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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

# GAZETTE-TIMES

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## Spiritually Speaking

### Father Thankachan Joseph



## Do Whatever He Tells You

Recent weeks of celebrations that began with Christmas ended with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan. The feast of Baptism of the Lord invites us to plunge ourselves into a life of glory with God, as we enter the "ordinary" season on the calendar. The ordinary season of liturgical celebrations begins with the gracious presence of our blessed Mother and Jesus in the wedding house at Cana. The readings always bring us close to the Lord in His humanitarian tasks. Knowing Jesus in His humanity draws us to His divinity.

The Prophet Isaiah (62:1-5), though Jerusalem and the temple are in ruin after the conquest, reminds the people of God that when Jerusalem is filled with the glory of the Lord, it has a different existence. The prophet is trying to describe to us that God cannot be silent any longer.

God loves His bride, the Church, the people redeemed by His Son. God wants to rejoice in His people and wants His people to rejoice in Him. The prophet describes the glory and beauty of Jerusalem when it is filled with God's glory.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12:4-11) describes the various kinds of spiritual gifts and the diverse forms of services used to serve the Lord. Paul bluntly explains the multiple types of gifts present in each of us and how we should use these gifts to please the Lord.

Each of us has gifts we are to use to build up the body of Christ, to benefit others. Perhaps we think that our gifts are negligible. Perhaps we think that others have better or more important gifts than ours.

Whatever we are given, it is given to us for others. The miracle of changing water into wine at the Wedding Feast at Cana is marked in the Gospel of John (2:1-11) alone; we have no reference to it in any of the synoptic gospels.

The Gospel of John can be divided into two major parts: Chapters 1-12 as the Book of Signs, and chapters 13-20 as the Book of Glory.

In the first part, John explains six major signs performed by Jesus during His public ministry. The wedding at Cana is the first sign He performed, the first of the signs that reveal His glory. Changing water to wine shows that, if we pay attention, we shall see the divinity shining through Christ's humanity. This is another Epiphany, a manifestation of the divine.

I have noted a slight difference in my reference Bible and the missal that we follow in our worship. The Bible I used to write this article begins with these words: "On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee."

It is interesting to note that in this wedding celebration we don't hear much about the bride or the groom—at the end of the story the groom appears only briefly. It was Jewish customary practice that the marriage celebration went on for nearly seven days.

The third day is open to several interpretations: It is the third day of Jesus's public ministry. Another explanation is that after leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, Moses brought them to Mount Sinai, where the Lord offered a covenant relationship to Israel. We read in Exodus (19:16) that "On the morning of the third day the Lord appears on Mount Sinai in his awesome power and reveals his "glory" (Deut. 5:24).

Marriage is a covenant relationship. The bride and the groom pledge to live a lifetime together in their joy and happy moments as well as through difficulties. Similarly to this miracle of changing water into wine, the bride and the groom are brought together by the Lord to live together forever, as a new wine, as a new family.

I was impressed by the words of Mary. She tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

Families on the verge of dividing and breaking away need to pay attention to these words. What must I do for my family, my spouse, and others to make them happy and contented?

Jesus is always willing to help, even when a miracle is not required. Am I willing to help others when they need me? Am I willing to give my time and my energy to reaching out to other members of the family when it has no benefit for me?

## Health district receives respite care grant

In November 2024, Pioneer Memorial Hospice received a grant of \$7,500 for caregiving respite care from the Roundhouse Foundation, Morrow County Health District has announced.

Although many families take joy in providing care for their loved ones so that they can remain at home, caregiving for a family member can be overwhelming without some support, such as respite.

Respite care provides short-term relief for primary caregivers, allowing them time to travel, rest or visit with other family and friends. The duration of this care varies from a few hours to a few weeks, depending on the caregiver's needs.

The Roundhouse Foundation supports rural communities through its grant program, which focuses on four fundamental areas—arts and culture, environmental stewardship, social services and education.

The funds received by Pioneer Memorial Hospice will help provide hospice caregivers respite relief

while continuing care for the patient in their own home.

Hospice is a specialized care that comforts and supports patients and their families when curative treatment for advanced illness ends.

Pioneer Memorial Hospice staff brings crucial medical and nursing care elements to the patient's residence and offers practical and emotional support for them and their families.

These services are provided by trained professionals, including physicians, nurses, counselors, volunteers and aides who comprise the hospice interdisciplinary team.

Because of the Roundhouse Foundation grant, caregivers who may have been unable to pay for respite out-of-pocket can now seek respite care services and take comfort in knowing their loved one is safe and comfortable while they are away.

To learn more about hospice and respite care, visit [HealthyMC.org](http://HealthyMC.org) or call 541-676-2946.

## Obituaries

### Jerry L. Martin



Jerry L. Martin

in Boise along the way and purchased a manufactured home, which was moved to Ione on the school grounds. They pulled a little "Flintstone" camper across the states.

He taught junior high in Ione, where he taught all three of his children—they did not get away with anything.

They moved to Hermiston in 1976. In 1977, he transferred to Irrigon, OR, where he taught until he retired in 1992. He continued subbing until he was in his 80s.

Jerry also refereed basketball and football for years, traveling all over Eastern Oregon.

He loved playing golf, bowling, ping pong (which he was pretty good at), going to horse races and gambling at Wildhorse. His least favorite word is inquiry! He also loved caramel macchiatos.

Jerry had four grandchildren—Chad Doherty, Adam Doherty, Kylie (Doherty) Simpkins and Lukas Martin. He also had three great-grandchildren, Bridget Doherty, Lylian Doherty and Malcolm Simpkins. He loved going to their sports events and spending time with them.

Jerry taught junior high for 30 years and substituted another 20 into his 80s. Jerry and Ione were married for 68 years. He will be missed.

He is survived by his wife, Ione Martin; daughters, Cindi (Mike) Doherty and Lisa (Terry) Mort; son Scott (Kelly), four grandkids and three great-grandkids; sister, Mary Kay (Rocky) Petersen; and brother Larry (Linda) Martin.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to #358 Heppner Elks Lodge, PO Box 494, Heppner, OR 97836.

Sweeney Payton Mortuary has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please leave your condolence messages for the family at [sweeneypaytonmortuary.com](http://sweeneypaytonmortuary.com).

Jerry Lowell Martin, 92, of Hermiston passed away on Dec. 18, 2024, in Pendleton. A celebration of life will take place Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. at Heppner Elks Lodge with a meal to follow. A private burial will be held at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery later that day. Please wear your favorite sports attire.

Jerry was born in Waterloo, IA on May 18, 1932, to Harry and Elizabeth Lamkin Martin. He attended grade school and junior high in Waterloo. He attended high school in Cedar Rapids, IA, where he graduated in the winter of 1951.

The fall of 1952 he attended Upper Iowa University to become a teacher. He had only completed two years when he was drafted into the U.S. Air Force during the Korean war. He did not see active duty.

While in the Air Force he played a football bowl game in Texas. The Air Force team lost 60-0. Jerry said, "They were huge opponents, so we all stayed away from them so we wouldn't get hurt."

After he was discharged, he returned to Upper Iowa University in 1954 to complete his teaching credentials. During his years in college, he was a baseball pitcher and quarterback for the college.

He met his future wife, Ione Reed, and they were married August 18, 1956. She was also a teacher. They both started their teaching career. In 1957 they welcomed their first child, Cynthia Rae. In 1961 another daughter, Lisa Ann, joined them and, in 1962, a son, Scott Reed, was born.

Jerry did not like the hard winters or the hot summers in Iowa. In 1965 the family moved from Iowa to Ione, OR. They stopped

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