

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Three Trees—An Easter Story" (Author Unknown)

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling on mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed and the little trees grew tall. Then one day, three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." And with a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." And with a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. And with a swoop of his shining ax the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the



tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not coated with gold or filled with treasure. She was covered with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail in an

ocean, or even a river. Instead, she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box.

"I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood.

"This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

Then one evening, a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain.

When the tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew she was carrying the King of Heaven and Earth.

Then one Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. As she was lifted up on the mountain top, she felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose, and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. Now every time people saw her, she could point them to God, and that was what she wanted all along!

—Prayerful wishes and happy Easter, Fr. Joseph

November 2020 Weekly Offertory

Date	Needed	Offering
March 7, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$4,309.00
March 14, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$5,167.00
March 21, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,009.25
March 28, 2021	\$3,700.00	\$3,808.00

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 4, 2021 † Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass (English)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass (Bilingual)	12:00 p.m.
Holy Days	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Monday • Tuesday • Thursday	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday & Friday	12:00 p.m.

Pastor ♦ Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya T.

Secretary ♦ Karin Jones

Parish Office Hours ♦ Monday–Thursday ♦ 9:00 a.m.–5:00 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>

Facebook: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Prineville, Oregon

Email: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com

Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com

(Fr. Joseph's personal email address: joekunel55@gmail.com)

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

Funeral Director for Music ♦ Garilynn Tocher



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

♦ **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET & CENACLE GROUP:** Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass.

♦ **1ST FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH:** Mass is at 12 p.m., with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Holy Hour of Prayer with the Rosary, Litany of St. Joseph, and Benediction after Mass.

♦ **REMAINING FRIDAYS:** Mass is at 12 p.m., with the Rosary and Benediction after Mass.



Baptisms

Baptisms will be held on 2nd Saturdays of the month in English and on 4th Saturdays in Spanish. 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 / DAILY READINGS

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	04/05/2021	8:00 a.m.	Jose Solis (D)	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	04/06/2021	8:00 a.m.	Fred Kappel (D)	Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18
Wednesday	04/07/2021	12:00 p.m.	Sue Miller (D)	Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35
Thursday	04/08/2021	8:00 a.m.	Daniell Eldridge (L)	Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48
Friday	04/09/2021	12:00 p.m.	Ron & Shirley Lattin (L)	Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14
Saturday	04/10/2021	5:00 p.m.	Jerome Kuper (D)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31*
Sunday	04/11/2021	9:00 a.m.	Robert Maska (D)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31*
Sunday	04/11/2021	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31*

*Feast of the Divine Mercy ♦ (L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

EASTER IS THE greatest and the most important feast in the Church for three reasons: The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain" (I Cor 15: 14). "Jesus is Lord. He is risen" (Rom 10: 9), was the central theme of the kerygma (or 'preaching'), of the Apostles.

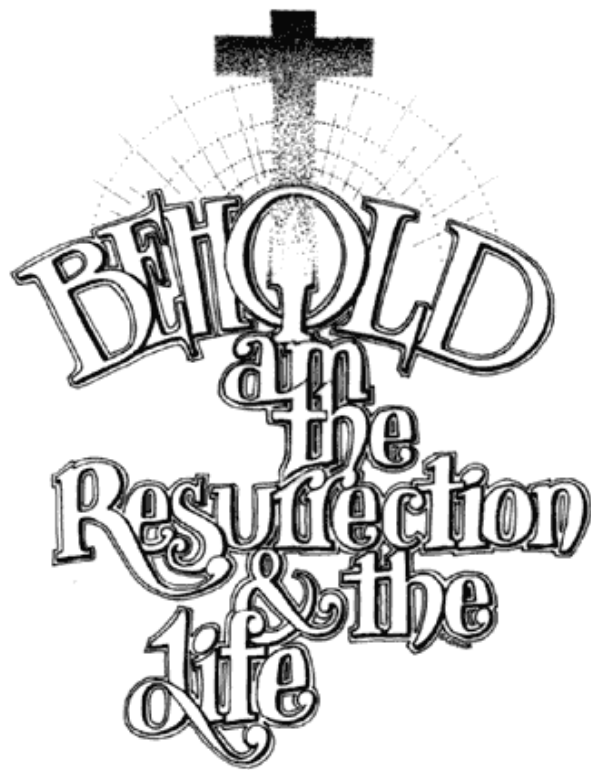
The founder of no other religion has an empty tomb as Jesus has. Further, neither the Jews nor the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.

