

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Anthony the Abbot"

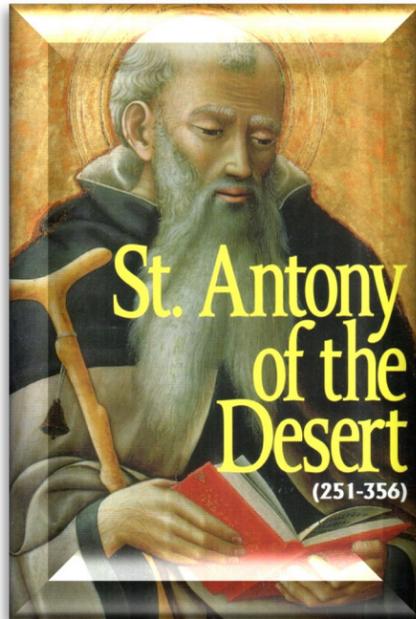
**S**t. Anthony of the Desert was born in Egypt on January 12, 251, into a wealthy farming family. When he was about 18 or 19 years old, Anthony was at Mass when he heard the Gospel of St. Matthew being read and was captivated by the words of Jesus: "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor" (Mt 19:21).

When Anthony was 20 years old, his parents died, and he put into practice the command of Jesus that had marked his soul. He distributed his inheritance among the poor and went into the desert, where he lived as a hermit in complete solitude, dedicated to penance and a life of prayer.

For years, he lived in a hermitage he built, described as being in a pit next to a cemetery. This "closeness to death"—as he liked to think of it—awakened many reflections in his heart on the life of Jesus. He often contemplated the truth about Jesus, the conqueror of death. Some of these reflections were put down in writing and, providentially, have survived the passage of time.

St. Athanasius, who knew St. Anthony and later wrote about his life, said this about the desert monk:

"He [Anthony] worked with his own hands, for he knew the Scripture that says: 'He who does not work, let him not eat' [2 Thes 3:10]; what he earned from his work he gave partly to his own sustenance and partly to the poor."



In Christian tradition and culture, work dignifies humanity and shapes the human spirit. Through work, human beings become God's cooperators in the great work of creation. Anthony internalized these truths to perfection.

St. Anthony died in 356 on Mount Colzim near the Red Sea at the age of 105. He is venerated as the patron saint of basket weavers, brush makers, and butchers, as well as of cemeteries. He is also known as the "co-patron" of animals, sharing the title with St. Francis of Assisi. For a long time at the Vatican, a blessing of animals has been celebrated on Anthony's feast day, January 17th.

Two stories support this patronage: at the death of Paul the Hermit, Anthony was the only one present who could bury

him; however, conditions were difficult, and he had no one to help him. But, suddenly, in the middle of the desert, two lions appeared, accompanied by other animals that helped the saint dig the hole where he would place the remains of St. Paul.

The second story concerns a wild pig he found near his hermitage whose offspring were all born blind. After St. Anthony took pity and cured them, the mother pig followed him everywhere as a faithful guardian and never left his side.

These stories inform a rich iconographic tradition that often depicts St. Anthony with a wild boar. Brilliant painters such as Michelangelo, Tintoretto, Teniers, Bosch, Cézanne, and Dalí made St. Anthony the subject of many magnificent works.

—Prayer Wishes, Fr. Joseph

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754  
January 18, 2026 † 2nd 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto: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	01/19/2026	8:00 am	Angie Hay (L)	1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday	01/20/2026	8:00 am	Cheyenne Edgerly (L)	1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday	01/21/2026	12:00 pm	Sue Godat (L)	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday	01/22/2026	8:00 am	Fr. Joe Reeves (L)	1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12
Friday	01/23/2026	12:00 pm	Thad Davis (L)	1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday	01/24/2026	5:00 pm	Rev. John Delahunty (D)	Is 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23
Sunday	01/25/2026	9:00 am	Anita Marquez (L)	Is 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23
Sunday	01/25/2026	12:00 pm	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

(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

ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY of Ordinary Time, the Church invites us to look at Jesus through the eyes of John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, John points to Jesus and proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." These are familiar words—we hear them at every Mass—but today we are invited to hear them with new depth.

