

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saint Philomena"

St. Philomena is perhaps one of the most extraordinary saints in the history of the Catholic Church. When the relics of this 13-year-old virgin martyr were discovered in the Roman Catacombs in 1802, she became, almost overnight, one of the most popular saints in the Church, earning the nickname "The Wonder Worker" because of the countless remarkable favors she granted to those who prayed to her.

Little is known about the life of St. Philomena. However, it is believed that she was a Greek princess who became a virgin martyr and died at 13 years old.

The remains of a young lady were discovered in May, 1802, in the Catacombs of Priscilla on the Via Salaria Nova, accompanied by three tiles reading "Peace be to you, Philomena."

All that is known about St. Philomena's life comes from a Neapolitan nun's vision. Sister Maria Luisa di Gesu claims that St. Philomena appeared to her and said she was the daughter of a Greek king who had converted to Christianity. When Philomena was 13 years old, she took a vow of consecrated virginity.

After her father took his family to Rome to make peace, Emperor Diocletian fell in love with Philomena. When she refused to marry him, she was subjected to torture. She was scourged, drowned with an anchor attached to her, and shot with arrows. Each time she was attacked, angels came to her side and healed her through prayer.

Finally, the Emperor had Philomena decapitated. According to the story, she died on a Friday at three o'clock in the afternoon—the same time as Jesus.



Two anchors, three arrows, a palm symbol of martyrdom, and a flower were found on the tiles in her tomb, interpreted as symbols of her martyrdom.

The nun's account states that Philomena was born on January 10th, and she was killed on August 10th.

Devotion to her began to spread after her bones were exhumed and miracles began to occur.

Canon Francesco de Lucia of Mugnano del Cardinale received relics of St. Philomena and had them placed in the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Mugnano, Italy.

Soon after her relics were enshrined, cancers were cured and wounds were healed. And, the Miracle of Mugnano, in which Venerable Pauline Jaricot was cured of a severe heart condition overnight, were all attributed to St. Philomena.

Other saints began to venerate Philomena and attribute miracles in their lives to the young martyr, including St. John Marie Vianney and St. Peter Louis Marie Chanel.

Although controversy sometimes surrounds the truth of St. Philomena's life and sainthood, many believers all over the world continue to regard her as a miraculous saint.

Philomena was canonized in 1837. She is the patron saint of infants, babies, and youth.

She is often depicted in her youth with a crown of flowers, a palm of martyrdom, arrows, or an anchor. Her feast day is celebrated on August 11th.

—*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

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754
September 6, 2026 † 23rd 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	09/07/2026	8:00 a.m.	Janet Andrew (D)	1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday	09/08/2026	8:00 a.m.	Katie Fuller (D)	Mi 5:1-4a; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Wednesday	09/09/2026	12:00 p.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday	09/10/2026	8:00 a.m.	Lorraine Popish (D)	1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38
Friday	09/11/2026	12:00 p.m.	Rita Rodgers (D)	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday	09/12/2026	5:00 p.m.	Mitch Bailey (L)	Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
Sunday	09/13/2026	11:00 a.m.	Martiniano Lopez (D)	Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily (Matthew 18:15-20)

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Today Jesus gives us a very practical teaching about how we are to deal with one another when there is hurt, conflict, or misunderstanding.

He says: "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." These words are simple, but they are not easy to live.

We all know what happens when someone hurts us. Sometimes we become angry. Sometimes we stop speaking to that person. Sometimes we tell other people what happened. We may even gather people around us who agree with our side.

But Jesus gives us a different way. **"Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone."** Notice that Jesus does not say, "Talk about him." He says, **"Go to him."**

There is a great difference between talking *about* someone and talking *to* someone.

Talking about someone can easily become gossip. Talking to someone can become an opportunity for healing. Jesus wants us to have the courage to approach the person **directly, privately, and lovingly**. But there is something else important here. Jesus says, "If your brother or sister sins against you." He is speaking about a relationship. The person who hurt us is still our **brother or sister**.

That is very important. Even when someone disappoints us, even when someone hurts us, even when there is disagreement, **we must never forget the dignity of the person**. We may have a problem with what someone has done, but we should not destroy the person because of what he or she has done.

The purpose of this conversation is not to prove that I am right and the other person is wrong. The purpose is **reconciliation**.

Jesus wants us to ask: "How can we restore this relationship?" "How can we heal this wound?" "How can we help one another come closer to God?" Sometimes we are afraid to have difficult conversations because we don't want to make things worse. But avoiding every conflict does not necessarily bring peace. Sometimes the wound continues to grow because nobody has the courage to address it.

A loving conversation can become the beginning of healing. And if the first conversation does not work, Jesus gives further steps: bring one or two others, and eventually bring the matter before the community. Why?



