

Spiritually Speaking

Advent first Sunday: Wake up

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

As we begin the new liturgical year, let me begin with warm and prayerful wishes. May the peace and joy of the new born Child of Bethlehem be with you all throughout this New Year – that is my wish and prayer for all. Let me begin this week's reflection with a small quiz I used to use during my preaching: Imagine that you are sleeping. You are dreaming. A huge wild animal is chasing you. You try to run away, and you see a tiger coming in front of you. You turn, but every side you turn to, you find a ferocious animal coming to attack you. How can you escape? The answer: Wake up. This is what all the Scripture readings of the week are trying to teach us.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Generally, we understand this to be His coming at Christmas, which recalls His historical birth 2000 years ago, and His coming on the Last Day. The season of advent reminds us of our waiting for the second coming of Christ.

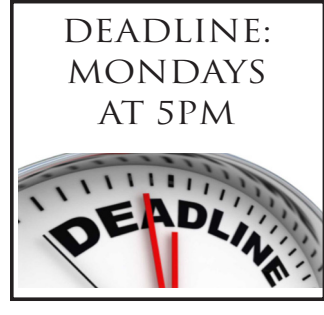
As we wait for the second coming of the Lord, the second reading of the week is our central focus, from the letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2). The Thessalonians to whom Paul writes were obsessed with the nearness of the second coming of Christ. In his second letter to them, Paul reprimands them for giving up work and living in idleness (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15). Apparently, some of them thought that the Lord's coming was so near that there was no point in providing for the future. Such excesses on the part of believers gave non-believers the impression that the second coming of Christ was a fear factor fabricated by Christian preachers to scare people into accepting the faith. Paul's opponents in Thessalonica were making such claims. The enemies of the church in Thessalonica were saying that Paul's teaching that Jesus would come back to take His followers with Him was Paul's own fabrication. To support their case, they point out that some of the first Christians who thought that Jesus was coming back to take them with Him were already dead. In other words, they were deceived in their belief. Paul's response is that their death does not mean that they will suffer any disadvantage when Christ comes. At Christ's coming, the dead will rise and, togeth-

er with the living, they will meet the Lord in mid-air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The Gospel reading is taken from the last chapter of Luke (21:25-28, 34-36), just before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to His disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the devastation of the Temple in Jerusalem, cautions about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

Watchfulness is the slogan of Advent. A funny anecdote comes to my mind to describe this particular aspect: A drunkard went for a Sunday Mass, listening to a long dull sermon. Feeling still hung over and tired, he finally nodded off hoping no one will notice. The priest had been watching him all along and at the end of the sermon he decided to make an example out of him. "Whoever in this room would like a place in heaven, please stand up," he exclaimed. The whole room stood up except, of course, for one. Obviously displeased, the priest said loudly, "And he who would like to find a place in hell, please stand up." The man, catching only the last part, sleepily stood up, only to find that he was the only one standing up. Confused and embarrassed, he said, "I don't know what we are voting on here, father, but sure seems like you and me are the only ones standing for it."

We have begun the season of Advent—the coming of our Lord. Watchfulness is the keyword for this season. We always need to be watchful for the coming of the Lord. Today marks the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of great expectation and great anticipation.



Sheriff's Report

...continued from page five

-MCSO received a report on Wagon Wheel Loop, in Irrigon. Caller advised that there are two dogs on her property, they are described as a light brown German shepherd with a red halter and white great Pyrenees puppy. She believes they belong to the neighbor across the street.

-MCSO received a report on W Eighth Rd, in Irrigon. Caller advised that there are 4 to 5 hogs heading north on eighth. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report at Blakes Ranch on Elk Trail Ln/Blake Ranch Rd., in Heppner. Past the cattle guard on Blakes Ranch, just past Pond Rd on the right on the other side of the creek there is an elk that is down. Caller is concerned this is a game violation. Caller was referred to OSP game unit.

-MCSO received a report on Se Thomas Ave, in Irrigon. Caller advised the male at this location threatened her with an axe and chain saw. Male is at the shop at this residence.

-MCSO received a report on Se Utah Ave, in Irrigon. Caller advised there is a child going around on a homemade go cart going up and down California.

-MCSO received a report on 5309 rd. off of Sugar Bowl Ridge out of Heppner and there are 3 small fires going on, possibly intentionally set. She advised there is one tree and two stumps- they are trying to get them out themselves with fire extinguishers but are not sure they can. MCSO referred the information to John Day Dispatch.

-MCSO received a report at Rustic Truck Bar & Grill on E Highway 730., in Irrigon. Older male, c/b large cut on head. Patient transported to GSH.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 E, in Boardman. Red Chevy S10 with a red canopy, swerving in the lanes, older model.

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November 8: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on Highway 1 84 E, in Boardman of MVA. Grey SUV was on its side at the median at this location

-MCSO received a report on Se Utah Ave, in Irrigon. Caller advised that a white dodge pickup drove by revving his engine. Caller states that they do this every day, and it shakes his whole house. They are currently headed towards division.

-MCSO received a report at United States Post Office on N Main St., in Heppner. Grey and white dog running around by the Taco's hometown truck ..

