

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. George"

It is uncertain when St. George was born and historians continue to debate to this day. However, his death date is estimated to be April 23, 303 A.D.

George was born to Gerontios and Polychronia, a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda. Both were Christians from noble families of the Anici. George, or Georgios in the original Greek, was raised to follow their faith.

When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20s, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia.

On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who despised Christians, announced that every Christian the army encountered would be arrested and that all soldiers should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods.

George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father.

When George announced his beliefs before his peers, Diocletian was unable to keep the news to himself. In an effort to save George, Diocletian tried to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money, and slaves in exchange for sacrificing to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused.

Finally, after exhausting all other options, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God.



On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall.

His body was sent to Lydda for burial, and other Christians went to honor George as a martyr.

St. George and the Dragon

There are several stories about George fighting dragons, but in the Western version, a dragon—or crocodile—made its nest at a spring that provided water to Silene, which is believed to be modern-day Cyrene in Libya. The people were unable to collect water, and so they attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on

several occasions. It would temporarily leave its nest when they offered it a sheep to it each day, until the sheep all disappeared, and so the people were distraught.

This was when they decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day the princess's straw was drawn. The monarch begged for her to be spared, but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon, but before she could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon.

After saving the town, the citizens abandoned their paganism and were all converted to Christianity.

St. George's feast day is celebrated on April 23rd. He is the patron saint of England and Catalonia, and his cross can be seen throughout England.

—Prayerful 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 ♦ Peggy Holtz ♦ Michael Kuenzi ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Barbara Hopla
Gilbert Marquez ♦ Sam LeFevre and the LeFevre family ♦ Joanie Holland ♦ Tara Lamb
Julian Gomez ♦ Vanessa Ortega ♦ Mary Ellen Schiedler ♦ Carolyn Ausborn

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 22, 2026 † 5th 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

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	03/23/2026	8:00 a.m.	Rodolfo Perez Reyes (D)	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	03/24/2026			Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday	03/25/2026			Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	03/26/2026			Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday	03/27/2026	12:00 p.m.	Rodolfo Perez Reyes (D)	Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	03/28/2026	5:00 p.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66
Sunday	03/29/2026	9:00 a.m.	Maria Inez Lopez (D)	Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66
Sunday	03/29/2026	12:00 p.m.	Martina Ortiz Robles (D)	Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S GOSPEL (JOHN 11: 1–45) tells us the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus. It is one of the most dramatic moments in the Gospel, and the final great sign performed by Jesus Christ before His own Passion. This miracle reveals something very important about Jesus and about our own lives.

The story begins with sadness. Mary of Bethany and Martha of Bethany send word to Jesus: "Lord, the one you love is ill." But Jesus does not rush immediately to Bethany. By the time he arrives, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days. For the sisters and for the people around them, all hope seems lost.

When Martha meets Jesus, she says something very human: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Many of us have probably felt something similar in our lives. When we face sickness, loss, or tragedy, we sometimes wonder: Lord, where were you? Why didn't you come sooner?

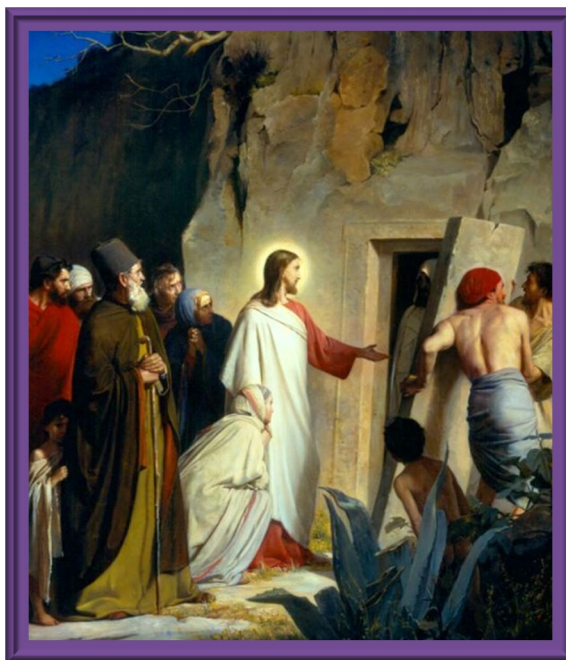
But Jesus answers Martha with a powerful promise: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

Notice that Jesus does not just say He gives life. He says, "I *am* the life." Life itself is found in Him.

Then comes one of the most touching moments in the entire Gospel. When Jesus sees Mary weeping and the crowd mourning, the Gospel says simply: "Jesus wept." The Son of God shares our human sorrow. He does not stand far away from our suffering; He enters into it. When we cry, when we grieve, when we feel broken, Jesus is there with us.

But the story does not end with tears. Jesus goes to the tomb and says something surprising: "Take away the stone."

