

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saint Bernard of Clairvaux"

St. Bernard was born in 1090 of noble parentage in Burgundy, France, in the castle of Fontaines near Dijon. Under the care of his pious parents, he was sent at an early age to a college at Chatillon, where he was conspicuous for his remarkable piety and spirit of recollection. At the same place, he entered upon the studies of theology and Holy Scripture.

After the death of his mother, fearing the snares and temptations of the world, he resolved to embrace the newly established and very austere institute of the Cistercian Order, of which he was destined to become the greatest ornament. He also persuaded his brothers and several of his friends to follow his example.

In 1113, St. Bernard, accompanied by 30 young noblemen, presented himself to the holy Abbot St. Stephen at Cîteaux. He made his profession the following year. The small community of reformed Benedictines at Cîteaux grew rapidly.

Three years later, Bernard was sent with a group of 12 monks to found a new house at Vallée d’Absinthe in the Diocese of Langres. On 25 June 1115, Bernard named it Claire Vallée, or Clairvaux, and the names of Bernard and Clairvaux soon became inseparable. Bernard was made abbot by William of Champeaux, Bishop of Châlons-sur-Marne. From then on, a strong friendship developed between the abbot and the bishop, who was a professor of theology at Notre Dame of Paris and the founder of St. Victor Abbey in Paris.

Bernard spent extended periods outside the abbey as a preacher and a diplomat in the Pope’s service. Described by Jean-Baptiste Chautard as “the most contemplative and yet at the same time the most active man of his age,” Bernard described the disparate parts of his personality when he called himself the “chimera of his age.”

He founded numerous other monasteries, composed several works, and undertook many journeys in honor of God. Several bishoprics were offered to him, but he refused them all.



The reputation of St. Bernard spread far and wide; even the Popes were guided by his advice. He was commissioned by Pope Eugene III to preach the Second Crusade. In obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff, he traveled through France and Germany, arousing the greatest enthusiasm for the holy war among the masses.

The failure of the expedition provoked a great storm against the saint, but he attributed it to the sins of the Crusaders. St. Bernard was eminently endowed with the gift of miracles.

In opposition to the rational approach to understanding God used by the scholastics, Bernard preached poetically, using appeals to

emotion and conversion to foster a more immediate experience of faith. He is considered to be a master of Christian rhetoric: “His use of language remains perhaps his most universal legacy.” He contributed lyrics to the Cistercian Hymnal.

As a master of prayer, the abbot emphasized the value of personal, experiential friendship with Christ.

As a Mariologist, Bernard was not original but exceptionally effective at spreading devotion to Jesus’ mother, because his preaching attracted a large audience. He emphasized Mary’s humility and insisted on her central role in Christian theology. He famously called Mary an “aqueduct of grace.”

Bernard died on August 20, 1153. He had helped to found 163 monasteries across Europe, and Cistercians honor him as one of the greatest early Cistercians. His feast day is August 20th, and he is the patron saint of religious vocations and beekeepers.

Note: In his sermon, “The Love of God” (also called “On Loving God”), St. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote that love is essential for the knowledge of God. He outlined four stages, or degrees, of love that a person must proceed through for spiritual growth. The four stages in their order of progress are: love of oneself for self’s sake, love of God for self’s sake, love of God for God’s sake, and love of oneself for God’s sake.

—*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
August 30, 2026 † 22nd 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	08/31/2026	8:00 a.m.	Dorothy Friese (D)	1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	09/01/2026	8:00 a.m.	Emily Ruiz (L)	1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	09/02/2026	12:00 p.m.	Stephan Dalton (L)	1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	09/03/2026	8:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher (D)	1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11
Friday	09/04/2026	12:00 p.m.	Jean Kmiecik (D)	1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday	09/05/2026	5:00 p.m.	Kenneth Tocher (D)	Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
Sunday	09/06/2026	9:00 a.m.	Aden Geiman (D)	Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
Sunday	09/06/2026	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily (Matthew 16:21-26)

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL, Jesus tells His disciples something they do not want to hear. He tells them that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, be rejected, be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Peter immediately reacts: "God forbid, Lord! This must never happen to you."

Peter loves Jesus. His intention is good.

But Jesus responds very strongly: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me."

Why does Jesus speak so strongly to Peter? Because Peter is thinking according to human expectations, not according to God's plan. Peter wants a Messiah who will be powerful, successful, victorious, and free from suffering. But Jesus reveals that His way to glory passes through the Cross.

Then Jesus turns to all the disciples and says: **"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."** These words are at the heart of today's Gospel.

Following Jesus does not mean that we will never have difficulties. It does not mean that our lives will always be comfortable. Christianity is not a promise of a life without the Cross. Rather, Jesus promises that when we carry our Cross with Him, our suffering can become a path to new life. Every one of us has a cross.

