

Spiritually Speaking

Baptism: Marks the beginning our life in Christ

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Recent weeks of celebrations that began with Christmas end with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord in River Jordan, which might come as a surprise, as we have just celebrated His birth and today we celebrate the moment He began His public life and ministry. This is part of celebrating the growing manifestation of Jesus to the world. His birth and revelation to the shepherds, the discovery of Him by the Magi, His presentation in the temple, His baptism in the Jordan, and His first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana are all part of the revelation of Jesus to his own people and to the entire world. With this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we end the "Christmas season" and begin the "ordinary," regular, season of the year. This is the same way baptism marks the end the state of sinfulness and the beginning of a new life (2nd Cor. 5:17). The word "baptism" comes from the Greek word "baptize," which means to immerse or plunge into water to be raised up again into newness.

The feast of Baptism of the Lord invites us to plunge ourselves into a life of glory with God. Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 offers a poem Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before Christ, describing the relationship between God and the Messiah and the kind of work the Messiah would do to save mankind. Isaiah comforts the Israelites who were discouraged and disappointed about their spiritual life. He invites them to rejoice in the Lord because their struggle is over and their fight against the evil power is completed. Now they are invited to hope for a victorious life. Similarly, the sacrament of baptism evokes a vision of new life, a life according to God's plan.

In the Gospel of St. Luke (3: 15-16, 21-22), John the Baptist sets the stage for the public manifestation of Jesus on the banks of the River Jordan. John's preaching led the people to a change of heart, and as a sign of their repentance, he was baptizing them. Jesus comes as one among the many people to be baptized, surprising John: "It is I who need baptism from you and yet you come to me!" Why did Jesus come to John for Baptism? People came to be baptized as a sign that they were sorry for their sins. Jesus received baptism as a sign that He was sorry for the sins of all mankind because of His decision to pay for those sins with His obedience unto death on the cross. Though Jesus was sinless, His baptism was necessary for several reasons.

Jesus's baptism was His moment of identification, time for Him to identify Himself with the God-ward movement, with those who stand for God and His kingdom. Up to this time, no Jew ever wanted to submit to baptism. The Jews considered themselves to be children of Abraham and, by that fact, assured of salvation. We need to notice the spirit with which Jesus approaches His baptism. He prayed and prepared Himself for the reception of this sacrament. He is an inspiration for all of us in how to prepare for the reception of various sacraments.

Jesus's baptism was a moment of approval for Him. Jesus was ready and willing to carry out the mission designed for Him by His Father, and He receives approval: "You are my son, the beloved, my favor rests on you." This voice from the heavens tells us who Jesus is and also affirms for Jesus what He already knows that He is the well-beloved Son of the Father. This leaves a question to us: What do we need to do in order to be addressed as His favored ones? God experiences should help us to live new lives that we begin in baptism.

Baptism for Jesus was the moment of empowerment: "the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended on him." In ancient times, kings and priests were anointed to show that God was appointing them to carry out their work in His name. Now Jesus was priest, prophet and king, the High Priest, the Prophet and the King of Kings! As the pouring of the oil on priests, prophets, and kings declared these people to be appointed by God to be His messengers, so the Father shows Jesus to be His messenger, not by anointing with oil but by filling Him with the Holy Spirit.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Kathryn Ann Cutsforth Fullmer

Kathryn Ann Cutsforth Fullmer died December 30, 2021, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. She was 64 years old. Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, January 10, 2022, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner with a memorial funeral mass to follow at St. Patrick's at 11 a.m.



Kathryn Ann Cutsforth Fullmer

Kathy was born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner on March 25, 1957, to Sharon Lewis (Bryant) and Kenneth Cutsforth.

She married Ed Fullmer on August 25, 1999, in Heppner. Kathy was very active in her community, volunteering at the Heppner Day Care and the Heppner Library. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Heppner where she taught catechism for many years and also volunteered in many other ways.

Kathy loved visiting with people and knew no strangers. She had a great

love of horses. She was on the Harney County Fair Court and participated on the junior, high school and college rodeo teams. She graduated from Burns Union High School and then Eastern Oregon University.

She is survived by her mother, Sharon Lewis and stepfather, Keith Lewis; sister, Kim Cutsforth; brother, Kraig Cutsforth; nieces and nephews, Sam Vaughan (Allison), Kate Hansen (Gus), Pat Vaughan, Maggie Armato, Joe Armato and Kelsey Cutsforth.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her father, and her stepsister Teresa (Lewis) Vaughan.

Memorial contributions can be made to Heppner Day Care, PO Box 446, Heppner, OR 97836.

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

Marcus Collier

Marcus Collier, 51, beloved son to Edward (Skip) and Raylene Collier passed away at his home in Bremerton, WA on December 8, 2021, of sudden heart failure. He was born October 29, 1970, in San Diego, CA.



