

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Blaise"

St. Blaise was an early Christian bishop, martyr, and doctor. He is among the most popular medieval saints. He is venerated as the patron saint of sufferers from throat diseases and of wool combers, and as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

According to tradition, Blaise was of noble birth and, after being educated in the Christian faith, was made Bishop of Sebastia.

Although Christianity had been adopted as the state religion in Armenia about 300, the Roman Emperor Licinius began a persecution of Christians, and Blaise was discovered and apprehended.

The earliest known record of the saint's life appears in the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is described as helping patients with objects lodged in their throats. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are recorded 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

St. Blaise is believed to have begun as a healer and eventually became a "physician of souls."

He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to St. Blaise for healing miracles.



In 316, the Governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested the then-Bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to the jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking on a fish bone, at Blaise's feet.

Blaise cured the child, and although Agricola was amazed, he could not persuade Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick, tore at his flesh with iron combs, and then beheaded him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea when he came across a poor old woman whose pig a wolf had stolen. Blaise commanded the wolf to return the pig, which it did—alive and uninjured—to the amazement of all.

When he reached Sebastea, the woman brought two fine wax candles to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular, and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then called the "Saint of the Wild Beasts."

His Feast day is February 3rd.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
February 1, 2026 † 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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 fellowship 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	02/02/2026	8:00 am	Lu Streetman (D)	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Tuesday	02/03/2026	8:00 am	Sami Pedersen (D)	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 25-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	02/04/2026	12:00 pm	Carol Moore (D)	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	02/05/2026	8:00 am	Richard Moore (D)	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday	02/06/2026	12:00 pm	Dale Geiman (L)	Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	02/07/2026	5:00 pm	Bud Redfern (D)	Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
Sunday	02/08/2026	9:00 am	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
Sunday	02/08/2026	12:00 pm	Jose Efrain Hernandez Sanchez (D)	Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger
Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ 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

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL BRINGS us to the heart of Jesus' teaching: the Beatitudes. If the Ten Commandments are the law written in stone, the Beatitudes are the law written on the heart. They describe not just what we should do, but who we are called to become.

Jesus goes up the mountain, sits down, and teaches. This is important. Like Moses on Mount Sinai, Jesus is forming a new people. But unlike Moses, He does not give commands beginning with "Thou shalt not." Instead, He begins with a surprising word: "Blessed." Happy. Fulfilled. Truly alive.

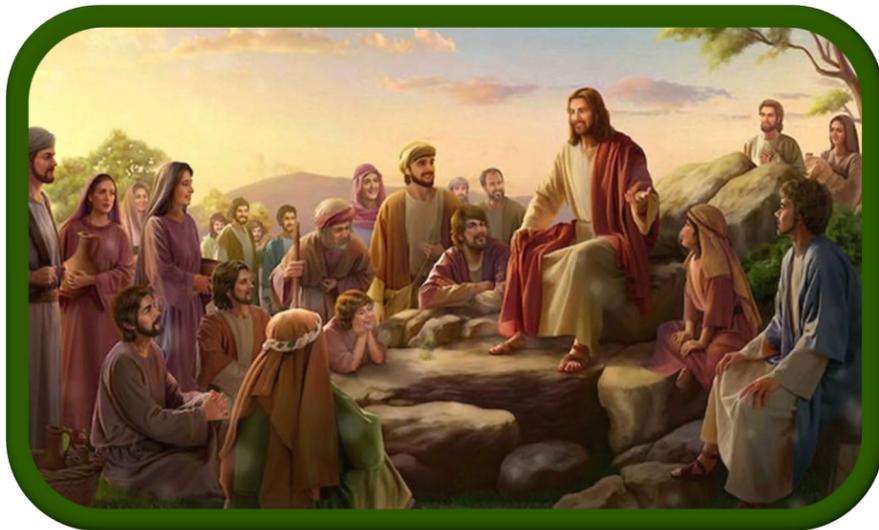
What is striking is that Jesus calls blessed the very people the world usually pities or ignores: the poor in spirit, the meek, those who mourn, the merciful, the peacemakers. By the world's standards, these are not winners. Yet Jesus says: this is the way to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let us begin with the first Beatitude: **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."**

Being poor in spirit does not mean being weak or passive. It means knowing our need for God. It means recognizing that everything we have—life, faith, strength, forgiveness—is a gift. In a culture that prizes self-sufficiency and control, Jesus reminds us that true freedom begins when we stop pretending we can save ourselves.

