

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“St. John Neumann”

This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835, but the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests.

John wrote to bishops all over Europe, but the story was the same everywhere. No one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest, but all the doors to that vocation seemed to close in his face.

But John didn't give up. He had learned English while working in a factory with English-speaking coworkers, so he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. To answer God's call to the priesthood, John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests serving 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor, but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and

brothers dedicated to helping the poor and the most abandoned.

John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people—something that may have troubled the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank laid over the wagon's contents, John joked, “Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!”

The ability to learn languages—that had brought him to America—led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration began, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, “Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!”

Once, on a visit to Germany, he returned to the house where he was staying, soaked from the rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, “The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own.”

John died on January 5, 1860, at the age of 48.

—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
January 4, 2026 † The Epiphany of the Lord 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

Monday	01/05/2026	8:00 am	Carol Moore (D)	1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	01/06/2026	8:00 am	Albina Stagnoli (D)	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	01/07/2026	6:00 pm	Sami Pedersen (D)	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	01/08/2026	12:00 pm	LeFevre Family (L)	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday	01/09/2026	12:00 pm	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	01/10/2026	5:00 pm	Lu Streetman (D)	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
Sunday	01/11/2026	9:00 am	Sam LeFevre (L)	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
Sunday	01/11/2026	12:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

ONE OF THE favorite images of Christmas is that of the wise men traveling by camel through a star-lit night. One star dominates the sky as they arrive on the crest of the hill overlooking Bethlehem.

When the star appeared, these wise men must have been living a certain type of life. But when they saw the star, they decided to follow it. They stopped whatever they were doing. They were ready to take risks because they knew the meaning of this special star.

The journey must have been a long trip from a country far away in the East. There have been dangers along the way. For them it was a journey to the faith. The wise men through the grace of God came to faith in Jesus.

We each have a journey to make to Jesus because none of us is yet fully converted, and each of us has corners in our hearts and lives in need of Jesus' healing and redemption. As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, we are strongly reminded that we must continue to seek out God's presence in our lives and in our world.

Having celebrated Christ's birthday a few days ago, the Church is now asking us to consider how we must still search for Christ. The 'search' here is not in the sense that we are searching for something that we have never found. Rather, we are continuing to look for a deeper knowledge and experience of the Christ in whom we already believe.

One of the facts that today's Gospel gives us is that the wise men came with special gifts for the new born king. The gospel writer tells us, "They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him."



To us these might seem rather useless gifts, but what do you give this child who is the all-powerful God who controls the stars to such an extent that a particularly bright star travels westward and stops over the place where Jesus and his parents were living? Their gifts were symbolic adoration to the Divine King. When God so loved the world that he gave

His only Son for our salvation, what can we give in return?

The best gifts that we can offer the Christ-child are the gifts of ourselves. In actual fact, the gold, frankincense and myrrh of the wise men are trivial and quite useless for the God of all creation, and the savior of all people. He has all the gold, frankincense and myrrh he ever needs. After all, he is the creator and owner of all these gifts. But as useless as these gifts are for God, they are a sign of the way the wise men gave of themselves.

Here are these men, learned, wealthy, wizards of the East, non-Jews—and probably pagans—kneeling at the tiny infant's feet of the true God. Even as they paid homage, they would have realized that even the gift of themselves was something far too small for this King of kings.

What we give to our Lord may seem so trivial and modest and poor, but if they are representative of the giving of ourselves to God, this is our most important gift. Even then this is still so small in comparison to what God has gifted us.

Like the wise men, all of us are on a journey to get closer to Jesus our Savior. Like the wise men, we, too, are relying on the grace of God to lead us to the light of Jesus our Savior. Like the wise men, let us offer ourselves at His feet.

The Epiphany reminds us: May our hearts seek Christ. May our hearts find Christ. May our hearts love Christ.

AMEN.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

January Is Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus

The Holy Name of Jesus represents the very heart of our Catholic Faith. Devotion to the Holy Name is not only a way to honor Jesus, but also a reminder of His infinite mercy and boundless love.

Believers embrace this devotion as a call to live in holiness and to offer every moment of their lives in praise of God's glory. By venerating the Holy Name, we reaffirm our faith and our commitment to a life filled with mercy, hope, and divine love.

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New Year—New Habits

As 2026 begins, it's a good time to adopt new habits. In the future, please leave the parish hall clean so that it is ready for the next event: clean tables, fold tables, store chairs, wash, dry, and put away dishes.

Please return all items to their original cupboards or drawers and dispose of all garbage and cardboard.

Please do not leave totes in the hall, as we have designated storage for them.

The storage sheds are for parish use only; do not store your personal items.

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Mass Intentions

Do you have dates that are meaningful to you? January is a great time to set your Mass intentions for your loved ones for the year.

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Retrouvaille

You Can 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? When was the last time you said, "I Love You?"

Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Start the year NEW! Come to Canby, Oregon, from **Friday, January 30th, to Sunday, February 1st.**

For confidential information about or to register for the program, call 1 (503) 225-9191 or send an email to: StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org or visit the Website at: www.helpourmarriage.org or www.oregon-retrouvaille.com.

A Special Thank-You Note From Fr. Joseph

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to decorating and adorning our church throughout the year, with special thanks to **Karin Davis, Cookie Benton, Ruby Ruiz, Holly LeFevre,** and **Sue Williams** for decorating this Christmas season. Your efforts have resulted in a beautiful church!



I thank **Chuck, Diane, and Brant Giovanini** for their dedication to our Parish, especially for cleaning our church throughout the year. Their efforts are truly appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Thank you to **Bob Leonard, Larry Locher, Tom MacDonald,** and the **Maintenance Committee.** I appreciate all you do to keep our buildings and grounds running smoothly. I also thank them for the work they put into replacing the plumbing in the rectory.

Thank you to all choir members for producing such a beautiful sound every week.

Thanks to **Barbara Dalton, Colleen Budde, Cheyenne Edgerly, Garilynn Tocher,** and **all the other Religious Education volunteers.** I truly value all the efforts you put into supporting our children.

To all the volunteers who make up our parish and show up every week, we couldn't have a parish without your selfless support!

Thank you to our generous Knights of Columbus, who are always there to support our parish and the community.

—Fr. Joseph.

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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.