

Fr. Joseph's Corner "Sts. Perpetua and Felicity"

St. Perpetua and St. Felicity were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa by Emperor Severus.

With details about the lives of many early martyrs often unclear and based on legend, we are fortunate to have the first-hand record of the courage of Perpetua and Felicity, as told by Perpetua herself, her teacher Saturus, and others who knew them.

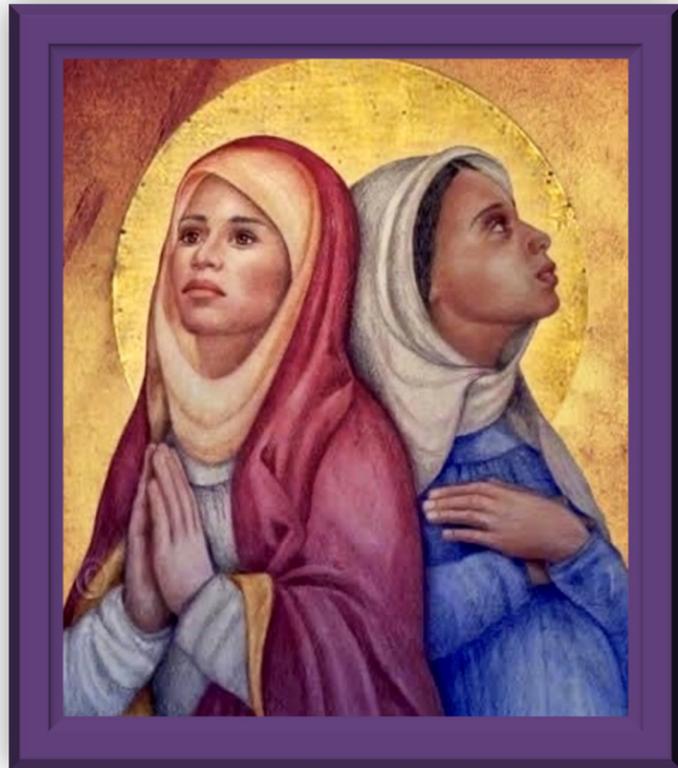
This account, known as "The Passion of St. Perpetua, St. Felicitas, and their Companions," was so popular in the early centuries that it was read during liturgies.

In the year 203, Vivia Perpetua, a well-educated noblewoman, chose to follow her mother's path and become a Christian, even though she knew it could mean her death during the persecutions ordered by the Emperor Severus. Her brother followed her lead and became a catechumen as well, meaning he would receive instruction from a Catechist in the Catholic Christian faith and be prepared for Baptism.

Perpetua was arrested with four other catechumens, including two slaves, Felicity and Revocatus, and Saturninus and Secundulus. Their instructor in the faith, Saturus, chose to share their punishment and was also imprisoned.

Perpetua was baptized before she was taken to prison. She was known for her gift of "the Lord's speech" and for receiving messages from God. She tells us that at the time of her baptism, she was told to pray for nothing but endurance in the face of her trials.

Meanwhile, Felicity was also in torment. It was against the law to execute pregnant women. To kill a



child in the womb was to shed innocent and sacred blood. Felicity feared that she would not give birth before the day set for their martyrdom, and that her companions would go on their journey without her. Her friends also didn't want to leave behind "such a good comrade."

Two days before the execution, Felicity went into labor. She gave birth to a healthy girl who was adopted and raised by one of the Christian women of Carthage.

When those at the arena tried to force Perpetua and the others to wear robes dedicated to

their gods, Perpetua challenged her executioners: "We came to die of our own free will so we wouldn't lose our freedom to worship our God. We gave you our lives so we wouldn't have to worship your gods." She and the others were allowed to keep their clothes.

The men were attacked by bears, leopards, and wild boars. The women were stripped and faced a rabid heifer. The two were thrown out and attacked, but the crowd cried out that they had had enough. The women were removed and clothed again. Perpetua and Felicity were thrown back into the arena to face the gladiators.

Perpetua called out to her brother and other Christians, "Stand fast in the faith and love one another. Do not let our sufferings be a stumbling block to you."

Perpetua and Felicity stood side by side and were killed by the sword at Carthage in the Roman province of Africa.

