



April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter

St. John the Apostle Catholic Church

A Family Focused Parish



Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 66: Preparation of the Priest

STEP-BY-STEP WALK THROUGH THE MASS

As we continue our final preparation for receiving Communion, we may notice another time when it looks as if the priest may be talking to himself at the altar. Actually, he is praying! After the “Lamb of God,” the congregation kneels down in adoration of THE Lamb of God present on the altar—Jesus Christ really, truly, and substantially present.

Meanwhile, the priest joins his hands, perhaps bowing slightly, speaks quietly to himself, genuflects, and then gets ready for the next part of the Mass. What is he doing?

This part of the Mass is called the private preparation of the priest for receiving Holy Communion. As is often the case, the name of this part of the Mass tells you exactly what is happening! Before Communion, the priest takes a few moments to prepare to receive Our Lord. According to the Diocese of Peoria, after the fraction rite, “the priest prays a prayer quietly to himself. This is done quietly because it is a personal prayer of the priest as he prepares for communion. The sacrament of the Eucharist is the only Sacrament a priest can administer to himself. This private prayer asks the Lord to forgive any faults and to keep him faithful to the teachings of the Church... After this private preparation, the priest genuflects in adoration” (A Study of the Mass, p. 19).

The Two Prayers of Preparation

The Roman Missal actually gives the priest two options for this private prayer, both equally beautiful and prayerful: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be

parted from you. Or May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy. Fr. Guy Oury observes that “the first of the two prayers begins the reminiscence of Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi and alludes to the Passion, which Christ foretold shortly after. The Eucharist is offered to us as an antidote to sin. It is, by Christ’s

own will, the favored means of union with him” (The Mass, p. 116). The second prayer, while shorter, also reminds the priest just how much he needs our Lord in the Eucharist and calls him to strive to be a worthy and holy priest.



A Personal Moment of Prayer for the Priest

For me as a priest, taking time for these prayers is one of my favorite parts of the Mass. During much of the Mass, as we have been reviewing, there are many things for the priest to do and say. I am often aware that I am praying on behalf of the people who are present. I certainly give myself the challenge of helping people understand the gift before us and pray together better. For me, this moment is a short break where I am just praying to Jesus from my heart. Each of the prayers is truly meaningful. The first reminds me of a priest who was really influential when I was growing up. Sometimes, as an altar server, I could hear him pray these words; I was struck by his prayer asking God to help him stay faithful and never to be parted from our Lord. It sounded so humble but also confident: Lord, this is what I need, and I know You will do it. That same confidence is in the second prayer as I ask for protection and healing. The word remedy fills my heart with hope that this union with Jesus will truly bring my heart into deeper union with him... and help keep me there! So, what should everyone else do while the priest is praying one of the above prayers?

(Continued on Page 2)



In the hope of heaven, St. John the Apostle is a family focused parish where disciples seek union with Christ and his Church by knowing God's love through sacraments, prayer, faith education, fellowship and service.

Do This in Remembrance of Me, Part 66: (Cont'd)

While it is just a brief moment, Charles Belmonte reminds us: “The personal preparation of the priest gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves also in silence, without the noise of words but with an abundance of acts of love. We feel unworthy as the moment for receiving our Lord approaches. But we decide to go on because we know that he wants to remain in the consecrated species to be our nourishment and the cure for our weaknesses” (Understanding the Mass, p. 182). In a way similar to the priest’s preparation, this is a wonderful moment to ask Jesus to strengthen you in faithfulness and purity through the gift of Holy Communion. Let us prepare fervently at this part of the Mass, for the Lord is coming to us very soon in his Flesh and Blood, the Most Holy Eucharist!

Reflection:

1. Watch for the private preparation of the priest when you participate in Mass. Receive this moment as an opportunity to pray for the celebrant, for yourself, and for all present as you prepare for Communion.
2. Consider praying with the words of the priest’s private prayer as a way of preparing for Mass.

-Fr. Luke Spannagel

Pastor's Weekly Reflection: CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Dearest St. John’s family of families,

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, Alleluia. Blessings of the risen Christ to you and your loved ones.

The Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep has risen from the dead. For the sake of the flock he willingly suffered death, alleluia.

