

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Matthias the Apostle"

How does one qualify to be an apostle?

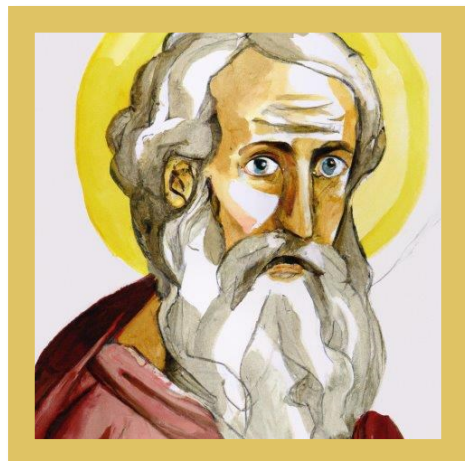
The first act of the apostles after the Ascension of Jesus was to find a replacement for Judas. Amid the questions, doubts, and dangers they faced, they chose to focus on finding a 12th apostle. Why was this important?

The number 12 is an important number in the Bible because there were 12 sons of Jacob (later called Israel), and those 12 sons established the 12 tribes that made up the people of Israel. If the new Israel was to come from the disciples of Jesus, a 12th apostle was needed. But Jesus had chosen the original 12, so how could they know whom He would choose?

There were 120 people gathered for prayer and reflection in the upper room when Peter stood up to propose a way to make the choice. He had one criterion; namely that, like Andrew, James, John, and himself, the new apostle be someone who had been a disciple from the very beginning—from his baptism by John—until the Ascension.

The reason was simple. The new apostle must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He must have followed Jesus before anyone knew Him, stayed with Him when He made enemies, and believed in Him when He spoke of the cross and of eating His body—teachings that had made others melt away.

Two men fit this description: Matthias and Joseph (called Barsabbas).



They knew that both men had been with them and with Jesus throughout His ministry.

But which one had the heart to become a witness to His resurrection? The apostles knew that only the Lord could know what was in the heart of each. So they cast lots (an ancient practice using sticks or stones to make decisions) to discover God's will, and Matthias was chosen. He was the 12th apostle,

and the group was whole again as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

That's the first and last we hear of Matthias in Scripture. Legends such as the Acts of Andrew and Matthias testify to Matthias' enthusiastic embrace of all that being an apostle meant, including evangelization, persecution, and death in the service of the Lord.

Clement of Alexandria says that Matthias, like all the other apostles, was not chosen by Jesus for what he already was, but for what Jesus foresaw he would become. He was elected not because he was worthy, but because he would become worthy. Jesus chooses all of us in the same way. What does Jesus want you to become?

St. Matthias is the Patron Saint of alcoholics, carpenters, tailors, and smallpox victims, and is invoked for hope and perseverance.

His Feast Day is May 14th.

—*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
May 10, 2026 † 6th Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

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 GENACLE 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	05/11/2026	8:00 a.m.	Izzy Sherman (L)	Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday	05/12/2026	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday	05/13/2026	12:00 p.m.	Howard Tocher Family (L)	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday	05/14/2026	8:00 a.m.	Most Rev Thomas Connolly (D)	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17
Friday	05/15/2026	12:00 p.m.	Jody Streetman (D)	Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday	05/16/2026	5:00 p.m.	Mike McCabe (D)	Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:26-20
Sunday	05/17/2026	9:00 a.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:26-20
Sunday	05/17/2026	12:00 p.m.	Ladislado Villagomez (D)	Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:26-20

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily—John 14: 15–21

JESUS' PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS APOSTLES

Today's readings explain Who the Holy Spirit is, what His roles are, and how we can experience Him in our daily lives.

The first reading describes how the Holy Spirit helped Philip, the Deacon, to preach powerfully and convert the Samaritans in large numbers, and how the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John, giving them a fresh anointing.

In the second reading, Peter shows us that Holy Spirit makes it possible for believers to live God-fearing lives in the midst of opposition and persecution.

Today's Gospel, taken from the "Last Supper Discourse," describes the gift of the Holy Spirit which Jesus is going to give His disciples who obey His commandment of love. Thus, the faithful believers will have the indwelling of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in their souls.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks very tenderly to His disciples. He knows He is about to leave them, and He senses their fear, their confusion, their anxiety. So, He gives them a promise—one of the most comforting promises in all of Scripture: "I will not leave you orphans."

