

*Spiritually Speaking*

# Epiphany- revealing as the real Messiah

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The word “Epiphany” comes from an Ancient Greek word, “epiphainein,” meaning revelation, appearance or manifestation. For Western Christians, the Feast of the Epiphany marks the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Many of us can recall this event, described in the Gospel of Matthew: the three wise men are Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar, who presented to the baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Christian theologians emphasize the epiphany as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, i.e., their belief in Jesus as divine Lord and Savior of all people. Since the wise men came searching for Christ, found him, worshipped Him and offered Him gifts, millions of people have followed in their footsteps and come to Christ. We, too, are doing just that this coming week.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The Gospel of St. Mathew (2:1-12) describes well the visit of the Magi to the new born king of Israel. The term “Magi” originally referred to a clan of Persian priests with special claims to interpret dreams. Here, they appear as astrologers/astronomers who observed the movements of the stars as a guide to major events. The Magi, or wise men, seeing a sign in the heavens, learn that some important event has taken place in the West, in Palestine. They follow the sign and reach the palace of King Herod and ask, “Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?” (The Oracle of Balaam in the Book of Numbers 24:17 says, “A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel.”) King Herod is greatly troubled hearing the words of the Magi. He makes all efforts going through Scriptures; the experts find out that the child is to be born in Bethlehem. He lets the wise men go to worship the child, but he intends to destroy the child. The king knows that the new born child may not be a pretender to his throne but can cause unrest in Judea. Therefore, the best thing would be to eliminate him. Most often, instead of appreciating and approving the goodness of someone, we try to eliminate it at the root level itself. This Feast Day of Epiphany is an invitation to examine our conscience. What is my approach to the well-being of someone else?

When Matthew was writing the Gospel around 85 AD, most Jewish people had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, though the proclamation had first been made to them. We read in the Acts of the Apostles how the Christian preachers were being delivered up to the Sanhedrins, flogged in the synagogues and dragged before kings for bearing testimony to Jesus. Meanwhile, Gentiles were flocking to the Christian communities, and, thus, the apostolate had become one of making disciples of the Gentiles (Matthew 28: 1). Matthew differentiates the believing Magi from the unbelieving lot lead by Herod and “all Jerusalem with him.” In spite of their claim of possessing Scripture and tradition, they fail to recognize the Messiah. For the Gentile, on the other hand, a glimpse of a rising star is enough to discern God’s presence in the world. However, Matthew is quick to add that the Magi could not find Christ with “their own” effort. Their wisdom and science needed to be complemented by the revelation in Scripture to find the precise birthplace of Christ.

The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are another Epiphany: a revelation of the identity of Jesus as King, Priest, And Savior of the world. Jesus had not even started to talk or walk, yet it is clear to the whole world that He is God in human flesh. He rules as King with gold, He sanctifies as a priest with incense and is Savior of mankind, for Jesus’s body would be preserved with myrrh when He offers His life for our salvation. The three gifts manifested the future mission of the new born King-Messiah.

This Feast of Epiphany brings a great message, that we need to trust and deepen our knowledge in scripture and traditions passed on to us for becoming better believers in our faith. The three wise kings had a mission to fulfil, the mission to meet the Savior of the world and worship and adore Him. Let us ask the child Jesus to give us the faith of wise men so that we may, like them, fulfil the mission to love the Lord, serve Him and be faithful to Him forever.

# Doherty appointed chair of Army Depot development group

By David Sykes

County Commissioner Jim Doherty has been appointed the new chairman of the Columbia Development Authority (CDA); it was announced recently. The CDA is responsible for transitioning the Umatilla Army Depot from federal government ownership to local control. All the chemicals and munitions previously stored there since 1941 have been decommissioned and destroyed, and the site covers about 20,000



Jim Doherty County Commissioner

acres, straddling both Umatilla and Morrow Counties. After being elected to the chairmanship, Doherty said it has been an “arduous” journey transitioning the depot to local control, but he is ready for the job. “There exists a plethora of possibilities on the vacant landscape that formerly held such horror. I look forward to working with our partners from the Oregon Military,

National Guard and surrounding farms and neighbors,” Doherty said of preparing the land for change of ownership. After many years of work the CDA has still not decided who will own the land and what the uses shall be once the transfer is completed.

The CDA is made up of four board members representing Morrow and Umatilla counties and the Ports of Morrow and Umatilla. Representative Greg Smith is the CDA director. Doherty, who was not previously a member of the

board, replaces Bill Tovey as chairman.

“I feel blessed to have been chosen by my CDA colleagues to guide us through the absorption of the Chemical Weapons Depot back to local control,” Doherty said after the appointment. “This has been an arduous journey to this point. The CTUIR (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation), ports and sister counties never wavered in their collective resolve, that one day, this would be a reality,” Doherty said.

## Obituaries

### Eddie Martin Gunderson Jr.

Eddie Martin Gunderson Jr. passed away December 17, 2021, at his son’s home, at the age of 90. A graveside service with military honors will be held on Wednesday, January 5 at 11 a.m. at Heppner Masonic Cemetery. A luncheon will follow at the Elks Club in Heppner.

Eddie was born May 29, 1931, to Agnes Lucille and Eddie Gunderson Sr. in Nortonville, ND. He moved to Heppner in 1945 where he graduated from Heppner High School in 1949.

On July 21, 1950, he married Beverly Yocom. They were married in the house that they moved into in 1963 and lived in, until their deaths. They had two sons, David and Douglas.

