

# Umatilla National Forest cautions visitors about fall forest conditions

Umatilla National Forest officials ask forest visitors to use caution, plan ahead and know the weather and forest conditions before heading out into the woods. The Forest has already received snow in higher elevations this fall, and snowstorms can often bring wind, snow and rain that can substantially impact road and trail conditions, causing hazards and obstructions in roadways.

Fall weather can be unpredictable and is a busy time of year on the Umatilla National Forest. Hunting is a primary activity during this time, increasing the number of visitors in the Forest. Prior to heading to the woods, forest officials encourage the public to always contact your local district office, always check the weather, have a planned route and ensure that the area is accessible by knowing what closures or restrictions are in place. Whenever possible, travel in pairs. Always bring extra clothing, food and water, and make sure that someone knows where you are going, that they also have your planned route, and when you will be returning

from your trip. Carry a map and don't rely on your cell phone as many areas on the Forest don't have service.

Some roads may be seasonally closed due to wildlife or other resource concerns. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) display the open and seasonally open road system on the Umatilla National Forest. MVUMs are free and can be picked up at any Umatilla National Forest office or downloaded from the forest website. Motorized cross-country travel is prohibited under the forest's travel management plan.

"We encourage forest users to responsibly enjoy their National Forest roads and trails, including planning ahead for a trip to the woods. Responsible use will not only avoid damage of the resources, but also ensure forest visitors have an enjoyable and safe experience," said Eric Watrud, Umatilla National Forest Supervisor.

For more information on current forest conditions, please contact the Umatilla National Forest at 541-278-3716 or visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla>.

# Be prepared and be wise always

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

Today's first reading from the book of Wisdom (6:12-16) is an invitation to all to become truly wise. The reading explains to us about what true wisdom is and how each can find it. Where can true wisdom be found? We say that God is Wisdom, God is Power, God is Life, God is Love, etc. If we substitute the word "Wisdom" for the word "God," the meaning of today's first reading becomes clearer to all of us: "God is bright and does not grow dim. He makes truly wise those who love Him." One is truly wise who tries to discover what God wants from him and to carry out His wishes. God guides such a person to arrive safely in Heaven.

In the second reading of the day, we see St. Paul in his letter to the First Thessalonians (4:13-18) describing death and living life with Christ after death. If we die with Christ, each of us will have the same status that the Lord Jesus had. In simple terms, Paul describes that for us with faith, our death or end time is nothing but meeting the person of Jesus. (Faith is not taught but caught by the inspiring way it is lived.)

The message running through today's Gospel is found in Matthew (25; 1-13): "Be wise! Be prepared." We are asked to form a truly Christian mentality about how we ought to live in this world, so that we shall be best prepared for life in the world to come. Through the parable of the ten wedding attendants, we are all called to be bearers of the light of Christ, lamp-carriers, in our daily lives, not to be like the five foolish virgins who took no oil with them to await the bridegroom. It means avoiding all sorts of laziness, sluggish ways and sloth, but like the five foolish maids, we, too, are sometimes careless and irresponsible and allow this lamp to go out or at least grow very dim. When the five imprudent virgins prayed that the door be opened for them, the response was, "I do not know you." The Church invites us to recall the great event that will take place both at the end of our

lives and at the end of time: Christ will certainly come. So be prepared and be wise always.

(To understand the Parable of the ten virgins, we must know the Jewish traditions regarding marriage celebrations. Usually their wedding celebrations lasted for seven days. On any one of these days, the bridegroom came with his relatives and friends to the bride's house. Only the best man knew the exact day of their arrival. In the parable, during a delay in the expected time of arrival of the bridegroom and his party, the invited guests at the bride's house continue the celebratory mood as they await the arrival. This explains the reason for the shortage of wine at the wedding in Cana.)

Let us examine the inner meanings of each of the various elements in the parable: a) Christ is the bridegroom. b) The wedding banquet represents God's kingdom in Heaven. c) The bridesmaids represent Christians waiting for the return of Christ which will take place at the end of their lives. Each one must decide in his/her own life what to be - a wise or a foolish Christian. At Baptism, each one of us received as God's gift a lamp brightly lit, well provided with oil. The lamp represents both the Life in the Spirit and the gift of Faith in Christ, which ought to light our way through the darkness of this world. We must keep on adding oil to our lamp lest it goes out. The oil is none other than a true Christian life. Be on guard like the five wise virgins, don't be like the five foolish ones. Jesus admonishes His followers to be useful and fruit bearing, be committed and hardworking, creative, inventive, diligent, etc., like the five wise virgins of the parable. So, let us also be prepared and be wise always.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

# A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Birthdays sort of open and close this month on the Hill. Raul Silva celebrates his special day on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Floss Watkins finishes up the month with hers on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Both will be celebrated by their neighbors at the favorite lunch each will select to share.

