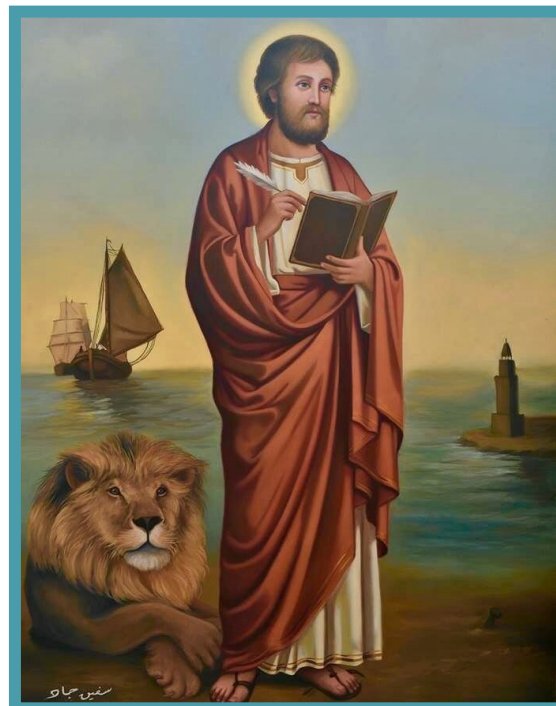


## Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Mark, Evangelist"

Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, mainly comes from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is thought to be the "John Mark" mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. Mark joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Christian tradition says that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem, possibly because he missed his home. This event may have caused Paul to doubt whether Mark could be a reliable missionary. It led to a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas and caused Paul to decline Mark's companionship on their second journey to the churches of Cilicia and the rest of Asia Minor.



Although Papias states that Mark had not personally heard the Lord speak firsthand and, like Luke, was not one of the twelve apostles, some believe Mark was probably referring to himself when he described Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane: "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth around his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked."

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

Mark's Gospel was probably written between 60 and 70 A.D. and was based on the teachings of St.

Peter. It is believed that Mark provided both Luke and Matthew with basic sources for their Gospels.

In 828, relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy. There they are enshrined in a beautiful cathedral dedicated to the saint.

St. Mark's symbol is a winged lion. This is believed to come from his description of St. John the Baptist as "a voice of one crying out in the desert." The wings are based on Ezekiel's vision of four-winged creatures as the evangelists.

He is often depicted writing or holding his Gospel. He is sometimes shown as a bishop seated on a throne or as a man assisting Venetian sailors. St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice. His feast day is celebrated on April 25th.

Mark's hopes of visiting Asia Minor were probably fulfilled, because during Paul's second imprisonment and just before his martyrdom, Paul wrote to Timothy in Ephesus, advising him to "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry." If Mark returned to Rome at that time, he was likely to have been there when Paul was martyred.

According to Christian tradition, Mark also had a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as "his son" in his letter to several churches in Asia Minor. Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus, and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

### 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., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

April 12, 2026 † 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 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	04/13/2026			Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday	04/14/2026			Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday	04/15/2026			Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday	04/16/2026			Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday	04/17/2026			Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday	04/18/2026	5:00 p.m.	Julia Geiman (D)	Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35
Sunday	04/19/2026	9:00 a.m.	Kathie Leonard (D)	Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35
Sunday	04/19/2026	12:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Parishioners (L)	Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

## Today's Homily

### MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS . . .

Today, on this Second Sunday of Easter—also known as Divine Mercy Sunday—we are invited to encounter the Risen Jesus not just as victorious, but as merciful.

The Gospel takes us back to that first Easter evening. The disciples are gathered in a locked room. The doors are closed. Why? Because they are afraid.

They have seen Jesus die. Their hopes were shattered. Now they are hiding, uncertain, confused, and afraid that they might be next.

And into that fear, Jesus comes.

He doesn't knock. He doesn't wait. He simply stands among them and says, "Peace be with you."

Not once, but twice.