The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus. Otherwise they would not have faced martyrdom for a dead leader lying in the tomb. The sheer existence of a thriving, empire—a conquering early Christian Church bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution—supports the truth of Christ's Resurrection.

Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies" (Jn 11: 25-26).

Easter is a feast that gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as our communal prayer and strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.

Easter gives meaning to our prayers: It supports our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in and around us, in His Church, in the Blessed



Sacrament and in Heaven, hearing our prayers, and so gives meaning to our personal, as well as our communal prayers.

Let us live the lives of Resurrection people: Easter gives us the joyful message that we *are* a "Resurrection people." This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives and

amid the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day lives.

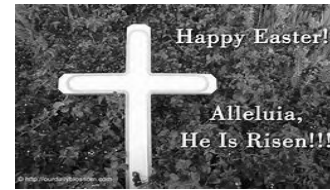
We need to live new, disciplined lives in the Risen Jesus. Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own resurrection help us to control our thoughts, desires, words and behavior. This salutary thought inspires us to honor our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the Risen Lord in our neighbors and in all those with whom we come into contact should encourage us to respect them and to render to them loving, humble and selfless service.

We need to become transparent Christians, radiating the presence of the Risen Lord: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others through our lives the love, mercy, compassion and spirit of self-sacrificing service of the Risen Jesus living in our hearts.

We need to share in the resurrection of Jesus: Each time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy and forgiveness, and each time we fight against temptations, let us remember that we are sharing in the Resurrection of Jesus here and now.

The Year of St. Joseph

He is Risen! Alleluia!



Fr. Joseph and the staff of the Parish of St. Joseph Catholic Church want to wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed Easter.

+++

Meet with Father Joseph

Just a reminder that all First Holy Communicants are scheduled to meet with Fr. Joseph **on either Tuesday, April 6th, or Wednesday, April 7th**, to review their prayers in preparation for First Holy Communion.

Please be on time!

+++

American Red Cross

On Wednesday, April 7th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the American Red Cross will have a Blood Drive at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Please call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment.



+++

Funeral Mass

The Funeral Mass for **Don Arian** will be held on **Friday, April 9th**. The Rosary will be said at 11 a.m., and Mass will begin at 11:30. NOTE: There is no 12 p.m. Mass.

+++

*Sunday, April 11th is the Sunday of Divine Mercy



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the 8th day of Easter; i.e., the Sunday after Easter Sunday).

Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000—the day that he canonized St. Faustina.

Christ's Divine Mercy is the love that He has for mankind, despite our sins that separate us from Him.

+++

CSR Rice Bowl

Please return your Rice Bowl **next Sunday, April 11th**, or you may drop it off at the Parish Office on Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

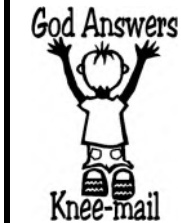


Sunday Rosary

04/11/21: St. Vincent de Paul
04/18/21: Knights of Columbus
04/25/21: Lectors

+++

The Prayer List



Linda Arian ♦ Frederick Smit
Bob George ♦ Terrance Holmes
Daniel and Marilyn Gilday
Jacqueline Iverson ♦ Mike Mulvihill
Deacon Caleb Cunningham

+++

No Daily Mass

There will be no Daily Mass on Thursday and Friday, April 1st and 2nd.

+++

Clergy Retreat

Fr. Joseph will be on a Clergy Retreat at Mt. Angel Abbey from **Monday, April 12th, through Friday, April 16th**. There will be NO Daily Masses during this time. Please keep Fr. Joseph in your prayers while he is away.

+++

Parish Feast Day for St. Joseph

Being the Year of St. Joseph, the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of St. Joseph are preparing a feast day **on Sunday, May 2nd**, for the parishioners of St. Joseph to honor our Patron Saint.

There will be only one Mass that Sunday at 10 a.m. to be followed by a Parish Picnic.

We will keep everyone updated as the plans come together.

There will be a 9-Day Novena to St. Joseph, starting **on Thursday, April 22nd, and ending on Friday, April 30th**, in preparation for the Feast Day on May 2nd.

+++

House Blessings



If you would like to have your house blessed, please call the Parish Office at (541) 447-6475 to make an appointment to have Fr. Joseph come out on either a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m.

