

Spiritually Speaking

Pentecost: called to transformed in Holy Spirit

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Last week, we celebrated the Ascension, that wondrous scene when Jesus took leave of His disciples, assuring them that the Spirit would lead them through their next step as His followers. This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates the greatest feast after Easter: the Pentecost. The Feast of Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the Church, the day that the Church was born, the day of the first evangelization! Pentecost means “the fiftieth day”- fifty days after the great feast of Easter. On the day of Pentecost, we recall the descending of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues. Pentecost transformed the frightened apostles into fiery preachers. And the listeners on the day of Pentecost experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God. Because the Holy Spirit is God, He existed from eternity. The first mention of the Holy Spirit is in the very first chapter of the first book of the Bible, Genesis: “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit” (1:2). He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus did His ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. His resurrection occurred through the Holy Spirit. Today, we live in the age of the Holy Spirit. Since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has worked on the earth in a very special way. He is the One who gives us strength to live a victorious and fruitful life. Pentecost celebrates the great event when Jesus filled His church with the Spirit and sent Him to establish on earth, the kingdom of love, joy, hope, peace, and forgiveness.

The first reading of the day taken from the Acts of the Apostles (2: 1-11) describes the coming down of the Spirit as it took place on that first Pentecost. What is important to note are the many signs and symbols used to describe the descent of the Spirit. All these have symbolic meaning and provide food for thought: the sound that accompanies the coming of the Spirit – the violent wind that fills the entire house; the divided tongues that rested on each one of them – the tongues appeared to be as of fire, filling them with the power of the Spirit; lastly, the coming of the Spirit giving them the gift of speaking in a language that all could understand – they could communicate in such a way that they were understood by all present there. The presence of such a variety of signs itself reminds us that the Spirit’s presence is not limited to one type of entrance into our lives. The Spirit is free and comes in any form it chooses into our lives. The purpose of the coming of the Spirit is not to frighten us or overpower us but to energize us and empower us so that we can move beyond our selves, that we might be able to communicate with God and with one another and thus build a bond of unity



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and communion.

In the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (12:3-7, 12-13), we are reminded that though the expressions of the Spirit are varied, the source of the Spirit is the same as for Lord Jesus Christ. “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.” The presence of the Spirit is seen in the variety of gifts that the Spirit brings into our lives; “there are a variety of services, variety of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” St. Paul uses an analogy of the body and its parts, how each of the parts of the body correlates with the body – similarly, the gifts of the Spirit are varied and divergent. In the Spirit we are all one. “Jews and Greeks, slaves or free - black or white, north or south - we are all made to drink of one Spirit.”

The Gospel of John (20:19-23) describes the post-resurrection scene wherein Jesus appears to the eleven disciples and encourages and strengthens them. The role of the Holy Spirit is vividly narrated here: The Holy Spirit transforms the fear of the apostles into power. Secondly, the timidity of the apostles is changed into boldness and courage. And finally, the uncertainties of the apostles are converted into convictions. The Holy Spirit acts powerfully as tongues of fire. Fire destroys, purifies, gives light and gives warmth. The Holy Spirit destroys sin in man, purifies the hearts of men from all their uncleanness. He sheds His light, enabling man to see clearly God’s plans of love for Him. He kindles love in the heart of man – love for God and love for all men.

The Holy Spirit acts powerfully in the church even today. We have seen the Lord blow into the apostles the Spirit of the Lord. “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven in them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (20:23). He is commissioning His apostles to administer to all faithful. It is a time to open up to the mind-blowing, heart-warming, life-changing power of God. The power of God can invade the body, inflate the mind, swell the soul, lift the spirit and make us more than we ever imagined. When God sends forth the Spirit, the whole face of the earth is renewed. When God sends forth the Spirit chaos is changed into creation. When God sends forth the Spirit amazing things happen; barriers are broken, communities are formed, opposites are reconciled, unity is established, disease is cured, addiction is broken, cities are renewed, races are reconciled, hope is established, people are blessed, and the church is formed. Let our prayer be ‘Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, let the face of the earth be renewed.’”

On this day of Pentecost, we welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives, into our hearts.

May He renew us, and send us forth, like He did the disciples of the early Church, to proclaim to the entire world that Jesus is Lord.

A View from the Green

WCCC hosts Columbia-Blue tournament

Willow Creek Country Club hosted the monthly tournament of the Columbia-Blue Senior Golf Association on Monday, May 10. There were 103 players in the tournament who enjoyed the excellent weather on the par 60 course.

Placing in the Columbia Division (Handicap 12 and Below) gross were Tim Wright with a score of 63 in first-place, Barry Munkers, second, with 65, Duane Disque in seventh with 70 and Scott Burrigh taking eighth with a 72. In net Dennis Peck was first with 55. Jim Swanson came in fourth with 58 and Dale Boyd was sixth with a score of 60.

The Blue Division (Handicap 13 to 17) gross fourth place honors went to Mark Schlichting with 74 and Gary Watkins took fourth in net with 61.

John Kilkenny took first in the Senior Division (Handicap 18 and Above) gross with his score of 78. Wayne Seitz was sixth with 83 and Roger Ehrmantraut came in eighth with 85. Net winners were Gene Orwick, first, with a score of 60 and fourth went to Curtis Cutsforth with 63.

The next Columbia-Blue Senior Tournament will be at the Pine Meadows Golf Course at Wamic, approximately eight miles west of Tygh Valley. There will be two tee times, one at 7:30 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. Each group will be limited to 48 players and pre-registration is required.

