

# Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Most Beautiful Heart"

ONE DAY A young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered, and they all admired his heart for it was perfect. There was not a mark or a flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed, it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen. The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart.

Suddenly, there was an old man who appeared at the front of the crowd. He said, "Why, your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine!"

The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but it was full of scars. It had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't fit quite right, and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places, there were deep gouges where whole pieces were missing. The people stared and thought, "How can he say his heart is more beautiful?" The young man looked at the old man's heart, saw the state it was in, laughed and said, "You must be joking," he said. "Compare your heart with mine! Mine is perfect, and yours is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes," said the old man, "Yours is perfect looking, but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love. I tear out a piece of my heart and give it to them. Often they give me a piece of their heart that fits into the empty place in my heart. But because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges, which I cherish, because they remind me of the love we shared. Sometimes I've given a piece of my heart away, but the other person hasn't returned a piece of their heart to me. Those are the empty gouges.

Giving love is taking a chance. Although these gouges are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people, too. And I hope that some day, they may return, and fill the space I have been waiting for. "So, now do you see what true beauty is?"

The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks. He walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect, young, and beautiful heart, and ripped a piece out. He offered it to the old man with trembling hands. The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart, and then took a piece from

his old and scarred heart, and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly, as there were some jagged edges.

The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore, but it was more beautiful than ever, because the love from the old man's heart flowed into his. They embraced, and then they walked away side by side.



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April 2000, at 10 a.m., on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in St. Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day—April 27, 2014—by Pope Francis.] St. Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1) to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2) to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; and 3) to start a new movement in the Church, focusing on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. . . . Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising His right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays—one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jeżu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning—red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and white for the Baptismal water, which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness, and love of God. . . .

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 16, 2023 † Divine Mercy Sunday

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 Donuts are served after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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>

Email: [stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

Pastor: [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com) / [joekunel55@gmail.com](mailto:joekunel55@gmail.com)

Diocese of Baker Website: [dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org) / Phone: (541) 388-4004

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

RCIA ♦ Garilynn Tocher & Laura Lang

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

- ♦ DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET AND CENACLE GROUP: Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass.
- ♦ 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 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	04/17/2023	8:00 a.m.	No Daily Mass	Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8
Tuesday	04/18/2023	8:00 a.m.	No Daily Mass	Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15
Wednesday	04/19/2023	12:00 p.m.	No Daily Mass	Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21
Thursday	04/20/2023	8:00 a.m.	No Daily Mass	Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36
Friday	04/21/2023	12:00 p.m.	No Daily Mass	Acts 5:34-42; John 6: 1-15
Saturday	04/22/2023	5:00 p.m.	Maria Walwork (D)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Sunday	04/23/2023	9:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Sunday	04/23/2023	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parish Family (L)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



## Today's Homily Divine Mercy Sunday

**T**he readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith, and the need for the forgiveness of sins. God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death, and Resurrection. Divine mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, instituted to sanctify us.

**The first reading** (Acts 2:42-47) tells us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy and sharing, the sacrificial *agápe* love practiced by the early Christians. **In the second reading** (1 Peter 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting Resurrection from the dead and glorious Ascension into Heaven to His Son, Jesus, thus giving us the assurance of our own resurrection.

**Today's Gospel** vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The risen Lord gave his Apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas' famous profession of Faith, "My Lord and my God," the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed His mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith.

Today's Gospel also emphasizes the importance of Faith in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord of Mercy. To believe without having seen is every later Christian's experience. We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and hesitation by surrendering our lives to the Risen Lord of Mercy. Let us ask God our Father to open our hearts so that we may receive His Mercy in the form of His Holy Spirit.

Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, just



as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the Risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service ("Faith without good works is dead" James 2:17.) It was this Faith in the Lord and obedience to His missionary command that prompted St. Thomas to travel to India to preach the Gospel among the Hindus, to establish seven Christian communities (known later as "St. Thomas Christians"), and eventually to suffer martyrdom.

The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic Faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: a) We must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible; b) We must strengthen our Faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through our personal and community prayer; and c) We must share in the Divine life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Blessed Mother Teresa presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then do we put our love of God into action." Christ's mercy shines forth from us whenever we reach out to the poor, the needy and the marginalized, as Blessed Mother Teresa did. His mercy shines forth as we remain open to those who struggle in Faith, as did the Apostle Thomas in today's Gospel.

