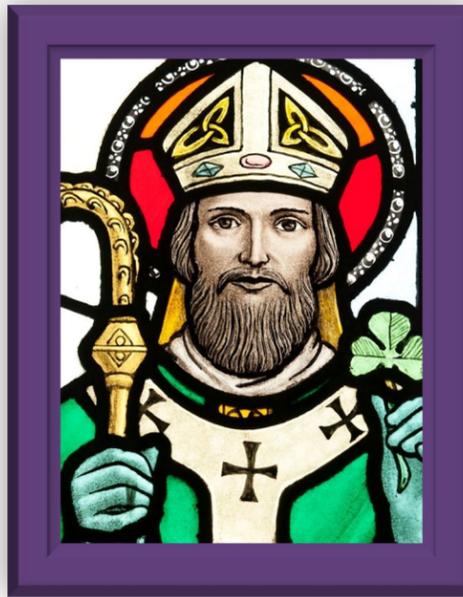


## Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Patrick"

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain, and at about 14, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of druids and pagans, but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, "The Confession." In it, he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did my faith, and my soul was raised, so that, in a single day, I said as many as a hundred prayers, and at night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow, ice, or rain."



The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years. He was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland, on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming that he met the chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people—eventually

thousands—and began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity, and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He performed many miracles and expressed his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling, and enduring much suffering, he died on March 17, 461.

He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral in Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone. His feast day is March 17th. He is the Patron Saint of Ireland, Engineers, and Archers.

—*Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was 20, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision that he described in his memoir: "I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victorius, and he carried many letters, giving me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the woods of Foclut (also spelled Focluth), which is beside the western sea, and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

### 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 ♦ 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 8, 2026 † 3rd 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](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](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	03/09/2026	8:00 am	Ron Lattin (D)	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday	03/10/2026	8:00 am	Benton Family Great-Grandchildren (L)	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday	03/11/2026	12:00 pm	Pierre Jones (D)	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	03/12/2026	8:00 am	Joyce VenJohn (L)	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday	03/13/2026	12:00 pm	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	03/14/2026	5:00 pm	Clint Giovanini (D)	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
Sunday	03/15/2026	9:00 am	Carmen Ortiz Robles (D)	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
Sunday	03/16/2026	12:00 pm	Leobardo Ortiz (D)	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily—Third Sunday of Lent

**TODAY'S GOSPEL PRESENTS** one of the most beautiful encounters in the Bible: the meeting between Jesus Christ and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-32).

Jesus Christ is traveling through Samaria and stops at Jacob's Well near the town of Sychar. He is tired and thirsty.

At noon, a woman comes to draw water. This simple moment becomes a life-changing encounter.

At the beginning of the story, Jesus simply says, "Give me a drink." On the surface, it sounds like an ordinary request. But very soon we realize that this conversation is really about a deeper thirst.

The woman comes to the well because she needs water for her daily life. But Jesus reveals that she also carries another thirst inside her heart—a thirst for meaning, love, forgiveness, and hope.

And that thirst exists in every human heart.

A sign that God is active in our lives is His entering into our personal, "private" lives. Jesus wants to "get personal" with us, especially during this Lenten season. Christ wishes to come into that "private" life, not to embarrass us, not to judge or condemn us, not to be unkind or malicious to us, but to reconnect us to the Will of God, our Salvation, by freeing us, changing us, and offering us what we really need: living water.

The living water is God the Holy Spirit Who enters the soul of the woman through Jesus and His love. We human beings are composed of four parts: mind, body, emotions, and spirit. When we let God, the Holy Spirit, come into us and take control of our thinking, our physical activity, our emotions, and our spirit, He can bring harmony to all four parts of our humanity, and so to the way we live. We can find this living water in the Sacraments, in prayer, and in the Holy Bible.

It is the ministry of Jesus that we inherit and share. Jesus did not allow the woman's status, past, attitude, or anything else obstruct His ability to love her. And loving her, He freed her and made her whole—made her the child of God she already was.

Let us also open our hearts to one another and accept each other as God's gifts to us. Thus, we shall ex-



perience resurrection in our own lives and in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Another beautiful part of this story is that Jesus meets the woman exactly where she is. This woman has a complicated past. She has had five husbands and is living with a man who is not her husband. Because of shame and rejection, she comes to the well at noon, when no one else is there.

She probably feels judged by others. Maybe she thinks God has also rejected her.

But Jesus does not condemn her. He does not shame her. He begins a conversation. He listens. He reveals the truth gently. And He leads her toward a new life.

This is very important for us during Lent.

Sometimes, people avoid God because they feel unworthy. They think: "I have made too many mistakes." "My life is too messy." "God cannot love someone like me." But today's Gospel shows us the opposite. Jesus meets sinners. Jesus speaks with them. Jesus offers them living water.

Lent is not about feeling guilty; it is about encountering the mercy of God.

We all face moments when guilt plagues us; when we are upset for falling for the same temptations again and again; when we make choices that turn out to be all wrong; when our relationships with others fall in a heap; when we feel lonely, sick, and tired of the way people are treating us; when we are depressed and upset, and can't see anything good in ourselves; when our Faith is at rock bottom, and we feel as if the Church and religion aren't doing anything for us; when we beat ourselves up for lack of enthusiasm to be true disciples of Jesus, ready to do anything for Him; when we survey the days that have gone by without a word of prayer; when all we feel is failure and defeat.

During such moments, it is great to read a story about Jesus and His love and acceptance of the woman at the well. Let us rest, assured, that Jesus is there to accept us warmly and help us to see that He will give us the strength and the power we need to overcome whatever it is that is grieving us.

## March—The Month of St. Joseph

### Lenten Schedule

- ◆ Stations of the Cross, Friday Nights at 6 p.m., 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 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 and 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.



+++

### Soup Supper Schedule

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

March 13th—Prolife

March 20th—Religious Education

March 27th—Knights of Columbus



+++

### 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.

+++

### Penance Service

Our Lenten Penance Service will be on **Wednesday, March 18th, at 6 p.m.** Seven priests will be available, with four of them bilingual. Children who have received Communion and are enrolled in our Religious Education classes, including confirmation students, must attend with their parents.

### March—Dedicated to St Joseph

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is a special landmark this month, as we celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. This is because the principal feast of St. Joseph falls on **Wednesday, March 19th.**

This date was chosen to honor and commemorate his role as Mary's husband and Jesus Christ's foster father. Because this day falls during the season of Lent, it provides an opportunity to consider and embrace the sacrifice and suffering of St. Joseph as he lived each moment in God's will and anticipated the inevitable passion of his beloved foster Son.

By dedicating the month of March to St. Joseph, the Church encourages believers to reflect on his virtues, seek his intercession, and deepen their understanding of his significance in salvation history.

+++

### Annual Ham Dinner

Please join us on **March 22nd** this year for our traditional Ham Dinner in the Parish Hall, **served from Noon to 4 p.m.** Ticket prices are: Adults \$20, and children ages 6–12 are \$12. A family pass for two adults and two children is \$65, and both are sold at the door. Take-out meals are \$20 each. This year, we are offering **pre-sale tickets at a reduced rate** of \$18 for adults and \$10 for children, or a family pass for two adults and two children for \$55. **Tickets may be purchased at the Parish Office.**



+++

### 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.

+++

### CRS Rice Bowl: Pick Yours Up After Mass

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in dioceses across the U.S. put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms support CRS's work in more than 100 countries each year, and 25% of CRS Rice Bowl donations stay in the local diocese to support efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.