The number to call to register and also reserve a riding cart is 541-544-2422. Lunch will be complimentary, hosted by the Pine Meadows Golf Course.

Over the Tee Cup

Virginia Grant had low gross of the field when 17 ladies enjoyed the nice sunny day at their playday on May 11. Shirley Martin had low net of the field and Kris Linder had the least putts.

Flight A low gross winner was Karen Thompson and Virginia Grant had KP.

For flight B the low gross winner was Pat Edmundson. Tiffany Clement had low net and Karen Haguewood had the least

putts. Pat Edmundson also got KP for flight B.

Pat Dougherty and Kathy Martin tied for low gross on flight C and low net went to Sharon Harrison. Least putts winner was a tie between Bunnie Lindsay and Jeanne Creswick. Betty Carter got the long drive and Kim Carlson got KP.

Karen Smith-Griffith managed a chip-in on hole number three.

Chamber Chatter

Are you looking to volunteer? The Morrow County Museum and Farm Museum are looking for volunteers to help out being a greeter, helping to clean or whatever else needs done from June to the end of September on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the shift is flexible. Contact Kathy Cutsforth at 541-980-2352.

Nominations close Friday, May 14 for Heppner Chamber’s Annual Town and Country Community Awards event. The event is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building. Nominations are for Man and Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, Citizen-Educator of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Youth Award. Nomination forms are available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Chamber Office, Heppner City Hall and Heppner Post Office.. The completed forms must be turned into the Chamber office by Friday, May 14.

Wednesday, May 19 through Tuesday, June 1, City of Heppner Community Clean up. There will be free dumpster access for garbage collection at the city yard on Riverside. There will be a spot to leave yard debris and burnable material (not accept tires, appliances, hazardous waste or household chemicals. The free dumping will be for Heppner residents only. Contact City Hall at 541-676-9618 for more information.

Thursdays, June 17 through September 2, 4-7 p.m. - Willow Creek Farmers Market at the Heppner City Park. Cost for the entire season is \$50 per vendor; vendors who paid for the whole 2020 season will receive a reduced rate of \$25. Those not wanting to pay for whole season can pay by the week at \$10 (with a maximum of \$50 for the season). Check out the Facebook page, email

willowcreekfm@gmail.com, or call Nelson at 541-720-4399 or Di Salvo at 757-285-5792.

Thursday, June 17 – 6-9 p.m. – Heppner Chambers Annual Town and Country Community Awards event at Gilliam and Bisbee Building. Tickets will be available for sale starting in May and more information will be available soon. There will be a no host bar by Bucknum’s, and dinner prepared by Alvin Liu. Gateway Cafe consisting of prime rib with au jus, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, green beans in garlic sauce, garden fresh salad, roll, dessert and beverage.

Hold the Date: Wednesday, May 26 – 12-1 p.m. – Gilliam and Bisbee Building – Hosted Annual Luncheon for Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG): This lunch will be hosted by WCVEDG and an RSVP will be required. There will be an update on WCVEDG current and anticipated future projects and programs. Lunch will be catered by Alvin Liu of Gateway Cafe and he will be preparing a BBQ meal of BBQ ribs, chicken, baked beans, potato salad and dessert. An RSVP is required by Monday, May 24 to be guaranteed a lunch. Contact the Chamber at 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@gmail.com.

Hold the Dates for the Music in the Park schedule for 2021:

Sunday, July 11 – Elijah Neymark and his father
Sunday, August 8 – The Wasteland Kings

Sunday, September 12 – Lindy Gravelle

Hold the Dates: June 14-18 from 9 a.m.– 12 p.m. - Vacation Bible School at Heppner Christian Church.

Hold the Date - August 17-22 for our Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo: More information to come.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

-Donald Martin Jr., 51, Heppner, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$65.

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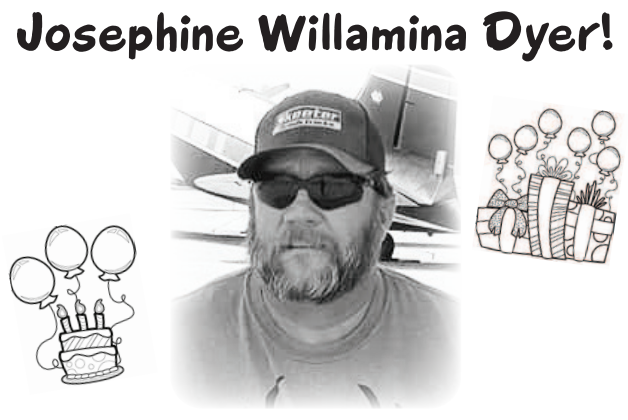
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Old Country Church All Are Welcome

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~from your favorite aunt~

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Effective June 1, 2021, the Fire Chief of the City of Heppner is imposing a BURN BAN.
This also includes Burn Barrels.
Residents can request Natural Vegetation and Debris Piles be burned by the Fire Department during this period.
Sign up list for Fire Department burning assistance is at Heppner City Hall or call Fire Chief Steve Rhea @ 541-980-4232 or Assistant Fire Chief Eric Chick @ 541-701-4910

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Lexington Burn Ban
The Fire Chief of the Town of Lexington is imposing a closed season for open burning effective **Monday, June 1, 2021 until further notice.**
The burning ban is for the Town of Lexington and includes all burn barrels and open burning.