

Spiritually Speaking

Caution – Be Prepared

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

During the course of a single week, we hear a lot of words, but how many of them are worth remembering? Every Sunday during the liturgical celebrations we hear the words of Christ, words that were written down by the people who knew him and were preserved for us over the centuries by the Church. Thus, Christ's promise has come true; "All things will pass, but my words will remain." How well do we listen to His words, and how hard do we try to practice them in our lives? Today the readings direct our attention to the end of time. We are promised that if we are faithful and loyal to the commandments and teaching of Christ, we shall not be destroyed. We are told that the one great sacrifice for sins has been made and we must cling to the Lord. God will gather His elect and we must be ready.

This month we have commemorated the departed souls of our families, as November, is dedicated to the departed souls. Many people live in fear of the end of the world, the end of time, the great gathering of people by the Lord. The fear comes because there is always the possibility that we may not be counted among those who are chosen. "Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world'" (Mt 25:34).

The Book of Daniel (12:1-3), describes a vision of the prophet about the end of time. It introduces the belief in a resurrection of the dead and the notion of retribution after death. "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace" (12:2). This is the kind of statement that causes us a bit of fear. We hope that we will be among those who shall live forever. If we look at Scripture as a whole, this possibility of hell, of being rejected, is always there. On the other hand, it is never the great focus of Scripture. The focus is, rather, to emphasize God's everlasting love for us, God's desire that all be saved, God's walking with us to lead us into the kingdom of heaven. While we should always be aware of our capacity to reject God and His ways, we should be more aware of God's love for us and should try to respond to that love. God invites us to know His love, His saving power, His delight in us.

The Letter to the Hebrews (10:11-14), depicts that a high priest cannot make a complete alteration for our sins. Neither you nor I can atone completely for our sins. It takes Jesus, who is God and man, to make the one sacrifice for sins that never needs to be repeated. Sin is overwhelming in Christ Jesus. Sin is only overcome when we become one with Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of Saint Mark (13:24-32) deals with the eschatological dimensions of the kingdom of God. It is all about the final coming of the Lord and that no one knows the day or the hour. How often we hear predictions based on Scripture about when the end of the world will happen; however, in the words of the Lord: "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (13:32). The challenge is not to know when the end is coming but to live today as if the end will be right now. There is no sense in pretending with God. God knows our hearts and our minds, even more than we do. We must simply get on with living now as if this is our last moment—with no fear and no upset, completely trusting in the love of the Lord.

I was reminded of a beautiful quote of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, printed and kept in the sacristy of all the convents of Missionaries of Charity: "Priests, offer this Holy Eucharist as if your First Mass, your last Mass, and your only Mass." Reminds everyone about the shortness of life and to be prepared to reach the destination. Observing the commandments of God and Love of neighbor are the easiest way to reach our destination. God doesn't ask for 100 percent success, only our best efforts.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

2021 OSAA football state championships, round one results

By Blake Carter

As the calendar shifts from October to November, and the weather turns cold, local football teams' season only heats up. The 2021 regular season finished up on Saturday, October 30, and with that the brackets were quickly released. Many local teams saw their season extend an extra week and had the opportunity to go battle some of their classification's best teams. But how did these teams fare?

Ione/Arlington finished number three in their league at 5-4 and earned their way into the bracket as an automatic qualifier. Ione/Arlington earned an impressive win over Dufur, while losing to quality competition such as Perrydale, Enterprise, and Powder Valley. Unfortunately, their competition didn't get any

easier. Ione/Arlington was tasked with a road game at the number three seeded St. Paul Buckaroos, where they saw their season come to an end with a 44-8 defeat from St. Paul.

Heppner entered the postseason as the number one overall seed, and nabbed five impressive victories, as they fought their way to victory. They earned this seed by winning their league championship while holding wins over the number five seed in 3A, Warrenton, and the number two seed in 2A, Kennedy. Heppner drew the 16th seeded Regis Rams in their first-round matchup. Heppner advanced into the quarterfinals with a 43-8 victory over Regis.

