

Spiritually Speaking

Reach out and touch Him

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church
 The Gospel of the day narrates two miracles performed by Lord Jesus during His public ministry: An adolescent woman is brought back to life and faith; and an old woman who was socially dead for nearly twelve years is healed. Both of these women had amazing healing and were people who believed in Jesus. The old woman believed that all she had to do was touch the hem of His robe and she would be well. Just as soon as she made contact with him, power flowed out from Him and healed her. We can draw close to Christ, very close, depending on the depth and intensity of our faith. The thirteenth Sunday scripture readings invite every one of us to have this experience of healing and touch by the Lord in our lives.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The Book of Wisdom (1:13-15, 2:23-24) clearly portrays God's plan for each one of us. God has created all things. He has created for incorruption and made us all in His own image and likeness, as we read in the Book of Genesis. Hence, we can affirm that we exist because God in His loving plan wants us to exist. We are neither the errors of nature nor that of our parents. Perhaps our parents did not want us or planned to destroy us when we were formed in the womb. But if we continue to exist in spite of human attempts to destroy us, it is a confirmation that God wants us to exist. Secondly, we can affirm that God wants us to exist forever because He has not created us for death, but for life. The third affirmation specifies the way to live forever: "righteousness is immortal." Another word for righteousness is "right relationship" – love. Love does not die though our mortal bodies may undergo decay.

The second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (8:7, 9, 13-15) clearly portrays the way God carries out His plan. St Paul says, "Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." (v. 9) Jesus was rich because He was in the form of God. Jesus was rich because He was in the loving presence of His Father. Jesus was rich because He enjoyed the glorious company of the angels in heaven. But renouncing all these, He became one of us. Jesus was like us in everything except sin, to leave with us an example.

For today's Gospel, we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark (5:21-43). Last Sunday we heard about Jesus calming the storm, the first of four miracles that Jesus performs in the district of the Sea of Galilee. Each of these four miracle stories offers us a glimpse at Jesus's power. This week we hear about the third and fourth miracles.

The Gospel reports the two healing stories of two women. One story tells us about a father's great love for his dying daughter. The other story tells us about a desperate woman who risks much as she seeks healing from Jesus. In each story, the request for healing is itself a courageous act of faith, and yet very different circumstances are represented by the life of each suffering person.

Jairus, distressed over his daughter's poor health, approaches Jesus and asks Him to heal her. Although Mark doesn't provide many details, we can imagine that his daughter has been ill for some time and that her condition is deteriorating. As Jesus leaves with Jairus, Mark describes a second person who seeks healing from Jesus, a woman with a hemorrhage. This woman secretly touches Jesus from behind and is immediately cured.

The contrasts between Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage are unambiguous and revealing. One is a man; the other is a woman. One is a synagogue official, a man of significant standing in the Jewish community, the other is a woman who has lost everything to find a cure to a condition that separated her from the community. One approaches Jesus publicly. The other approaches Jesus secretly. One woman is physically dead, and the other is socially and psychologically dead. Jairus's daughter represents the adolescent group, and the other woman is an old adult. From these miracles we can learn the following: In both cases, faith leads them to seek out Jesus in their times of need.

Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" Soon His focus was on the frightened and trembling woman. She hadn't planned on being found out. Just a touch and she would sneak away. Of course, Jesus knew who touched Him. He wanted to complete this miracle by speaking assurance and love to her hurting heart: "Daughter (a beautiful term of endearment, by the way), your faith has made you whole. Go in peace and be well of your illness." The Lord in turn, through today's scripture reading, addresses each one of us through personal questions. Do you need a special touch from the Lord today? Has illness or trouble or circumstance beset you and you feel hurt, lonely, and hopeless? I pray that between the lines of this message, you will hear the loving voice of the Master calling you into His Presence. Don't be satisfied to "rub shoulders" with the Lord. Reach out and touch Him.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Gov. Brown has overstepped authority

To the editor:
 The town of Lexington has unanimously condemned the "arbitrary, ineffective and draconian" COVID 19 emergency COVID 19 of Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Tens of thousands upon tens of thousands of Americans have shed their blood, sacrificed their families and willingly given up their dreams and heritage on the field of battle that all citizens of the Republic would have liberty and freedom. Governor Brown and her OSHA henchmen have "greatly overstepped their authority, and state and federal constitutions, in imposing lockdowns on businesses, churches and citizens, which has caused great harm to the citizens" (Town of Lexington). Every time we are forced to wear a worthless, disease inducing, carbon toxic mask we are disgracing those that have fought the enemies (foreign and domestic) of the American Republic. The town Lexington has boldly declared what we have taken for granted. American citizens "are free, sovereign individuals... not subjects or slaves."

The Town of Lexington has shared their proclamation of liberty "with other Oregon cities, counties, and media outlets in the hope those entities will also speak more loudly." I exhort all American citizens that love our country, our freedom, our way of life to follow the Town of Lexington's example and make a public stand for liberty.

Congress is considering the "Fire Fauci Act."

Dr. Fauci is an unelected political bureaucrat, pseudo scientist that governs the "arbitrary, ineffective and draconian" COVID 19 lock down of America and the world. Fauci's emails, recovered through freedom of information lawsuits, reveal that Fauci, the national news media, Facebook, the CDC, and world health organizations conspired to deceive the world regarding the origins of COVID 19. Anthony Fauci was the head of the U.S.A. (illegally) funded Wuhan lab "Gain of Function" research that developed the COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Fauci's COVID 19 manmade "gain of function" virus has killed tens of millions of innocent world citizens and brought established a worldwide draconian political and economic tyranny. That was the plan from the get-go.

