

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael"

ST. MICHAEL ST. GABRIEL ST. RAPHAEL



The archangels are spiritual, immortal beings created by God to serve as His messengers and to carry out divine tasks. Their names reflect their missions: Michael means "Who is like God?"; Gabriel means "God is my strength"; and Raphael means "God heals." They are among the highest-ranking angels and act directly in human affairs, guiding, protecting, and delivering God's messages.

According to Church tradition, there are seven archangels who serve before God's throne. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only ones named in canonical scripture. In some non-canonical texts, other archangels are mentioned, such as Uriel, but these are not part of the official teachings of the Church.

On September 29th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Archangels—St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. These heavenly messengers remind us that God, in His providence, sends His angels to guide, protect, and heal His people.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: Defender of the Faith: St. Michael is known as the great defender against the powers of evil. In the Book of Revelation, he leads the heavenly hosts in battle: "Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon" (Revelations 12:7). Catholics turn to Michael in times of spiritual struggle, invoking his strength and courage to stand firm in the truth. Michael's role is also to guide souls at the hour of death and assist in their journey to heaven.

As a protector against the devil's snares, he is invoked for courage in spiritual warfare. His significant presence in Christian tradition led to his patronage of police officers,

soldiers, and those who face significant dangers.

ST. GABRIEL THE ARCH-ANGEL: Herald of Good News. He is best known as the messenger who announced to Mary that she would bear the Son of God: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). Gabriel's

role as God's herald teaches us to be open to His call and to embrace our vocations with humility and trust.

Gabriel is also believed to have delivered other important messages, including the announcement of John the Baptist's birth to Zechariah (Luke 1:13). He is thus regarded as the patron of messengers, postal workers, and those who work in telecommunications, as well as those discerning God's will.

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: Healer and Guide. St. Raphael appears in the Book of Tobit as a companion and healer. He reveals his mission by saying: "I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord" (Tobit 12:15). Raphael heals Tobit's blindness and guides Tobias on his journey. Raphael's mission highlights God's care for both physical and spiritual ailments. He is honored as the patron saint of travelers, the blind, those with health problems, and medical professionals.

The Archangels remind us that the spiritual world is real, active, and close to us. In a culture that often dismisses or distorts angels, the Church invites us to honor these powerful servants of God who protect and intercede for us. Today is an opportunity to renew our devotion to the Archangels, asking them to guard our homes, guide our choices, and bring us closer to Christ.

—*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 27, 2026 † 26th 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	09/28/2026	8:00 a.m.	James Stuart MacDonald (D)	Jb 1:6-22; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday	09/29/2026	8:00 a.m.	Avery LeFevre (L)	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday	09/30/2026	12:00 p.m.	Jim Miller (D)	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday	10/01/2026	8:00 a.m.	Robert Fowls (L)	Jb 19:21-27; Lk 10:1-12
Friday	10/02/2026	12:00 p.m.	Viola Busch (D)	Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Saturday	10/03/2026	5:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
Sunday	10/04/2026	9:00 a.m.	Kathleen Ferguson (L)	Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
Sunday	10/04/2026	12:00 p.m.	Claudio Hernandez Lopez (D)	Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

What will decide our eternal reward or punishment? Our final decision for or against God—our choosing to obey Him gracefully by doing His will or our choosing to go against His will! Gifted with free will, we are the ones who choose our eternal destiny.

In the first reading, Ezekiel, corrects two wrong Jewish beliefs:

- 1) Children inherit the guilt of their ancestors and are punished for their sins, and
- 2) God is more strict than merciful.

Jesus explains through the gospel parable that God will punish us only for our sins and that God's mercy overrules strict justice.

Our final choice for God, made by perfect obedience to Him, will be rewarded.

St. Paul says in the second reading today that it is because of Christ's perfect obedience to God's will in *emptying himself, taking human form* and humbling himself by accepting *even death on a cross* that God the Father *exalted Christ, bestowed on him the Name above every other name*, and made Jesus the recipient of universal adoration.

In the parable in today's Gospel, a man with two sons tells both to go out to work in the vineyard. **The first son says he will not go**, but later he regrets his refusal and goes to work. He represents tax collectors and public sinners who refused to obey God's commandments. But after listening to John the Baptist and Jesus, they repented and became eligible for eternal reward. **The second son** says that he will go but does not. He represents the chief priests and the elders, the Scribes, and the Pharisees. By their



saving act of God. Even when we say “No,” God gives us several chances of conversion to repent and do His will.

We need to do God's will every day: Each one of us is responsible to God for every one of our actions, and the just God will punish or reward each individual according to that person's actions.

Because we are not sure about the moment of our death, our only guarantee of dying in God's friendship is to live in that friendship always, saying “Yes,” to God by doing His will.

It is never too late for us to repent, to be converted, and to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our lives: If we have been disobedient to God in our past lives, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. God can—and will—do for us what, in His mercy, He did for the repentant tax-collectors and harlots in the parable.

Hence, every morning we must pray for the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit to do God's will, and every night we need to repent of our sins and ask God's pardon and forgiveness.

We are not sure when we will have to say goodbye to our near and dear ones and to this world. If we are in serious sins, we are to get reconciled with God, the Church, and our brothers and sisters through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us remember that it is never too late for us to turn back to God, ready to do His will.

AMEN.

pride, and their refusal to obey God's call to repentance by John the Baptist and Jesus, these so-called religious people excluded themselves from eternal reward.

This teaches us the necessity of offering a continual “Yes” to the

September—The Month of the Sorrows of Mary

Schedule Change

There will not be Mass on Tuesday, September 29th.

Also, there will be NO Mass from Monday, October 5th, through Friday, October 9th, while Father Joseph is at the Annual Clergy Assembly.



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.



Lectors Needed

If you're interested in volunteering as a Lector for the weekday or weekend Masses, please contact **Kathy Thompson** or the Parish Office. Experience is helpful but not required.



Public Square Rosary

Please join us in praying a Public Square Rosary on **Saturday, October 10th, at 12 Noon, at the Public Square** located west of City Hall and north of the Historic Courthouse.

WHO: Catholics from St. Joseph's Parish will join 27,500 others at similar rallies nationwide.

WHY: To offer reparation for the wave of sacrilege blasphemy, and anti-religious hatred within our society and countless sins which are committed against the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Most Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please arrive by 11:45 a.m.

For more information, please call **Gary Thompson** at (541) 447-5001.



Thank You

A big thank you to our amazing gardeners, who work so lovingly to care for our church grounds. They always fill the space with beauty!

Mass Protocol

For our new parishioners and those who might need a little reminder: if you or your child hasn't received First Holy Communion yet, please feel free to cross your arms to gently indicate that you'd like to receive a blessing during communion.



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 are 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.



“Naming & Taming Anxiety & Stress”

The Diocese of Baker is partnering with the Dioceses of Boise and Spokane to offer this **Virtual Retreat from 1 to 2 p.m., Mountain Time, live via ZOOM on the following Saturdays: October 24th & 31st, and November 7th & 14th.**

The cost is only \$97. **Registration closes Friday, October 17th.**

EARLY-BIRD BONUS: Register by Wednesday, October 7th, to receive two months of session recordings and two months of email follow-up support to help integrate what you've learned. This is a great opportunity to help our people with the far-too-common challenge of anxiety and negative stress. Visit dioceseofbaker.org/mental-health for more information.