

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Timothy and St. Titus"

In January 26th, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of St. Timothy and St. Titus, close companions of the Apostle Paul, and bishops of the Catholic Church in its earliest days. Both men received letters from St. Paul, which are included in the New Testament.

Pope Benedict XVI discussed these early bishops during a general audience on December 13, 2006, noting "their readiness to take on various offices" in "far from easy" circumstances. Both saints, the Pope said, "teach us to serve the Gospel with generosity, realizing that this also entails a service to the Church herself."

After St. Paul's visit to Timothy's home region of Lycaonia around the year 51, the young man joined the apostle and accompanied him on his travels. After religious strife forced Paul to leave the city of Berea, Timothy remained to help the local church. Paul later sent him to Thessalonica to help the Church during a period of persecution.

The two met again in Corinth, and Timothy eventually traveled to Macedonia on Paul's behalf. Problems in the Corinthian Church brought Timothy back for a time, after which he joined Paul and accompanied him on subsequent journeys.

Like Paul, Timothy endured a period of imprisonment during his missionary work. His release is mentioned in the New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews.

Around the year 64, Timothy became the first bishop of the Church of Ephesus. That same year, he received the first of two surviving letters from St. Paul. The second, written the following year, urges Timothy to visit St. Paul in Rome, where he was imprisoned before his martyrdom.

Ancient sources state that St. Timothy followed his mentor in dying as a martyr for the faith. In the year 93,

during his leadership of the Church in Ephesus, he took a stand against idol worship and was killed by a mob. The pagan festival he was protesting was held on January 22nd, and this date was preserved as St. Timothy's memorial in the Christian East.

In contrast to Timothy's partial Jewish descent and early biblical studies, St. Titus—who was born into a pagan family—is said to have studied Greek philosophy and poetry in his early years. He pursued a life of virtue and, according to tradition, had a prophetic dream that led him to begin reading the Hebrew Scriptures.

According to tradition, Titus journeyed to Jerusalem and witnessed Christ's preaching during the Lord's ministry on earth. Only later—after the conversion of St. Paul and the beginning of his ministry—did Titus receive baptism from the apostle, who called the pagan convert his "true child in our common faith."

St. Paul was not only Titus' spiritual father but also relied on him as an assistant and interpreter. Titus accompanied Paul to the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem in the year 51 and was later sent to the Corinthian Church on two occasions. After the end of Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, the apostle ordained Titus as the Bishop of Crete.

Paul sent his only surviving letter to Titus around the year 64, giving instructions in pastoral ministry to his disciple as he prepared to meet him in the Greek city of Nicopolis. Titus evangelized the region of Dalmatia, now part of modern Croatia, before returning to Crete.

Titus is credited with leading the Church of Crete well into his 90s, overturning paganism and promoting the faith through his prayers and preaching. Unlike St. Timothy, St. Titus was not martyred but died peacefully in old age.

—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 ♦ 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 25, 2026 † 3rd 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

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	01/26/2026	8:00 am	Betty Maska (L)	2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk3:22-30
Tuesday	01/27/2026	8:00 am	The Marquez Family (L)	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday	01/28/2026	4:00 pm	Bud Redfern (D)	2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday	01/29/2026	8:00 am	Robert Marquez (D)	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
Friday	01/30/2026	12:00 pm	Sam LeFevre (L)	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday	01/31/2026	5:00 pm	Christina Flores (L)	Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a
Sunday	02/01/2026	9:00 am	Albina Stagnoli (D)	Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a
Sunday	02/01/2026	12:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, today's readings speak to us about one powerful image: light. Isaiah tells us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

In the Gospel, St. Matthew shows us that this prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus. When Jesus begins His public ministry, He chooses Galilee, a place considered distant and unimportant, and there He brings the light of God's Kingdom.

This tells us something very important. God's light does not begin only in perfect places or perfect people. It begins where there is darkness, confusion, and struggle. That is exactly where Jesus wants to enter.

