

## Fr. Joseph's Corner

### Easter Reflection

**A**lthough 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.

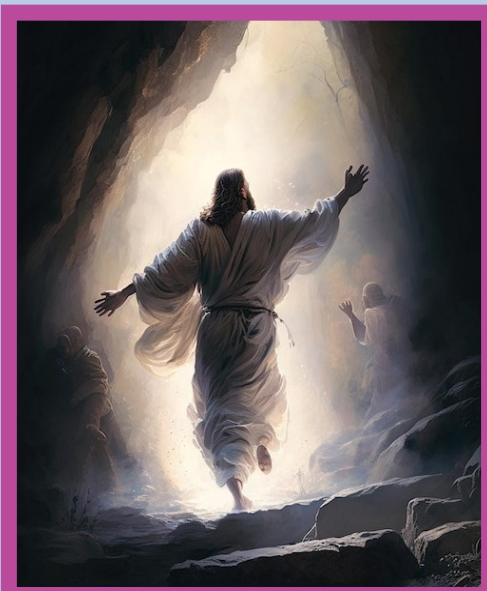
More than anything else, Jesus revealed who the God He believed in was by His words and deeds. He revealed a God He could address as Abba (Father)—someone who cared for each person, and someone who sought the good of humanity.

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 universal—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 traveled.”

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 ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger  
 Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Brittany  
 Duncan Osgood ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither ♦ Lyn Rodgers ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee  
 Mary Lee ♦ Peggy Holtz ♦ Michael Kuenzi ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Barbara Hopla  
 Gilbert Marquez ♦ Sam LeFevre and the LeFevre family ♦ Joanie Holland ♦ Tara Lamb  
 Julian Gomez ♦ Vanessa Ortega ♦ Mary Ellen Schiedler ♦ Carolyn Ausborn

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., PO Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754 † April 5, 2026 † 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 fellowship 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](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com)

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

Facebook: St. Joseph Parish / Instagram: st.\_josephparish

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

OCIA ♦ Jim Friese / OCIA (Spanish) ♦ Yurizet Villasana

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 GENACLE 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 / READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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	04/06/2026	8:00 a.m.	Ron Lattin (D)	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday	04/07/2026			Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18
Wednesday	04/08/2026			Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:35-48
Thursday	04/09/2026			Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48
Friday	04/10/2026	2:00 p.m.	Bob Maska (D)	Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14
Saturday	04/11/2026	5:00 p.m.	Cheryl Rorbough (L)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Sunday	04/12/2026	9:00 a.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Sunday	04/12/2026	12:00 p.m.	Tomas Valerio (D)	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Alleluia! Today we proclaim the heart of our faith: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The tomb is empty. Death has been conquered. Life has the final word.

But if we listen carefully to the Gospel, Easter does not begin with joy—it begins in confusion, darkness, and even fear. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb early in the morning, while it is still dark. She is grieving. She is searching. She does not yet understand what God is doing.

And isn't that where many of us find ourselves? We carry burdens—grief, uncertainty, struggles in our families, worries about the future. At times, life feels like that early morning darkness. We believe, but we also wonder: Where is God in all this?

Easter answers that question—not with an explanation, but with an event. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. And everything changes.

The Resurrection tells us that God is at work even when we cannot see it. Even in the darkest moments, God is preparing new life. Even when hope seems buried, it is not dead—it is waiting to rise.

The disciples did not immediately understand this. Peter and John ran to the tomb. They saw the burial cloths. They saw the emptiness. And slowly, faith began to dawn in their hearts.

Easter faith often begins like that—not with certainty, but with a step, a glimpse, a quiet realization: maybe God is doing something new here.

Dear friends, the Resurrection is not just about what happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago. It is about what God wants to do in us today.

Where do you need resurrection in your life? Is there a relationship that feels broken? A burden of guilt or regret that weighs on your heart? A fear or anxiety that keeps you from living fully?

