He chose to grow “in wisdom, age, and grace” within an ordinary home. God could have saved the world in a thousand other ways—but He chose a family.

The first reading reminds us that family relationships are meant to be rooted in love, respect, and responsibility. “Whoever honors his father atones for sins.” “Kindness to a father will not be forgotten.” These words are not about perfection; they are about commitment. Family life is where we first learn how to



love, forgive, and sacrifice. It is often where we are hurt—but it is also where healing begins.

St. Paul, in the second reading, gives us a beautiful and very practical guide for family life: “Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” Notice that he doesn’t say, “If your family is easy.” He assumes families will need patience. He speaks about bearing with one another, forgiving one another, and letting love bind everything together. That’s real family life.

For families today, this feast is both comforting and challenging. Many families are under strain—financial pressures,

health concerns, distance between generations, misunderstandings, and sometimes deep wounds. Some families here today are not whole in the way they once were. Some carry grief. Some carry silence. And some are doing the best they can just to get through the week. The Feast of the Holy Family tells us this: God is not absent from your struggles. He is present right there.

Joseph teaches us quiet faithfulness. He speaks no words in Scripture, yet his actions speak loudly. He listens, he protects, he provides, and he trusts God even when the road ahead is unclear. Mary teaches us trust and reflection—she does not always understand, but she keeps things in her heart. Jesus teaches us obedience and growth—reminding us that family life is a place where we learn who we are and whose we are.

This feast also invites us to broaden our understanding of family. The Church herself is a family. In this parish, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are called to support one another, especially those who feel alone, forgotten, or overwhelmed. The Holy Family reminds us that love creates family—not just blood.

As we come to the Eucharist today, let us place our families on the altar—our joys and our struggles, our gratitude and our regrets. Ask the Holy Family to bless our homes with patience when we are tired, forgiveness when we are hurt, and faith when we are uncertain.

And let us remember this simple truth: holiness is not built in extraordinary moments alone, but in everyday acts of love—listening, forgiving, showing up, and staying faithful. That is how the Holy Family lived. And with God’s grace, that is how we are called to live, too.

AMEN.

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

A Christmas Gift from Father Joseph

For Christmas, Father Joseph is gifting parishioners the Matthew Kelly book “Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy.” Y “Los Siete Pilares de la Espiritualidad Católica.” These are available in the Narthex.

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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.

Calendars and Offertory Envelopes

The 2026 Offertory envelopes are now in the parish office. 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.

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January 1st, 2026

The Church commemorates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, which is regarded as her highest title. This feast marks the Octave Day of Christmas. Currently, only Christmas and Easter have an octave in the liturgical calendar. It is also a Holy Day of Obligation, with Masses scheduled at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. It is also the **World Day of Peace**. What a great way to begin the New Year!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Merry Christmas! Christ is the reason for the season. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter can help you make your marriage Christ-centered. Learn how at the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience, from **Friday, January 30th, to Sunday, February 1st**, in Beaverton, Oregon.

To apply for your WWME Experience or to search for other dates, please go to: rediscoverthespark.org.

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

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Diocese of Baker Men's Conferences in English & Spanish!

Join Catholic men from around the diocese for talks that inspire, conversations that strengthen, and prayer that helps us become the husbands, fathers, and brothers God is calling us to be.

Please join us in The Dalles on **Saturday, February 7th. Two (2) Conferences—One (1) Location.**

For more information and/or to register, go to: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference or call Bryce at (541) 388-4004.

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Save the Date!

The Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei Catholic 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 and inspiration! Learn more at chestertonmaterdei.org.

2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR