

Spiritually Speaking

Mary, ponderer of the word of God

In this third week of Advent, the Church celebrates two great feasts of Our Blessed Mother: The Solemnity of Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. It affirms the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from sin from the very beginning of her life. That means that by the grace of God, she was shielded and protected from original sin, which all humankind inherits at the very moment we are conceived in our mothers' wombs. She came into the world with a perfect human nature that God gave her not as a reward for anything she did, not because of any merit on her part, but in view of the singular role she was to play, namely being the mother of God's Son. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception tells us something about Mary. But maybe it tells us more about God and who we are in light of God's providential love. God, when He has particular plans for individuals, separates them and anoints them in the womb of their mothers, clearly depicted in the scriptures. As He told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The Gospel readings for the feast of Immaculate Conception as well as the feast of Our lady Guadalupe are taken from Luke (1: 26-38 & 39-47) and focus on Mary and the role she was called to play in God's plan of salvation. Mary collaborated with God's plan by saying "yes." God had made a promise to David that he would build his dynasty and that it would be great and a source of blessing. As God came to dwell in the Ark of the Covenant in David's time, and as David danced before the ark, expressing his joy in Yahweh, so Mary welcomed the Lord into the new ark of the Covenant, her body, and glorified God in her song of praise, the Magnificat. Mary's response is a role model for Christians. Mary, like every young woman, had plans and dreams for her life. She was surprised by the coming of an angel who revealed God's plan for her. "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" "Her decision to accept the message of the angel led her along a totally different path. She models for us in the following ways:

1) Mary ardent listener to the word of God: Mary should inspire us to be more open to the Word of God in our lives, too. Do we, like our Blessed Mother, listen to the prompting of Christ? 2) Hail, Full of Grace: Mary was addressed by the angel with "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." What do we need to do to be addressed as God's favored ones? 3) She Bore Him in her Heart: I think our blessed mother inspires all of us to ponder the word of God and bear him always in our hearts. She had the privilege of bearing Jesus in her womb, but before that, she had always carried Him in her heart. She invites every one of us to do the same. 4) Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord (Lk. 1:38) Mary knew as a good Jewish woman what the consequences and the repercussions would be of her "yes" to the Lord. Her surrender to God's Plan teaches us that we need to surrender ourselves to His plans. When we experience trials and tribulations, these moments remind us of Mary; we need to surrender ourselves and our plans to the mighty hand of the Lord.

So, what must we do to collaborate with God's plan, as King David and Mary did? Mary, a model of simplicity, remained very humble in the sight of God. The life of our Blessed Mother reminds me of the words of St. Paul, "Who made you so important? What have you got that was not given to you? And if it was given to you, why are you boasting as though it were your own?" (1Corinthians 4:7). Like our Blessed Mother, when God becomes our priority, takes first place, becomes the center of our lives, we are led to a deep and profound relationship with Jesus and find our happiness in Him.

Justice Court Report

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

- Scott L. Bartling, 50, Goldendale, WA, was convicted of no valid hunting license, fine \$115.
- Patrick A. Wright, 33, Goldendale, WA, was convicted of no valid hunting license, fine \$115.
- Juvenile, 17, Heppner, was convicted of failure to drive within lane, fine \$265.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

November 5, 2021: - Emma Kate Osmin, 26, Hermiston, and Anthony Lee Lankford, 30, Hermiston.

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Heppner Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

- December 9, 2021, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Toledo at Heppner High School
- December 10, 2021, 4:45 PM, Bandon vs. Heppner at Pendleton Convention Center
- December 11, 2021, 8:00 PM, Heppner vs. Culver at Pendleton Convention Center
- December 16, 2021, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Riverside at Heppner High School
- December 17, 2021, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Warrenton at Heppner High School
- December 18, 2021, 5:30 PM, Heppner vs. Irrigon at Heppner High School
- December 21, 2021, 7:30 PM, Irrigon vs. Heppner at Irrigon High School
- December 28, 2021, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen at Heppner High School
- January 7, 2022, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Union at Heppner High School
- January 8, 2022, 5:30 PM, Grant Union vs. Heppner at Grant Union High School
- January 11, 2022, 7:30 PM, Riverside vs. Heppner at Riverside High School
- January 14, 2022, 7:30 PM, Pilot Rock vs. Heppner at Pilot Rock High School
- January 15, 2022, 5:30 PM, Heppner vs. Stanfield at Heppner High School
- January 21, 2022, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Enterprise at Heppner High School
- January 28, 2022, 7:30 PM, Heppner vs. Grant Union at Heppner High School
- January 29, 2022, 5:30 PM, Stanfield vs. Heppner at Stanfield Secondary School
- February 4, 2022, 7:30 PM, Enterprise vs. Heppner at Enterprise High School
- February 5, 2022, 5:30 PM, Union vs. Heppner at Union High School
- February 11, 2022, 7:30 PM, Weston-McEwen vs. Heppner at Weston-McEwen High School
- February 12, 2022, 5:30 PM, Heppner vs. Pilot Rock at Heppner High School