Weston McEwen fought their way to the number nine seed in 2A,

they sat at 7-1, with their only loss to the top seeded Heppner Mustangs. They were sent all the way across the state to the number eight seeded Toledo Boomers. The TigerScots came away with a grueling victory, 20-14, and earned another shot at Heppner in the quarterfinals.

Grant Union held the tiebreaker over league opponents Umatilla and Stanfield, which gave them the last automatic bid in special district five. Finishing the season at 3-4, they were seeded number 14 and sent to Lakeview to take on the three seeded Honkers. Grant Union couldn't keep up as Lakeview ran away with a 59-6 victory over the Prospectors.

La Grande saw their season extended as they earned the number six seed

in the 4A bracket. The Tigers suffered only one loss on the season to the three seeded Estacada Rangers. With a 6-1 record, La Grande drew the eleven seed Gladstone, where they earned a 34-12 victory. The Tigers will now get another shot at the Estacada Rangers in the second round.

The Pendleton, Griswold and Nixyaawii co-ops found themselves at number six as a one loss team. Their only defeat was to the number one seeded Wilsonville Wildcats. They earned the right to host their playoff game with the visiting Dallas Dragons. The Buckaroos lost a heartbreaker 7-6.

Second round action will take place November 12th and 13th. To see updated brackets and scores, visit osaa.org.

Obituaries

Beverly M. Wright

Beverly M. Wright, 90, longtime Heppner resident, died Sunday, November 7, 2021, at Pendleton. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 13, 2021, at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

She was born December 8, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Ethel Marie Simacek, Ethel married William Maness and they lived in St. Paul, Minnesota until Beverly was ten years old. They then moved to Oregon, living in Portland, Hardman, Lena and Rhea Creek. She attended school at Hardman and Heppner. After high school she moved to Pendleton to live with her mother and stepdad, Jack Perkins.

Beverly worked for a time at the telephone company before cleaning houses to make a living. She met and married the love of her life, Albert Wright from Rhea Creek when he was home after his discharge from the Navy. The couple was married in Portland on September 19, 1953.

They started their married life at Hardman, but also lived on Rhea Creek, Lebanon, OR and Sweet Home, OR before the ranch on Rhea Creek needed them back. The lived at the ranch

until their three children graduated from high school. Beverly lived at their home in Heppner until 2019 when she moved to Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living in Heppner and then on to Sun Terrace in Pendleton in 2020. She lived at McKay Creek Estate in Pendleton until her death.



Beverly M. Wright

Survivors include sons, Larry Welte and his wife Stephanie, Dean Wright; daughter, Dianna Hoeft and her husband, Gerald; grandchildren, Becca Jazmine, Angie Wright, AJ Wright, Jeremy Wright, Stephanie Moody, Bryan Wright, Grant Wright, Derek Hoeft, Amy Osmin and 16 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Wright and a son, David Wright.

Memorial contributions may be made to Willow Creek Terrace, 400 Frank Gilliam Drive, Heppner, OR 97836 or to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Marjorie Gorham

Marjorie Gorham of Heppner passed away October 31, 2021, at the age of 98 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

Marjorie Eleanor Shea was born October 3, 1923, in Wibaux, MT to James 'Mike' Shea and Marie Cassidy Shea and grew up on their wheat and cattle ranch. She attended country school outside of Wibaux and then attended school in Wibaux where her cousin Agnes was the teacher. She lived in town with Agnes during the winter when daily travel was too treacherous. She then attended Sacred Heart High School in Miles City, MT graduating in 1941.

After graduating from Great Falls College in Great Falls, MT, she taught high school math in several schools in Montana. Her first teaching job in Oregon was in Condon, OR. Later, while teaching in North Powder, OR, she met Roland Gorham. They were married November 3, 1951, in Walla Walla, WA. They settled in La Grande and raised their family there.