The stone represents everything that traps us: fear, sin, hopelessness, guilt, or discouragement. Sometimes we feel like Lazarus—stuck in a dark place with no way out. Yet Jesus asks us to remove the stone. In other words, He invites our cooperation. God's grace works miracles, but we must open the door.



Then Jesus cries out in a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus walks out of the tomb, still wrapped in burial cloths.

This miracle is not only about Lazarus. It is about every one of us. Sometimes we experience spiritual death: when faith grows weak, when relationships are broken, when we feel empty or lost. But the voice of Christ still calls us: Come out. Come back to life.

That is exactly what the season of Lent is about. Lent is a time when Jesus stands before the tombs in our lives and calls us out of them.

Perhaps the tomb is resentment we have been holding for years. Perhaps it is a habit or sin we feel powerless to change. Perhaps it is discouragement or loss of hope.

Jesus calls us out of those places.

At the end of the story, Jesus says to the people around Lazarus: "Untie him and let him go." Lazarus is alive, but he still needs help removing the burial cloths.

This also teaches us something important about the Christian community. Faith is not lived alone. We help one another become free. Through encouragement, forgiveness, and love, we help remove the "burial cloths" from each other's lives.

As we come close to Holy Week, this Gospel prepares us for the greatest mystery of our faith. But the raising of Lazarus points forward to something even greater: the Resurrection of Jesus Himself. The one who called Lazarus from the tomb will soon enter a tomb—but death will not hold Him.

And because Christ rises, we know that death is not the final word. Life is stronger. Hope is stronger. God's love is stronger.

So today, Jesus asks Martha the same question He asks each of us: "Do you believe this?"

If we believe, then no tomb is permanent. No darkness is final. Christ continues to call us to new life.

May we hear His voice this Lent. May we allow Him to remove the stones from our hearts. And may we walk out of the tomb into the life He offers us.

March—The Month of St. Joseph

Lenten Schedule

- ◆ Stations of the Cross, Friday Nights at 6 p.m., through March 27th.
- ◆ Chrism Mass in Baker City, Thursday, March 26th, at 11 a.m.
- ◆ Palm Sunday, March 29th, Mass is at 9 a.m. Spanish Mass is 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 & Veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Holy Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil Mass is at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 5th, Mass is at 9 a.m. Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.



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Mass Schedule Change

There will be no Mass on March 24th, 25th, and 26th while Fr. Joseph is in Baker City for the Chrism Mass.

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2026 Chrism Mass

Bishop Thomas Hennen cordially invites you to the blessing of the oils and the renewal of priestly promises at the **2026 Chrism Mass on March 26th, at 11 a.m. in Baker City at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Reception to follow.**

If you cannot travel, you are invited to join via **live-stream at 11 a.m.**, or any time after on the Diocese of Baker Website Home Page at: www.dioceseofbaker.org.

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Soup Supper

On **Friday, March 27th, in the Parish Hall, after the Stations of the Cross**, there will be a soup supper hosted by the Knights of Columbus

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Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for an "Easter Egg Hunt" on **Saturday, March 28th, at 11 a.m. on the Parish lawn.**

Bring the kids to participate in the egg hunt and enjoy egg-dyeing in the Parish Hall. We look forward to everyone coming together to enjoy the day!

Lenten Morning Retreat

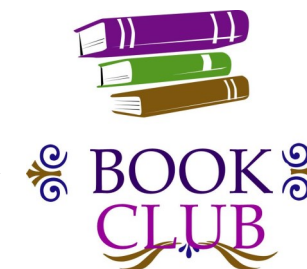
Join Catholic Speaker, **Dina Marie Hale**, founder of Faith Moments, for a Lenten Retreat on **Saturday morning, March 28th, from 9 to 11 a.m.**, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Forest Grove. The retreat theme is: "We are Companions of Jesus Carrying Our Cross." Together, we'll embark on a heartfelt pilgrimage 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 at St. Anthony of Padua Parish Hall in Forest Grove. A free-will offering will be collected. 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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Book Club

The next Book Club pick is ***The Shack***, by William P. Young. Our upcoming meeting is on **Tuesday, April 14th, at 6 p.m., in Room 4** of the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to read this book and join us for an insightful discussion.



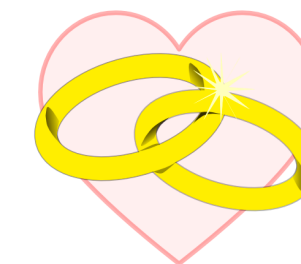
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50+ Wedding Anniversary?

St. Joseph Church is honoring couples who have been married for 50 years or more.

On **Sunday, May 3rd, after the 11 a.m. bilingual Mass**, there will be a luncheon and celebration.

If you were married in **1976 or earlier**, or for more information, please call or text **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026–27 SCHOOL YEAR AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL!

We invite you to visit our website for full details about our classical Catholic High School Program, Admissions Process, and upcoming events at: <https://chestertonmaterdei.org/>