Halloween was the most recent other reason to celebrate at the Terrace. Leading up to that, the staff shared their week of work with interspersed challenges of "hide the snake." This bit of fun for the staff involves someone hiding a rubber snake somewhere in work areas and the rest of the staff keeping their eyes open for the often-times startling critter. The one who hides it has to buy the one who finds it a candy bar or provide an equally tasty treat, and then that finder continues the game by hiding the snake.... The residents often witness the hiding of the snake but are sworn to secrecy.

On Halloween, a scary plate of something was looking up at each person at lunch, but the disguised food was tasty, as usual, and contributed to everyone's stamina for the evening visits of trick-or-treaters. This year, seven costumed young persons ventured to the Terrace and brought looks of surprise and delight through the windows to residents' faces. The other Halloween-related activity enjoyed by some residents was the game of "Halloween Bingo."

The next holiday celebrated on the Hill, as well as throughout the United

States, will be Veterans' Day. The Community will be honoring its veterans, as well as paying tribute to all who have served in our country's military.

Thanksgiving will be here soon, so residents are working on personalized wreaths of thanksgiving to hang near their doors. Each resident is invited by staff members to explain to them what he or she is thankful for. Those are printed on leaves that are then arranged on a wreath form, hung by the apartment door, and will surely capture the eyes of passersby who will want to read the many reasons others have for being thankful.

A traditional Thanksgiving Dinner will be served on the 26<sup>th</sup> and to accommodate residents and their family members who would normally be sharing that meal with one another but cannot this year, an open Zoom platform will be available for saying "Hello" and expressing other Thanksgiving messages. A family member of each resident will receive an invitation to share with the rest of the family.

The day before Thanksgiving is "Tie One On Day," which is when the Terrace community shares a loaf of homemade bread with each of the neighbors, tied up with a ribbon and accompanied with a small, typed prayer of thanks.

That will follow the 24<sup>th</sup>'s "Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day." Facebookers will certainly want to keep an eye out for the Terrace's live exhibit of talented residents and staff

performing for you.

Yesterday was a good day for a morning discussion of past presidents of the United States, favorites and not-so-favorites, and participants enjoyed creating a list of the presidents they could collectively name.

Today features a "Circle Social" at 2 p.m., the circle being that of a donut. Since today is "Donut Day," a good reason to gather for donuts and conversation.

Tomorrow is "Men Make Dinner Day," but Administrator Nairns reports that the men were invited to do just that, "and they laughed." Since Saturday is "Tongue Twister Day," some fun with tongue twisters at morning discussions this week is entertaining. Next Tuesday may incorporate Sesame Street as part of the morning chat because it will be the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the educational show, but "Pizza Day," on the 12<sup>th</sup> might hold more interest for some residents. Since next Friday is "World Kindness Day," random acts of kindness among residents will be encouraged through the week, and the Friday discussion will include memories of performing and receiving random acts of kindness.

Other topics for morning discussions that will be pulled from the calendar of special days (determined by whom?) include the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989 (9<sup>th</sup>), Mickey Mouse's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday (18<sup>th</sup>), assassination of President JFK in 1963 (23<sup>rd</sup>), and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slinky (27<sup>th</sup>).

While enjoying the company of their neighbors and the in-house activities, the residents and staff stay abreast of the State's Covid-19 rules for visits from family. Though the guidelines might change, they do certainly remain strict, so Nairns stresses the importance of the Terrace's total adherence to the latest set of guidelines that do allow indoor visits, with definite restrictions. To visit a resident, a person must make an appointment with a staff member for the visit at least 24 hours in advance. Certain protocols must be followed by staff before the visit, protocols must be followed by the resident and visitor during the visit, and protocols must be followed after the visit. Interested persons need to call 541-676-0004 to make arrangements.

A variety of circumstances find the Terrace with some staff vacancies. One such position results from the retirement of Jerry Baker, who will be greatly missed. For 14 years, Jerry has been amazingly dedicated to the Terrace as the landscaper/maintenance assistant and has been greatly appreciated. Persons interested in information on employment as a residential-care team member or as a replacement in Baker's position are invited to call 541-676-0004.

So goes life on the Hill, where everyone has an opportunity to view the Heppner Valley below and realize why they have reasons to be thankful this November.

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