

**Spiritually Speaking**

**What do you hunger for most?**

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

After having fed the people with ordinary bread, Jesus offered them something far better, “the bread of eternal life,” but the Israelites, instead of going towards the Promised Land, continued to hanker after the “fleshpots of Egypt.” We have to admit that we sometimes forget the road we should be on. We cannot have the joys of a new world without abandoning the comforts of the old world. We are reluctant to go beyond material things. Yet what God offers us is much better.

The Book of Exodus (16: 2-4, 12-15, 31), describes the journey of the Israelites through the desert towards the Promised Land. They had grieved dreadfully under the strong hand of the Egyptians, who treated them as slaves. Moses had led them out of slavery with the assurance that the Lord would provide them the land He had promised. But we see them grumbling against Moses and his colleagues, complaining about the difficulties they are facing in the wilderness and saying that they prefer going back to Egypt. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to die in the heat of this desert; to die of hunger and thirst in this hostile land? There is no food and not a drop to drink. We did not have our freedom in Egypt, but we had our flesh pots. Why don’t we go back?” The reactions of the Israelites are often our own when faced with new challenges and unknown situations. We prefer to retreat, we prefer “the flesh pots of Egypt,” our past addictions and habits even though they may have kept us in bondage. Instead of surrendering to God and putting our lives in His hands, we let our feelings, desires and the past control our lives.

St. John (6: 24-35) reminds us that when the people came back to the place where Jesus had the multitude, Jesus was not there, and they went in search of Him. When they found Him, they said, “When did you come here? How did you get here? We were looking for you.” At face value it would look commendable that the people were searching for Jesus. But Jesus confronts their searching. “I know why you were looking for me. You were not really interested in me, you wanted bread, and you wanted to fill yourselves.” Jesus then adds. “Do not look for this food that perishes but look for the things that will really satisfy you.”

Like the crowds that were searching for Jesus, there are many times when we too are searching for Jesus. But are we really searching for Jesus or for the things that He can give us? So often when we are praying, we are searching for God so that He might listen to our prayer; so that He might heal us; so that He might give us a good job, so that He might .... The list can go on and on. The test is whether we keep searching when we do not get what we want from God. Are we looking merely for the blessings of God, or are we satisfied with the God of all blessings?

Jesus, in response to the crowd, reminds them that it was not Moses who fed them but His Heavenly Father in heaven. But Jesus wants to give them something even better than what Moses gave his people. He is ready to give them the bread that satisfies, not earthly bread but spiritual food. He is ready to give Himself. But they have to believe, they have to let God into their lives, instead of acting like God and deciding how God should act in their lives. Jesus is trying to raise their minds to higher realities, but they prefer to satisfy their mundane desires. He wants God to be their food; they prefer food to be their God. Jesus desires to raise them to the level of God but they prefer to bring God down to their level. They said to Jesus, “Give us this bread to fill our stomachs, always!” But Jesus says, “I want to give you something even better, the bread that will fill your heart forever.” Instead of telling God how He should act in our lives, can we let him be the God of our lives? We are invited to re-examine what we often hunger for in our lives. Do we look for heavenly things, or mundane things of this world that don’t lead us to God?



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

**Service Notices**

**Glenna Diane McLachlan Wolke**—A memorial will be held for Glenna Diane McLachlan Wolke on Aug. 3, 2021, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Hopeful Saints Parish Hall. There will not be a service, just a gathering of family and friends to say their goodbyes and share memories.

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

**WCCC Men’s Club Championship**



Pictured (L-R): Mark Schlichting and Dave Pranger. -Contributed photo.

The Willow Creek Country Club men’s club held their club championship on July 24 and 25, with 24 participants. The championship event included Barry Munkers getting a hole in one on #16. The tournament was won by Dave Pranger. Mark Schlichting was the net champion and Duane Disque was the senior winner.

On day one, Kelly Fox took first place in gross with a score of 66, Duane Disque took second with 67 and with a score of 68, Dave Pranger and Dennis Peck tied for third. First place net winner was Tim Wright with 57. Taking second with a 58 was Mark Schlichting and John Edmundson was third with 59. Also on day one, Tim Wright got KP on

#1-10 with 2’8” and again on #4-13 with 8’4”.

The day two gross winner was Dave Pranger with 66. Derek Gunderson came in second with 68 and Duane Disque was third with 71. Tim Hedman took first in net with 54 and Mark Schlichting was second with 56, The third-place tie went to Gene Orwick and John Edmundson with scores of 58. Dave Pranger managed KP on #2-11 at 38’6” and also KP second shot on #6-15 with zero, by putting it right in the hole. Derek Gunderson got long putt on #5-14 with 16’6”.

The next scheduled event will be held Sunday, August 1 and will be a two-man best ball hosted by Josh Coiner, John McCabe and Slater Mitchell.

**Munkers gets Hole in One**

Barry Munkers got a hole in one on hole #16 while playing in the Men’s Club Championship on July 24 at the Willow Creek Country Club.

