

**Spiritually Speaking**  
*Father Thankachan Joseph*



**Love one another**

The Scripture readings of this Sunday offer the message that Our Lord's love is universal. He has no favorites. Last Sunday's lesson was to remain in His Love or to be grafted in the person of Christ and be fruitful. A fruit tree that produces no fruit is worthless. A Christian who does not love his neighbor is in the same category. God wants us to repay His love by loving one another. Let us have the courage to see and admit our failures to love others as we should.

Both the second reading and today's Gospel remind us of how much Christ himself loved us. The First Letter of John (1Jn 4:7-10) admonishes us to love one another because love is of God. Where there is love prevails, the kingdom of God can be witnessed. This particular letter invites every one of us to remain in this love, and of course to *love one another* as Christ loved us. Being created in the image of God, we must exhibit this love. A simple theme is beautifully explained in the letter John: when we love others genuinely, we are truly being and acting like God. When we love sincerely, we testify that the spirit of God dwells in us.

The Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 is an account of the conversion of Cornelius and his family, and how they received the Holy Spirit. As Peter described it, this shows that "God does not have any favorite." In other words, God's salvation and love is universal. He wants everyone who would sincerely believe in Him to be saved and participate in Him through the Holy Spirit. While reflecting, I recalled the song which says, "Jesus's love is so wonderful, so wide you cannot get out of it, so high you cannot get over it, so deep you cannot get under it..." Simply put, God's love does not discriminate.

The Gospel of the day is actually the continuation of the previous Sunday, i.e. Jn 15:9-1, "Remain in Christ's Love." First of all, we should realize Jesus's love is practical and emotional. We need to feel warm thoughts for others, but we also need to act lovingly towards them, even when they are unwelcoming to us. Jesus initiated this love with an act of love, washing the feet of the disciples (John 13:3-5). Affection will sometimes grow as we serve others. But, even when it does not, the command to love remains.

Christ's love is full of humility, sacrifice, and service, and our love should characterize by these traits. Today's Gospel is a command to love: "What I command you, is to love one another." As a command, we do not have any option than to love one another. The reason is simple: We ourselves are products of love. This love flows from God to Christ and from Christ to us. Our love needs to echo the character of Christ's love. It is a sacrificial love. Strong emotion and sentiments may accompany it, but they are not in themselves love. They are simply modes of expressing love. It is the commitment of the will to endure or persevere that keeps sacrificial love steadfast and unchanging. This is the mark of a good and true Christian love. Hence, sacrificial love must be patient. It shows forbearance even under provocation. It is steadfast despite opposition and difficulties. It is hard. It is demanding. It requires virtue and brings out the best in all involved in the love relationship.

We must be full of Jesus's love in order to give love to others. How do we remain in His love? By keeping His commandments. We manifest God's love best when we are in a right relationship with God. When we let God's love fill us and spill out into others, it is amazing what God can do through us. I think that Mother Theresa truly understood and lived this Gospel. Her way of life and her goal was to do everything with love - to see the face of Christ in everyone with whom she came into contact. How could Mother Theresa care so tenderly for the dying and the destitute? She obtained much grace to love like Jesus loves through loving her brethren. Many saints did the same. Let us look to them as shining examples of how we can live Jesus's command to love one another. Have we the courage to live in God's love by loving the things that God loves?

**Candidate forum at the May Day celebration**

A candidate's forum will be held at the Lexington School on Saturday, May 4th, 2024. The Morrow County Republican Party has been organizing this event. "About a dozen candidates have let me know they are excited about meeting Morrow County Voters. These are individuals who are running for county and state offices, and judge positions. This will be an

opportunity for Morrow County voters to meet these candidates in person before marking and returning their ballots." said MCRP Chairman Clint Carlson. All voters are welcome to come by and enjoy a cup of coffee while learning from candidates. The forum will begin at 9:30am. Then, stay for Lexington's May Day Parade celebration activities.

**Heppner Elementary to host Science fair May 7th**

Heppner Elementary will be hosting a Science Festival next Tuesday, May 7th from 5 to 7pm in the school gym. OMSI will be present with several hands-on learning activities. There

will also be student science projects on display and treats provided by the Heppner PTC. The science festival is open to Heppner Elementary students and their families.

*~ Letters to the Editor ~*

*-Continued from PAGE THREE*

values instilled in them by their upbringing. It's clear that Todd leads by example, nurturing a sense of duty and service in his family.

Todd's approach to governance is refreshingly realistic. He doesn't make empty promises. Instead, he offers practical solutions and a pragmatic outlook on what can be achieved in Salem.

In Todd Nash, we have a candidate who embodies integrity, family values, and a realistic approach to governance. I wholeheartedly endorse Todd for Senate and urge my fellow citizens to join me in supporting him for a brighter future for our community and casting their vote for Todd Nash this May.

Penny Ottmar  
 Hermiston OR

**Proud to share my endorsement**

As a county commissioner deeply invested in the well-being of our region, I am proud to share my endorsement of Todd Nash's candidacy for Senate District 29. Todd's commitment to serving every unique county, community, and corner of our district is unmatched.

Over the time we have worked together as fellow commissioners, I've seen Todd embody the qualities of a leader: integrity, experience, a listening ear, and genuine concern for the needs of all constituents. His extensive background in public service and leadership roles exemplifies the depth of character and expertise necessary to navigate the complex challenges facing our state and make him the best advocate in Salem.

