

Father Joseph's Corner

"St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr"

The year was 258 A.D. It was a difficult beginning for what would become the 1st Christian Millennium. Hostility against the early followers of Jesus Christ was growing. The barbarism and severity of pagan Rome had begun to reach a fever pitch. It would soon lead to bloodlust. Roman authorities charged Christians of that era with *odium humani generis* (hatred of the human race). The Romans claimed to be citizens of a great empire, yet they practiced primitive forms of abortion as well as "exposure," the killing of unwanted newborns. First- and Second-century Rome was a challenging mission field for these early Christians. Rome proclaimed itself to be the shining example to the world of its age while violating Natural Moral Law and embracing debauchery. The day that Deacon Lawrence experienced his birth from death to life was an ominous and frightful day in ancient Rome. Four days earlier, the great Bishop of Rome, Sixtus, had been arrested by soldiers of the Emperor Valerian—along with his beloved deacons—and he was beheaded. Valerian had issued an edict to the Roman Senate that all the Christian clergy—bishops, priests, and deacons—were to be arrested and executed. There were many holy people among the martyrs of early Rome which makes it even more remarkable that the life and death of this one humble cleric, Deacon Lawrence, is attributed to the conversion of all of Rome. Sentenced to death in the Emperor Valerian's sweeping condemnation of all Christian clergy, Lawrence offended the Emperor—and endeared himself to all Christians since then—by assembling before Valerian the real gold and silver of the Church—the poor. According to the Christian tradition, Deacon Lawrence, knowing that the fervor of Valerian's hatred was extending to all Christians who owned property, began to give it all away. He distributed the money and treasures of the Church to the city's poor, believing the clear admoni-



tion of the Savior that they were blessed and especially loved by Him. Valerian heard the news and wanted the treasure to satisfy his unbridled lust for worldly power. So, he offered Deacon Lawrence a way out of sure death. If he showed him where the Church's great amount of gold and silver were located, he would issue an order of clemency, sparing his life so he could continue his work. Valerian was delighted when the deacon asked for three days to gather all the gold and silver of the Church together in one central place! His pride and greed blinded him from seeing the truth. For three days, Deacon Lawrence went throughout the city and invited all the beloved poor, handicapped, and unfortunate to come together. They were being supported by a thriving early Christian community who understood the imperative of the Gospel to recognize Jesus in the poor. When Valerian arrived, Deacon Lawrence presented him with the true gold and silver of the Church, the poor! The emperor was filled with rage! Beheading was not enough for this Christian Deacon. He ordered Deacon Lawrence to be burned alive, in public, on a griddle. Witnesses recorded the public martyrdom. The deacon cheerfully offered himself to the Lord Jesus and even joked with his executioners! The tradition records massive conversions to the Christian faith as a result of the holy life and death of one Deacon who understood the true heart of his vocation. He was poured out, like his Master, Jesus Christ the Servant, in redemptive love, on behalf of others. It is still said to this day that all of Rome became Christian because of the faithful life and death of this one humble deacon. He was buried in a cemetery on the Via Tiburtine. On that spot, Constantine would later build a Basilica. St. Lawrence's Feast Day is August 10th. He is the patron saint of Rome, students, miners, tanners, chefs, the poor, and firefighters. —Prayerful Wishes, Father Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
August 2, 2026 † 18th 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](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	08/03/2026	8:00 a.m.	Martha Rourke (D)	Jer 28:1-17; Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday	08/04/2026	8:00 a.m.	Jessica Lewis (L)	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Mt 14:22-36
Wednesday	08/05/2026	12:00 p.m.	Beth Short (D)	Jer 31:1-7, Mt 15:21-28
Thursday	08/06/2026	8:00 a.m.	Amanda Benson (L)	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Friday	08/07/2026	12:00 p.m.	Cookie Benton (L)	Na 2:1, 3, 3:1-3, 6-7; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday	08/08/2026	5:00 p.m.	Susie Carroll (L)	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
Sunday	08/09/2026	9:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
Sunday	08/09/2026	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE CENTRAL THEME of today's readings is: Through the Incarnation, God offers us Jesus as the ultimate sign of His infinite generosity. This gift not only prepares us for the eternal feast in Heaven but also

imposes a moral obligation on us to act as stewards of His grace, sharing our resources and blessings with those in need.