**Flood Town Books to hold open house**

Flood Town Books, 413 N. Main Street in Heppner, will be hosting a grand opening on Saturday, July 31 from 4-8 p.m. There will be snacks, drinks, prizes and live music. Browne House Coffee will be serving cold brew coffee and guests can enjoy Whitney Haguewood’s fabulous macarons.

Live music will be performed by Pendleton musician James Dean Kindle

from 5-8 p.m. There will be drawings for a variety of bookstore merchandise and gift certificates. Farra’s Place Airbnb will also be open for viewing during the celebration.

Regular bookstore hours will begin Tuesday, August 2. Hours will be 11-6 Tuesday-Thursday, 10-5 Fridays and 10-3 Saturdays. For additional information, contact Andrea Nelson at 541-236-2940.

**Fill a bag for \$15**

The Neighborhood Center will hold a \$15 bag sale on Wednesday, August 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed 12:30-1:30 for lunch). Shop for the entire family and fill up a bag with clothing, shoes, books, games, music and movies. Second bag purchased will be at a discounted rate of \$5. Household items are 50 percent off on that day also. Proceeds from the sale help purchase food for the

pantry. Donations of paper and plastic bags and new unopened toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.) are needed and appreciated. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at 441 N Main Street, Heppner.

For information regarding emergency services contact Lisa Patton at 541-676-5024.

**DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM**

**Senior golfers compete at China Creek**

Willow Creek members of Columbia Blue Senior Golf Association traveled to China Creek Golf Course in Arlington on July 12 to play in very hot conditions. China Creek is a par 69 course. Duane Disque took fifth-place in gross for the Columbia Division (handicap 10 and below) with a score of 75 and Dennis Peck took sixth with 77.

(handicap 11-15) Mark Schlichting took fifth in net with a 77. Dave Creswick took first in the Senior Division (handicap 16 and above) with a score of 83 and Wayne Seitz was fifth with 89. The next CBSGA tournament will be at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla on August 9 with tee times at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

In the Blue Division

**Over the Tee Cup**

Virginia Grant took low gross of the field at the Willow Creek Country Club ladies play day on July 20. Low net of the field winner was Pat Edmundson and Kris Lindner had the least putts.

Karen Haguewood won low gross for flight B and Shirley Martin took low net. Pat Dougherty had the least putts as well as the longest putt. Pat Edmundson got KP.

For flight A, Karen Thompson got low gross. Karen Thompson had the longest putt and Virginia Grant got KP. Pat Edmundson and Kris Lindner both got chip-ins.

Flight C winners were Kathy Martin for low gross, Lorene Montgomery, low net and Betty Carter least putts. Bunnie Lindsay had the longest putt and Kris Lindner got KP.

**Port of Morrow Re:View**

Construction is underway for the new AWS Think Big Space at the SAGE Center. It is the first of its kind on the west coast. The new K-6 classroom and school visitation program is funded by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and will be overseen by the Morrow County School District. An AWS Think Big Space is an enhanced classroom for students to explore and cultivate science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM)-related interests with labs that encourage a hands-on approach where students think big to solve real-world problems.

begin this fall. In Boardman, road relocation for business access has begun at the east end of Marine Drive and Ulman Drive for the BUILD Grant. Expect to see heavy equipment working in the area.

The water project is close to completion at the South Morrow Industrial Park and preliminary design work has been completed for the flex space building. Construction on the incubator space should

In the East Beach Industrial Park, Cal Farms has started construction on their new processing facility on Lewis and Clark Drive. Cal Farms is a family-run grower, packer and shipper of organic fresh market vegetables and is headquartered in Oregon City.

There are numerous opportunities for jobs in our region and many employers are holding independent job fairs. Check the Workforce Training Portal website for links to regional employer websites for more information. <https://www.portofmorrow.com/find-job>

**Obituaries**

**Bonney Jo Hill**

Bonney Jo Hill, 41, of Seattle, formerly of Heppner, died Thursday, July 15, 2021, at her home. She was born January 12, 1980, at Flagstaff, AZ. She was raised and attended school in Heppner where she graduated from high school in 1998. She is the daughter of Gregory Hill and Rita Woolsey.

berg of Mount Vernon, WA and Mazie Hill of Heppner; mother, Rita Woolsey of Heppner; father, Gregg Hill of Apache Junction, AZ; brother, Sean Engard of Reno, NV.



Bonney Jo Hill

She is survived by her daughters, Malychi Wen-

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.



Teresa Hughes, Hailey Shultz, Mortgage Loan Officer Kaitlin Orcutt, Desirae Ruth, and Mortgage Loan Officer Raymond Seastone.

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**The Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo are right around the corner!**

We are wanting stories and photos to be featured in the annual Heppner Gazette-Times Fair & Rodeo special edition, which will be published on August 11.

We are also looking for advertisers for the special edition, as well as the rodeo program.

**Deadline for all stories and advertising is August 4.**

Contact Giselle - [graphics@rapidsolve.net](mailto:graphics@rapidsolve.net)  
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