

Fr. Joseph's Corner

"The Most Beautiful Heart" (Author unknown)

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 had gathered, and they all admired his heart for it was truly perfect. There was not a mark or a flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed, it was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen.

The young man was very proud, and he boasted even more loudly about his beautiful heart. Then, suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd, and 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. "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—and often they give me a piece of their heart, which 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 have given pieces of my heart away, and the other person hasn't returned a piece of his 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 someday, they may return and fill the space I have waiting. "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.

—Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph



Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto
 Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger ♦ Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Lloyd Rodgers
 Pierre Jones ♦ Sammi Pedersen ♦ Jordan Ortega ♦ Chuck Renwick
 John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Karen Evans ♦ Brittany
 Duncan Osgood ♦ Doni Bachand ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither
 Terri Hintze ♦ Donna Bailey ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee ♦ Mary Lee

St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

March 31, 2024 † Easter 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 ♦ 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](https://www.instagram.com/st_josephparish) Director of Religious

Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

RCIA ♦ Jim Friese

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 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 / 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	04/01/2024	No Daily Mass		Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday	04/02/2024	No Daily Mass		Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday	04/03/2024	No Daily Mass		Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday	04/04/2024	8:00 p.m.	Jim Miller (L)	Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48
Friday	04/05/2024	12:00 p.m.	Garilynn Tocher (L)	Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday	04/06/2024	5:00 p.m.	Donna Bailey (L)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31
Sunday	04/07/2024	9:00 a.m.	Alejandra Sacramento (D)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31
Sunday	04/07/2024	12:00 p.m.	Prospero Villagomez (D)	Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Homily for Easter Sunday

THE READINGS FOR this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith, and the need for the forgiveness of sins.

The opening prayer addresses the Father as *God of everlasting Mercy*.

In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat three times, *His mercy endures forever!* God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only-begotten Son, Jesus, who would become our Savior and Lord through His suffering, death, and Resurrection.

Divine Mercy, or the unconditional love of God, is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, especially that of Reconciliation.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, explains how the Risen Lord continued to show His Divine Mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of the apostles in the early Church. The Faith of the apostles enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love in "signs and wonders."

Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave His apostles and their successors 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.



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 and give thanks for Divine Mercy. It is mainly through the corporal

and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives, and we are enabled to receive 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.

The spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic Faith of St. Thomas the Apostle:

- First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible.
- Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and community prayer.
- Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

St. Teresa of Kolkata (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 we put our love of God into action."

March—The Month of St. Joseph

No Daily Mass

There will be no daily Mass on Monday, April 1st, Tuesday, April 2nd, and Wednesday, April 3rd, as Fr. Joseph takes some needed time off.

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Meetings

- April 1st—Youth Group at 6 p.m. in the church basement.
- April 16th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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Divine Mercy Sunday



April 7th is the Divine Mercy Sunday. It is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the eighth day of Easter; that is, 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.

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Divine Mercy Cenacle Group

The Divine Mercy Cenacle Group would like to invite every-one who is interested in reading *St. Faustina's Diary*. We will begin on Monday, April 8th, at 9 a.m., in Classroom #4, which is the day following the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

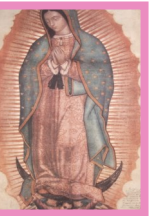
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Clergy Retreat

There will be no Daily Mass from Monday, April 8th, through Friday, April 12th, as Fr. Joseph will be attending the annual Clergy Retreat at Mt. Angel Abbey.

9-Month Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Bishop Cary encourages all to join in the 9-Month National Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information, please visit: DioceseOfBaker.org.



El Obispo Cary anima a todos a unirse a la Novena Nacional de 9 Meses a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Para obtener más información, visite: DioceseOfBaker.org.

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Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Perhaps you've read about Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for healing from any emotional, spiritual, relational, or psychological wounds caused by abortion experiences. Are you wondering how much your own abortion(s) truly have affected you? Visit project-aurora.org, or call (541) 942-2861, or email info@project-aurora.org to learn more about the Southern Oregon Retreat being held Friday, May 3rd, to Sunday, May 5th. Spanish-speaking language and cultural assistance are available at this location. Financial assistance is also available!

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National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

"Come, Follow Me."

Jesus is coming on Sunday and Monday, May 26th/27th, as the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage travels through Eastern Oregon to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Join Bishop Cary in greeting and accompanying our Lord through a State in need of His merciful and healing presence.

For more details, and to register for any events along the Oregon route, please visit: DioceseofBaker.org/NEP.

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"Ven, Sígueme."

Jesús vendrá el Domingo y el lunes, 26 y 27 de Mayo, mientras la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional viaja a través del este de Oregon hasta el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianapolis. Únase al Obispo Cary para saludar y acompañar a nuestro Señor en un estado que necesita su presencia misericordiosa y sanadora. Para obtener más detalles y registrarse para cualquier evento a lo largo de la ruta de Oregon, por favor visite: DioceseofBaker.org/NEP.