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity are the patron saints of mothers, expectant mothers, ranchers, and butchers. Their feast day is celebrated on March 7th.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

February 22, 2026 † 1st Sunday of Lent

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	02/23/2026	8:00 am	Isabel Sherman (L)	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday	02/24/2026	8:00 am	Geraldine Arndt (D)	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	02/25/2026	4:00 pm	George Arndt (D)	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	02/26/2026	8:00 am	Chelsea Kurtz (L)	Est C12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	02/27/2026	12:00 pm	Pierre Jones (D)	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	02/28/2026	5:00 pm	Rev Cletus Kirkpatrick (D)	Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9
Sunday	03/01/2026	9:00 am	Alicia Gonzalez (D)	Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9
Sunday	03/01/2026	12:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily—First Sunday of Lent

LENT IS PRIMARILY the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his 40 days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time of repenting for our sins and renewing our lives so that we can celebrate Easter with our Risen Lord Who conquered sin and death by His suffering, death and Resurrection. Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world, and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace, if we are to conquer our temptations and practice prayer, self-control, and charity.

The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "Original Temptation"—"You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil." Adam and Eve were given the freedom to make a choice to live for God, dependent upon, and obedient to, His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and His authority.

In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us sin, death, and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us a right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God, His Father.

Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront His temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation—to mistrust His Father by satisfying His own immediate, temporal needs—thus reducing His



Divine mission to self-satisfaction! The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that He is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the Temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand that He prove His Trustworthiness!

Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if worshipping Satan would enrich and empower Jesus with all kingdoms of the world.

We are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means Jesus employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, and a position of authority, power, and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the Word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the Holy Mass), with penance, and with meditative reading of the Bible.

We are to grow in holiness during Lent through prayer, reconciliation, and sharing: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in fervent prayer, and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by offering penitential acts of reparation for our sins; c) by getting reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; and d) by sharing our love with others through selfless, humble service, almsgiving, and helping those in need.

Lent is the time for the desert experience. We can set aside a place and time to be alone daily with God, a time to distance ourselves from the many noises that bombard our lives every day, a time to hear God's word, a time to rediscover who we are before God, and a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did.

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 ♦ Carolyn Ausborn

February—The Month of the Holy Family



Lenten Schedule

- ♦ Stations of the Cross, Friday Nights at 6 p.m., from February 20th through March 27th.
- ♦ Lenten Penance, Wednesday, March 18th, at 6 p.m.
- ♦ Chrism Mass in Baker City, Thursday, March 26th, at 11 a.m.
- ♦ Palm Sunday, March 29th, Mass at 9 a.m.; Spanish Mass at 12 p.m.
- ♦ Holy Thursday, April 2nd, at 6 p.m.
- ♦ Good Friday, April 3rd, Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m., Passion Service and Veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.
- ♦ Holy Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil Mass at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Easter Sunday, April 5th, Mass at 9 a.m.; Spanish Mass at 12 p.m.

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Youth Mass

A Youth Mass is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 25th, 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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Soup Supper Schedule

Fridays in the Parish Hall, after Stations of the Cross, there will be a soup supper hosted by the following:



February 27th — Hispanic Ministries
March 6th — Acolytes
March 13th — Prolife
March 20th — Religious Education
March 27th — Knights of Columbus

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Book Club

Our next book club selection is "Jesus, the Master Psychologist," by Ray Guarendi. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 10th, at 6 p.m., in Classroom 4.**

Please come prepared to discuss and share your insights on this book. We'll also select the books for the upcoming months at this meeting. We're excited to see everyone for an engaging and respectful discussion.

Lenten Morning Retreat on March 28th

Join Catholic speaker **Dina Marie Hale** of Faith Moments for a Lenten Day Retreat on **Saturday morning, March 28th, from 9 to 11 a.m.** at **St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Forest Grove.**

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 refreshments and fellowship at 9 a.m., followed by the Lenten Retreat in the St. Anthony of Padua Parish Hall in Forest Grove. A free-will offering will be taken.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church is located at 1660 Elm Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116. For more information, visit dinamarie.org.

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College Freshman Scholarship:

Bishop Hennen and The Legacy of Faith Foundation, on behalf of the **Canney Family**, are seeking a High School Senior with a GPA of 2.0 or higher who requires financial assistance to attend college or trade school.

The approximate value is \$2,500 per year for up to two years. Applications are due by **Tuesday, March 31st!**

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with a Priest's reference.

For more information and application, go to the website: legacyoffaithccf.org/resources (under the CANNEY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP banner) or send an email to **Mark French** at: Mark@DioceseofBaker.org.

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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!