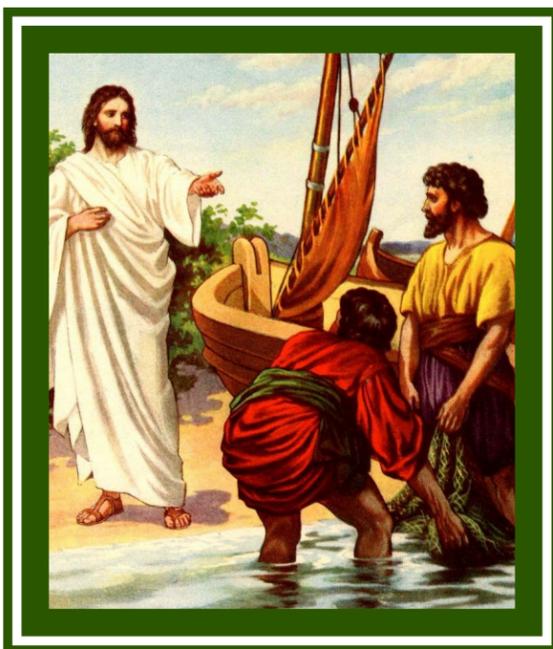
Every one of us experiences moments of darkness. It may be the darkness of worry about family, health, or finances. It may be the darkness of grief, loneliness, or uncertainty about the future. Sometimes it is the darkness of sin, guilt, or broken relationships. Today the Word of God gives us hope: Christ comes precisely into those dark places.

When Jesus begins to preach, His first message is simple and direct: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

To repent means more than just feeling sorry. It means to change direction, to turn back to God, to allow His light to guide our lives. Jesus is inviting us to move from darkness into light, from fear into faith, from selfishness into love.

Immediately after this, Jesus calls His first disciples—Peter, Andrew, James, and John. He says to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." And the Gospel tells us something beautiful: they left their nets immediately and followed Him.

This call was not only for them. It is also for us. Each of us, by our baptism, has been called to follow Jesus. We may not leave boats and nets, but we are asked to leave behind anything that keeps us from living fully as disciples: bad habits, resentments, indifference, or excuses.



Notice that Jesus calls very ordinary people. They were simple fishermen, not scholars or powerful leaders. Yet He chose them to change the world. This should encourage us. God does not need extraordinary people; He makes ordinary people extraordinary when they respond to His call.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks to the Corinthians about unity. He urges them not to be divided but united in Christ. This message is very relevant for us today. Our world, our society, and even our families can easily become divided—

by opinions, politics, misunderstandings, and personal conflicts. But as Christians we are called to something higher. We are called to be people of unity, peace, and reconciliation. If we truly walk in the light of Christ, we cannot remain in hatred or division. The light of Jesus pushes us to forgive, to understand, and to love.

So, what is the message for us this Sunday?

First, recognize the light of Christ in your life. Even if you feel surrounded by problems, remember that Jesus is already with you. Do not lose hope. The light is stronger than the darkness.

Second, respond to His call. Like the first disciples, Jesus invites us to follow Him more closely—through prayer, through the sacraments, through reading His Word, and through serving others.

Third, be a light to others. Our world desperately needs witnesses of hope and goodness. In your home, workplace, and community, you are called to reflect the light of Christ by your kindness, honesty, patience, and compassion.

My dear friends, every Sunday we gather here because we believe that Jesus is the true light of the world. In this Eucharist, that same Jesus comes to strengthen us and renew us. Let us ask Him today to remove any darkness from our hearts and to help us walk faithfully in His light.

May we leave this church renewed in hope, ready to follow Him, and ready to share His light with everyone we meet.

January—The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Keys

The locks have been changed on the parish hall and the doors leading to the classrooms and 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 reopen on **Wednesday, January 28th, at 9 a.m.**

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Youth Mass

A Youth Mass is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28th, at 4 p.m.**, to allow all Religious Education students and their parents to attend. We encourage you to come and support our students. **Note that there will be no 12 p.m. Mass on that day.**

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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!*

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Cathedral Conservation Collection

Have you been to St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City? If you have, you know how beautiful this historic church is and how blessed we are to call it our Mother Church. If you have not been there, the Cathedral, built in 1906, is in Baker City. Although parishioners and visitors from afar have enjoyed its quiet grace for over 100 years, local parishioners have watched over its welfare.

In 2024, the Cathedral's front steps were completely removed and replaced. This project was the largest improvement to date, and a large balance due must be paid before any further repairs can be done. The Diocese invites us all to participate in the Cathedral Conservation Collection, held once a year in January. The Cathedral Conservation Fund is managed by the Diocese and will be used only for major repairs to the building.

Some of the major repairs since 2019 that this collection has already made possible are: 1) the boiler replacement, 2) the church ceiling remodel, 3) exterior stone repairs, 4) plumbing upgrades, and 5) the most recent was the replacement of the front steps, completed in 2024.

Routine maintenance of the church building will continue to be supported by the local parishioners. Please participate in this worthy collection.

"It's the mother church of the diocese . . . it belongs to you!"