From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, pope (Hom. 14, 3-6: PL 76, 1129-1130)

Christ the good shepherd

I am the good shepherd. I know my own—by which I mean, I love them—and my own know me. In plain words: those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

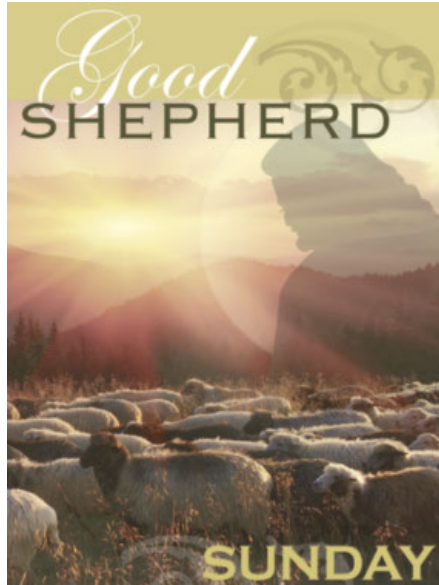
My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father’s knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father.

Again he says: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life. Shortly before this he had declared: If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord’s sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven.

There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.



Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveler who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through

which he is passing that he forgets where he is going. (Pope Saint Gregory I, also known as the Great, was the Pope of the Catholic Church between 590 and 604 AD)

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

Many blessings,

Rev. Maxy D'Costa
Pastor



Pope Francis'
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

April 2024 - FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Our needs for the week include
Spaghetti & Jelly

This week's featured advertiser is:

Lyons NW Insurance LLC

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A LIVING ROSARY TO PRAY FOR PEACE MAY 7, 7:00pm

Organized by the Catholic Daughters

The Living Rosary will be formed by one person representing each bead and reciting that prayer. We need a total of 61 people. Your entire family is encouraged to participate. Children need to be able to recite the prayer for the bead they represent.

Please call **Judy Peitz** at **503-655-7977** so she can assign as many positions as possible in advance. We are asking Our Lady of Fatima to bring peace to the world.

Church Open During The Week

The church is open Monday - Friday after 8:00am Mass to 4:00pm for personal prayer and reflection. Bring your family and come spend some time with Jesus.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

During this year of our parish family Eucharistic Revival, I urge you to come with your spouse and children and spend time in Adoration and prayer during our time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays 8:30am to 4:00pm and second Mondays from 8:30am to 8:00pm.

Holy Rosary

We pray the holy rosary devotion after morning Holy Mass Mon-Thurs. Please join us!



"Feed our Pastor" Ministry – Prepare a dinner for Fr. Maxy

The plan is to provide a meal every Thursday, delivered to the Parish office between 12noon and 4:30pm. You can deliver the meal in reusable or disposable containers, both are fine. If you bring reusable containers, they will be available for pick-up the following Wednesday. It would be nice if those making a meal for Fr. Maxy would pray as they are preparing the meal, asking that he be nourished by it, that he be protected and strengthened in his priesthood and that he know the joy and love of Christ and His Church. The scheduling is handled via Meal Train, go to www.mealtrain.com/ngn7ve and sign-up for the Thursday of your choice over the next year. *Thank you, Tom Call 503-349-4351*

lectio divina 2024 challenge

EACH WEEK CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR THE WEEKLY VERSES TO MEDITATE UPON.

JOIN THE SJA PARISH COMMUNITY AS WE READ AND PRAY THE GOSPEL OF MARK TOGETHER!

Read (Lectio)
Reflect (Meditatio)
Respond (Oratio)
Rest (Contemplatio)

THIS WEEK: MARK 2:23-28



Church Located at 410 Center St, Oregon City, Oregon | **Office & Mailing Address**
417 Washington St Oregon City, OR † 503-742-8200 † www.sja-catholicchurch.com

Daily Mass Time: Monday - Friday 8:00am

Sunday Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm | Sun. 8:30am, 10:30am, 1:30pm (Spanish)

Little Lamb Childcare: Provided for 10:30am Mass in Pre-K Room

Confessions: Saturday 3:30-4:30pm or by appointment

Parish & School Staff

Pastor:

Fr. Maxy D'Costa | 503-742-8200
pastor@sja-catholicchurch.com

Deacons: Rev. Mr. José Gutiérrez
| 503-803-0329 |

jg.dynamis@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. James Ladd |
james.ladd@mtangel.edu

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Spanish Ministry Assistant:

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503-757-6675 | mfc Carroll23@gmail.com

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f.barba@sja-catholicchurch.com

Admin Council Chair: Barry Brenneke
503-819-7179 | barry_tbb@yahoo.com

Pastoral Council Chair: Contact parish office
503-742-8200 |

School Principal: Mary Haluska
mary.haluska@sja-eagles.com

SJA Cemetery: Gary Avery |
503-655-7148

Weekly Offertory

Week of March	31th	\$ 11,888.77
Week of April	7th	\$ 13,150.26
Week of April	14th	\$ 20,275.81

