

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saint Monica"

Saint Monica, also known as Monica of Hippo, was the mother of Saint Augustine of Hippo. She was born in 331 AD in Tagaste, which is present-day Algeria.

When she was very young, she was married off to the Roman pagan Patricius, who shared his mother's violent temper. Patricius' mother lived with the couple, and the couple's temper flares proved a constant challenge for young Monica. While Monica's prayers and Christian deeds bothered Patricius, he is said to have respected her beliefs.

Three children were born to Monica and Patricius: Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. Unfortunately, Monica was unable to baptize her children.

When Augustine fell ill, Monica pleaded with Patricius to allow their son to be baptized. Patricius agreed, but when Augustine was healthy again, he withdrew his permission.

As time passed, Perpetua and Navigius entered the religious life, but unfortunately, Augustine became lazy and uncouth. This greatly worried Monica, so when Patricius died, she sent the 17-year-old Augustine to Carthage for schooling.

While in Carthage, Augustine became a Manichaean, a major religion that saw the world as light and darkness. When one died, they were removed from the world of matter and returned to the world of light, which is where life comes from.

After Augustine got his education and returned home, he shared his views with Monica, who drove him from her table. Though it is not recorded how much time passed, Monica had a vision that convinced her to reconcile with her wayward son. Monica went to a bishop, who told her, "The child of those tears shall never perish."

Inspired, Monica followed Augustine to Rome, where she learned he had left for Milan. She continued her pursuit and eventually came upon St. Ambrose, who helped her convert Augustine to Christianity following his 17-year resistance.



Augustine wrote: "In place of a basket filled with fruits of the earth, she had learned to bring to the oratories of the martyrs a heart full of purer petitions, and to give all that she could to the poor—so that the communion of the Lord's body might be rightly celebrated in those places where, after the example of His passion, the martyrs had been sacrificed and crowned."

After six months, Augustine was baptized in the church of St. John the Baptist in Milan. The pair were led to believe they should spread the Word of God to Africa, but in the Roman city of Civitavecchia, Monica passed away.

Augustine recorded the words she spoke to him when she realized death was near: "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is left for me to do or why I am still here—all my hopes in this world now fulfilled."

She was buried at Ostia, and her body was moved in the 6th Century to a hidden crypt in the church of Santa Aurea in Ostia, near the tomb of St. Aurea of Ostia.

In 1430, Pope Martin V ordered her relics brought to Rome, and many miracles were reported along the way. Later, Cardinal d'Estouteville built the Basilica di Sant'Agostino to honor St. Augustine, where her relics were placed in a chapel to the left of the high altar.

Her funeral epitaph survived in ancient manuscripts, and the stone on which it was originally written was discovered in the church of Santa Aurea in 1945. Douglas Boin translated the tablet's Latin to read: "Here the most virtuous mother of a young man set her ashes, a second light to your merits, Augustine. As a priest, serving the heavenly laws of peace, you taught [or you teach] the people entrusted to you with your character. A glory greater than the praise of your accomplishments crowns you both—Mother of the Virtues, more fortunate because of her offspring."

St. Monica's Feast Day is August 27th. She is the Patron Saint of wives and abuse victims.

—Prayerful Wishes, Father Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
August 23, 2026 † 21st 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

- ♦ ADORATION—First Tuesday of Every Month 6 p.m.
- ♦ 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	08/24/2026	8:00 a.m.	Irene Kutcher (D)	Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday	08/25/2026	8:00 a.m.	Pearl Holland (D)	2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday	08/26/2026	12:00 p.m.	Albina Stagnoli (D)	2 Thes 3:6-10; 16-18; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	08/27/2026	8:00 a.m.	Pat Ryan Family (L)	1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51
Friday	08/28/2026	12:00 p.m.	Adelaida Lopez (D)	1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	08/29/2026	5:00 p.m.	Cecilia Marquez (D)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Sunday	08/30/2026	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Sunday	08/30/2026	12:00 p.m.	Francisco Lopez (D)	Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily (Matthew 16:13–20)

TODAY'S GOSPEL BRINGS us to one of the most important moments in the life of Jesus and His disciples. Jesus asks them a simple but profound question: **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”**

The disciples give Him different answers: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus makes the question personal: **“But who do you say that I am?”**

This is the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus is not simply asking what other people think about Him. He wants to know what **we** believe about Him. Peter answers, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Peter's answer is not merely a statement of knowledge. It is an act of faith. Peter recognizes that Jesus is not simply a good teacher, a prophet, or a miracle worker. He is the Messiah, the Son of God.

