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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner
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Spiritually Speaking
Father Thankachan Joseph



This week the church is going to celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. The whole Church honors the humble maid of Nazareth through whom the world received its Savior. We rejoice that she shares in the glory of her Son in heaven. She is our Mother from heaven. She wants us to be obedient and loving children of the Father. She is waiting for us all in heaven.

The image in Revelation (11:19; 12:1-6, 10) describes a woman clothed with the sun, standing on the moon, with her head crowned with twelve stars, but crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth, reminding us of the two poles of Our Lady's life - peace and affliction. In our churches, she is presented as being at peace, reflecting the way she is now, in heaven body and soul with her Son. We rejoice that she is finally and definitively at peace, and we are comforted by our belief that where she is, one day we also shall be if we remain loyal to her Son. But Our Lady's life was a time of affliction for her, in various episodes of her vocation she was sorely tried. The scene from the Apocalypse looks back to Genesis 3:15-16 and represents the woman of the Messianic Era who is both physical mother of the Messiah and spiritual mother of the faithful. It is the Messiah who is approved by the voice from heaven, by His triumph as God's elected one over the ancient Adversary, the Devil. The implication for us on earth is that we should not be surprised if we are afflicted - if Our Lady suffered affliction despite her exalted calling, who are we to be taken aback by our own afflictions?

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26 gives a scriptural basis for our belief that Mary has been assumed body and soul into heaven by a special privilege. The time of her liberation from death has been anticipated in advance of the definitive end of time when Christ the Messiah will hand over all things to His Father, and all the elect will be saved once and for all from death in soul and body. Paul gives us a clear distinction between the old Eve and the new Eve. If Jesus is the new Adam, who then is the new Eve? Mary. Just as the full story of our Fall cannot be told without Eve, so also the full story of our Redemption cannot be told without Mary. Many parallels exist between the old Adam and Eve and the new Adam and Eve, Jesus, and Mary. In the old order, the woman came from the body of the man, but in the new order, the man (Jesus) comes from the body of the woman (Mary). In the old order, the woman first disobeyed God and led the man to do the same; in the new order, the woman first said "Yes" to God (Luke 1:38) and raised her Son, Jesus, to do likewise. Adam and Eve had a good time together disobeying God; Jesus and Mary suffered together doing God's will. The sword of sorrow pierced their hearts equally (John 19:34; Luke 2:35b).

The Gospel of Luke 1: 39-56, with its account of the Magnificat of our Blessed Mother, reminds us of the enormous privileges of Our Lady. She has no illusions about the source of these privileges: God's covenant loyalty to the promises made to Abraham. Behind this covenant loyalty, of course, is God's unmerited love. It is to the initiative of this love that we owe our creation, that we owe our redemption, that we owe Our Lady, whose humility proved to be a fitting match for God's designs. This should give us pause for thought.

On the Feast of the Assumption, we all should rejoice with Our Lady because of the great things that God has seen fit to work in her. But our rejoicing should also be a challenge for us and an indication of the road we should follow if we are to end up beside our spiritual mother. Only through humility and trust in God can we be successful in our search for God's will, a will that for us implies what it implied for Our Lady: definitive existence in the presence of her Son. May she intercede on our behalf and take us all to her Son's abode.

Death Notice

Sandra L. Hanna

Sandra L. Hanna, 72, of Heppner, died Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. She was born August 3, 1951, in Astoria, Oregon. A celebration of life and luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, August 22, 2024, at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Memorial contributions for those who wish may be made to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, PO Box 9, Heppner, OR 97836. Sweeney Mortuary is in care of arrangements.

Obituaries

Judith Anne Rea

Judith Anne (Howton) Rea, age 85, passed away on August 4th, 2024, at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston, Oregon. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Judy was born on May 19th, 1939, in Spokane, Washington to Wilma Elizabeth (Campbell) and Lloyd Lee Howton. She spent her early years in Connell, Wahington before moving to the Lexington, Oregon area. She attended school in Lexington and Heppner before her family purchased the farm 8 miles south of Ione, Oregon.

Judy graduated from Ione High School in 1957 where she participated in volleyball, 4H sewing and cooking programs as well as being a cheerleader for 4 years.

Judy married Keith Rea in 1957.

Judy was active in the Ione Community Church, having served as the treasurer for 30 years. She also chaired the Church Auction, along with Keith for many years. In addition to her church activities, she was very involved in the Oregon Wheat League, serving as the first woman President of the Oregon

Wheat League before serving a term on the Oregon Wheat Commission. These positions took her to many states, Washington D.C. and Mexico.

