

Father Joseph's Corner

"Saint John Paul II"

LIKE A LION in Peter's chair, he consistently and tirelessly lived what he boldly proclaimed with great courage. Unafraid, he traversed the globe, proclaiming freedom to the captives and truth to the victims of failed false ideologies that had ravaged the people of the 20th Century, the bloodiest in all of human history. He has not stopped passionately representing the classical, unchanging Christian message with prophetic urgency, profound clarity, and contemporary relevance.

Saint Pope John Paul II called all men and women to the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He reminded us that only in Jesus Christ can we discover the purpose and fulfillment of human life. He proclaimed that human existence itself is an invitation to communion with God and with one another. He told an age bent on "self-fulfillment" that true human fulfillment only comes from giving ourselves in love to God and to one another. He called us to live a unified life, wherein the implications of the Christian faith inform the entirety of life without contradiction or separation.

He confronted, exposed, and opposed the "culture of death," wherein the human person is treated as an instrument to be used rather than an unrepeatable gift to be received. He proposed a different way: building a new "culture of life" in which every human person, at every age and stage, is recognized as having inviolable dignity and the right to life, freedom, and love.

He charted a path to peace and solidarity, proclaiming to the nations that we are all our brothers' keepers and that we owe an obligation in solidarity to one another and, most especially, to the poor in all of their manifestations. He wrote of authentic freedom as a freedom "for" and not just a freedom "from" a freedom that must be bound by truth and lived in accordance with the moral understanding of our obligation to do what is right.

He exposed what he called in his Encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, the "counterfeit notion of freedom" as a raw power over others. He countered the false notion that individual autonomy is the measure of "freedom" to do



whatever one wants, insisting that the path to human flourishing lies in communion. He proclaimed a new and true humanism, reaffirming that we were created in the Image of God, made for communion. He insisted that through applying the treasury of the social teaching of the Catholic Church—in our relationships with one another, in our families, in our societies, our nations, and in the global community—authentic justice and freedom can actually be achieved.

He began his pontificate roaring like a lion and ended it like a lamb. The once vibrant, strong Pope became frail, sick, and physically weak. The giant of a man, who once climbed mountains, mounted the cross of human suffering and, in his frail frame, exercised the authority of his office from a unique chair, still the Chair of Peter, a wheelchair. How fitting for the champion of the weak, the disabled, the elderly, those who have no voice, to finally be joined physically with them in order to show the world the truth of the beauty and dignity of every human life.

The Pope who revealed the love of God through years of emptying himself out for the Lord and His people showed us the beauty of a suffering endured in love and offered for others in his last days among us. With decreasing verbal eloquence because his lips stammered from the ravages of Parkinson's Disease, he achieved something beyond words; he demonstrated the truth of the Christian message of love by revealing the God who came to suffer for us all in his beautiful silence.

We had a saint in our midst; a man so filled with Jesus Christ that, like the Apostle Paul, he no longer lived but "Christ lived in him" (Galatians 2). Blessed John Paul was, and is, a messenger of mercy. The cry of the faithful on the day on which his body was processed through the streets of Rome, *Santo Subito* continues. In fact, it grows stronger. We seek his intercession and are inspired by the witness of his holy life and inspiring death. His Feast Day is October 22nd.

—Prayerful wishes, Father Joseph

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

October 18, 2026 † 29th 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	10/19/2026		Fr Dennis Homes (D)	Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday	10/20/2026		Viola Busch (D)	Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday	10/21/2026	12:00 p.m.	Linda Arian (D)	Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday	10/22/2026		Gary Bailey (D)	Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53
Friday	10/23/2026	12:00 p.m.	Amber Davis (L)	Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday	10/24/2026	5:00 p.m.	Lorraine Jones (D)	Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40
Sunday	10/25/2026	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40
Sunday	10/25/2026	12:00 p.m.	Misael Nunez (D)	Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40
(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased				

Today's Homily

BECAUSE WE belong to God alone, we give Him our faith, our hope, and our love. In today's jarring yet familiar Gospel scene, we see an attempt to trap Jesus and force him to violate either the law of Rome or the laws of God.

As he evades this attempt to ensnare him, Jesus offers guidance on how Christians ought to live that has echoed throughout history: Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

In our first reading, the Lord tells King Cyrus that there is one Lord; there is no other God beside Him. We know that God alone is the Lord of all peoples and all history, and that we belong to Him.

In the Gospel, Jesus' lesson is about justice. True justice is to give to God what belongs to God. And what belongs to God? Everything. Most importantly, ourselves.

