

Fr. Joseph's Corner

Easter Reflection

Jesus, the Nazarene, was born more than 2,000 years ago. He lived just like any other human, except that He was a person of principles. He valued life more than law and sought to give dignity to every human—regardless of caste, creed, gender, occupation, etc. He never feared to “call a spade a spade,” and confronted those who burdened the weak and lowly. He was a radical preacher and went about doing good.

More than anything else, Jesus revealed who the God He believed in was by His words and deeds. He revealed a God He could address as Abba (Father)—someone who cared for each person, and someone who sought the good of humanity. What Jesus preached was in conflict with what the religious leaders of His time taught, and for this He was put to death.

The death of Jesus was a consequence of His steadfastness to the values He preached and lived by. He would die rather than “water down” His truth convictions. He preferred to remain faithful to His God. We believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and restored Him to the heavenly place prepared for Him. In this, each of us can also hope for an eternal future time in the presence of God.

The Spirit of Jesus is alive among us. We see countless people in history, and in our own time, who have stood for and even given their lives for “life-promoting” values. The mission of Jesus needs to be continued by you and me. The mission of Jesus is uni-

versal—it is not only for Christians or any other particular group.

Our world today is marked by war and violence, discrimination and abuse, corruption and nepotism, and environmental degradation. How many of us dare to stand up and challenge those in authority and make them accountable? How many of us actually bother about the poor people in our towns and cities? How many of us are willing to “let go” of our comforts and take the side of the disadvantaged? How easy it is for us to keep doing “our” work and to be blind to the reality around us! How difficult it is to keep walking the path that Jesus took—the “road less travelled.”

Easter should not be merely a celebration. It should be a time for us to rededicate ourselves to the cause for which Jesus died. If you really believe that Jesus is risen . . . then, well, we have to live a life that Jesus expects and invites us to live!

May the Risen Jesus fill you with much joy so that your life will be full.

May the Risen Jesus bless you with strength and courage so that you will be able to stand for the values Jesus preached and lived.

May the Risen Jesus flood you with peace so that you’ll know that you are doing God’s work—and He is laboring with you!

With warm Easter greetings and much love . . .

—*Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

David Leonard ☪ Steve Forrester ☪ Carl Johnson ☪ Lloyd Rodgers ☪ Ken Dalton ☪ Mike Mulvihill

Sammi Pedersen ☪ Steven Clifton ☪ Dolores Koivisto ☪ Jerry Pimentel ☪ Ben Guyger ☪ Anita Marquez

Georgia Fitzgerald ☪ Pierre Jones ☪ Joan Holland ☪ Suzie LaBelle ☪ Max Hernandez



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 9, 2023 † Easter Sunday

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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

Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

Diocese of Baker Website: 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

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| Monday | 04/10/2023 | 8:00 a.m. | Jeanne Ferrarin (D) | Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 |
| Tuesday | 04/11/2023 | 8:00 a.m. | Family of Andy Vandehey (L) | Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 |
| Wednesday | 04/12/2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Lu Streetman (D) | Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 |
| Thursday | 04/13/2023 | 8:00 a.m. | Those in need of Prayers (L) | Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 |
| Friday | 04/14/2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Leigh Overton (L) | Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 |
| Saturday | 04/15/2023 | 5:00 p.m. | Nancy Hoffman (D) | Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 |
| Sunday | 04/16/2023 | 9:00 a.m. | Joseph Jones (L) | Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 |
| Sunday | 04/16/2023 | 12:00 p.m. | Hilario Ortiz (D) | Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 |

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased



Today's Homily

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church for three reasons:

1) 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-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of Christ's Resurrection.

2) 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).

3) Easter is a feast which 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.

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 life.

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 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.



APRIL The Month of the Holy Eucharist

Divine Mercy Sunday

As the faithful prepare to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on **April 16th**, it is important to review the meaning and historical significance of the day. On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday."

St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. *She wrote in her diary that He said:* "I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it . . . My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy."

According to the vision, those who receive Communion and attend Confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins.

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As St. Pope John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified."

SCHEDULE FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

Normal Mass times. The Divine Mercy Cenacle Group will lead the Rosary. Blessing of religious articles is at the **9 a.m. Mass. Holy Hour is at 3 p.m.**

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"Pennies for Heaven"

Next weekend, **April 15th and 16th**, at all Masses your local Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring the Pennies for Heaven Fund Drive. For the seminarians attending Mount Angel, your spare change and dollars could make a real difference in their lives. Every penny of your donations will go to the current benefit of seminarians at Mt. Angel and future seminarians through the Knights of Columbus Christopher Fund. Please be generous in support of our seminarians.

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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 Saint 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.

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

St. Joseph Parish is looking for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. You will need to be registered with the parish, complete a background check, and take a course in Safe Environment with the Baker Diocese and Catholic Mutual Group.

"Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion" is the formal title of laypeople who distribute the Eucharist during Mass. As the title implies, there are also "ordinary ministers"—those who are "ordained" to the ministry; i.e., bishops, priests, and deacons. These ministers are usually the first in order to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ, the deacon being the customary distributor of the cup. If you are interested in joining the Liturgical Team, call **Cathy Baxter** at (541) 233-3888 or stop in the parish office Monday through Thursday from 9 to 5.

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50th Anniversary Celebration

On 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 served in the Parish Hall.

Our emcee for this wonderful event will be **George Gerke**. He will shower each couple with questions and, of course, a "Certificate." To this day, 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.

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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.