Think about that word—orphans. It speaks of loneliness, abandonment, and uncertainty. Jesus assures His disciples—and us—that even though He may not be physically present, we are never alone. God does not abandon His people.

But then Jesus adds something important: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

This tells us that our relationship with Jesus is not just emotional—it is practical. Love is not just something we feel; it is something we live. To love Jesus means to follow His way: to forgive, to serve, to be patient, to care for others, even when it is difficult.

And then comes the great promise: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always—the Spirit of truth."



Jesus is speaking about the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is not just a distant force; the Spirit is God dwelling within us.

The Spirit guides us, strengthens us, and reminds us that we belong to God.

We might ask ourselves: *Do I really experience the Holy Spirit in my life?*

The Spirit is present:

- ◇ When we choose kindness over anger.
- ◇ When we speak truth instead of gossip.
- ◇ When we forgive someone who hurt us.
- ◇ When we remain faithful in difficult times

These are not just human efforts; they are signs of God living within us.

Jesus also says, "You will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me and I in you."

This is a beautiful mystery: we are not just followers of Christ—we are united with Him. Our lives are meant to reflect His presence in the world.

But let's be honest—it is not always easy to live this way. We face struggles, doubts, and sometimes we feel distant from God. Yet Jesus' promise remains: "I will not leave you."

- ◇ Even when we don't feel Him, He is there.
- ◇ Even when we fail, He remains faithful.
- ◇ Even when life is uncertain, His Spirit continues to guide us.

So the message today is simple but powerful:

- ◇ We are not alone.
- ◇ We are loved.
- ◇ We are guided by the Holy Spirit.

And our response is equally simple: Love Jesus—not just in words, but in action.

As we continue this Easter season, let us open our hearts more deeply to the Holy Spirit. Let us invite the Spirit to shape our thoughts, our decisions, and our relationships.

And may our lives become a living witness that Christ is alive—not far away, but dwelling within us.

AMEN.

May—The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Book Club

Our current book club selection is "**From Orphan to Inspiration**" by **Betty Simon**.

We will gather on **Tuesday, May 12th, at 6 p.m., in Room 4, of the Parish Hall**. All are welcome to read the book and join the discussion.

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Uplift Your Priest



Before **Father Joseph** leaves for his yearly vacation, we're excited to celebrate our "Uplift Your Priest" day! It's a wonderful opportunity to honor **Father Joseph** and show him how much we appreciate all that he does for our parish family. **Join us for a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, May 17th, at 1 p.m.**

Cards and letters expressing our gratitude to Father Joseph are appreciated. If you cannot attend the celebration, feel free to drop off your card or mail it to the Parish Office.

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Confirmation

Father Joseph will hear confessions for candidates on May 19th, starting at 4:p.m. All candidates and their sponsors must be present.

Bishop Hennen will preside over the ceremony on **May 20th at 6 p.m.**

Pictures will be taken at 4:30 p.m. with Bishop Hennen and Father Joseph, followed by a group photo.

ATTIRE: Girls will wear a modest dress. Boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt, and a red tie. All candidates will wear a red robe.

Religious Education News

We're excited to share some upcoming opportunities in our department! We're looking to fill several volunteer teaching positions, and we'd love you to consider joining us. To get started, there are just a couple of requirements: you'll need to watch a short video and pass a background check. **Classes take place on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.** Feel free to stop by the Parish Hall after 3 p.m., or call **Barb Dalton** at (541) 410-3720 for more details. We appreciate your interest and look forward to welcoming you!

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Bishop's Annual Appeal

This week marks the launch of the Bishop's annual Appeal: "A Future of Hope." Your generosity makes vital diocesan and parish programs possible for our community. By supporting the BAA, you help build vibrant families, a faith-filled community, and a stronger parish now and for the future. For details, visit the Diocese of Baker website at: dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal.

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A Summer Retreat Is Coming Soon

The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton offers a summer retreat during the Franciscan Jubilee Year! Dive deeper into your faith and develop a greater devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary during our 52nd Annual Catholic Education Retreat. The Summer Institute is an educational and spiritual retreat for men, women, young adults, and anyone discerning a religious vocation.

The retreat begins on **Sunday, July 12th, with dinner, and concludes on Friday, July 17th, with lunch**. For more detailed information, please visit the website at: www.olpretreat.org or call (503) 649-7127.