Anybody who knows Todd knows he prioritizes people over politics and works on behalf of the interests of all residents, rather than succumbing to the influence of a privileged few. He has built significant relationships at all levels and has become a trusted voice in the legislature and state.

He is the only candidate with a proven track record of getting things done for the residents in Senate District 29. I urge voters to join me in supporting Todd Nash for Senate District 29. Together, let's elect a leader who will uphold the values of fairness, transparency, and accountability in the halls of government.

Steve Kramer  
 Wasco County Commissioner  
 Dufur OR

**Worden signs for EOU**



*Arianna Worden. -Photo by Heppner Jr/Sr High School*

**-Heppner JR/Sr High School**

Congratulations to Arianna Worden on signing her letter of intent at Eastern Oregon University. Arianna will be joining the Mountaineer's Track team in the fall of 2024.

**Todd Nash has our vote**

Todd Nash has our votes for Senator of District 29, and we hope he has yours too. We've known Todd and his wife personally for many years, and we can attest to Todd's unwavering dedication to our community and his outstanding leadership as a Wallowa County Commissioner.

Todd's deep roots and his commitment to its residents make him an ideal candidate to represent us in the state senate. Throughout his tenure as County Commissioner, Todd has consistently demonstrated integrity, compassion, and a strong work ethic to find solutions. He listens to the concerns of community members and takes decisive action to address them.

One of Todd's greatest strengths is his ability to bring people together to find common-sense solutions to complex issues. He understands the challenges facing rural communities like ours and is dedicated to advocating for policies that will improve our lives. Whether it's supporting local businesses, preserving our natural resources, or expanding access to healthcare and education, Todd is committed to making Senate District 29 a great place to live.

We have no doubt that Todd Nash will be an effective and tireless advocate for our communities. He has the experience, the passion, and the leadership skills needed to represent us with integrity and distinction. Join us in voting for Todd Nash for Senate District 29 this May.

Dave & Terri Denton,  
 Heppner  
 Sharon Wilson, Joseph  
 Ken Sorweide & Sharon  
 Marshall, Elgin  
 Greg & Leanna Zollman,  
 LaGrande

**Hanson passes Pharm Tec test**



*Ashlie Hanson, Murrays Pharmacy worker. -Photo by Murrays Pharmacy*

Congratulations to Ashlie Hanson for passing her National Certified Pharmacy Technician Test!

**DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM**

**HR Lodge to host BINGO May 4th**

Holly Rebekah Lodge will be offering a variety of homemade soups, dinner roll, cookie and drink for only \$5 at their Lodge Hall at 135 Main Street in

Lexington following the parade. At 3pm BINGO will be held. The cost is also \$5 for a packet of 10 BINGO cards. This is a family friendly event.

**The SMCSB awards 11 scholarships**

The South Morrow County Scholarship Board is pleased to be awarding 11 scholarships to seniors at Ione and Heppner High Schools. Recipients were evaluated based on academic achievement and school/community/work involvement. Students must have a 2.5 GPA or higher to apply. Students must be continuing their education at a Community College, Trade School, or Four-Year College or University. Each senior received the scholarship in the amount of \$1,200 and have been awarded to Thomas Bales, Morgan Cutsforth, Kelly Doherty, Caden George, Piper Keltion, Irelynn Kollman, John McElligott, Camerson Proudfoot, Jolene Serrano, Leelynn Vandever and Arianna Worden

The Coach Del LaRue Scholarship was developed in memory of Del LaRue, a long-time teacher and coach at Ione High School. Del had a passion for coaching basketball and track

and loved seeing students set and achieve their goals. After retiring from teaching, Del continued to coach track for twelve additional years, during this time he helped many student athletes achieve their goals and was honored as National Track Coach of the Year.

This fund awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a college-bound Ione High School Senior based on demonstrated academic achievement, community involvement and with preference given to students who have participated in the Ione High School Track Program.

Students must be continuing their education at a Community College, Trade School, or Four-Year College or University. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 accumulated GPA and show involvement in community/school activities.


The Board selected Kelly Doherty to receive this year's Coach Del LaRue Scholarship.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE**  
 May 2nd Ladies Night Dinner  
 May 9th Youth Night Dinner and Raffle Items  
 June Glen Ward Memorial Fishing Derby  
 June 14th Flag Day Service  
 June 16th Father's Day Picnic

**Lodge Meetings**  
 1st thru 4th Thursday of the month at 8pm.  
 Except June, July & August the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

**HEPPNER ELKS 358**  
 276-9181 "Three Friends Meet" 142 North Main

**Thank you for 20 years working for Morrow County!**




May 3rd marks **20** years working in the Morrow County Clerk's Office. A **BIG** thank you to Theresa Crawford!

Theresa has always gone above and beyond the normal expectations to support the people that come in or call the Clerk's office. I want everyone to know how thankful I am to have her work for me at the county as my Chief Deputy Clerk. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Bobbi Childers, Morrow County Clerk

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**Do We Owe You Money?**

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. is looking for members and past members who have unclaimed capital credits. Please visit our website at <https://cbec.cc/capital-credits> to view the list of members with unclaimed capital credits. To claim these credits, please contact CBEC at 541-676-9146 or come to our office at 171 Linden Way, Heppner, Oregon.



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