

Handles

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus makes a wonderful comparison, of the good shepherd to the mere hired hand. The good shepherd cares about the sheep. The hired one is mainly interested in getting paid. When wolves come, he simply runs away.

To discern the difference, take a poetic example.* First, imagine that there are "handles" on what you possess. Everything—honors, assets, etc.—everything has a "handle" that someone could grab in order to take it away from you. Looks, home, car, reputation, career, money saved up for the children's education, respect from others, pleasure, youth, you name it. What do you own that you could not lose? You grab your own handles and hold on tight.

But an ominous power comes into play at this point. The forces of greed tell our hearts that everything in the whole world is there just to be grabbed for oneself and kept. "Greed is a virtue," these forces say, in fact it is the only virtue. The mess of the world situation in this second decade of the 21st century does seem to prove that. It is the hired hand's way of life.

But there is an alternate way. It has to do with love, the kind of love that the good shepherd shows us. Its motto is this:

The real value in life is to receive and give, not to grab and possess.

All that you have and all that you are is a gift from the good God. If you open your hands, so to speak, you will let God pour into them whatever you really need! And keeping them open lets you can easily release your gifts and let them pass on to others in need.

Two ways of life: "Grab and Keep" on one side. "Receive and Let Go" on the other. Hired Hand versus Good Shepherd.

There comes an epic battle between these two ways of life. It is waged on the cross. Evil seizes and tears away from Jesus everything with "handles" on it—friends, followers, career, respect, relation to God, comfort, slaking of thirst, breath, life itself.

Evil wins. It takes everything.

Yet there is a fatal flaw in the grab-and-keep philosophy. It thinks that nothing at all exists without a handle on it.

So we ask, what about love? Love lets go, receives humbly, gives humbly. There is nothing to grab about real love, nothing by way of a handle. Since the devil only sees grabbing and selfishness, to him love must be just another form of self-interest!

So the he burrows down to the innermost sanctum of Jesus' soul on the cross, greedy to seize the ultimate prize itself, the power of God. Ravenous for it, salivating, unable to hold back, he throws open the tabernacle doors of Jesus' soul! And he finds that the sacred space is empty, completely empty.

Oh, something is present there, but it has no handles. The quiet stillness—receiving gratefully and lightly letting go—these are surely there, but the devil cannot see them. So he goes on his way, confident that everything is now his.

But it isn't. Love wins because it has already given everything away. This is why the Good Shepherd can lay down his life for the sheep. This is why the Father loves him. And us if we follow.

John Foley, SJ

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 22nd, 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

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass at 7:15am

Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 5:00pm

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

Anointing for anyone wishing to be anointed

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 April 23rd through April 29th:

- Mon: Acts 11:1-18; Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; Jn 10:1-10
- Tue: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1-7; Jn 10:22-30
- Wed: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
- Thur: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
- Fri: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11; Jn 14:1-6
- Sat: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
- Sun: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's
4/29/18**

9:00 Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown
Extraordinary Ministers: Marilu Duncan & Tom Kasper

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed
Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection	
4/15	\$2225.12

Happenings:

- 4/22: Rosary @ 8:20am
Coffee and donuts after 9am Mass
- 4/27: 3:45pm Adoration
- 4/29: Soup Supper after 5pm Mass

St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. April classes will continue on 4/30 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)

FORMED

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

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.

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

- 4/21: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Dixie & +Mickey Simmons: 67th anniversary
- 4/22: 9am St. Stephen's +Royce Yellowplume
11am St. Joseph's Missa Pro Populo
5pm St. Stephen's +Marjorie Sheridan
- 4/24: 7:15am St. Stephen's Cathleen Galitz
- 4/25: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Royce Yellowplume
5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
- 4/26: 7:15am St. Stephen's Women Tours Bicyclists
- 4/27: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Kathleen Gibbons
5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service

Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Spanish

A Weekend of Discovery – A Lifetime of Love
May 12-13, 2018
Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church
Jackson, WY
Contact Silvino and Grace Nunez 509-331-4365

St. Margaret's School

St. Margaret's Catholic School in Riverton has openings for an Elementary Principal and Elementary Teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Please contact St. Margaret's School office for information on how to apply at (307) 856-5922.

Singers/Drummers

We would really like to have singing and drumming at every 5pm Mass. If you or any of your family members are gifted



with this talent and would like to share with the parish every Sunday, please come to the 5pm Mass. The parish has a drum but we need people to come share their talent!

Soup Supper

Just a friendly reminder that soup supper is next Sunday!



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.