**1. "The Lamb of God."** When John calls Jesus the Lamb of God, he is drawing from the Jewish tradition of sacrifice. The lamb was offered for forgiveness and deliverance. At Passover, the blood of the lamb saved the people from death and led them out of slavery. By calling Jesus the Lamb of God, John is telling us that Jesus is the one who will save not just Israel, but the whole world—from sin, fear, and death.

Jesus does not come as a powerful ruler or warrior. He comes as a lamb—gentle, humble, and obedient to the Father. His power is the power of love and self-giving.

**2. A Quiet Savior.** Notice something important: Jesus is standing quietly among the people. He is not speaking. He is not performing a miracle. Yet John recognizes him. This teaches us that God often comes into our lives quietly.

We often look for God in dramatic moments, but many times He is present in the ordinary—through a kind word, a moment of prayer, an act of forgiveness, or even through suffering. Ordinary Time reminds us that God works powerfully in ordinary life.

**3. Called to Recognize Jesus.** John the Baptist says, "I did not know him, but the one who sent me



to baptize told me." John's recognition of Jesus came through prayer, obedience, and openness to God's Spirit. We, too, are called to recognize Jesus—not only in church, but in our daily lives. We meet Him in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the suffering.

**4. Called to Witness.** John does not keep his experience to himself. He says, "Now I have seen and testified." This is our mission as Christians.

We may not preach from a pulpit like John, but we

preach with our lives. When we forgive instead of holding grudges, when we choose honesty over dishonesty, when we show compassion instead of indifference, we point others to Jesus. Our lives become a testimony: "This is the Lamb of God."

**5. A Question for Our Lives.** Today's Gospel invites us to ask ourselves:

- ◆ Do I truly recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God in my life?
- ◆ Do others see Christ reflected in the way I live?

Every time we come to Mass and say, "Lord, I am not worthy . . .", we are reminded that Jesus comes to us not because we are perfect, but because we need His mercy.

Dear brothers and sisters: John the Baptist teaches us two things today: to recognize Jesus and to point others to Him. May we learn to see Christ present in the ordinary moments of our lives, and may our words and actions quietly but clearly proclaim:

**"Behold, the Lamb of God."**

May the Lord give us the grace to follow Him with humility, faith, and love.

—Amen.

## January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

### Keys

It has come to our attention that some of the keys to the Parish Hall are being misused. As a result, we have decided that the best way to address the situation is to change the locks on the Parish Hall and doors leading into the classrooms/office. You may be assigned a new key at the Parish Office.

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### Parish Office Closure



The office will be closed from **Thursday, January 22nd, through Tuesday, January 27th.** It will re-open on **Wednesday, January 28th, at 9 a.m.**

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### Retrouvaille Retreat

Only one week left to sign-up for Retrouvaille—a program for any couple who wants to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

The program is **from Friday, January 30th, to Sunday, February 1st, in Canby, Oregon.**

For confidential information or to register, please call 1 (503) 225-9191 or send an email to: [StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org) or visit the website at: [www.oregonretrouvaille.com](http://www.oregonretrouvaille.com).

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### 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.



### Rachel's Vineyard Retreat . . .

is for anyone with regret from having been involved in abortion **from Friday, February 13th, to Sunday, February 15th**, in Portland. For more information, call (541) 942-2861, email: [info@project-aurora.org](mailto:info@project-aurora.org), or visit [www.Project-Aurora.org](http://www.Project-Aurora.org)

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### The Diocesan Chronicle

The January issue of the Diocesan Chronicle is still available to parishioners. In his December column, **Bishop Hennen** shared that exciting updates are coming to the Chronicle in 2026. The Chronicle is also available on the Diocese of Baker website.

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### 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](http://www.dioceseofbaker.org). For questions, contact **Joe Graziano** at (541) 388-4004, ext. 1016, or send an email to: [joe@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:joe@dioceseofbaker.org).

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### A Message From Bishop Hennen

The diocese has engaged Meitler Consulting to conduct a study assessing the need, interest, and feasibility of starting a new Catholic high school in the Redmond area. You may receive a questionnaire or be asked to participate in a focus group, especially families with school-aged children.

More information will be available soon. It is important that we hear from you and have a clear sense of the level of support before proceeding.

—Thank you and God bless!