Judy was an avid seamstress and quilt maker. Many of her children's clothes were handmade for school photos. She always had a project in the works. She had quilting squares in progress at the time of her passing.

Judy is survived by her husband Keith of 67 years, sons Craig (Barney) of Walla Walla, Christopher (Gina) of Napa, CA, and Gary (Suzanne) of Ione, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Wilma and Lloyd Howton, her brother Jim, sister Jackie, son Leroy and granddaughter Katie.

Services for Judy will be held on August 17th at 11:00 am at the Ione Community Church with a reception to follow.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ione Community Church, PO Box 346, Ione, OR 97843. Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner is providing services.

Sara Danielle Gorsky Santora

July 8, 1986 - July 19, 2024

Sara was born in Eugene, Oregon to Rick Gorsky of Heppner, Oregon and Diana Courtwright Matlock of Philomath, Oregon. She was the youngest of 3 children, brother Chad Gorsky of Central Point Oregon and sister Selina Marshall of Albany, Oregon. Sara started her education at Oakridge Elementary school for kindergarten and first grade after which she and her family moved to Philomath finishing her education at the Philomath School district, graduating from Philomath High School in 2004.

Sara attended Oregon State University receiving her Bachelor of Science in animal science. She worked at OSU Veterinary Hospital as an Animal Attendant while attending college and after receiving her degree.

Sara's love of horses started at a young age, motivating her to purchase her first four-legged friend, Highland Gentry, when she was 12 years old. She participated and excelled in equine 4-H and enjoyed being a member of both her high school and college equestrian teams.

Sara met her husband Joseph Santora in the summer of 2008, they dated for 4 years and bought their first property together in 2012 making it possible to have a home that included her horses. Together, Joe and Sara would improve and develop their property into a beautiful country oasis where they would hold their August 26, 2012, wedding. The ceremony reflected Sara's love for Joe, as well as her love of the simplicity of the

outdoors and the country way of life. Although Sara was quiet and private to those who were not in her inner circle, she allowed people to see her adventurous side when she arrived at her wedding on horseback. In true Sara style she hopped from the horses' back to her dad's side for her walk down the aisle to Joe, together they had many adventures on quads, horseback and hiking.

In 2015 the couple moved to Lexington, Oregon where they once again purchased property and built a country sanctuary that included a house and barns that housed two highland cattle (George & Scotty), two horses (Brandy & Aspen) and enough space to allow two dogs (Cooper & Gus) and two cats to play. Sara had a love for the outdoors, hiking, Photography, and simply taking walks with her dogs. She enjoyed her job at Bank of Eastern Oregon as a Loan Processor, she excelled in her area earning her a step up in her career ladder as a Credit Analyst.

On July 19, 2024, Sara was living the country life alongside Joe and taking care of her animals when she suddenly passed from this world. Unfortunately, professionals are unable to determine the cause at this time.

Sara's Celebration of Life will be held September 7, 2024 @ 2 pm at the Bezell Memorial Forest 37283 Kings Valley Highway Philomath, OR 97370 And September 21, 2024 @ 1 pm Heppner Elks Lodge 142 N Main St Heppner, OR 97836.

Good News Only by Doris Brosnan

Slow "good news" week, apparently. Today the Morrow Co. Fair opens, and entrance is free! A good time to enjoy more of amusing words of wisdom from Dennis O'Donnell: If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you. Never confuse education with intelligence. Want Ad: "Now hiring people who show up." My brain says "Alaska." My heart says "Caribbean." My wallet says "Go around the block." I told him I wanted to walk down the aisle. He sent me shopping. Never leave home without a kiss, a hug, and an "I love you." Then remove the dog hair from your mouth as you walk to the car. Life is like a camera: Focus on what's important. Capture the good times. Develop from the negatives. And if things don't work out take another shot. Sharing our good news with others can be a great afford us great positive moments, so do yourself and the GT readers a favor by sending your tidbit todbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490! Here's hoping that good news comes to everyone reading this.

The Molalla Drill team to perform in the MC Rodeo



The Molalla Drill team. -Photo contributed.

The Molalla Drill is a fast-paced rodeo drill team that started performing back in 2015, just performing at their local rodeo. Now the team has grown and expanded to performing in rodeos across Oregon. The Molalla Drill isn't just a group of pretty girls on fast horses, but true cowgirls that believe in the traditions, values, and respon-

sibility rodeo brings to the younger generations. The Molalla Drill Team doesn't only run drills, they help wherever they are needed, running flags, helping with stock, or anything on the ground. The team consists of Captain Cadie, Captain Roxy, Gabby, Barbara, Bridgette, Katie, McKenna, Sarah, and Natayla.

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