

Father Joseph's Corner

"St. Mary Magdalene"

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death, and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in Western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did.

The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with, and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over whether Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed woman, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are skeptical this is the same person.

Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her life after meeting Jesus is far more significant. She was certainly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example that no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him as part of a semi-permanent entourage that served Jesus and His Disciples.

Mary Magdalene appears in the Gospels at the most dramatic moment of Jesus' life—when she accompanies



Him to Calvary—and, along with other women, observes Him from afar. She remains there when Joseph of Arimathea places the body of Jesus in the sepulcher, which is sealed with a stone. On the morning of the first day of the week, she returns to the tomb, finds the stone rolled away, and runs to warn Peter and John. They, in turn, hurry to the empty tomb and discover that the body of the Lord is missing.

Mary Magdalene is the first among the women who followed Jesus to proclaim that He had overcome death. She is the first to announce the joyful message of Easter. But she also proved she was among those who loved Him most

when she stood at the foot of the Cross on Mount Calvary, together with Mary, His Mother, and the disciple St. John. She did not deny Him or run away in fear as the other disciples did, but remained close to Him every moment, even at the tomb.

According to a legend, after the death of Christ, she remained among the early Christians. After 14 years, she was allegedly placed in a boat by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, and set adrift without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France, where she spent the rest of her life in solitude, living in a cave.

Pope Francis elevated the memory of Mary Magdalene to the status of a feast on July 22nd, 2016, to emphasize the importance of this faithful disciple of Christ. She is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, pharmacists, tanners, and women.

—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 19, 2026 † 16th 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	07/20/2026	8:00 a.m.	Carol Moore (D)	Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday	07/21/2026	8:00 a.m.	Socorro Martinez (D)	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday	07/22/2026	12:00 p.m.	Helen Husar (D)	Sg 3:1-4b; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Thursday	07/23/2026	8:00 a.m.	Rosemary Putnam (L)	Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17
Friday	07/24/2026	12:00 p.m.	Ashley Walton (L)	Jer 3:14-17; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday	07/25/2026	5:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52
Sunday	07/26/2026	9:00 a.m.	Juvenal Robles & Norberto Vargas (D)	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

TODAY'S READINGS

tell us about a very patient and compassionate God—Who is hopeful that the so-called “weeds” among us will be converted. They warn us that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church, or society, or the family based on unwarranted and hasty judgment.

In the Gospel parable of the wheat and the weeds, Jesus presents a wise and patient God—Who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world until the harvest, and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends: “Let the wheat and the weeds grow together till the harvest time.” In other words, God is “delaying” the end of the world for repentant sinners, giving them more time, and offering them the graces of strength and good will so that they may get reconciled with Him.

God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who seem to us to fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian. We need to practice patience.

First, we need to be patient with ourselves. We may not get everything done perfectly this week, but so what? Then we must be patient with others—those who annoy us by the way they drive their cars, those whose opinions differ from ours, those who make too much noise and disturb us, and those who make our spiritual progress more difficult by their bad example and counter witnessing.

Let's practice patience, remembering that, in the end, it is God who controls. Let us patiently and lovingly treat the “weeds” in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to Heaven, especially by our good example and our fervent prayer for their conversion. We

*The Parable of the Weeds,
the Mustard Seed
and the Yeast*

Matthew 13:24—43



need to allow God to judge us and others as “weeds” or wheat: This parable was told so that we might not go around judging others as “weeds” or wheat.

Judgment is the function of God the Father and His angels. Instead, the parable asks us to take a close look at our own

life with the understanding that, with God's grace, one can judge one's own heart, then repent and bear good fruit. It is a time to look at our own sins and at the way we conduct our own life, then to make a decision about our own repentance so that, with God's grace, we can turn around and bear fruit for Jesus.

Our Gospel lesson asks us whether we are secure in our Faith life. Are we secure in the knowledge that one day we will be judged as wheat or “weed?” How often have we been a “weed” in the garden of the Lord? Would we, knowing what we know now, like to have been plucked up at those times? God is so merciful that He allows evil to exist in order that what is good may grow. He allows evil to exist because He can turn it into good. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of Faith.

In God's field we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace as we do His will, and to share His Word and love with others. We need to grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the “weeds” for Jesus to take care of. We live in a violent and impassioned culture.

Christians often appear self-righteous, suggesting that those who disagree with them are the “weeds” in the garden of life. Some they judge as “too radical” and others as too “old-fashioned” and “traditional.” Some they judge as embracing doctrinal errors—others as not having any doctrine at all. Some they condemn for not caring for the poor—others for caring for them too much.

In the end, it's enough to know that we are “seeds” who have been planted by the “Son of Man,” and that we're part of a healthy harvest that will someday be reaped by the angels of God.

July—The Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus

A Message from Father Joseph

I'm truly grateful to everyone who came to my birthday party and for the lovely cards, heartfelt prayers, and warm wishes. Your kindness meant so much to me and made this special day even more joyful to share with all of you.

—Father Joseph

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Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, July 20th.

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Schedule Change

On Sunday, July 26th, there will be one bilingual Mass at 9 a.m.

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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.

- ☛ Some of the foods we will be selling include: Tamales, Tacos, Chicharrónes, Hamburger Sliders, Pulled Pork Sliders, Pozole, Baked Beans, lots of sweet treats, and Agua Fresca.
- ☛ If you would like to make something to sell, please let us know. We would like a wide variety.

*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.*

- ☛ *Algunos de los alimentos que venderemos incluyen: tamales, tacos, chicharrónes, hamburguesas, hamburguesas, sliders de pulled pork, pozole, frijoles horneados, muchos postres, y agua fresca.*
- ☛ *Si quieres hacer algo para vender, por favor avísanos. Nos gustaría una gran variedad.*

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Cenacle Group

We will now meet on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. in classroom #4.

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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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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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Retrouvaille

Marriage Saving—the Weekend Phase

During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a team of three couples and a priest gives a series of presentations. The team presents a communication technique that helps you take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation, you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the previous presentation.

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. Limited space—call early!

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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 DioceseofBaker.org for more information, lodging options, and/or to register.