

Father Joseph's Corner

"St. Benedict, Abbot"

St. Benedict is believed to have been born around 480, the son of a Roman noble from Norcia and the twin of his sister, Scholastica.

In the 5th Century, the young Benedict was sent to Rome to complete his education under a nurse/housekeeper. The subject that dominated a young man's studies then was rhetoric—the art of persuasive speaking.

A successful speaker was not one who had the best argument or conveyed the truth, but one who used rhythm, eloquence, and technique to persuade. The power of the voice, without foundation in the heart, was the goal of the student's education.

That philosophy was reflected in the students' lives as well. They had everything—education, wealth, youth—and they spent it all in the pursuit of pleasure, not truth.

Benedict watched in horror as vice unraveled the lives and ethics of his companions. Fearing for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, renounced his inheritance, and lived in a small village with his nurse.

When God called him beyond this quiet life into an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco. Although becoming a hermit was not his purpose in leaving, there he lived as one under the direction of another hermit, Romanus.

One day, while living in a cave above a lake as a hermit, Benedict was confronted in his imagination by the Devil, who presented him with a beautiful, tempting woman. Benedict resisted by rolling his body into a thorn bush until it was covered in scrapes. It is said that through these wounds, he healed the wounds of his soul.



After years of prayer, word of his holiness drew nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict for them, but they insisted—then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. The story goes that the monks attempted to poison Benedict's drink, but when he prayed a blessing over the cup, it shattered.

So Benedict was on his own again—but not for long. The next group of followers was more sincere, and he established twelve monasteries in Subiaco, where monks lived in separate communities of twelve.

He abruptly left these monasteries when the envious attacks from another hermit made it impossible to continue the spiritual leadership he had assumed.

But it was at Monte Cassino that he founded the monastery, which became the root of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small, separate communities, he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, St. Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life.

After almost 1,500 years of monastic tradition, his direction seems obvious to us. However, Benedict was an innovator. No one had ever established communities like his or directed them with a rule. What is now part of history was a bold, risky step into the future.

Benedict had the holiness and the ability to take this step. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were compiled into what is now known as the Rule of St. Benedict—still guiding religious life after 15 centuries.

St. Benedict's feast day is July 11th. He is the patron saint of Europe, students, fields and farmers.

—*Prayerful Wishes, Father 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 ♦ Barbara Hopla ♦ Sam LeFevre and the LeFevre family ♦ Joanie Holland ♦ Tara Lamb
Mary Ellen Schiedler ♦ Carolyn Ausborn ♦ Kerry Loving ♦ Robert Marquez ♦ Perla Marquez
Douglas Booster ♦ Emily Ruiz

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
July 5, 2026 † 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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	07/06/2026	No Mass		Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday	07/07/2026	No Mass		Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday	07/08/2026	No Mass		Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday	07/09/2026	No Mass		Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9, Mt 10:7-15
Friday	07/10/2026	12:00 p.m.	Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya (L)	Hos 14:2-10; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday	07/11/2026	5:00 p.m.	Colleen Budde (L)	Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Sunday	07/12/2026	9:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23
Sunday	07/13/2026	12:00 p.m.	St Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

YOU MAY HAVE noticed that our first reading today includes details that remind us of Palm Sunday: *See, your king shall come to you . . . meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.*

It may feel puzzling to encounter that image from sacred Scripture at this point deep in Ordinary Time. This image, however, does more than remind us of Jesus' triumphant yet peaceful entrance into Jerusalem before His passion. It reminds us that even in the ordinary moments of our life, Jesus Christ is king.

This reading also tells us what kind of a king Christ is. For those who may harbor false images of a harsh God, or a God of earthly values, it tells us of a king who *banishes chariots and the warrior's bow*. It reminds us that ours is a king who *proclaims peace*.

Yes, He is powerful—*His dominion shall be from sea to sea*—and yet His power is manifested in His coming to us in meekness. This is a king who casts down earthly assumptions of power, whose victory is revealed in the vulnerability of the cross. He is a king who triumphs in love, not control or violence.

With this in mind, we come to our Gospel reading for today, in which Jesus says, *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest*. This is more than a lovely sentiment. This is the God who defeated death, this mighty one whose dominion shall be from sea to sea, promising to carry our burdens for us, promising to never leave us alone in our struggles, promising to humble Himself to walk be-



side us in our smallness and our need.