And Jesus tells Peter that this faith is a gift from God: **“Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.”**

There is something very important here for us. Faith is not simply something we figure out by ourselves. Faith is a gift. God opens our hearts and enables us to recognize who Jesus truly is. But Jesus does not stop with Peter's profession of faith. He gives Peter a mission: **“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.”**

Peter was not perfect. He would later misunderstand Jesus, become afraid, and even deny Him three times. Yet Jesus chose him and entrusted him with responsibility. This should give all of us hope. God does not choose perfect people. He chooses ordinary people and, through His grace, makes them instruments of His love. The Church is built not on human perfection but on Christ. And Christ continues His mission through imperfect people who are willing to trust Him.



There is another beautiful point in this Gospel: Jesus gives Peter the **keys to the kingdom of heaven** and says, **“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”** The keys represent responsibility and service. Peter is not being given power for his own benefit. He is being entrusted with the care of God's people. This is what Christian leadership is supposed to be: not domination, but service; not privilege, but responsibility; not seeking honor, but helping people come closer to Christ.

And so, today, Jesus asks each one of us the same question He asked His disciples: **“Who do you say that I am?”** It is easy to say, “Jesus is the Son of God.” But the real question is: **What difference does that faith make in my life?** If Jesus is truly the Son of God, then He must have a place in our decisions, our families, our relationships, our work, our suffering, and our hopes.

When we are worried, do we turn to Him? When we are hurt, do we trust Him? When we have to forgive, do we remember His mercy? When we are blessed, do we give Him thanks?

Our answer to Jesus should not remain only on our lips. It should become visible in the way we live. Perhaps today we can make Peter's profession our own prayer: **“Jesus, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Lord, strengthen our faith. Help us to know You more deeply, love You more sincerely, and follow You more faithfully.

And like Peter, may we become people upon whom You can build—people through whom our families, our parish, and our community can experience something of Your love.

Jesus asks us today: “Who do you say that I am?”

May our whole life be our answer.
AMEN.

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Bible Study

The ACTS Bible Study resumes on **Wednesday, August 26th, at 1:30 p.m., in Classroom #4.** We are excited to begin a new series by Jeff Cavins entitled, “Acts, The Spread of the Kingdom.”

This series traces how the Gospel witness spread outward in waves from Jerusalem and reveals how the seeds of Church structure and authority took root. The early Christians faced secular forces, internal strife, and hostile crowds, yet they brought the kingdom of God to a broken world and the love of God to the hearts of men. We look forward to seeing everyone!

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OCIA

Do you know anyone who would like to become Catholic? A Catholic who needs Confirmation? Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? OCIA prepares candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Parishes welcome new members into the Catholic Church through a process of education, faith sharing, and rituals known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). This process includes several stages marked by prayer, study, and discussion.

OCIA classes will start in September. Classes will be offered in English and Spanish. Visit the Parish Office to pick up a registration form or for more details. We will hold an orientation meeting on **Monday, August 31st, at 6 p.m. in Classroom #4.**

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OCIA

¿Conoces a alguien que quiera hacerse católico? ¿Un católico que necesita Confirmación? ¿Te gustaría aprender más sobre la fe católica?

OCIA prepara a los candidatos para los Sacramentos de Iniciación: Bautismo, Primera Comunión y Confirmación. Las parroquias dan la bienvenida a nuevos miembros a la Iglesia Católica a través de un proceso de educación, compartir la fe y rituales conocido como la Orden de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (OCIA). Este proceso incluye varias etapas marcadas por oración, estudio y discusión.

*Las clases de OCIA comenzarán en septiembre. Las clases se ofrecerán en inglés y español. Visita la oficina parroquial para recoger un formulario de registro o para más detalles. Realizaremos una reunión de orientación el **lunes, 31 de Agosto, a las 6 p.m. en el salón 4.***

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Book Club

Our Book Club is excited to announce that we've chosen *The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett as our upcoming read.

We're looking forward to our next gathering on September 8th, and everyone is warmly invited to join us in reading the book and sharing some wonderful, thought-provoking conversations. We can't wait to see you there!

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Religious Education News

There will be an Open House for parents and students on **Wednesday, September 16th, at 3:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 23rd.** There will be no registration during classes. Please continue to refer to the Parish Bulletin for updates. For more information, please contact **Barb Dalton**, Director of Religious Education at (541) 410-3720.

—Thank you!

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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 to register.

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Hike with Bishop Hennen Location Change

September 26th, from 9 a.m. to noon. All Young Adults (18–39) are invited to join **Bishop Hennen** for a reflective hike at Whychus Creek Trail. It is 4.3 miles south of Sisters.

After our adventure, share in fellowship with a “no-host” lunch at **THE BITE in Tumalo**

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