Easter tells us: no tomb is sealed forever. No stone is too heavy for God to roll away.



The risen Christ comes to us just as He came to the disciples—not with condemnation, but with peace. Not with judgment, but with mercy. He breathes new life into our tired hearts and says, “Do not be afraid.” And then He sends us out.

Easter is not only a celebration—it is a mission. We are called to be witnesses of the Resurrection. That means bringing light where there is darkness. Offering forgiveness where there is hurt. Choosing hope when it is easier to give in to despair. Living as people who truly believe that love is stronger than death.

Sometimes we think witnessing to the Resurrection requires something extraordinary. But often, it is very simple: a kind word, a patient heart, a willingness to forgive, a quiet trust in God when life is difficult. These are the signs that Christ is alive in us.

Dear brothers and sisters, today the Church does not simply say, “Christ has risen.” The Church invites us to say, “Christ is risen—and He is alive in me.”

Let this Easter be more than a tradition. Let it be a turning point.

Let the risen Lord enter whatever is closed, wounded, or fearful in your life. Let Him bring His light into your darkness. Let Him give you a new beginning.

Because the truth of Easter is this: the story is not over. God always has the final word—and that word is life.

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## ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!



## April—The Month of the Blessed Sacrament

### April Is Dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament

In Catholic tradition, April is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist—the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament—and, in some traditions, to the Holy Spirit as well. This devotion is closely linked to the Easter season, which often occurs in April or extends through it, making it a time of deep reflection on Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and ongoing presence among us.

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### Schedule Change

- There will not be Mass from Tuesday, April 7th, through Thursday, April 9th.
- On Friday, April 10th, there will be no 12 p.m. Mass; instead, there will be a wedding Mass at 2 p.m.
- There will be no Mass from Monday, April 13th, through Friday, April 17th, while Fr. Joseph is at the Clergy Retreat in Mt. Angel.

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### Bake Sale



We're excited to host a **BAKE SALE on Sunday, April 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!** We would love to receive donations of baked goods that don't require refrigeration. **Feel free to bring your tasty treats to the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 18th, between 3 and 5 p.m., or drop them off before Mass on Sunday, April 19th.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out—call or email **Darlene** at the Parish Office—(541) 447-6475 / [stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com](mailto:stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com).

We appreciate your generosity and look forward to a wonderful event!

### 50+ Wedding Anniversary?

St. Joseph Church is honoring couples who have been married for 50 years or more. On **Sunday, May 3rd, after the 11 a.m. bilingual Mass**, there will be a luncheon and celebration. If you were married in **1976—or earlier**—or for more information, please call or text **Nancy Redfern** at (541) 508-9872.



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### Message from Bishop Hennen

Thank you so much for participating in the community listening sessions as we explore the possibility of Xavier Prep, a second Catholic independent high school in Central Oregon.

The survey is now being finalized and will soon be shared with all registered Catholics in the tri-county area.

Please share it with friends and family in Central Oregon, both Catholic and non-Catholic. The more surveys we get back, the more accurate our results.

In addition to informing decisions surrounding Xavier Prep, the survey will also help strengthen existing schools such as Chesterton Academy of Mater Dei, an established, bishop-supported high school, as well as the St. Thomas Academy and St. Francis of Assisi School.

Your feedback will help ensure that these schools will continue to serve our families well and to grow in their mission.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions to **Christina Barry** at (509) 386.4028 or visit our website at: [xaviercatholicprep.org](http://xaviercatholicprep.org)

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic schools in Central Oregon!

### Catholic High School Feasibility Study Update:

The survey will be “live” from Tuesday, March 31st, until April 13th! Please take the survey and share it with family and friends. The more people in Central



Oregon who take it—both Catholics and non-Catholics—the more accurate our results. Please scan the QR code or follow the link to get to the survey. *Thank you!*

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8748955/Xavier-Catholic-Prep-New-High-School-Feasibility-Study>