

Fr. Joseph's Corner

“You'll Find Jesus There” (Author Unknown)

The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed. The boy's parents sat across from him. “Tomorrow morning,” the surgeon began, “I'll open up your heart . . .”

“You'll find Jesus there,” the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, slightly annoyed. “I'll cut your heart open,” he continued, “to see how much damage has been done.”

“But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there.”

The surgeon looked to the boy's parents, who sat quietly. Looking back at the boy, he said, “When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up, and then I'll plan what to do next.”

“But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says he lives there. The hymns all say he lives there. You'll find him in my heart.”

The surgeon had had enough. “I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well.”

“You'll find Jesus there, too. He really lives there!” the boy assured the surgeon as he was leaving his hospital room.

Later, after the surgery, the surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes: “. . . damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant; no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers, bed rest. Prognosis . . .” here he paused. “Death in less than a year.” He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. “Why?” he asked aloud. “Why did you do this? You've put him here. You've put him in this pain. And you've cursed him to an early death. Why?”

The Lord answered, “The boy, my lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of my flock, and he will forever be. Because here, in my flock,” the Lord continued, “he will feel no pain, and he will be comforted as you cannot even imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they, too, will know peace. And my flock will continue to grow.”

The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter still. “You created that boy, and you created that heart. He'll be dead in a few months. Why?”

Again, the Lord answered, “The boy, my lamb, shall return to my flock, for he has done his duty. I did not put my lamb with your flock to lose him—but to retrieve another lost lamb.”

And the surgeon wept.

Later, the surgeon sat beside the boy's bed. The boy's parents sat across from him.

When the boy awoke, he whispered to the surgeon, “Did you cut open my heart?”

“Yes,” said the surgeon.

“What did you find?” asked the boy.

“I found Jesus there,” said the surgeon.

—*Prayerful wishes, Fr. Joseph*



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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

April 14, 2024 † 3rd Sunday of Easter

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	04/15/2024	8:00 a.m.	Lu Streetman (D)	Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	04/16/2024	8:00 a.m.	Fr. Dennis Strachota (D)	Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	04/17/2024	12:00 p.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday	04/18/2024	8:00 a.m.	Bob Maska (D)	Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
Friday	04/19/2024	12:00 p.m.	Leigh Overton (L)	Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday	04/20/2024	5:00 p.m.	Mary Eddy (D)	Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18
Sunday	04/21/2024	9:00 a.m.	St Joseph Volunteers (L)	Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18
Sunday	04/21/2024	12:00 p.m.	Ramiro Morales (D)	Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18 8

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

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

Today's Homily

IF THE POINT of last Sunday's Gospel was on experiencing the risen Lord, the point of today's Gospel seems to be on sharing our faith with others. Christ wants His followers to be His witnesses.

Witnessing, like a coin, has two sides. One side has to do with seeing an event, having knowledge of something through personal experience and not on hearsay. The other side has to do with being able to give an account of it before others.

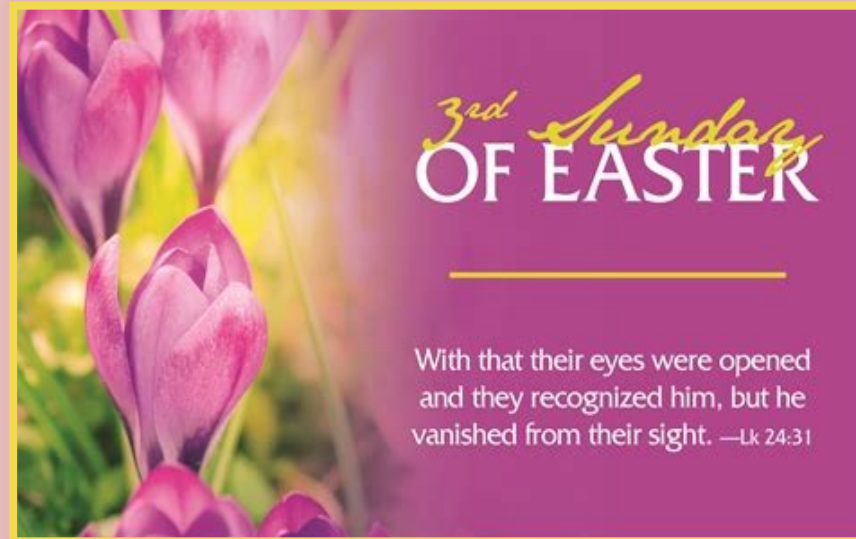
That we are called to be witnesses of Christ means that we are called first to have a personal experience of Christ and then to share this experience with others.

