

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Scholastica"

St. Scholastica was a 6th-Century Italian saint and the twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia, revered as the foundress of the Benedictine nuns. She established a convent near her brother's monastery at Monte Cassino and is celebrated on February 10th for her devotion to God, spiritual wisdom, and the power of her prayers.

Born in Italy to a wealthy family, she consecrated her life to God from a young age. She founded a convent in Plombariola, about five miles from her brother's, which operated under the Benedictine Rule.

She visited her brother once a year, and because she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he met her at a house some distance away, accompanied by some of his brethren.

These visits were spent conferring together on spiritual matters. On one occasion, they passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation, and then in the evening, they sat down to take their reflection.

St. Scholastica begged her brother to remain until the next day, but St. Benedict refused to



spend the night outside of his monastery.

She had recourse to prayer, and then a furious thunderstorm burst forth, so that neither St. Benedict nor any of his companions could return to their home. They spent the night in spiritual conferences.

The next morning, they parted, and she and her twin brother met no more on earth.

Three days later, St. Scholastica suddenly died, and her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven.

He sent his brethren to bring her body back to his monastery, and then he laid it in the tomb that he had prepared for himself.

St. Scholastica died about the year 543, and St. Benedict followed her soon after. Her feast day is on February 10th. She is considered the patron saint of nuns, and she is often invoked against storms.

Her life emphasizes the importance of contemplative prayer, spiritual reflection, and the bond of holy friendship.

—*Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
February 8, 2026 † 5th 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	02/09/2026	8:00 am	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	02/10/2026	8:00 am	Pierre Jones (D)	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday	02/11/2026	12:00 pm	Julian Gomez (L)	1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday	02/12/2026	8:00 am	Vanessa Ortega (L)	1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30
Friday	02/13/2026	12:00 pm	Dolores Myers (D)	1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday	02/14/2026	5:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners	Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
Sunday	02/15/2026	9:00 am	Joel Carrillo (D)	Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
Sunday	02/15/2026	12:00 pm	Prospero Villagomez (D)	Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

(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
Julian Gomez ♦ Vanessa Ortega ♦ Mary Ellen Schiedler

Today's Homily

Matthew 5:13-19

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that are very familiar to us: "You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world." We have heard them many times. But we must listen carefully—Jesus does not say, "You should become salt" or "Try to be light." He says, "You are." This is our identity as Christians.

Let us reflect on what this really means for our daily lives.

First, salt. In the time of Jesus, salt was precious. It was used to preserve food and to give flavor. Without salt, food becomes bland and can even spoil. When Jesus calls us the salt of the earth, He is telling us that our presence should make a difference. Christians are not meant to blend in quietly or live a faith that is tasteless and invisible.

Salt works silently. You don't see it, but you notice its effect. In the same way, our faith should quietly but clearly bring goodness into our families, workplaces, parishes, and communities—through kindness, honesty, forgiveness, patience, and compassion.

But Jesus gives a warning: "If salt loses its taste, it is no longer good for anything." Salt loses its flavor when it is diluted. Our faith loses its power when we compromise too much—when we live like everyone else, speak like everyone else, and forget what makes us different as followers of Christ. Christians who hide their values or live a double life becomes like tasteless salt.

Second, light. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." Light does one simple but powerful thing—it drives away darkness. A small candle can change a whole room. Light does not argue with darkness; it simply shines.

In a world that often experiences darkness—violence, injustice, selfishness, despair—Christ calls us to shine. Not with arrogance, not to show off, but



to reflect His love. Jesus says, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Notice this: the goal is not that people praise us, but that they praise God.

This connects beautifully with our

first reading from Isaiah. God tells the people that true religion is not just about prayer and fasting, but about sharing bread with the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and caring for the poor. Then comes the promise: "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn." Light shines brightest when love becomes action.

St. Paul, in the second reading, reminds us that this light does not come from our own cleverness or strength. He says he came not with impressive words, but with simplicity and humility, so that faith would rest on the power of God, not on human wisdom. This is important. We do not shine because we are perfect; we shine because Christ lives in us.

Dear brothers and sisters, this Gospel is both comforting and challenging. It comforts us because Jesus trusts us. He believes in us. He calls ordinary people—like fishermen, like us—to be salt and light. But it also challenges us. We must ask ourselves: "Do my words bring flavor or bitterness? Does my presence bring light or add to the darkness? Can others see Christ through the way I live?"

We don't have to do extraordinary things. Most of the time, salt and light are seen in small, faithful actions: listening patiently, forgiving someone who hurt us, standing for truth, helping quietly, praying faithfully, loving generously.

As we continue with this Eucharist, let us ask the Lord for the grace to remain salty and shining—not for our glory, but for His. May our lives point others to Christ, so that when people see us, they are led not to admire us, but to glorify our Father in heaven.

February—The Month of the Holy Family

Message from Bishop Hennen

Bishop Hennen has begun a feasibility study throughout the tri-county area to assess the possibility of a new Catholic High School in Central Oregon. It would serve students from Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties.



Please click on the QR code to see the website for the proposed Catholic High School, Xavier Prep.

In the coming weeks, we will conduct surveys and focus groups, which will help complete the study. It is important that we get as many responses as possible, and the Bishop asks for your participation. Please share this with other families! Thank you!

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Meetings

Tuesday, February 10th, at 3 p.m., Executive Meeting
Tuesday, February 24th, at 6 p.m., Finance Meeting

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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.

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Family Movie Night

There is a Family Movie Night and Community Resource Event at Crook County High School on Thursday, February 19th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This event is designed to bring families together for a fun, welcoming evening, while connecting them with valuable local resources and support available in Crook County.

Along with a family-friendly movie, "ENCANTO," there will be opportunities for families to learn more about community programs, services, and organizations that support student and family well-being.

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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.

Note: Keynote Presenters will be in English and in Spanish!

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

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Lenten Morning Retreat

Join Catholic speaker Dina Marie Hale, founder of Faith Moments, for a Lenten Retreat on Saturday morning, March 7th, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sherwood.



The retreat theme is "We are Companions of Jesus Carrying Our Cross." Together we'll make a pilgrimage of the heart and mind into the Holy Cross that has redeemed the world. The morning begins with a Healing Mass at 8:30, followed by a light breakfast, and then our Lenten Retreat at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Sherwood.

A free-will offering will be taken. St. Francis Catholic Church is located at 15651 SW Oregon St., Sherwood, OR 97140. For more information, visit dinamarie.org.

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