

Why So Angry?

Ready for a shocking picture of Jesus? The gentle savior has turned violent. This Sunday he erupts into unrestrained anger when he sees people vending oxen, sheep, and doves right within the temple, sees money-changers doing business within God's own house!

Not only is this unlike the Jesus we know, but doesn't it violate the holy workings of the temple? These trades-people were selling animals simply because living animals were needed for burnt offerings. People had to get their sacrifices from somewhere. And they had to get their money changed, since so many of them came from lands with different currencies. Sounds quite reasonable doesn't it?

Not to Jesus. He screams, "You are desecrating my Father's temple!" He grabs some cords and yanks them into a knot. He whips the vendors. Whips them! Quite a terrible sight. And he heaves into an unholy mess on the floor the carefully sorted coins, and then finishes up by hurling the tables into the chaos he has created!

How in the world does such fury coincide with the quiet, humble Jesus we see in Holy Week? There he will say barely a word, even though his enemies will be violating the Father's holiest temple of all, Jesus' very self.

What is going on?

Some external reasons for his vehemence are evident.

Vendors were allowed only in the courtyard of the temple, not inside where they now had positioned themselves. And the dishonest practices of outdoor market-places had stolen their way into the temple. The thumb on the scale, the inflated prices, all of that.

There is another, internal reason which is much more important. Jesus knew with blessed certainty what human beings were created to be. We are made to be filled with God's presence, to be beloved by God and to love God in return. We are most ourselves when we are not entrapped by riches honor and pride. We are designed to "let go and let God." Jesus was overwhelmed when he saw sellers winking at these Godly values, preferring cold cash, and cheating for it—at the dead center of sacred space.

Everything had been turned upside down.

During Holy Week, why did he react so very differently? Why was he silent then? Because by then Jesus had come to understand the depths of his mission, which was not just to do social action—as he had done in the temple scene—not just to cure the people miraculously, not just to preach from the hillsides. He saw that he must be unified with our death as well as our life, must unite with us in the terrible hurts we get from each other.

Only then could he show how very close and loving God is.

Wrath for sure can be an understandable and just reaction to selfishness and greed. The merchants were seeking short-term profit at the expense of freedom, holiness, truth, and the completion of the human spirit. Worse, they were foisting all this upon the people Jesus had come to save. So he hurled himself against the blind money grubbers. His emotion was real and quite impressive. But by contrast, on the cross he would empty himself out. He would surrender everything, including his fury.

Wouldn't such a surrender cancel out the grubbing of the money changers? And of us?

John Foley, SJ

Third Sunday in Lent March 4th, 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 5th through March 11th:

Mon: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tue: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wed: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thur: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
 Sat: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b; Lk 18:9-14
 Sun: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 3/11/18

9:00 Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout
 Extraordinary Ministers: Jim & Theresa Cunningham

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed
 Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

2/25

\$2213.63

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

Events:

3/4: Rosary @ 8:20am
 Coffee and Donuts
 after 9am Mass
 3/9: 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 are the 5th, 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.



LENT

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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:

3/3: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament For the people
 3/4: 9am St. Stephen's +Hanna VanMark
 11am St. Joseph's Special Intention
 5pm St. Stephen's +Anita Spoonhunter
 3/6: 7:15am St. Stephen's Poor souls in purgatory
 3/7: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Jean Watt
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
 3/8: 7:15am St. Stephen's Poor souls in purgatory
 3/9: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Darold Kniffen
 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.

Rosaries

Many people spend hours making rosaries and send them to the Mission. Please remember to pray with them and offer a prayer for those who donate them.

FORMED

Visit formed.org and use our parish code **6Y749F!**

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.