

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Philip Neri"

St. Philip Neri was a Christian missionary and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, a community of Catholic priests and lay brothers. He was born in Florence, Italy, on July 21, 1515, as one of four children to Francesco Neri.

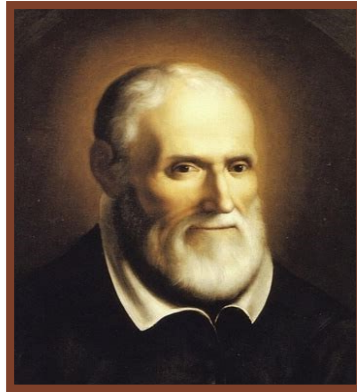
At 18, Philip went to live with a wealthy family member in San Germano. He was sent there to assist with—and possibly inherit—the family business. Soon after his arrival, Philip had a mystical vision, which he later described as his Christian conversion. This encounter with the Lord dramatically changed his life. He felt a call from the Holy Spirit to live radically for and to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.

During his first two years in Rome, Philip lived a solitary life. He also devoted much time to prayer. He ate very small meals of bread, water, and a few vegetables, practicing a life-style of asceticism.

In 1535, Philip began studying theology and philosophy at the Sapienza and at St. Augustine's Monastery. Although he was considered a "promising scholar," Philip gave up any thought of ordination after three years of study. He set out to help Rome's poor and to re-evangelize the city. Sadly, Rome had lost its first love, and its inhabitants were no longer truly living as Christians.

Philip, compared to Socrates, had a knack for starting conversations, and leading his listeners to consider a new and better way of life—the Christian Way. He easily caught others' attention with his warm personality and incredible sense of humor. He encouraged groups to gather for discussions, studies, prayer, and the enjoyment of music. In 1548, with the help of his confessor, Fr. Persiano Rossa, Philip founded the Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity, a confraternity for poor laymen to meet for spiritual exercises and service to the poor.

At 34, Philip had already accomplished so much, but his confessor was determined that his work would be more effective as a priest. Philip was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1551.



Influenced by St. Francis Xavier, Philip considered going to India to join the foreign mission field, but his peers dissuaded him because Rome still needed his ministry and influence.

A large room was built above the church of San Girolamo to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims to Philip, and other priests were called to assist him. Philip and the priests were soon known as the "Oratorians" because they rang a bell to call the faithful to their "oratory."

The foundation of the Congregation of the Priests of the Oratory would be laid a few years later, with members who encouraged others to deepen their faith. Philip's rule for them was simple: to share a common table and to perform spiritual exercises. He didn't want his followers to bind themselves to a life by vow—nor did he want them to renounce their property.

Philip's organization was officially approved by Pope Gregory XIII in 1575.

Philip was constantly in a crowd of people; he allowed his followers free access to him and continued to hear confessions, engage in ministry, and pray.

Philip was respected and loved throughout Rome; he became a trusted advisor to popes, kings, and cardinals, and he was equally important to the poor. He wholeheartedly desired the reform of the Catholic Church and worked toward it with gentleness and friendship rather than criticism and harshness. His efforts to reach out to the laypeople of Rome, rather than simply associating with the clergy, made him one of the great figures in the Catholic Church's Counter Reformation. Sadly, the Catholic Church had fallen into clericalism. He soon earned the title "Apostle of Rome."

On May 26, 1595, Philip suffered a hemorrhage and died at 80 years old. His body lies in the New Church, where the Oratorians still serve.

He is the patron saint of Rome, U.S. Special Forces, and humor and joy. His feast day is celebrated on May 26th.

—*Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

May 17, 2026 † The Ascension of the Lord Sunday

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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

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| Monday | 05/18/2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Izzy Sherman (L) | Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33 |
| Tuesday | 05/19/2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Anita Marquez (L) | Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a |
| Wednesday | 05/20/2026 | 6:00 p.m. | Marquez Family (L) | Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19 |
| Thursday | 05/21/2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Brittany Counts (L) | Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26 |
| Friday | 05/22/2026 | 12:00 p.m. | Bea Vento (D) | Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19 |
| Saturday | 05/23/2026 | 5:00 p.m. | Cindy Burns (L) | Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23 |
| Sunday | 05/24/2026 | 9:00 a.m. | Parishioners of St. Joseph (L) | Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23 |
| Sunday | 05/24/2026 | 12:00 p.m. | Pablo Reynosa (D) | Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23 |

(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—Matthew 28: 26–20

TODAY WE CELEBRATE the great feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Forty days after Easter, Jesus returns to the Father.

At first glance, it may seem like Jesus is leaving His disciples behind. But the Ascension is not about absence—it is about a new presence. Jesus is no longer limited to one place or one group of people. Through the Holy Spirit, He is now present everywhere, with all His people.