Marcus Collier

Marcus, his wife, Lisa and daughter, Annika were former residents of Ione, OR, and owned and operated Colliers Market from 2004-2009. Marcus was affectionately called "the store guy" by many in the community. One of Marcus' favorite parts of owning the store was having the morning coffee crowd that tried to solve the world's problems daily, all while enjoying a bottomless cup of coffee. The days Marcus lived in Ione and operated the store held a special place in his heart.

Following Annika's completion of kindergarten in 2009, the Colliers returned to western Washington so she would grow up closer to family. In 2017, Marcus and Lisa began working together again forming Collier Realty Group, part of the RE/MAX Exclusive family. Lisa plans to continue the successful business they

built together, and Annika will be joining her in the family business as time allows as she is earning her bachelor's degree.

Thankfully, Marcus, Lisa and Annika returned to Ione this past year to attend Ione's class of 2021 graduation where he was able to connect with many friends.

Marcus loved books, reading and was constantly learning. He enjoyed working on improvements to their home and property, helping Lisa with her gardening and spending quality time with Annika. When time allowed, an escape into the forest in the RV was always a recharge for him.

Marcus is survived by his wife of 28 years, Lisa; daughter, Annika, 18; mother and father, Raylene and Skip Collier; sister and brother-in-law, Shannon and Bob Kerr; and nephew and wife, Thomas and Rachael Kerr.

A celebration of life is planned for early spring.

Correction

Last week's story "Wrestling team competes at Pendleton tournament," inadvertently listed Conor Brosnan, Cade Cunningham and Nathan Ellsworth as competitors at the tournament and they were not.

The editor apologizes for this error.

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

Alyce Mason Rea

Alyce Mason Rea, 81, died Thursday, December 23, 2021, at Kennewick, WA. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, January 7, 2022, at the Ione Community Church with burial at High View Cemetery in Ione.



Alyce Mason Rea

She was born February 7, 1940, at Heppner, the daughter of Dorr and Alva McDuffee Mason. She was the fourth of five children. Alyce was raised in Portland and Ione. She attended school in Ione where she graduated in 1957. While living in Ione, she resided with the Lewis and Dot Halvorsen family.

In August of 1956, she married Richard L. Rea, and the couple had two children, Donna and Darcy. The couple later divorced.

She resided in California since 1969 and worked for Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo Bank, and the Federal Reserve, retiring in 2001. On October 14, 2016, she married Daniel Eubanks. She recently moved to Kennewick, WA.

Alyce enjoyed cooking, attending theater and travel, which included trips to Europe, China and around the United States. She also very much enjoyed her time with family.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel Eubanks; daughters, Donna Kaseberg and Darcy Gabriel; grandchildren, Wade Kaseberg, Hannah (Travis) Feigner, Evan (Cass) Kaseberg, Walker Kaseberg (fiancé Hailey Keller), Tyler (Aileen) Gabriel, Travis (Annie) Gabriel and Emma Gabriel; great grandchildren, Jase, Kinsley and Maren Feigner, Royce and Ripp Gabriel; a sister, Judy Mason and brothers, John Mason and Jerry Mason.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Janet Lindstrom and son in law, Greg Gabriel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Ione Education Foundation, PO Box 61, Ione, OR 97843 or to Alzheimer's Association, 1650 NW Naito Parkway Suite 190, Portland, OR 97209 or to American Cancer Society, Oregon Division Inc., 0330 SW Curry St., Portland, OR 97239.

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

Jamie Lynn (Dowe) Payne

Jamie Lynn (Dowe) Payne, Heppner, was born in Portland on August 28, 1974, and passed away on December 22, 2021, in Shelton, WA.

Survivors include her husband, Fred Payne; father, Joseph Dowe and brother Stacy Dowe, both

of Heppner; step-children, Tiffany Lafesen, Crystal Payne, Brittany Payne and Shawn Payne, all of Vancouver, WA; and grandchildren Sierra and Jeremiah Johnson.

A celebration of life will be held in April.

Service Notices

Eddie M. Gunderson Jr. – A memorial graveside service with military honors will be held for Eddie M. Gunderson Jr. at 11 a.m. Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. He died December 17, 2021, at Heppner. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is in care of arrangements.

Births

Send birth announcements to editor@rapidserv.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Declan Bennett Paul High

A son, Declan Bennett Paul High, was born to Cody and Nichole High, Heppner, OR, at 9:41 p.m. on January 30, 2021, at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston, OR. He weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz, and measured 19.5 inches long. Declan joins siblings, Keeley, 14, Emery, 6, and Reiley, 3.



Grandparents are David Gibbs of John Day, OR, Cindy Gibbs of Mt. Vernon, OR, Lisa Daniels of Nampa, ID, and George and Bob Nairns of Heppner, OR.

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