-MCSO received a report at Se Division St/ Se Kristen Dr, in Irrigon. Caller advised there is a SUV parked on the walk path near this location. Caller believes a Honda but unknown color. MCSO responded; vehicle has been moved.

-MCSO received a report on Highway 74, in Heppner. Vehicle spun out in front of deputy. Matthew, Felix Maurico was issued citation for fail to carry proof of insurance and careless driving and was issued a warning failure to carry and present.

-MCSO received a report on Se Utah Ave, in Irrigon. Red dodge pickup sped towards tenth street. Caller advised it is a diesel pickup.

-MCSO received a report at Irrigon Shell Station on E Highway 730., in Irrigon. Caller advised that his debit card was stolen from the Shell. Last seen on Friday. Caller is also missing money out of a bank account. Under investigation.

-MCSO received a report at Ritter Rd/Potato Hill, Two snags on fire with a lot of embers that they are trying to keep contained, won't be reachable with a regular vehicle will need off road vehicle. MCSO advised, referred to USFS.

-MCSO received a report at Lewis And Clark Dr/Highway 730, in Boardman. Caller advised there is a large tire in the road.

November 9: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a request for extra patrol on McCall Lane in Irrigon for suspicious activity.

--MCSO received a report of power out in Pond Drive in Heppner. The caller reported that he was on oxygen and was unable to take oxygen from his tank.

-MCSO received a report of a small white Honda parked in front of the reporter's house..

-MCSO received a report of a Fedex driver almost running the red lights on a school bus in on California & Division in Irrigon. Extra patrol was requested.

-MCSO received a report of a fire alarm coming from the gym area at Riverside High School in Boardman. It was a false alarm.

-MCSO received a report of a subject, possibly a transient, waiting to go through the garbage at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner. An officer was unable to locate the subject.

-MCSO received a report of a gold Honda Accord at the Irrigon Shell station that drove off without paying for \$26 in fuel.

-MCSO received a report from a subject who reported a goat in his yard.

-MCSO received a report of a juvenile complaint at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a report from a subject who said her friend hit her car by accident and now doesn't want to pay for it.

-MCSO received a report from a subject in Boardman who requested contact regarding fraud. Subject said her daughter was abducted and she paid \$5,000 through wire transmission.



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\$750,000

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

New Two -3 bedroom 2 bath 1,270 sq ft duplexes (four total units) in Heppner, Oregon. Each unit rented for \$1150 per month. Will make a great investment. Strong rental market has given these two duplexes an almost 100% occupancy rate with a cap rate of 5.44 and a gross rent multiplier of 12.07. Renters pay own water and sewer. Quality construction. P&Ls reports available. Call me for details.
515 E COWINS ST Heppner

\$235,000

Large living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom upstairs, one bedroom and bath downstairs. The workshop has a cold storage room for the hunter and a great workspace. Renters are currently in the process of moving out.

535 ELDER ST Heppner

\$365,000

INVESTMENT PROPERTY

Brand new two unit duplex. Two total units with 3 bedrooms 2 baths in each unit. Located in Ione, Oregon. Each unit rented for \$1150 per month. Will make a great investment. Strong rental market has given this duplex an almost 100% occupancy rate. Live in one and rent out the other one..
DELBERT ST Ione

\$300,000

A classic beauty in Heppner. From the front sitting room thru the woodworked dining room and open kitchen with island, this 4 bedroom 3 bath home is a unique find. The large living room is overlooked by a balcony upstairs where three of the bedrooms are located. Master bedroom is on the main floor with bath and walk-in closet. Skylights give natural light to the interior. Home includes a two car garage and basement for storage along with a big utility room.

Call for an appointment to see this!
195 N GALE ST Heppner

\$125,000

PRICE REDUCED - MAKE AN OFFER!

You've always wanted the white picket fence house. Well here it is. From the light airy kitchen, to the comfortable living room, this three bedroom home would be perfect for your family. Has a fenced yard for the kids and pets, and a patio for those summer-evening barbecues with friends and family. You'll like the nice sized laundry room with lots of storage, and the master bedroom has a walk-in closet. And as an added bonus - this property is not in the flood zone. Call me today for a showing!
340 E HILL ST Heppner

Buyer Agent Services

Buying a home in a For Sale By Owner can be complicated. I would like to help you through all the details involved in the purchase. I can handle Negotiations, Sales Contract Preparation, Inspections, Sale Contingency Protections, Setting up Escrow, Working with your Lender etc.

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I Have Buyers Looking!
I have buyers looking for homes in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area.
Now is the time to sell! Call, text or email me.

\$230,000

SOLD!

50.61 Acres in the country with 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1976 mobile home. Has a good well and newer septic system. It is partially electric fenced now for horses. Tired of neighbors or city living, this is the place for you (ultimate in social distancing). Sale would need to be a cash. Owner says property qualifies for LOP tags. Call me to schedule a showing.
68354 BERGSTROM LN Heppner

\$165,000

SOLD!

Completely remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath 1975 double-wide mobile home now being used as Airbnb. Inside is immaculate. Entire home has been redone. New furnace less than one year old. Continue using as an Airbnb (financial data will be provided to serious buyers) or buy as a home to live in. Great view of the city and valley. Nice landscaping. Furnishing and appliances available separately.
233 Linden Way Heppner