Boys Jr. Varsity Basketball

- December 16, 2021, 4:30 PM, Heppner vs. Riverside at Heppner High School
- December 21, 2021, 4:30 PM, Irrigon vs. Heppner at Irrigon High School
- December 28, 2021, 4:30 PM, Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen at Heppner High School
- January 7, 2022, 4:30 PM, Heppner vs. Union at Heppner High School
- January 8, 2022, 2:30 PM, Grant Union vs. Heppner at Grant Union High School
- January 11, 2022, 4:30 PM, Riverside vs. Heppner at Riverside High School
- January 14, 2022, 4:30 PM, Pilot Rock vs. Heppner at Pilot Rock High School
- January 15, 2022, 2:30 PM, Heppner vs. Stanfield at Heppner High School
- January 21, 2022, 4:30 PM, Heppner vs. Enterprise at Heppner High School
- January 28, 2022, 4:30 PM, Heppner vs. Grant Union at Heppner High School
- January 29, 2022, 2:30 PM, Stanfield vs. Heppner at Stanfield Secondary School
- February 4, 2022, 4:30 PM, Enterprise vs. Heppner at Enterprise High School
- February 5, 2022, 2:30 PM, Union vs. Heppner at Union High School
- February 11, 2022, 4:30 PM, Weston-McEwen vs. Heppner at Weston-McEwen High School
- February 12, 2022, 2:30 PM, Heppner vs. Pilot Rock at Heppner High School

Girls Varsity Basketball

- December 9, 2021, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Toledo at Heppner High School
- December 10, 2021, 3:00 PM, Bandon vs. Heppner at Pendleton Convention Center
- December 11, 2021, 6:15 PM, Heppner vs. Culver at Pendleton Convention Center
- December 16, 2021, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Riverside at Heppner High School
- December 17, 2021, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Warrenton at Heppner High School
- December 18, 2021, 4:00 PM, Heppner vs. Irrigon at Heppner High School
- December 21, 2021, 6:00 PM, Irrigon vs. Heppner at Irrigon High School
- December 28, 2021, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen at Heppner High School
- January 7, 2022, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Union at Heppner High School
- January 8, 2022, 4:00 PM, Grant Union vs. Heppner at Grant Union High School
- January 11, 2022, 6:00 PM, Riverside vs. Heppner at Riverside High School
- January 14, 2022, 6:00 PM, Pilot Rock vs. Heppner at Pilot Rock High School
- January 15, 2022, 4:00 PM, Heppner vs. Stanfield at Heppner High School
- January 21, 2022, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Enterprise at Heppner High School
- January 28, 2022, 6:00 PM, Heppner vs. Grant Union at Heppner High School
- January 29, 2022, 4:00 PM, Stanfield vs. Heppner at Stanfield Secondary School
- February 4, 2022, 6:00 PM, Enterprise vs. Heppner at Enterprise High School
- February 5, 2022, 4:00 PM, Union vs. Heppner at Union High School
- February 11, 2022, 6:00 PM, Weston-McEwen vs. Heppner at Weston-McEwen High School
- February 12, 2022, 4:00 PM, Heppner vs. Pilot Rock at Heppner High School

Girls Jr. Varsity Basketball

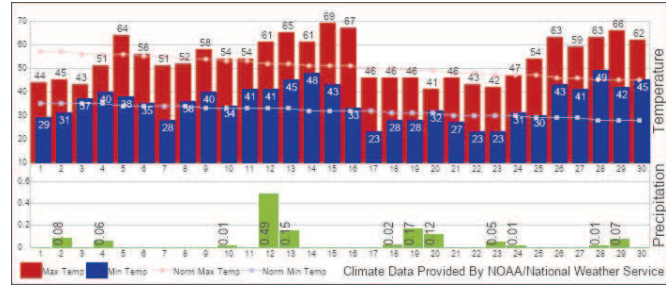
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- December 28, 2021, 3:00 PM, Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen at Heppner High School
- January 7, 2022, 3:00 PM, Heppner vs. Union at Heppner High School
- January 8, 2022, 1:00 PM, Grant Union vs. Heppner at Grant Union High School
- January 11, 2022, 3:00 PM, Riverside vs. Heppner at Riverside High School
- January 14, 2022, 3:00 PM, Pilot Rock vs. Heppner at Pilot Rock High School
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- February 12, 2022, 1:00 PM, Heppner vs. Pilot Rock at Heppner High School

November warmer than normal

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of November.

The average temperature was 44.7 degrees which was 3.5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 54.0 degrees, which was 3.2 degrees above normal. The highest was 69 degrees on the 15th. Low temperatures averaged 35.5 degrees, which was 3.8 degrees above normal. The lowest was 23 degrees, on the 17th. There were 11 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.24 inches during November, which was 0.36 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on 12



days with the heaviest, 0.49 inches reported on the 12th. Precipitation this year has reached 7.76 inches, which is 4.92 inches below

normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Heppner has been 2.26 inches, which is 0.48 inches below normal.

The outlook for December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner fall from 44.0 degrees at the start of December to 41.0 degrees at the end of December. Normal lows fall from 28.0 degrees to 25.0 degrees. The 30 year normal precipitation is 1.32 inches.

All of Us at
Bank of Eastern Oregon

Wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and a Merry Christmas!

Together, let's make 2022 a year of Health, Happiness and Thriving Community Growth.

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