We should be able to appreciate the presence of Jesus, crucified and raised, in our own suffering and in our suffering brothers and sisters, thus recognizing the glorified wounds of the Risen Lord in the suffering of others.

## April The Month of the Holy Eucharist

### Clergy Retreat

**Fr. Joseph** will be gone the week of **April 17th to the 21st**. He will be at Mt. Angel Abbey attending the Clergy Retreat. Please note that there will be no daily Mass. Please keep **Fr. Joseph** and all the priests in the Diocese in your prayers.

### The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

While we celebrate those married for 50 years or more, we will also celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker—Our Patron Saint—on **Sunday, April 30th**, as well. Again, there will be cake and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more than 65 years, the Church has observed May 1 as the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, established by Pope St. Pius XII in 1955. On this day, we reflect on the example that St. Joseph gave us with his time on earth as well as his intercession from heaven.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

Also on **Sunday, April 30th**, we will have an Anniversary Celebration for those couples who have been married 50 or more years at St. Joseph Parish. The celebration will begin with Mass at 10 a.m. We will then have a luncheon in the Parish Hall.

Our emcee is **George Gerke** who will interview the couples and present a "Certificate." This golden anniversary is still a powerful reminder of the joys of married life. It's important not to let your 50th or more wedding anniversary slip by unnoticed. **Karin Davis** will make sure that she contacts you to get some history of your time together. We would also like a picture of your wedding day for the celebration. Should you have any questions, please call **Karin Davis** at (541) 416-1112.

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The 60th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is also on **Sunday, April 30th**. The purpose is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention on this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

### Holy Hour for Life

St. Thomas Parish in Redmond will host a Holy Hour for Life also on **Sunday, April 30th, from 3 to 4 p.m.** The hour will include Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a period of silent reflection and adoration, a pro-life rosary, and benediction. Join us in praying that all will choose life in all its stages and for those involved in the Pro-Life Movement.

### God's Dictionary

**Seeking:** Verb—to go in search or quest of, to seek the truth, to try to find or discover by searching or questioning. The heavens are telling the glory of God—we can seek Him through that. He reveals Himself in His word—we can seek Him through that. He shows Himself to us in the evidence of grace in other people—we can seek Him through that. The seeking is the conscious effort to get through the natural means to God himself—to constantly set our minds toward God in all our experiences, to direct our minds and hearts toward Him through the means of His revelation. This is what seeking God means.

### Prayer List

**David Leonard, Steve Forrester, Carl Johnson, Lyn Rodgers, Mike Mulvihill, Dolores Koivisto, Jerry Pimentel, Anita Marquez, Georgia Fitzgerald, Ben Guyger, Lloyd Rodgers, Pierre Jones, Sammi Pedersen, Steven Clifton, Ken Dalton, Mike Mulvihill, and Joan Holland**



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

### Job Opening

St. Joseph Parish has a job opening for a Secretary/Bookkeeper. Skills required are: Computer, Excel, Word, Publisher, Phone, and a great personality. Hours are 9 to 5, Monday through Thursday. If you are interested, please send a resume to **Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya** at [fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com](mailto:fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com).

### Diocesan Youth and Family Camps 2023!

**Youth Camp: July 9th to July 13th**, Current 4th-12th Grade. Cost is \$150 before June 4th—after \$175. Current 10th-12th graders are invited to apply to be Camp Youth Leaders.

**Many Adult Volunteers are also needed!**

**Two Family Camps: July 27th to July 30th and August 3rd to August 6th**. Cost: \$150+Lodging (Tent: \$30, RV \$75, or Cabin: \$150. Registration is open for all camps through the diocese website at: <http://dioceseofbaker.org>

### Amazing, P/T Summer Opportunity

The Diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis Team is seeking a P/T Summer Event Assistant. Position details are available on the Diocese website: <http://dioceseofbaker.org>. For more information, email Marie Becker at [marie@dioceseofbaker.org](mailto:marie@dioceseofbaker.org).

### U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Slavery is not a relic of the past. It's alive today and it generates billions of dollars—while at the same time ruining the lives of those involved. Learn more: U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite #109, Brighton, MI 48114.