This is very important. Jesus does not come with anger. He does not come to accuse them for abandoning Him. He does not say, "Where were you when I needed you?" Instead, He brings peace and mercy.

And then He shows them His wounds.

Why the wounds?

Because the wounds are the proof of His love. The wounds are the sign that He understands suffering, betrayal, pain. And now, those same wounds are not signs of defeat—they are signs of victory and mercy.

Then Jesus does something extraordinary. He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them."

This is the birth of the Church's ministry of mercy, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Risen Christ entrusts His mercy to the Church.

My dear friends, this tells us something beautiful: God's mercy is not abstract—it is personal, real, and available to us.

But the Gospel doesn't end there. We meet Thomas.

Poor Thomas—often called "Doubting Thomas." But if we are honest, Thomas represents many of us. He wants proof. He wants certainty. He says, "Unless I see . . . unless I touch . . . I will not believe."

A week later, Jesus comes again. And this time, Thomas is there.

And what does Jesus do?



Again—no anger, no rejection. He meets Thomas exactly where he is.

"Put your finger here . . . see my hands . . . do not be unbelieving but believe." Thomas responds with one of the most beautiful professions of faith in the Gospel: "My Lord and my God!"

This is the journey of faith—from doubt to belief. And Jesus says something very important for us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." That is us.

We have not seen with our eyes, but we are called to believe with our hearts. So what does this Gospel mean for us today?

First, it means that Jesus comes into our locked rooms.

We all have them—places of fear, guilt, doubt, and hurt. We try to hide them. We close the doors. But Jesus still comes in.

Second, it means that mercy is at the heart of our faith.

No matter what we have done, no matter how far we have gone, God's mercy is greater than our sins.

Third, it means that faith is a journey.

Like Thomas, we may struggle. We may doubt. But Jesus is patient. He meets us where we are and leads us forward.

And finally, it means that we are called to be instruments of mercy.

Just as Jesus forgave, we are called to forgive.

Just as Jesus showed compassion, we are called to show compassion.

In a world filled with judgment, anger, and division, a Christian must be a sign of mercy.

### MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Today, let us hear Jesus speaking to us: "Peace be with you." Let us bring to Him our doubts, our fears, our sins. And let us respond like Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"

Because when we trust in His mercy, our fear turns into peace, our doubt turns into faith, and our lives become witnesses of His love.

*Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.*

## April—The Month of the Blessed Sacrament

### Divine Mercy Sunday

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us—all of us. And He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

"My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. . . . [I]t is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy.

For them, I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy"  
(*Diary*, 367).

+++

### Schedule Change

There will be no Mass from Monday, April 13th, through Friday, April 17th, while Fr. Joseph is at the Clergy Retreat in Mt. Angel.

+++

### Book Club

Our book club will meet on Tuesday, April 14th, at 6 p.m. in Classroom #4. We will discuss *The Shack*, a novel by William P. Young, and we will select our next book. Everyone is welcome to join.

+++

### Parish Office

The parish office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, April 15th, and Thursday, April 16th.

### 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 if you need more details, call Nancy Redfern at (541) 508-9872.



+++

### Breakfast Burritos and Bake Sale

Join us for a BREAKFAST BURRITO AND BAKE SALE on Sunday, April 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.! We are asking for donations of baked goods that don't need refrigeration. You can bring your delicious 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 feel free to contact Darlene at the parish office.

Along with the bake sale, we're excited to offer made-to-order breakfast burritos! Choices include bacon and potato, chorizo, and veggie—all with farm-fresh eggs—and served with fresh salsa. You can stay and enjoy your meal or take it to go. Thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to a fun and flavorful event!

+++

### Religious Education News

**1ST HOLY COMMUNION:** The ceremony will be on Sunday, April 26th, at the 9 a.m. Mass. Fr. Joseph will hear confessions on the morning of April 25th at 9 a.m. Parents are welcome. Dress code: Girls will wear white dresses, and boys will wear black slacks, a white shirt, and black ties. Everyone is welcome to a reception to celebrate these students after the Mass in the parish hall.

## 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>