In the first reading, Isaiah consoles the Jewish exiles in Babylon, assuring them of their return to homeland and promising them that Yahweh their God alone can, and will, provide for their spiritual and physical needs. He will pardon their sins and will offer them participation in His eschatological banquet.

In the second reading, Paul argues that since God's love for us is infinitely immense, "nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In today's Gospel, demonstrating God's caring love for us, Jesus fed the enormous crowd of listeners both spiritually by His preaching, and physically by His miraculous multiplication of the apostles' lunch of five loaves and two fish. This miracle shows the Divinity of Jesus, the providing care of God, and the compassion of Jesus for the crowd. The miracle is also a Messianic sign, identifying Jesus as both the new Moses who fed the Israelites in the desert and the new Elisha who miraculously fed the starving people of Gilgal (2 Kings 4:42-44). The Eucharistic wordings used, and the promise made by Jesus on the following day, that he would give His body and blood as food and drink (John 6:25-70), made the miracle a prefiguring symbol of the Holy Eucharist.

We need to nourish our souls with Jesus in Word and Sacrament. We nourish our souls with the Word of God (by listening to God through read-



ing the Bible) and with the Bread of Life (by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion).

We need to find time to be with Christ both in personal and family prayer, and in Adoration of the Eucharist whenever this is available.

One way of listening to God is to read a passage in the Bible until it speaks to the heart. Then stop to reflect on the message God is conveying to our hearts. The next step is to respond to God by prayer, which is talking to Him, as to a friend in conversation, telling Him everything and asking Him for whatever we need.

We need to be "Eucharistic" ministers: We, too, can perform miracles in our own time and place, by imitating the four "Eucharistic actions" of Jesus: take humbly and generously what God gives us, bless it by offering it to others in God's love, break away from our own needs and selfish interests for the sake of others, and give with joy-filled gratitude to God, Who has blessed us with so much and to our brothers and sisters—His children.

We need to be generous in sharing God's blessings: We need to share our blessings with others around us, generously and sacrificially, in order to alleviate their spiritual and physical hunger. God lavishly blesses the large-hearted, who generously and sacrificially share their resources with others.

St. Mother Teresa once said, **"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."** That is exactly what today's Gospel teaches. God is not asking us to do everything. He is asking us to offer what we have with love and trust.

AS WE COME TO THIS ALTAR TODAY, let us place our own "five loaves and two fish" before the Lord—our talents, our struggles, our weaknesses, and our hopes. Jesus will bless them, transform them, and use them for His glory.

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Adoration

There will be Eucharistic Adoration on **Tuesday, August 4th, at 6 p.m.**

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Book Club

Our upcoming book club pick is "The First Phone Call from Heaven" by Mitch Albom. We're excited to gather on **Tuesday, August 11th, at 6 p.m., in classroom #4.** Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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Religious Education News

Registration will take place in the Narthex AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES ON AUGUST 15TH & 16TH AND AUGUST 22ND & 23RD. There will be no registration during classes. Please keep referring to the bulletin for updates.

—Thank you,
Barb Dalton,
Director of Religious Education
(541) 410-3720

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Bob's Birthday Party

★★★ Open House ★★★



The Leonard Family warmly invites everyone to the Parish Hall on **Saturday, August 15th, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.,** for a joyful Open House celebrating our cherished **BOB LEONARD's** birthday!

Christmas in July

We're excited to share that the annual Christmas Bazaar is happening on **Saturday, November 14th!** It's a perfect chance for us to be creative and come up with special items to make and donate for this fantastic fundraising event. Homemade gifts, crafts, candies, pastries, and similar treats tend to be big hits! Plus, there will be a delightful luncheon featuring tasty food. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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Can You Help Your Marriage?

Two weeks left to sign up for Retrouvaille. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue . . . or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? When was the last time you said, "I Love You"? Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Visit helpourmarriage.org for testimonials and further information. To register for **August 21st–23rd in Canby, OR**, call (800) 470-2230, or (503) 225-9191, or email to: oregon@helpourmarriage.org.

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USCCB Regional Workshop

Join **Dominic Lombardi and Dr. Maria Parker** at Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston on **Saturday, September 19th**, for a bilingual *Listen, Teach, Send* Regional Workshop. Sessions are in Spanish and English. Visit DioceseofBaker.org for more information, lodging options, and/or to register.

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