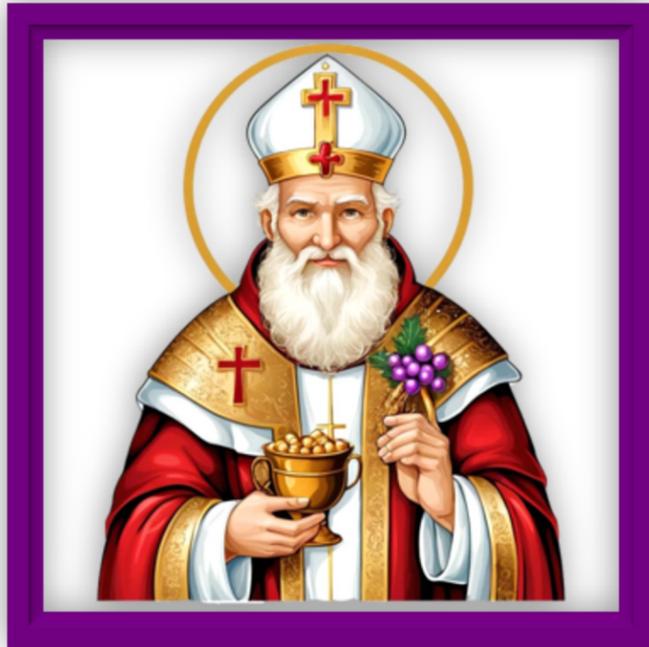


Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Nicholas"

St. Nicholas was born in the 3rd century in the village of Patara. At that time, the area was Greek, and it is now on Turkey's southern coast. His wealthy parents, who raised him as a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young.

Obedying Jesus' words to "Sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his entire inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God, and he was made Bishop of Myra while he was still a young man. He became known across the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors.

Perhaps the most famous story about St. Nicholas concerns his kindness toward a poor man who couldn't afford dowries for his three daughters, all of whom were of marriageable age. Instead of seeing them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly threw a bag of gold



through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, allowing the daughters to marry. Over time, this legend grew into the tradition of gift-giving on the saint's feast day. As a result, in English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, through a slip of the tongue, Santa Claus. He died on December 6, 343, in Myra, and was buried in his cathedral.

In the spring of 1087, sailors from Bari, fearing a Muslim invasion, managed to secretly carry away his relics from the cathedral and bring them to Bari, a port city on Italy's southeast coast.

An impressive church was then built over St. Nicholas' crypt.

To this day, pilgrims and tourists visit Bari's grand Basilica di San Nicola. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is said that, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most often depicted by Christian artists.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

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 ♦ Tara Lamb

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
December 7, 2025 † 2nd 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](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

Monday	12/08/2025	8:00 am	Sami Pedersen (D)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Monday	12/08/2025	6:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	12/09/2025	8:00 am	Ron Lattin (D)	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	12/10/2025	12:00 pm	Albina Stagnoli (D)	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	12/11/2025	8:00 am	Sam LeFevre (L)	Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	12/12/2025	12:00 pm	Sheila Lynn Kelly (D)	Zec 2:14-17; Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-47
Saturday	12/13/2025	5:00 pm	Children of Howard Tocher (L)	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Sunday	12/14/2025	9:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Sunday	12/14/2025	12:00 pm	Eduardo Gonzalez (D)	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

DEAR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS IN
CHRIST,

We are now in the 2nd Sunday of Advent, a season that calls us to wait, to hope, and to prepare. And today, the Church gives us a powerful guide for that preparation: John the Baptist—the voice crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

John does not whisper, and he doesn't speak politely. He shouts.

His message is urgent: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Why does he shout?

Because people were comfortable . . . perhaps too comfortable. John stands like an alarm clock—waking up a sleeping world. He reminds us that God is near, closer than we think, and our hearts must be ready.

During Advent, we need someone to shake us a little. We need John's voice, because spiritual drowsiness is real. We get busy, tired, distracted, and slowly our hearts drift away from God without noticing.

The first reading gives us one of the most beautiful visions in Scripture: The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse, filled with the Spirit—a king of wisdom, justice, and peace.

Advent reminds us that Christ came to bring this peace, and He will come again to accomplish it fully. John the Baptist calls us to repent—not in a fearful way, but in a hopeful way.

Repentance is not about feeling bad. It is about opening space for God. It means: allowing God to heal whatever is broken, letting go of habits that keep us far from Him, reconciling with someone we have hurt or ignored, coming back to prayer with sincerity, asking forgiveness, and giving forgiveness.

Repentance is an act of love, not guilt. It is cleaning the path so Christ can walk straight into our hearts.

How do we prepare the way of the Lord in our parish, in our families, in our own hearts? We pre-



pare the way when we create peace. When we work to heal a relationship, when we speak kindly, when we invite someone who feels lonely—we make a straight path for Christ. We prepare the way

when we return to prayer. A few minutes of quiet each day . . . lighting the Advent wreath at home . . . praying before meals . . . reading a small passage of Scripture. These simple acts open the door for grace.

We prepare the way when we renew our lives through confession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most powerful ways to welcome Christ anew.

We prepare the way when we serve the poor.

Advent is a season of charity. A small gesture—a gift, a visit, a word of comfort—makes the love of Christ visible.

In the Gospel, John describes the One who is coming as mighty—yet Christ chooses to come quietly. He does not come with armies or noise.

He comes as a child, humble and gentle. He comes into a manger. He comes into hearts that make room for Him.

John prepares the road. But we must decide if we will open the door.

St. Paul tells us today that Scripture gives us encouragement and hope.

Advent is our season of hope: hope that God can heal us, change us, renew our families, strengthen our parish, and bring peace to our world.

And the truth is: Christ is already near. He is already at the door of our hearts. He only waits for us to clear the obstacles and let Him enter.

So today, as we enter this second week of Advent, let us take John's words seriously: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” Let us remove anything that blocks God's grace.

Let us welcome Christ with peaceful hearts. And let us allow His coming to transform us—so that we may become instruments of His peace, His joy, and His light in the world.

December—Month of the Immaculate Conception

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 2nd Week of Advent—The Candle of Peace



The second week of Advent is marked by the lighting of the candle of peace, which represents the peace that Christ brings to the world. This week encourages reflection on the inner peace that comes from faith in Jesus and the peace we are called to share with others.

The angels proclaimed “peace on earth” at the birth of Jesus, highlighting the importance of this theme during the Advent season.

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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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Religious Retirement

Next weekend, December 13th and 14th, there will be a special collection to support the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please donate to help the more than 24,000 senior religious who have dedicated their lives to service to retire with dignity. Donations will provide essential care, medicine, and daily needs for senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have served for decades—often for little or no pay. Show your appreciation by supporting those who have given a lifetime of service.

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.



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Christmas Brunch



Father 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 ham. Come and celebrate with our parish family!

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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.