In the Gospel, before ascending into heaven, Jesus gives His disciples a mission: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”

Notice something important: Jesus does not say, “Sit and wait.” He says, “Go.” The Christian life is always a mission. Faith is not something private that we keep only for ourselves. We are called to carry Christ into our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our parish, and our community.

The disciples must have felt afraid and uncertain. Jesus, their teacher and friend, was leaving them. Yet Jesus tells them not to be afraid. Why? Because He promises: “I am with you always.”

That promise remains true for us today. We may not see Jesus with our eyes, but He walks with us every day — in the Eucharist, in Scripture, in prayer, and in one another. Sometimes we look at the problems of the world and feel discouraged: wars, divisions, violence, loneliness, struggles within families, worries about the future. But the Ascension reminds us that Christ is Lord. He has conquered sin and death. He reigns with the Father, and He continues to guide His Church.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives us a beautiful image. As Jesus ascends, the disciples keep looking up into the sky. Then the angels ask them, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?”

In other words: don't just stand there. There's work to do. The disciples are being told to stop staring upward and start living the Gospel on earth.

Sometimes we Christians can also spend too much time “looking at the sky.” We pray, we come to church,



we ask God for help—and all of that is good and necessary. But the Ascension reminds us that discipleship also means action. We must become Christ's hands and feet in the world.

When we forgive someone, Christ is present.

When we help the poor, Christ is present. When parents sacrifice for their children, Christ is present.

When we comfort the sick or the lonely, Christ is present.

The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work; it is the beginning of the Church's mission.

And there is another beautiful message in today's feast: Jesus takes our humanity into heaven. The risen Jesus ascends with His glorified human body. This means that heaven is now opened for us. Our destiny is not destruction or hopelessness. Our destiny is eternal life with God.

That is why the Ascension is a feast of hope.

Sometimes life becomes “heavy.” We experience grief, illness, disappointments, or failures. We may wonder where God is. The Ascension reminds us that our lives are moving toward heaven. Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place for us.

As He said in the Gospel of John: “I go to prepare a place for you.”

So today, let us ask ourselves:

- Am I living as a witness to Christ?
- Do people see kindness, faith, and love in my life?
- Am I helping to bring others closer to God?

The world does not only need more information about Jesus—it needs living witnesses of Jesus.

As we celebrate this Eucharist today, let us pray for the grace to continue Christ's mission with courage and joy. May we never stand still in fear, but go forth with faith, knowing that the Lord who ascended into heaven remains with us always.

AMEN.

May—The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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.

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Schedule Change

On Wednesday, May 20th, there will not be Mass at 12 p.m. There will be Mass at Confirmation at 6 p.m.

Father Joseph will be on vacation from **Tuesday, June 2nd, through Tuesday, July 7th.** During that time, there will be no weekday Masses.

Father Joe Reeves will cover all weekend Masses. .

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Notes

—There is a child's jacket left behind from the last day of classes. Please stop by the parish office to pick it up.

—If anyone has pictures of the Tocher family taken at the dedication of the Statues last September, please get in touch with **Garlynn Tocher.**

—If you are proficient in updating websites and would like to volunteer your services, please get in touch with Darlene in the parish office.

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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!

Quo Vadis

Where are you going? ¿A dónde vas? **June 23–June 26:** Quo Vadis Days Camp is for men in 8th–12th grade* who are open to exploring whether God is calling them to a religious or priestly vocation. *Men ages 18–20 are welcome to attend as non-chaperoning adults. Quo Vadis Days Camp is a great time away from the noise of the world, in the peacefulness of rural Crook County, to grow in faith, experience a routine of prayer, hang out with cool priests, have fun, and meet new friends.

Quo Vadis will be held at the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte.

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The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House

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, from **July 13th, through July 17th,** at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton.

The Summer Institute is an educational and spiritual retreat for men, women, young adults, and anyone discerning a religious vocation. Our theme “My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord” features four inspiring speakers: **Fr. Theodore Lange, Br. Louis de Montfort, O.S.B., Christine Thum Schlessler, and Ryan Mainard.**

The retreat begins on **Sunday, July 12th,** with dinner and concludes on **Friday, July 17th,** with lunch.

For details, visit www.olpretreat.org or call (503) 649-7127. Our Lady of Peace Retreat House is located at 3600 SW 170th Ave., Beaverton, OR 97003, and staffed by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, a Franciscan Community since 1939.

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Beloved: Camp for Young Women

July 20th–July 23rd: Our new camp for all young women in 7th-12th grade. This camp will be at the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte. *Young Women, ages 18–20, are welcome as non-chaperoning adults.

We are seeking 5 to 10 women, 21+, to serve as mentoring chaperones. We are also seeking nurses or EMTs to serve as camp nurses.

Please visit dioceseofbaker.org to register.