

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saint Matthew"

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus and was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, a profession that was hated during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working in a tax booth in Capernaum when Christ approached him and said, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew, we learn of Christ's many deeds and the message of salvation He proclaimed for all who come to God through Him.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the same story as the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years after the death of Christ, around 41–50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic, hoping that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

Matthew is believed to have departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various legends, he fled to Parthia,



Persia, or Ethiopia. He suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.

The legacy of St. Matthew extends beyond his written contributions. His work and example have deeply influenced Catholic theology and liturgical traditions. Some of his notable contributions include:

◆ **Inspiration for catechesis:** His Gospel has long been used to instruct believers in the faith and morals of Christian life.

◆ **Emphasis on the Kingdom of Heaven:** His writings elaborate on the values of humility, compassion, and commitment to God's commandments.

◆ **Role in liturgical readings:** The Gospel of Matthew holds a revered place in the cycle of readings during the Mass, continually guiding the faithful toward deeper understanding and love of Christ.

St. Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."

He is the patron saint of bankers. St. Matthew's feast day is September 21st.

—*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 ◆ Cookie Benton ◆ Dan Arian

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
September 20, 2026 † 25th 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	09/21/2026	8:00 a.m.	Karen Marie Geiman (L)	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday	09/22/2026	8:00 a.m.	Max LeFevre (L)	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	09/23/2026	12:00 p.m.	Fr. Joshy (L)	Prv 30:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	09/24/2026	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS	Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	09/25/2026	12:00 p.m.	NO MASS	Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	09/26/2026	5:00 p.m.	Betty Bailey (D)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32
Sunday	09/27/2026	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32
Sunday	09/27/2026	12:00 p.m.	Zipriana Alvarado (L)	Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

(L) = Living ◆ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily—Matthew 20:1–16

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Today's Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging parables of Jesus—the parable of the workers in the vineyard. A landowner goes out early in the morning and hires workers. He returns at different times during the day—at nine, noon, three, and even five o'clock. At the end of the day, he gives all of them the same wage.

Those who worked from early morning are unhappy. They say, in effect, “We worked all day. How can you give the same to those who worked only one hour?”

From a human point of view, their complaint seems reasonable. We naturally think in terms of fairness: *I worked more, so I should receive more.*

But Jesus is teaching us that **God's ways are not always our ways.**

The landowner says, “Are you envious because I am generous?” That is the heart of today's Gospel.

GOD IS GENEROUS

God does not give us only what we deserve. He gives according to His generosity and love.

Think about the people who come into our lives at different moments. Some discover their faith as children. Others return to God later in life. Some people have served the Church for decades. Others come back after many years away. Some may turn to God only near the end of their lives.

We may sometimes wonder, “Why should someone who came so late receive the same mercy?”

Jesus reminds us: **God's mercy is not a reward that we earn; it is a gift that God freely gives.**

The thief on the cross had almost no time left. Yet Jesus promised him paradise. The Apostle Paul spent years persecuting Christians, but God's grace transformed him into a great apostle.

God rejoices whenever a person turns toward Him.

THE DANGER OF COMPARISON

There is another important lesson here. The workers who came early were not necessarily unhappy because they received too little. They were unhappy because **someone else received the same amount.** How often can that happen in our own lives? We may say,



- ♦ “Why did God bless him and not me?”
- ♦ “Why does she have an easier life?”
- ♦ “I have worked so hard. Why does someone else receive recognition?”

Comparison can steal our joy. Instead of thanking God for what we have received, we begin counting what others have received.

The Gospel invites us to stop comparing and start giving thanks.

When we recognize God's goodness to another person, we should be able to say, **“Thank you, Lord, for blessing my brother and sister.”**

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE

There is also great hope in this Gospel. The workers who were standing in the marketplace at five o'clock had probably begun to wonder whether anyone would ever hire them.

But the landowner still went looking for them.

That is a beautiful image of God.

Perhaps someone here feels that he or she has come too late to God. Perhaps someone thinks, “I have made too many mistakes. I have wasted too many years.”

The Gospel says: **It is never too late to return to God.**

God continues to come looking for us. His invitation remains open.

And perhaps our mission as Christians is to do the same—to welcome people who are returning, rather than judging them for having been away.

My brothers and sisters, the Christian life is not a competition. We are not competing with one another for God's love. **There is enough of God's love and mercy for everyone.**

The last words of Jesus are especially important: **“The last will be first, and the first will be last.”**

Let us therefore ask God for a generous heart—a heart that does not compare, a heart that does not envy, a heart that rejoices when others are blessed, and a heart that trusts in God's mercy.

May we remember that everything we have is already a gift of God's generosity.

And when we come before the Lord at the end of our lives, may we hear those beautiful words: **“Come, my child. You are welcome in my vineyard.”**

AMEN

September—The Month of the Sorrows of Mary

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our Parish Picnic, and to all who attended and brought a dish to share! It was a lovely celebration of our community. Special thanks to the **Knights of Columbus** for their help with setting up and cooking the burgers, hot dogs, and carne asada. Thanks also to **Barb Dalton**, who coordinated, set up, and entertained the children! I truly appreciate all of you.

—Fr. Joseph



Religious Education News

Classes begin on Wednesday, September 23rd. There will be no registration during the classes.

Please continue to refer to this bulletin for updates or call **Barb Dalton**, Director of Religious Education, at (541) 410-3720 for information.



Schedule Change

There will be no Mass on Thursday and Friday, September 24th and 25th, or from Monday, October 5th, through Friday, October 9th.



Hike with Bishop Hennen

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT
WHYCHUS CREEK TRAIL, OREGON**

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.

Visit dioceseofbaker.org/ya-events for information.



A Welcome Party!

Fr. Joseph's nephew, FR. JOSHY, is coming to visit soon! We are looking forward to celebrating his visit with a **warm welcome party on Sunday, September 27th, at 1 p.m.** It will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to gather, to welcome **FR. JOSHY**—and for him to meet **Fr. Joseph's parish family.**

Book Club

Our upcoming book club pick is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. We will gather on **Tuesday, October 13th, at 6 p.m. in Room #4 of the Parish Hall.**

Everyone is warmly invited to read the book and join us for a fun and respectful discussion.



Parish Hall Notice

Just a friendly reminder to let the office know if you've used up the last of anything in the Parish Hall, kitchen, or meeting rooms.

If the office isn't open, please leave a quick note on the door or on the refrigerator.

Remember that these spaces are shared by multiple groups, so a little notice helps us all stay organized and considerate.

Thanks so much for your cooperation!



St. Padre Pio's Relics

You are invited to a special opportunity for prayer and veneration as the relics of **St. Padre Pio** visit parishes and schools in Central Oregon:

- ♦ **Friday, October 23rd, at St. Francis of Assisi in Bend, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- ♦ **Saturday, October 24th, at St. Edward the Marytr in Sisters, from 1 to 5 p.m.**
- ♦ **Sunday, October 25th, at St. Thomas in Redmond, all day.**

There will also be a short talk after each Mass. Please see the “flyers” for more information.



Sanctity of Life Conference

Join **Bishop Hennen** for the Annual Diocese of Baker Sanctity of Life Conference, *Cultivating Life*, on **Saturday, October 24th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Angels in Hermiston.** Bring the whole family! Lunch and childcare will be provided at no charge.

Presentations will be offered in English and Spanish. For more information and to register, please go to the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/pro-life.