Sometimes it is a sickness or weakness. Sometimes it is loneliness, disappointment, family difficulties, financial struggles, or the loss of someone we love. Sometimes our cross is simply the daily responsibility of caring for others, forgiving someone, being patient, or remaining faithful when we feel tired and discouraged. The important question is not, "How can I escape every cross?" The Christian question is, **"How can I carry this cross with Jesus?"** There is a beautiful difference between carrying a cross alone and carrying it with Christ.

When we carry it alone, we can become bitter, angry, and discouraged. But when we place our suffering into the hands of Jesus, we discover that He is walking beside us. Jesus does not say, "Take up your cross and carry it alone." He says, **"Take up your cross and follow me."** He goes before us.



There is another important point in today's Gospel. Jesus says, "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

The world often tells us: "Think about yourself. Protect yourself. Get more. Achieve more. Make yourself important."

Jesus gives us a completely different way. He

tells us that true life is found when we give ourselves away in love. A mother who sacrifices for her children understands this. A father who works hard for his family understands this. A priest who gives his life in service understands this. Anyone who forgives instead of seeking revenge, who serves instead of demanding to be served, and who loves even when love is difficult begins to understand what Jesus means.

We do not lose ourselves when we give ourselves in love. **We discover who we truly are.**

And finally, Jesus asks a very challenging question: **"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"**

We can gain many things in this world—money, possessions, recognition, success—even the admiration of others. But none of these can give us eternal life. At the end of our lives, the most important question will not be, "How much did I accomplish?" or "How much did I possess?" The deeper question will be: **"Did I love God? Did I love others? Did I faithfully follow Christ?"**

My brothers and sisters, Peter wanted to protect Jesus from the Cross. Sometimes we also want to protect ourselves from anything difficult. But Jesus invites us to trust God's plan even when we cannot understand it. Let us therefore ask for the grace to accept our crosses with faith, to carry them with Jesus, and to use every difficulty as an opportunity to grow in love.

And when our Cross becomes heavy, let us remember: **we are not walking alone. Christ walks with us.**

May the Lord give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross each day, and follow Him faithfully—not only toward Calvary—but ultimately toward the Resurrection and the fullness of life.

August—The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

OCIA

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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Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on **Thursday, September 3rd.** It will reopen on **Tuesday, September 8th.**

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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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Parish Picnic

On Sunday, September 13th, we're excited to invite everyone to a special bilingual Mass at 11 a.m. Right after the service, please join us on the Parish Hall lawn for a Potluck Picnic. Enjoy delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, and carne asada, all prepared by our talented Knights of Columbus chefs. We kindly ask that you bring a favorite sidedish or dessert to share. There will be plenty of fun with games and outdoor activities designed for children of all ages set up on the lawn.

Save the date for September 13th! We'd love you to join us for a meaningful Mass, tasty food, and wonderful fellowship!

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USCCB Regional Bilingual Workshop

Everyone serving or ministering with young people in any capacity is invited to attend this interactive workshop on **September 19th** to unpack *Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults* together in collaboration with one another **at Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston from 9 a.m. to 4:45 pm.** For more information, please go to: dioceseofbaker.org/listen-teach-send.

*****LOCATION CHANGE*****

Hike with Bishop Hennen

SEPTEMBER 26TH—WHYCHUS CREEK TRAIL, OR.

Bishop Hennen invites young adults to join him for a hike on the Whychus Creek Trail **on Saturday, September 26th, from 9 a.m. to noon!**

Afterward (~noon), please join him for a no-host lunch at *The Bite* in Tumalo. Please visit dioceseofbaker.org/ya-events for more information.

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ACTS Bible Study

The ACTS Bible Study began 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 **on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom #4.**

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Bulletin Board

We are seeking an individual or a group to manage the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

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Bishop's Annual Appeal

The Bishop's Annual Appeal, "A Future Full of Hope," is in full swing. If you have not donated or pledged yet, we encourage you to read the brochure again and prayerfully consider answering the call to assist the Diocese in its efforts to provide vital programs for our parish community. These initiatives include Clergy Education and Seminarian Formation, Parish Ministry Leadership, Marriage and Family Faith Resources, Youth and Young—Adult Ministry, and Outreach Ministry. By supporting the Appeal, you help us build vibrant families, a faith-filled community, and a stronger parish, now and for the future.

For complete details, please visit the diocesan website at: dioceseofbaker.org/bishops-annual-appeal.

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Women's Retreat

A women's retreat will be held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Redmond on **October 9th and 10th.** Please see the flyer in the Narthex for more information.