

## Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Catherine of Siena"

Although Catherine was religious, she chose not to join a convent. Instead, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which let her be part of a religious community while still living at home. Fellow Dominican sisters taught St. Catherine how to read. Meanwhile, she lived quietly, isolated within her family home.

Something changed her when she was 21. She described an experience she called her "mystical marriage to Christ." There are debates about whether St. Catherine was given a ring, with some claiming it was a jeweled ring, and others saying it was made of Jesus's skin. St. Catherine herself had started the rumor about the latter in her writings, but she was known to often say the ring itself was invisible.

Such mystical experiences transform people, and St. Catherine was no exception. In her vision, she was instructed to reenter public life and assist the poor and sick. She immediately reunited with her family and went out into the public to help those in need.

She frequently visited hospitals and homes of the poor and sick. Her efforts soon drew followers who assisted her in her mission to help those in need.

St. Catherine became more involved in the world as she worked, and eventually she started to travel, calling for reform in the Church and urging people to confess and love God completely. She got involved in politics and played a key role in helping city-states stay loyal to the Pope. She was also believed to have helped initiate a crusade to the Holy Land.

On one occasion, she visited a condemned political prisoner and was credited with saving his soul, which she



saw being taken up to heaven at his moment of death.

St. Catherine allegedly received the stigmata, but like her ring, it was visible only to herself. She took Bl. Raymond of Capua as her confessor and spiritual director.

Starting in 1375, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and played a key role in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome. She became involved in the fractured politics of her time but played a key role in restoring the Papacy to Rome and brokering peace deals amid factional conflict and war among the Italian city-states.

She also founded a women's monastery outside Siena in 1377. She is credited with writing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her main work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine was later named a Doctor of the Church. She remains one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.

By 1380, the 33-year-old mystic had fallen ill, possibly due to her habit of extreme fasting. Her confessor, Raymond, ordered her to eat, but she replied that she found it difficult and that she might be sick.

In January of 1380, her illness accelerated her inability to eat and drink. Within weeks, she was unable to use her legs. She died on April 29th, following a stroke just a week prior.

St. Catherine's feast day is April 29th. She is the patroness of protection against fire, illness, miscarriages, being ridiculed for faith, the United States, Italy, and nurses.

—Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 29, 2026 † Palm Sunday

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	03/30/2026	8:00 a.m.	Rodolfo Perez Reyes (D)	Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday	03/31/2026	8:00 a.m.	Ruth Ralls (D)	Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday	04/01/2026	12:00 p.m.	Kathy Leonard (D)	Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday	04/02/2026	6:00 p.m.	Michelle Fray (L)	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday	04/03/2026	6:00 p.m.	Howard Tocher Family (L)	Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday	04/04/2026	7:00 p.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10
Sunday	04/05/2026	9:00 am	Alejandra Robles/Sacramento Ortiz (D)	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9
Sunday	04/05/2026	12:00 pm	Rafael Villagomez (D)	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

(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 ♦ 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

## Today's Homily

**TODAY WE BEGIN** Holy Week with a striking contrast. We start with joy—palms in our hands, voices raised in praise: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” And within minutes, we are drawn into the Passion—betrayal, suffering, and the cry: “Crucify him!”

This is not just a story about what happened long ago. It is a mirror of the human heart . . . and, if we are honest, our own hearts.

**In the Gospel of Palm Sunday, Year A**, we walk with Jesus from triumph into suffering. The same crowd that welcomes Him with enthusiasm will soon turn against Him. Why? Because Jesus did not meet their expectations. They wanted a powerful king, a political savior. But Jesus comes humbly, riding on a donkey, bringing not domination, but love; not force, but sacrifice.

And that is where the tension lies.

We, too, welcome Jesus—when it is easy, when it feels good, when faith fits comfortably into our lives. We wave our palms when God seems close, when prayers are answered, when life is going well.

But what about when following Christ becomes difficult? When the cross appears in our lives—through suffering, loss, misunderstanding, or sacrifice?

Do we still say, “Hosanna”?

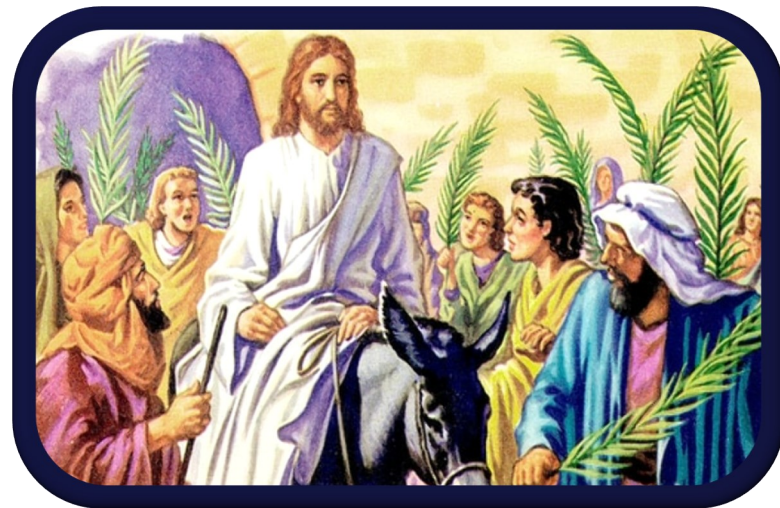
Or do we slowly step back . . . even walk away?

Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on this deeper question:

What kind of King do we want? And what kind of disciples are we willing to be?

Jesus shows us clearly what His kingship looks like. He does not avoid suffering; He enters into it. He does not save Himself; He gives Himself.

On the cross, we see not weakness, but the greatest strength—the strength to love completely, even when rejected.



Think of His silence before His accusers.

Think of His forgiveness on the cross: “Father, forgive them.”

Think of His total surrender: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

These are not just moments of pain; they are moments of profound love. And that

love is directed to each one of us.

**Palm Sunday**, then, is not only about what the crowd did—it is about a decision each of us must make. Will we follow Jesus only in moments of glory? Or will we walk with Him all the way to the cross?

Because the truth is this: there is no Easter Sunday without Good Friday. There is no resurrection without the cross.

In our own lives, we all experience “Palm Sunday moments”—times of joy, success, and blessing. But we also face “Good Friday moments”—times of suffering, confusion, and darkness.

The message of today is that Jesus is present in both. And more importantly, He shows us that suffering, when united with love, is never meaningless.

As we enter this Holy Week, the Church invites us not to be spectators, but participants.

Walk with Jesus. Walk with Him in the Eucharist. Walk with Him in prayer. Walk with Him in acts of kindness and forgiveness. Walk with Him especially in the crosses of your own life and the lives of others.

Do not be afraid of the cross. It is not the end of the story.

At the end of today's Passion, everything seems lost. But we already know what the disciples did not yet understand—that love will have the final word. That the cross will lead to resurrection.

**So today**—as we hold our palms—let us make a quiet, sincere commitment: Not just to praise Jesus when it is easy . . . but to remain with Him, faithfully, all the way. Because if we stay with Him through the cross, we will also share in His resurrection.

## March—The Month of St. Joseph

### Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ 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. The Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.

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### Schedule Change

- ◆ There will not be Mass from Tuesday, April 6th, through Thursday, April 9th.
- ◆ On Friday, April 10th, there will be no 12 p.m. Mass; instead, there will be a wedding Mass at 2 p.m.
- ◆ There will be no Mass from Monday, April 13th, through Friday, April 17th, while Fr. Joseph is at the Clergy Retreat in Mt. Angel.

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### Parish Community

We have a wonderful community at St. Joseph's. Whenever something is asked of our parishioners, they always come through! Whether it's collecting paper bags for the Ham Dinner or donating to the Pancake Breakfast Raffle, I kindly ask that, when you offer your donation, it reaches the correct location, and that you avoid leaving items outside. If you're unsure where that is, please check in at the parish office.

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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.

### Message from Bishop Hennen

Thank you so much for participating in the community listening sessions as we explore the possibility of Xavier Prep, a second Catholic independent high school in Central Oregon.

The survey is now being finalized and will soon be shared with all registered Catholics in the tri-county area.

Please share it with friends and family in Central Oregon, both Catholic and non-Catholic. The more surveys we get back, the more accurate our results.

In addition to informing decisions surrounding Xavier Prep, the survey will also help strengthen existing schools such as Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei, an established, bishop-supported high school, as well as the St. Thomas Academy and St. Francis of Assisi School.

Your feedback will help ensure that these schools will continue to serve our families well and to grow in their mission.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to **Christina Barry** at (509) 386.4028 or visit our website at [xaviercatholicprep.org](http://xaviercatholicprep.org)

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic schools in Central Oregon!

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### Worldwide MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

Are you looking to include Christ in your marriage? You can deepen your communication, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience **from Friday, May 1st, through Sunday, May 3rd, in Beaverton, Oregon.**

To apply for your WWME Experience and/or to find other dates, please visit [rediscoverthespark.org](http://rediscoverthespark.org).

For more information about WWME, you can call (503) 704-0836 or send an email to: [reservations@rediscoverthespark.org](mailto:reservations@rediscoverthespark.org).

**Catholic High School Feasibility Study Update:**

The survey will be “live” on Tuesday, March 31st, until April 13th! Please take the survey and share it with family and friends. The more people in Central Oregon who take it—both Catholics and non-Catholics—the more accurate our results. Please scan the QR code or follow the link to get to the survey. *Thank you!*

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8748955/Xavier-Catholic-Prep-New-High-School-Feasibility-Study>