Eddie was drafted into the Army in 1952 and served in the Korean War. He was extremely proud of being a veteran and continued to be a member of the American Legion until his death. After returning from the Army, he went back to work at the mill until he retired in 1989.

He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, hunting and playing golf. Golf was a passion for many years, and he did get four holes in one. He enjoyed his grandchildren, watching them play sports, teaching them golf and the fine art of fishing.

After his retirement, Bev and Ed loved to go south to Arizona, meeting new friends along the way. He spent a couple of years working for the Forest Service and supervising YCC crews. He was presented a plaque for Mentor of the Year 1992-93 for dedicated service and support to persons with disabilities.

He was involved for 70 years as a member of BPOE #358, serving as exalted ruler in 1991-92 and

continued to be involved in many of their events.

Eddie enjoyed attending Heppner High School games, especially sitting with his buddies supporting Mustang football.

Survivors include his son, David (Tricia); grandchildren, Brent (Kimmie) and their daughter, Whitley, Derek (Meghan) and their son, Easton; a cousin, who was like a son, Jim Doherty (Pam) their children, Jennifer, Sara (Brett) Davis and their children, Grayson, and Merris.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly; son, Douglas; his parents; brother, Donald and a sister, Mary Schoonover.

Memorial contributions can be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospice, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836, or Heppner High School Athletics, PO Box 67, Heppner, OR 97836 or the BPOE 358 Foundation, PO Box 494, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements. The online condolence book is available at [www.sweeneymortuary.com](http://www.sweeneymortuary.com).

### Raymond Wilson Grace

Raymond Wilson Grace, age 84, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, December 18, 2021, in Heppner, OR. Ray was born September 17, 1937,

to Homer and Vivian Grace in Methow, WA. Ray loved to travel the world, exploring new countries and learning about different areas of the world. He helped build the plywood plant and sawmill in Heppner, worked in Saudi Arabia building desalination plants, helped to build the Guri Dam in Venezuela and also worked alongside his son in Hawaii.

Ray was a professional engineer by trade and an inventor who was always looking for ways to improve different tools and machines to make them more useful. Ray was a part of CSEPP (Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program), and he served time as a Morrow County commissioner.

He loved classical music and was never hesitant to share his true feelings with those around him. Ray was an amazing artist and

was also a published writer, writing a book on grief after losing his second wife, Nona as well as a book on politics, which was a passion of his.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Homer Grace and Vivian (Snyder) Grace and his second wife Nona Grace.

Ray is survived by his son, Clay and his wife Lolita Grace; daughter, Meschelle and her husband Hal

Whitaker and two brothers, Mike Grace and Dave Grace. Ray also left behind three grandchildren, Missy and her husband Paul Miller, Stephanie and her husband Nick Griffiths and Shaun and her husband Casey Picard, and seven great-grandchildren, Ashley Miller, Wyatt Miller, Gracie Griffiths, Harper Griffiths, Madelynn Griffiths, Bailey Picard and Captain Picard.

Visitation will be held Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Sweeney Mortuary in Heppner, OR. Graveside Services will follow at Heppner Masonic Cemetery at 1 p.m.

## Justice Court Report

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

-Lane L. Bailey, 31, Heppner, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

-Bryan K. Collins, 18, Heppner, was convicted of failure to use seatbelt, fine \$115.

-Kaleb G. Tate, 30, Ione, was convicted of dog as a public nuisance, fine \$265; failure to drive within lane, fine \$265 and failure to report an accident, fine \$440.

-Kevin L. Mudge, 44, Ione, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165; driving while suspended, fine \$440 and driv-

ing uninsured, fine \$265.

-Brandon T. Peck, 25, Ione, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

-Rachael L Lantenbach, 33, Ione, was convicted of shifting/leaking load, fine \$165.

-Sage E. Ferguson, 18, Hermiston, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

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

**COVID Boosters Available Now**  
Fast. Easy. Convenient. Walk-ins welcome.

**Impulsores de COVID Disponibles Ahora**  
Rápido. Fácil. Conveniente. Se aceptan visitas sin cita previa.

Off-site vaccinations available for businesses and home-bound patients. Call for details.

Vacunas fuera del sitio disponibles para empresas y pacientes confinados en el hogar. Llame para obtener más detalles. Llame para obtener más detalles.

**Murray's Drug**  
HEPPNER | CONDON | BOARDMAN

New Rx Local App Available Now  
Nueva Aplicación Rx Local Disponible Ahora

Heppner (541) 676-9158 Condon (541) 256-1200 Boardman (541) 481-9474  
[www.MurraysDrug.com](http://www.MurraysDrug.com)

**Print & Mailing Services**  
\*Design \*Print \*Mail  
**Sykes Publishing**  
541-676-9228

[WWW.HEPPNER.NET](http://WWW.HEPPNER.NET)  
SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
SEND US PHOTOS  
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

**Order your family canvas prints today!**

24x24 in, 16x16 in, 24x36 in, 18x24 in, 20x16 in

**Call Sykes Publishing for a FREE quote on canvas prints!**  
**541-676-9228**  
Text Cell: 541-980-6674  
[david@rapidservice.net](mailto:david@rapidservice.net)  
188 W Willow St., Heppner

**WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC.**  
Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983.

**HEPPNER**  
294 MAIN ST.  
P.O. BOX 755  
HEPPNER, OR 97836  
Office (541) 676-9113 • Fax (541) 676-9001  
1-800-504-9113

**IONE**  
245 NW MAIN ST., SUITE 100  
P.O. BOX 26  
IONE, OR 97843  
Office (541) 422-7410 • Fax (541) 276-7688  
1-800-585-7410