Sacraments and Services

For **Baptism, First Communion/Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Holy Matrimony**, our process begins with filling out our Sacramental Inquiry Form. Fr. Maxy will contact you for next steps. You can find the link to the form at: www.sja-catholicchurch.com/sacraments

Funeral Mass / Service: Please first contact Rev. Maxy D'Costa at 503-742-8200 to plan a funeral service at St. John the Apostle for your loved one at your earliest convenience. If you would like your loved one buried in the St. John the Apostle cemetery, please contact Gary Avery at 503-655-7148 to make those arrangements

Family Member that has moved to assisted living/care facility/hospice: If you have a family member that has moved to a care facility, please inform the parish office so we can arrange for pastoral care and we will note the address in our records.

Assisted Hearing System: We have an assisted listening system to help facilitate better hearing for all of our members.

Contact the office.

FORMED! Connect Now Online Faith Formation Content

Visit sja-catholicchurch.formed.org to register.

Bulletin Announcements

Bulletin Announcements due on the Friday, nine days before the Bulletin publication date.



Calendar and Mass Intentions



Sat April 20

3:30-4:30pm Confessions

5:00pm Anticipated Holy Mass - Phyllis Welters INT

Sun April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30am Holy Mass - All Parishioners

9:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal, Music Rm

10:15am Little Lamb's Catechesis & Childcare, Pre-School Rm

10:30am Holy Mass

11:30am Confessions

11:45am Baptism Formation, YR

1:15pm Confessions Spanish)

1:30pm Holy Mass (Spanish) Rutilio Lopez Bautista †

3:00pm Welcome Cafe Hot Meal, PC

Mon April 22

8:00am Holy Mass - Ervin Welters †

6:30pm St. John's Men's Group, YR

Tues April 23

8:00am Holy Mass

6:30pm RCIA Catechumenate, YR

Wed April 24

8:00am Holy Mass - Joseph Reeves INT

6:00pm First Saturday Choir Practice

6:30pm SEARCH & Catholic Inquiry, PC

Thurs April 25

8:00am Holy Mass (School) - Larry Scribner †

6:00pm Admin Council Mtg, Padre Pio Rm 101

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (10:30 Choir)

Fri April 26

8:00am Holy Mass - Arlo Jones INT

8:45am-4:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat April 27

8:00am Family of Faith Marriage Enrichment, PC

1:00pm Cassandra & Joseph Bassich Wedding

3:30-4:30pm Confessions

5:00pm Anticipated Holy Mass - Terri Courtney, Jr †

6:00pm Deacon James Farewell Celebration, PC

Sun April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00am K of C Rosary Devotion & Corporate Communion

8:30am Holy Mass - All Parishioners

9:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal, Music Rm

9:30am Deacon James Farewell Celebration, PC

10:15am Little Lamb's Catechesis & Childcare, Pre-School Rm

10:30am Holy Mass - Allen Jones INT

11:30am Deacon James Farewell Celebration, PC

11:30am Confessions

1:15pm Confessions Spanish)

1:30pm Holy Mass (Spanish)

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Learn more about enrolling in our Parish School

Call 503-742-8230 or email: Principal Mary Haluska: mary.haluska@sjaeagles.com www.sja-eagles.com



Join us in bidding farewell to

Deacon James Ladd

April 27th & 28th will be the last weekend Deacon James will be at SJA before he leaves to prepare for his priestly ordination. Please join us after Mass next weekend to bid him farewell in the Parish Center. There will be light refreshments. Your prayers, greetings and well wishes are appreciated!

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PARISH CAMPOUT

South Beach State Park

JULY 18-21 FEE: \$120



Questions: Ryan Mainard (503) 742-8228 r.mainard@sja-catholicchurch.com

Catholic Daughters COURT SAINT ANNE Tea party

Saturday, May 4th, 1-3pm

There will be entertainment & raffle baskets galore!

Tickets are available for sale after Mass in Vestibule, April 20/21 \$15 per ticket



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invites all couples to participate in

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

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ABOUT THE RETREAT

God has created this sacred sacrament and called you to it. Spend time learning and praying together and growing in your vocation of Marriage. Our retreat will be led by Father Matt Libra and Patricia Mackie, a Catholic Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor.

Saturday, April 27 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

St. John the Apostle Parish Center

Register Here

\$25 per couple Childcare Available (please indicate on registration form)



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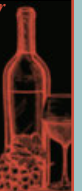
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