We cannot change the world, but we can restore our liberty and way of life in eastern Oregon. To be silent in the face of this vicious attack against our liberty is no better than aiding and abetting those traitors who are attempting to enslave us. The City of Irrigon has also publicly supported the proclamation of liberty. I expect the city of Heppner and Ione and Morrow Commissioners to join our cause for God and county. The next step must be to secede from the Socialist/Globalist current state of Oregon and join fellow patriots that love America and our Godly heritage.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

A View from the Green

WCCC men play

Nineteen men participated in men's play on Sunday, June 20 at Willow Creek Country Club. Taking first place in net was Dave Creswick with 55. Mike Doherty and Gene Orwick tied for second with a score of 60.

Dave Pranger came in first in gross with 69 and tying for second were David Allstott and Dennis

Peck with 71. Dave Pranger took KP second shot on #1-10 with 4'9" and John Edmundson got the long putt on #5-14 with 12'8".

The men's invitational tournament will be held June 26-27 and there will be no men's play on July 4. The next regular play will be July 11, hosted by Dave Mitchell, Gene Orwick and Boyd Martin..

Over the Tee Cup

The Willow Creek Country Club ladies held their Ladies' Scramble last week, June 15 under rainy and sunny mixed skies.

The team taking first from the group of 16 ladies was Eva Kilkenny, Pat

Dougherty and Jean Creswick. Second place honors went to Karen Thompson, Bunnie Lindsay and Kathy Martin. Raffle winners were

Kathy Martin and Karen Thompson.

Obituaries

Roy Henry Clark, Jr.

Roy Henry Clark, Jr., 91, formerly of Heppner and Pilot Rock, died Friday, June 4, 2021, at a facility in Hermiston. He was born on April 30, 1930 at Sunnyside, WA, the son of Roy H. and Mildred (Bartlett) Clark Sr.



Roy Henry Clark, Jr.

Roy enlisted in the United States Army in February of 1952 and was honorably discharged February 10, 1954. He assisted in the cleanup of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in 1969. Roy had a passion for airplanes and piloting.

He was married to Juanita Kallam for 16 years. Roy later married Shirley Marie Johnson on April 14, 1967, and the couple lived in Heppner for over twenty years. After Shirley's passing Roy moved to Ashley Manor Assisted Living in Hermiston, where he lived out his days.

Roy is survived by his son, Ronald Clark (b.1957); stepchildren, James Fichter

(b.1958), Sonny Fichter (b.1960), Valerie Bradley (b.1961) and Lori Palmer (b.1963); seven grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Shirley Marie (d.2017); sister, Bernice Mae (d.1959); father, Roy Sr. (d.1973); mother, Mildred M. Bartlett (d.1985); daughter, Mildred Marie (d.1995); brother, Albert Bartlett (d.2002); sister, Charlotte (d.2004); and half-sister Marion H (d.2012).

A family service was held earlier. He was laid to rest beside his wife, Shirley and daughter, Mildred Marie at the Pilot Rock Cemetery.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. You may sign the online condolence book at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

County chips in \$70,000 additional prize money for vaccination lottery

Morrow County government has put in an additional \$70,000 to be given away to Morrow County residents only in the upcoming state-wide COVID-19 vaccination lottery, county commissioner Melissa Lindsay has announced.

In the state lottery one vaccinated person from each of Oregon's 36 counties will receive a \$10,000 cash prize, and there will also be one state-wide grand prize winner of \$1 million. The state will also give out five \$100,000 col-

lege fund prizes state-wide. To sweeten the deal, county officials added the \$70,000, which will be split up between five lucky Morrow County citizens only. But you have to be vaccinated by June 27 to win.

"Morrow County has set aside an additional \$70,000 of state vaccination incentive dollars for the lottery drawing that the state will be conducting on our behalf between June 28 and July 6," Lindsay said. "There will be two \$20,000 winners and three \$10,000 winners in Morrow Coun-

ty totaling \$70,000. This is in addition to the state lottery already in place," she added.

All residents 18 and older who have received at least one shot of COVID-19 vaccine by June 27 should be entered into the "Take Your Shot Oregon" lottery, which will be held on June 28. If you are an Oregon resident and have already received one or both shots, and are over 18, you will be entered automatically. All shots registered through June 27 will be eligible to win in the lottery, the state

web site says. In addition, five state-wide winners will each receive \$100,000 contributions to Oregon College Savings Plan accounts in their names, money that can be used for college or trade schools.

Lindsay says anyone with questions can contact Morrow County Public Health, Morrow County Health District, Columbia River Health and Murray's Pharmacy to set up appointment to receive their vaccine and be entered into the lottery.

Chamber lunch meeting scheduled

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting will be held July 1st at noon in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building. The all-entities luncheon will be catered by Bucknum's

for \$10 per person. The lunch to be served will include grilled chicken salad, breadstick, fruit and dessert. RSVPs must be received by Wednesday June 29 at 541-676-5536.

Ione Community Church
 470 E Main Street, Ione
 Summer worship at 10:00 AM
 Sunday Mornings



"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

-Jeremiah 29:13
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