Today's Gospel follows the encounter the two disciples had with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus, where they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Now, these same two disciples had returned to Jerusalem, to the Upper Room where the Last Supper took place to share their experience with the Apostles. All of the Apostles are hidden there, staying out of sight for fear that those who killed Jesus will soon be coming for them.

We read that **"While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you' "** (Luke 24:36). Christ makes Himself present in the process of sharing their faith experience with the other unbelieving disciples.

Now, the eleven Apostles and their companions are, in turn, enabled to experience the risen Lord. And it takes no stretch of the imagination to see that, for the two who shared their experience, this would be a big strengthening of faith—a big empowerment.

What does Jesus do to those who experience Him? First, He communicates peace to their troubled hearts. Then He tries to convince them that the same Jesus of Nazareth who suffered and died the shameful death on the cross is the very one who is now alive in glory with God. He goes as far as eating broiled fish which, of course, He does not need, in order to make the point.



Then He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures and how they point to Him.

Finally, He commissions them to be His witnesses. **"You are witnesses of these things"** (Luke 24:48).

This is what Jesus did when He appeared in the

gathering of the disciples that Sunday morning more than two thousand years ago. And this is what He does when He appears in the Sunday gathering of the faithful here today.

Notice how active Jesus is. He is the one who gives them His peace. He is the one who strengthens their faith and takes away their doubts. He is the one who opens their minds and explains the Scriptures to them. He is the one who declares them His witnesses.

The disciples do not do much in the encounter except open their eyes to see Him, their hearts to let in His peace, their minds to receive His instruction. And in the end when He says, "You are witnesses of these things," they would be expected to respond, "Yes, Lord," and then go out and try to be just that.

How do we witness to Christ? Here many wayside preachers get it wrong. It is not by threatening people with eternal hellfire. It is not by arguing with them on controversial theological issues. It is simply, as the two disciples on the way to Emmaus did, by telling the story of our personal encounter with Christ. It is sharing with them why we are Christians.

As St. Peter tells us, **"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"** (1 Peter 3:15).

In the Sacraments, Jesus takes our fears away—the same way that He did on the road to Emmaus and in the Upper Room.

Like His disciples, we are then called to go and free others from their fears by telling them the Good News that Christ has conquered death.

April—The Month of the Holy Eucharist

Meetings

- April 14th—Hispanic Ministry today at 1 p.m. in Classroom 4.
- April 16th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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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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Religious Education News



1st Holy Communion: The ceremony will be **on Saturday, May 4th, at 5 p.m. Mass.**

Fr. Joseph will hear Confessions **on the morning of May 4th at 9 a.m.** Parents are welcome.

Dress attire: Girls will wear a white dress and boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt and a black tie.

Confirmation: **Bishop Cary** will perform the ceremony **on**

Wednesday, May 8th, at 7 p.m. Pictures will be at **6:30 p.m. with Bishop Cary, Fr. Joseph,** and a group photo.

Fr. Joseph will hear Confessions for candidates **on Tuesday, May 7th, starting at 4 p.m.** All Candidates and their Sponsors must be present. Dress attire: Girls will wear a modest dress. Boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt, and a red tie. All candidates will wear a red robe.

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Oregon March 4 Life . . .

Is on Saturday, May 18th, at 2:30 p.m., at the Oregon State Capitol, to advocate for a culture of life in Oregon.

For more information go to: www.ortl.org.

Youth Group

St. Joseph Parish extends an invitation to parents and guardians to encourage their children to attend our new Youth Group. Your support and guidance are invaluable as we nurture the next generation of Catholic leaders and disciples. Our new Youth Group offers a welcoming environment where Middle and High School students can grow in their Catholic faith, and it is dedicated to fostering faith, friendship, and fun for the young members of our parish community!

For more information and to get involved, please contact **Jackie Cearley, Ruby Ruiz, and Jim Friese.**

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National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

"Come Follow Me." Jesus is coming **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 viene el Domingo y Lunes, 26/27 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.

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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, visit DioceseOfBaker.org.

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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.

