

Fr. Joseph's Corner

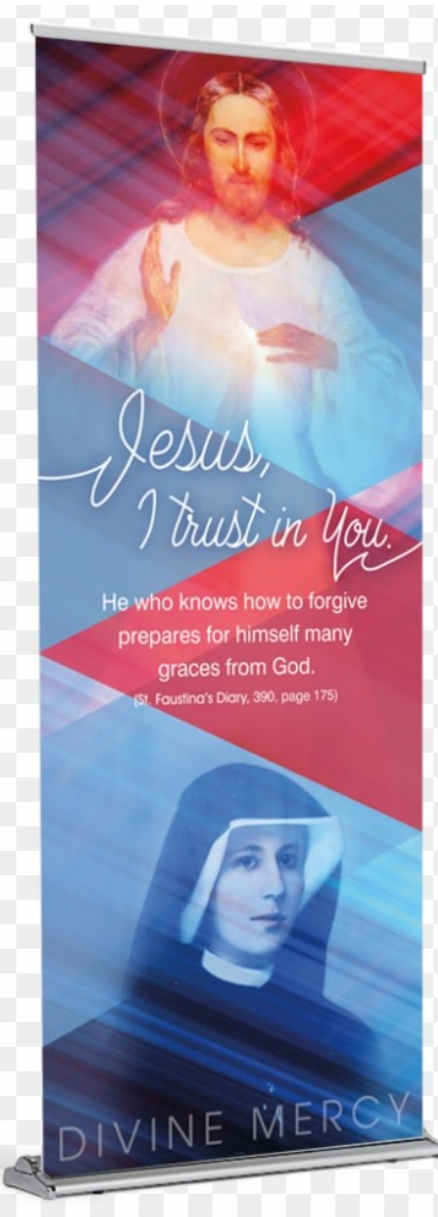
"St. Faustina and the Image of the Divine Mercy"

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 27th, in 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 St. Faustina's short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to her 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 her canonization, 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 is for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls—and white is for the Baptismal water which justifies souls.

The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

—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

April 7, 2024 † 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 ♦ 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

Day	Date	Mass Time	Intention	Readings
Monday	04/08/2024	No Mass		Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	04/09/2024	No Mass		Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday	04/10/2024	No Mass		Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday	04/11/2024	No Mass		Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday	04/12/2024	No Mass		Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday	04/13/2024	5:00 p.m.	Mary Eddy (D)	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48
Sunday	04/14/2024	9:00 a.m.	Joan Gerke (D)	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48
Sunday	04/15/2024	12:00 p.m.	Eustolia Lopez Ortiz (D)	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

(L) Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Homily for Divine Mercy Sunday

THE READINGS for this Sunday show us our need for God's Divine Mercy, which is offered to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the forgiveness of our sins, and through each celebration of the Sacraments (all instituted to sanctify us), when we receive them in trusting Faith.

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

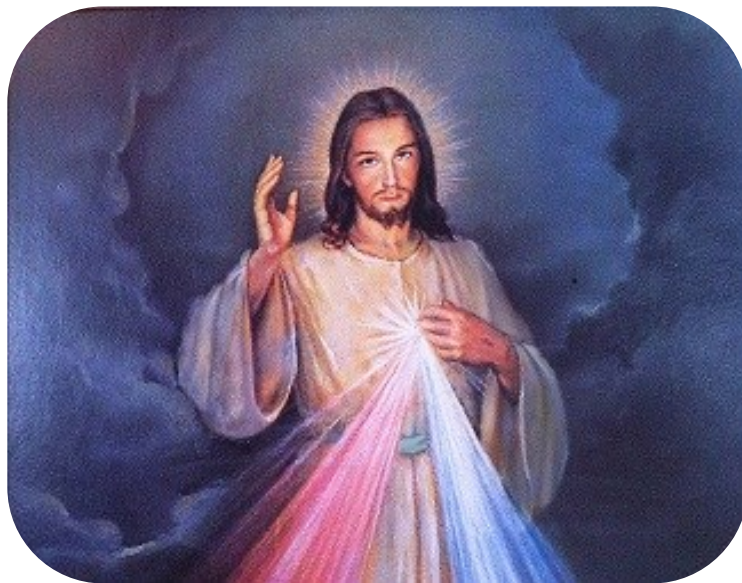
In the first section of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat three times, *His mercy endures forever!* God revealed to us His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death, and Resurrection.

The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) tells us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy; i.e., sharing, sacrificial agape love, practiced by the early Christians.

In the second reading (1 Pt 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing His mercy to us by granting His Son Jesus' Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven, 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, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, they 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 for everyone.

We need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives: One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy.

However, it is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice in our daily lives the Mercy we have already received 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 *agape* love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each other our loving service. The Spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living, dynamic Faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: **a)** First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. **b)** Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and communal prayer. **c)** Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta 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."

April—The Month of the Holy Eucharist

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.

We will meet this Sunday, April 7th, at 3 p.m., in the Church to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

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The Annunciation of the Lord



The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, on Monday, April 8th, recalls the historical event when the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, as found in Luke 1:26-38. It also celebrates the Church's faith in the underlying reality that took place at that moment in time. It celebrates the Incarnation, making this solemnity not only a Marian solemnity, but first and foremost a Christological one.

Though Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, the Annunciation of the Lord commemorates His Incarnation.

Most glorious and ever-virgin Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to you to announce the coming of God within your virginal womb, you humbly inquired how this could be.

The Archangel spoke further, and you wholeheartedly assented to this divine mystery.

Please pray that I may always consent to God's will in my life so that your divine Son may also be conceived in my soul to continue His saving work of redemption.

Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

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No Mass

Fr. Joseph will be attending the Annual Clergy Retreat from **April 8th through April 12th**, at Mt. Angel Abbey, so there will be **no Mass this Monday through Friday**.

Meetings

- April 16th—Knights of Columbus at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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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 say 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.

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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

Jesus is coming on **Sunday/Monday, May 26th/27th**, as the Pilgrimage travels through Eastern Oregon to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. For details and to register for the events along the Oregon route, please visit: DioceseofBaker.org/NEP.

