

Heartbreak

As the First Reading describes it, the enemies of the Jews smash Jerusalem. The walls of the city are torn down. The Temple of God is burned up, and all its holy things are destroyed. And the people are taken captive to Babylon. Their country, their customs, their language, their cult, their Temple—it's all lost.

In the Psalm, there is a poignant picture of the people's heartbreak over this destruction of their home. The enemies who had wrecked Jerusalem want the Jews to sing Hebrew songs for them. "How can we sing the Lord's songs in a strange land?" the captive people say to themselves in their grief.

The Second Reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why doesn't God protect his people from the heartbreak that his people had when Jerusalem was destroyed?

The answer to the question lies in the Readings.

God doesn't want to destroy people and God doesn't allow suffering for the sake of hurting people either. Instead God is looking for a remedy, as the First Reading implies. God is willing to use desperate measures, even the heartbreak of his people, to save them.

And not only that, but God is willing to use his own suffering too. As the Gospel Reading says, God gave his beloved Son to save the world. Christ was betrayed by his disciple, shamed in front of his family and friends, mocked by his community, condemned by the legal authorities, publicly flogged, and put to death by crucifixion. Any one of these things is enough for heartbreak, isn't it? And so, in the incarnate Christ, God uses his own great suffering as the final remedy to bring people from death into life, when all other remedies have been tried and failed.

Heartbreak by us, by Christ, is for life not for death.

And here is what else we need to see. Jerusalem was rebuilt and the Temple was restored, as the First Reading explains. Christ's death was followed by his resurrection. In each of these cases, heartbreak was turned into joy.

And so heartbreak is not the last word. Elsewhere (Ps 37:3-4) the Psalmist says, "Put your trust in the Lord, . . . and he will give you the desires of your heart." When the story is God's, heartbreak is not the end of the story. Joy in finding your heart's desire in God is.

Eleonore Stump

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 11th, 2018

St. Stephen's Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

33 St. Stephens Road

PO Box 250

St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor
Dcn. Bryce Lungren.....Deacon
Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330
Patti McMahon.....Director of Religious Education

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's Church

332-4415

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.....Past. Asst./Director of Religious Education

St. Stephen's Church

Friday: Adoration followed by benediction 3:45pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 5:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass at 7:15am

1st Saturday: Adoration at 8:00am; Mass at 9:00am

St. Joseph's Church, Ethete

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

Wednesday & Friday Communion Service at 5:15 PM

Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

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Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!
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The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings March 12th through March 18th:

Mon: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Tue: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Wed: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
 Thur: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Fri: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sat: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Sun: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 3/18/18

9:00 Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

Extraordinary Ministers: Carol Kellogg & Sr. Monica

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

3/4 \$2657.57

"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola

Events:

3/11: Rosary @ 8:20am
Coffee and Donuts
after 9am Mass
3/13: Penance service at St.
Margaret's 6pm
3/14: Parish Council meeting
after the 5pm Mass
3/15: Penance Service 6pm
3/16: Adoration
Stations of the Cross 5:30
3/18: St. Joseph's Table

St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. March classes continue on the 12th & 19th. Classes are at 5:30pm.

Religious Ed classes are after the 9am Mass.

If you have questions regarding baptism or religious education classes, please call the religious education office (856-7806 ext. 16).

AA Meetings

Circle of Healing at St. Stephen's
 Monday 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Gamblers Anonymous

39 Gas Hills Road (856-6861)

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, gift or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office. Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for a Mass.

Favorite Page

Add our website to your favorites page. Classes, events, and the bulletin are all on there:
www.saintstephensmission.com

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

3/10: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Victor Mitchell
 3/11: 9am St. Stephen's +Carleen Smith Delorme
 11am St. Joseph's For the people
 5pm St. Stephen's +Chris Cantrell
 3/13: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Jason 'Dallas' David Evers
 3/14: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Katie French
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
 3/15: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Marjorie Sheridan
 3/16: 5:00pm St. Stephen's
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service & Stations of the cross

St. Joseph's Day, March 19th

In honor of the feast of St. Joseph, we will again have a St. Joseph's table set up to collect bread, baked goods etc... The table will be set up on March 18th and baked items will be collected at both Sunday Masses at St. Stephen's. All donations will be distributed to the elderly and poor on Monday, March 19th. If you are able, then please bring any baked goods, bread, cookies, pastries or any baked items to Mass on March 18th. If you know anyone who might be in need of bread or any of the other items then please contact Melissa in the parish office by March 16th so we may get items to them on the 19th.

Thank you and God Bless.

Important Notice

If you are planning a birthday party, baby shower or other family event and plan on using Eagle Hall, Keel Gym, Sister Incarnata Hall, or any church facility then you will need to contact Melissa in the parish office at least 20 days prior to your event so we can obtain insurance coverage (at no cost to you) for the day of your gathering. This is in accordance with the Diocese of Cheyenne policies. The rental fee and deposit will need to be paid at the time of reservations.

Communal Penance Services

March 13th 6pm
St. Margaret's Church
 March 15th 6pm
St. Stephen's Church

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's

Religious Education Classes

Classes are during the 11am Mass.

Confirmation

Confirmation class begins promptly after the 11am Mass.

Baptism Classes

The last Sunday of each month will be Baptism Sunday at St. Joseph's. Three classes are required. Please call Sister Teresa at 332-4415 to schedule classes.