If we look at this passage carefully, we can also see another vital truth: in Christ's invitation, we can see that our rest does not come in ignoring or running away from our labors and burdens. No, our rest comes in walking side-by-side with Christ, amid our labors. There, we can share His yoke and find comfort in His meek and humble heart.

This God of might comes to be with us in a particular way in the liturgy. What burdens, what labor can we offer on this altar with the gifts of bread and wine today? What struggles or worries can we share with Christ at this holy table?

Jesus doesn't only come to walk beside us in carrying our burdens. He also gives us the grace to carry them.

As we receive the Eucharist, Jesus gives us a share in His divine grace and power.

As St. Paul reminds us, through our union with the Lord, the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead comes to dwell in us.

With the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, we, then, are able to do things that, humanly speaking, are beyond our power. We can love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, forgive those who have hurt us, and even carry whatever burdens we may face with serenity and peace.

May Christ, in the Eucharist, strengthen us, be ever more present in our labor, and lead us more fully into His kingdom.

AMEN.

July—The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

Father Joseph

Father Joseph will be heading home this week. Let's keep him in our thoughts and prayers for a safe and smooth journey.

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Father Joseph's Birthday Party

A birthday celebration for **Father Joseph** will be held on **Sunday, July 12th, at 1 p.m., in the Parish Hall**. All are invited. Kindly bring a dish to share.



Kermes/Food Festival

Our first Food Festival is on **Sunday, July 26th**. We look forward to everyone coming together to make this fundraiser a success. If you would like to donate a food item to sell or to volunteer, please contact **Darlene** in the Parish Office, or **Ruby** at (541) 350-8833 or **Yurizet** at (509) 910-6798.

- ◆ We're eager to avoid duplicate dishes, so if there's something you'd love to make, just reach out to us; we'd be happy to reserve it for you!
- ◆ We are trying to get a variety of food items to sell. Do you have a favorite? Maybe a family dish or a sweet treat?
- ◆ The next meeting will be on **Thursday, July 15th, at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 4**.

Celebraremos nuestro primer Festival de Comida el domingo, 26 de julio. Esperamos que todos nos unamos para que esta recaudación sea un éxito. Si desea donar un alimento para vender o ser voluntario, por favor contacte con Darlene en la oficina parroquial o con Ruby al (541) 350-8833 o con Yurizet al (509) 910-6798.

- ◆ *Queremos evitar platos duplicados, así que si hay algo que os gustaría preparar, solo contactad con nosotros; ¡Estaremos encantados de reservarla para ti!*
- ◆ *Estamos intentando conseguir una variedad de alimentos para vender. ¿Tienes alguna favorita? ¿Quizá un plato familiar o un capricho?*
- ◆ *La próxima reunión será el jueves 15 de julio a las 18:30 en el aula 4.*

July

The month of July in the Catholic liturgical year is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. This devotion focuses on the Blood Christ shed on the Cross for the redemption of humanity. That Blood is also made present in the Eucharist and is seen as the source of salvation and sanctifying grace. The devotion to the Precious Blood invites Catholics to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist, to live in gratitude for salvation, and to grow in holiness. This month is a good time to reflect on the Eucharist, prepare for reconciliation, and integrate prayers for the Precious Blood into daily life.

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is from **Friday, July 31st, to Sunday, August 2nd, in Beaverton**. To apply or to search for other dates, go to rediscoverthespark.org. For information, call (503) 704-0836 or email reservations@rediscoverthespark.org.

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A Lifeline for Marriage

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It provides tools to get your marriage back on track, the opportunity to rediscover each other, and the chance to examine your lives together in a new, positive way. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit www.helpourmarriage.org for testimonials and further information. To register for the Friday, **August 21st, through Sunday, August 23rd**, program in Canby, OR, please call (800) 470-2230, or (503) 225-9191, or email oregon@helpourmarriage.org.

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USCCB Regional Workshop

Join **Dominic Lombardi and Dr. Maria Parker** of the USCCB at Our Lady of the Angels in Hermiston on **Saturday, September 19th**, for a Bilingual *Listen, Teach, Send* Regional Workshop. Sessions will be in both Spanish and English. We look forward to a beautiful day of prayer, reflection, and collaboration rooted in Christ with family, youth, and young adult ministry leaders from around the diocese and across Region 12.

Visit the DioceseofBaker.org for more information about the event, lodging options, and/or to register.