Then Jesus says, **"Blessed are those who mourn."** This is not about sadness for its own sake. It speaks of those who grieve the brokenness of the world—sin, injustice, suffering—and who bring that pain to God. Christian hope does not deny sorrow; it passes through it, trusting that God can bring new life even from loss.

"Blessed are the meek." Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness. In reality, it is strength under control. The meek person does not dominate or crush others. Jesus Himself is meek and humble of heart. He shows us that gentleness can be more powerful than force, and love more effective than aggression.



"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

This is a deep longing for God's will, for justice, for what is right. It is the refusal to be satisfied with half-measures in faith.

The Beatitudes remind us that holiness is not for just a few; it is the true hunger of every human heart.

man heart.

Jesus continues: **"Blessed are the merciful."** Mercy is at the core of the Gospel. To be merciful is to see others as God sees them—not as problems, but as beloved children. We live in a time when people are quick to judge and slow to forgive. The Beatitudes call us to reverse that pattern.

Then we hear, **"Blessed are the pure of heart."** Purity of heart is not perfection; it is singleness of purpose. It means wanting God above all else. A pure heart is not divided between God and self-interest.

"Blessed are the peacemakers." Peace in the Bible is not merely the absence of conflict; it is wholeness, reconciliation, right relationship. Peacemakers are not passive. They actively build bridges, heal wounds, and refuse to give in to hatred.

Finally, Jesus says, **"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake."** Faithfulness has a cost. To live the Beatitudes means we may not always fit in. But Jesus assures us that when we suffer for doing what is right, we are never alone.

The Beatitudes are not a checklist. They are a portrait—the portrait of Jesus Himself. He is poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure of heart, and the ultimate peacemaker. And through baptism, He invites us to share in His way of life.

As we come to the Eucharist today, let us ask for the grace not just to admire the Beatitudes, but to live them—quietly, faithfully, one choice at a time.

Because in following this path, we discover what Jesus promises from the very beginning: true happiness, rooted not in success or comfort, but in the Kingdom of God.

February—The Month of the Holy Family

February—The Month of the Holy Family



The Catholic Church has dedicated each month of the year to a particular devotion. While the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's, the month of February holds a special resonance with the sacred bond and hidden life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

The Church chose February for this devotion because it is the month in which we celebrate the Feast of the Purification, also known as the Feast of the Presentation. This feast occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple to St. Simeon.

The little family devoutly brought the offering required of the poor—two turtledoves. This illustrates that, although Our Lord was true royalty and Our Lady and St. Joseph the purest and wisest humans on earth, they submitted to a life of poverty. They chose obedience to God and the Light of Truth as their treasure over any worldly fame, fortune, or comfort. As they heard St. Simeon's prayer and prophecy over the child Jesus, they embraced the suffering that was to come because of man's rejection of this One Who is Light and Truth (Luke 2:22-35).

+++

Meetings

Tuesday, February 3rd at 4 p.m.: Liturgical Meeting

Tuesday, February 10th at 3 p.m.: Executive Meeting

+++

Men's Conference

The Diocese of Baker Men's Conference in English and Spanish is on **Saturday, February 7th, at St. Peter's Church in The Dalles.** "Living with Heart—The Sacred Heart of Jesus Strengthening Men for Family, Prayer, and Community" **is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

For more information and to register, please go to the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/mens-conference.

Book Club

We're launching a Book Club! Our first book will be "Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy" by Matthew Kelly. (Books are still available in the Narthex.)

The first gathering is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 10th, at 6 p.m.** Please come prepared to discuss and share your insights on this book. We'll also select the next book during this meeting.

We're excited to see everyone for an engaging and respectful discussion.

+++

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on February 18th. This is a Day of Holy Obligation. Mass will be at **8 a.m. and 6 p.m.**



+++

Women's Conference

The Diocese of Baker Women's Conference in English and Spanish is on **Saturday, March 7th, at St. Patrick's Church in Madras.** "Loving with the Heart of Jesus—The Sacred Heart of Jesus Reflected in the Beloved Heart of Woman" **is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

For more information and to register, please go to the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/women.

+++

Diocese of Baker Job Openings



The Diocese of Baker is seeking applicants for two part-time positions at the Retreat Center to begin in mid-April 2026. Preferred applicants must be members of the Catholic Church in good standing within the Diocese.

1. **Seasonal, Part-Time Facilities and Maintenance/ Groundskeeping Assistant**
2. **On-Call Housekeeper**

Apply online at: www.dioceseofbaker.org. For questions, contact **Joe Graziano** at (541) 388-4004, ext. 1016, or send an email to: joe@dioceseofbaker.org.