We know that we belong to God first; but this can be difficult to live out. How do we return our lives to him? By engaging in the work of faith, labor of love, and endurance in hope which Paul praises the Thessalonians for in today's second reading. We may recall that faith, hope, and love are what are known as the theological virtues. Living these virtues helps us to give our whole lives back to God.

Faith, the Catechism tells us, is "personal adherence to God and assent to His truth" (CCC 150). We can ask



ourselves, is there any part of our lives that we have not surrendered to the Lord? Do we trust in all that He has revealed to His Church? Perhaps the Lord is inviting us to grow in faith. And when we know Him more fully, we can surrender ourselves to Him more deeply.

Next, hope: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness" (CCC 1817).

In other words, to live with Christian hope is to live as though our ultimate happiness is in the Lord, and no other. It requires that we rely on the Lord to give us the strength so that one day, we will be with Him forever. Do we rely on, and place our hope in, the Lord and His promises?

Finally, love—or charity—is the theological virtue "by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God" (CCC 1822).

Whether we realize it or not, each and every day, we can offer everything we do as an act of love for God.

In the end, Caesar cannot claim what God already has: our hearts, and our faith, hope, and love. As we gather around this Eucharistic table, may we once again offer our whole selves to the Lord and receive His grace to continue to choose Him above all things.

AMEN.

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 ♦ Emily Ruiz ♦ Cookie Benton ♦ Dan Arian ♦ Father Joseph

October—The Month of the Holy Rosary

St. Padre Pio's Relics

The Padre Pio Relics visit to Central Oregon has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. We appreciate your understanding.



Temporary Mass Schedule

THERE WILL BE A 12 P.M. MASS ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

Saturday/Sunday	Oct. 17/18	Fr. Rick
Saturday/Sunday	Oct. 24/25	Fr. Rick
Saturday/Sunday	Oct. 31/Nov. 1	Fr. Joe
Monday, All Souls Day	Nov. 2/8 a.m.	Fr. Rick
Saturday/Sunday	Nov. 7/8	Fr. Todd
Saturday/Sunday	Nov. 14/15	Fr. Todd
Saturday/Sunday	Nov. 21/22	Fr. Rick
Thursday—Thanksgiving	Nov. 26/8 a.m.	Fr. Rick
Saturday	Nov. 28	Fr. Rick
Sunday	Nov. 29	Bp. Hennen



Updates on Father Joseph

As updates on Father Joseph's condition come in, I will post them on our Facebook page. Feel free to share that post on your personal page. If you'd like to be added to the email list, please let me know. And if you'd like to drop off a card for him, I will make sure he receives it.

If anyone has a favorite story, memory, or special prayer about Fr. Joseph that they would like to share, I will post them on "Fr. Joseph's Corner" in this Parish Bulletin.

Please send them to our email address at: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com. And please keep Fr. Joseph in your prayers—they are working!

—Darlene Counts, Parish Secretary



Sanctity of Life Conference

Please 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/or to register, please go to the website at: dioceseofbaker.org/pro-life.

Saints Carnival

We're now gratefully accepting candy donations for the Saints Carnival on Wednesday, October 28th, which is for our Religious Ed students. Thank you so much for your support!



Worldwide MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

"Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all." In our marriage, we are called to give 100% to each other. Learn how to be the best spouse you can be by attending a WWME experience from Friday, November 6th, to Sunday, November 8th, in Beaverton, OR. To apply or to search for other dates, please go to rediscoverthespark.org.

For more information about WWME, call (503) 704-0836 or email: reservations@rediscoverthespark.org.



Diocese Fall Retreats

All 9th–12th graders are invited to attend the Diocesan Fall High School Retreat on November 7th, at St. Peter Church, in The Dalles, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$20/youth or \$35/family. Bishop Hennen will be attending. Youth and Adult Chaperones, register through your parish Youth Leader, DRE, or Pastor. Please visit DioceseofBaker.org or call Marie, 541-388-4004, for more information. Bishop Hennen will be present for part of the retreat.

Young Adults ages 18-35 are invited to attend the Diocesan Fall Retreat: "The Father's House," November 13th to November 15th, at the Cascade View Retreat Center in Powell Butte. Please visit DioceseofBaker.org or call Jesse at (719) 966-9225 or Marie at (541) 699-1133 for more information and to register. Bishop Hennen will participate several times during the weekend.



Christmas Bazaar

St. Joseph's Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 14th. We are seeking everyone's participation to make this a success. We need handcrafted items, baked goods, candy, etc. (but nothing that requires refrigeration, please). Any contribution you make will be greatly appreciated. Please price your donation and deliver it to the Parish Hall on Friday, November 13th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Nancy Redfern at (541) 508-9872.



Please pray for Father Joseph!