Marjorie was an active partner with Roland in their State Farm Insurance business in La Grande. She

attended Eastern Oregon College (EOC now EOU) and earned her Master's in Education. Computers were new at this time, and she enjoyed working on those

"huge machines." She continued to use computers, including still using her cell phone to call family. After retirement, Marjorie and Roland moved to Salem, OR to be close to family and spent their winters in Apache Junction, AZ. Marjorie later moved to Heppner to be near her daughter, Karen, and her family.

Marjorie enjoyed playing golf and bridge, often both on the same day. Later in life she spent more time playing bridge, sometimes every day of the week. She also truly enjoyed spending time with her children and their families. She was an active member of Catholic parishes wherever she lived.

Marjorie is survived by her children, Jim (Kiera) Gorham of Middleton, DE and Karen (Tom) Wolff of Heppner; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Roland Gorham; her parents, Mike and Marie Shea; and her sisters Patricia 'Marie' Shea and Catherine Menghini.

Funeral services will be November 12, 2021, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner at 11 a.m. Rosary will be at 10:30 a.m. A lunch will be provided following the services by St. Patrick Alter Society. If you are not feeling well, please join us in spirit rather than in person.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at www.sweeneymortuary.com.

Service Notices

Laurie Harrison Bowman – Services for Laurie Harrison Bowman will be held November 13 at 2:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 223 S Hallet St., Medical Lake, WA.

Lonnie W. Rill – Lonnie W. Rill, 42, of Heppner, died Monday, October 4, 2021, at his home. A celebration of life will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, November 14, 2021, at the Gilliam Bisbee Building. Memorial contributions may be made to Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Vincente Eljarde Leon Jr. was convicted of robbery in the third degree and sentenced to 12 months prison with the Oregon Department of Corrections and one year post-prison supervisions. He was also convicted of unauthorized use of a vehicle and sentenced to 18 months prison with the Oregon Department of Corrections and one year post-prison supervisions.

-Jeremy James Combes was convicted of unauthorized use of a vehicle with a sentence of 18 months prison sentence with the Oregon Department of Corrections and one year post-prison supervisions. He was convicted of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer and received a discharge sentence. Also, he was convicted of burglary in the second degree with an 18 month prison

sentence with the Oregon Department of Corrections and one year post-prison supervisions.

-Jace Allan Hendren was convicted of burglary in the second degree and sentenced to 18 months formal probation, 160 hours of community service work, mental health evaluation and treatment, alcohol and drug evaluation and treatment, no use of alcohol, no possession of weapons and trespassed from Irrigon Shell gas station.

Philip Doran Mullins

Philip Doran Mullins, 66, of Heppner, died Thursday, November 4, 2021, at his home. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at the Heppner Christian Church.

He was born at Portland, OR on December 17, 1954, the son of Robert D. and Francis M. Anderson Mullins. Philip was raised and attended school at Ontario, OR where he enjoyed playing outside, playing pranks on his brothers and friends and buying cows at the local auction because "he could."

He graduated from high school in 1973. Philip loved playing the drums, and

he played in the Ontario High School band as well as a few bands later in life. Philip joined the United States Army in 1973 after graduation. Collectively he received 36 years of military credit at the time of his retirement in 2007.

Philip enjoyed camping and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn of 37 years; a brother, Patrick (Julianne); daughter, Vanessa (Ben); sons, Kelly (Jolene) and Cory (Brianna); grandchildren, Peace Ariel, Dallas, Logan, Lawson, Xanni

Rose and Kennedy. He loved and adored his many nieces and nephews. Philip didn't have friends... only family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Curt Mullins, a sister and brother-in-law Kathy and Butch Boss.

Contributions may be made to the Heppner Christian Church, PO Box 158, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at www.sweeneymortuary.com.



Philip Doran Mullins

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