Because Christianity is not simply about "me and Jesus." **We belong to a community**. We are members of the Body of Christ. What happens between us matters to the whole community.

Then Jesus gives us one of the most beautiful promises in the Gospel: **"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."** We often think that this means only when we gather for prayer or Mass. But it can also speak to us in moments of conflict

When two people who are hurting come together sincerely and invite Christ into their conversation, **Jesus is there**. When a husband and wife sit down and try to forgive one another, **Jesus is there**. When two family members who have not spoken for months take the first step toward reconciliation, **Jesus is there**. When parishioners disagree but seek the truth with humility and charity, **Jesus is there**. The presence of Jesus changes the way we approach one another.

Perhaps there is someone in our life with whom we have an unresolved conflict. Maybe it is a family member. Maybe a friend. Maybe someone in the parish. Maybe someone we have not spoken to for a long time. Jesus does not ask us to ignore the problem. He says, **"Go."** Take the first step. Perhaps it begins with a phone call. Perhaps with a simple message: "Can we talk?" Perhaps it begins with a prayer: "Lord, give me the humility and courage to seek reconciliation." And sometimes reconciliation does not mean that everything immediately becomes perfect. Sometimes the other person may not respond as we hope. We cannot control another person's heart.

But we can control our own decision to forgive, to speak with charity, and to refuse hatred.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, the Christian community should be a place where wounded people find healing, where disagreements can be resolved with charity, and where forgiveness is stronger than resentment.

And when we gather in His name, especially around this Eucharistic table, let us remember His promise: **"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."**

May Christ be present in our families, in our friendships, in our parish, and in every relationship that needs healing. And may the peace of Christ begin with us.

AMEN.

September—The Month of the Sorrows of Mary

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

We invite everyone to join us on **Tuesday, September 8th, at 6 p.m. in Classroom #4** to discuss "The Calamity Club" by Kathryn Stockett. We will also choose the next book to read. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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Schedule Change

There will be only one (1) Mass on Sunday, September 13th. It will be a bilingual Mass at 11 a.m.

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Parish Picnic

Next Sunday, September 13th, we're pleased to invite everyone to a special bilingual Mass at 11 a.m.. Following the Mass, join us on the Parish Hall lawn for a Potluck Picnic featuring delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, and carne asada, all prepared by our talented Knights of Columbus chefs. Please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. Enjoy activities like volleyball, splash pads, and cornhole, along with a table for making friendship bracelets and painting rocks. Inside, we'll have board games and puzzles. Mark your calendar for **September 13th**—we hope to see you there for a meaningful Mass, tasty food, and great fellowship!

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Retreats at St. Benedict Lodge

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Friday, September 11th, to Sunday, September 13th. Theme: "Abide in Me as I abide in you" (John 15:4). We abide in love in a similar way as Jesus abides in us. And we know that Jesus abides in us (I will remain with you always) in the Mass. Our retreat will focus on reflections on the Mass, both how Jesus abides in us and how we abide with Jesus. Our retreat will include meditations on the Mass, seeing how we can reflect on the life of Jesus during the Mass. We will also talk about how to prepare for Mass, how to pray during the Mass, how to deal with distractions, and how to offer thanks-giving after Mass. Retreat is led by **Fr. Augustine Hilander**, retreat director, at St. Benedict; \$250 per person for the weekend, includes food. Register at: stbenedictretreat@gmail.com.

MEN'S RETREAT: Friday, September 18th, to Sunday, September 20th. Theme: "But I chose you" (John 15:16). Jesus speaks to us at Mass, chooses to stay with us, and also gives us a model to follow. And we know that Jesus remains with us always in the Mass. Our retreat will focus on reflections on the Mass, both how Jesus remains in us and how we follow Jesus. Our retreat will include meditations on the Mass, seeing

how we can reflect on the life of Jesus during the Mass. We will also talk about how to prepare for Mass, how to pray during the Mass, how to deal with distractions, and how to offer thanks-giving after Mass. Retreat is led by **Fr. Augustine Hilander**, retreat director at St. Benedict; \$250 per person for the weekend, includes food. Register at: stbenedictretreat@gmail.com.

Both retreats will take place at the St. Benedict Lodge in McKenzie Bridge.

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Religious Education News

There will be an Open House for parents and students at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16th. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 23rd. There will be no registration during the classes. Please continue to refer to this bulletin for updates.

Thank you, **Barb Dalton**, Director of Religious Education (541) 410-3720.

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OCIA

OCIA will begin on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6 p.m. in Room #4.

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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 **Saturday, 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.

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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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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, go to: dioceseofbaker.org/pro-life.

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Holy Humor

Don't let worry kill you off. Let the Church help!