

## Burning Question

This is the last Sunday of Easter season.

Its Mass is vivid.

Suddenly there came from the sky  
a noise like a strong driving wind,  
and it filled the entire house in which they were.  
Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.  
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak in different tongues,  
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim (First Reading).

Wouldn't we have loved to be there? How thrilling!

But let us look at the wording. The noise was not an actual wind but something "like" a wind. And these were not tongues of fire, but tongues "as of fire" (i.e., "as if they were made of fire"). They were discussing marvels that could not be described as is, so they used metaphors.

What if we tried a literal description:

There was this sound that came from the sky, something that sounded like, uh, oh, let's see, uh, wind! That's it. It wasn't wind but that is the closest I can get. And then stuff that looked sort of like chunks of fire, or maybe tongues made out of fire. Only it wasn't really fire. Or tongues either. Oh, I can't describe it.

They were experiencing a presence that cannot truly be written down. Obviously it was something very real but too deep for words. So they resorted to metaphor.

Are we allowed to prophesy and talk in tongues as the apostles did? St. Paul handles this question beautifully in the Second Reading. The answer is found by recalling who the Holy Spirit is (the reader and I have been doing this in previous weeks). The Holy Spirit is completely and truly God, the third person of the Holy Trinity come to dwell within us. No wonder it is hard to talk about!

In our time the bestowal of the Spirit is less dramatic. There has been a regularization and it has been gradual. Look, for instance, at Acts 19:1-8, in which St. Paul came upon a dozen or so disciples who had never even heard of the Holy Spirit! He baptized them, and as he "laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Was this the beginning of the sacrament of Baptism? When we receive baptism and other sacraments, we are receiving the Holy Spirit, quietly and in ritual form. Christ and his Father come to dwell within us.

Let us ask again, as we have in previous weeks, why do you and I not act as someone who has God within us?

Well, like anything planted so deep, the Spirit's presence must have time to make its way into our actions, our words, our deeds. Whenever we find patches of charity or joy in ourselves, or patience and kindness, or the ability to endure hardship and injuries, when we are drawn toward mildness and modesty, then we can surely know that the Holy Spirit is at work. No, it is not heavy winds and tongues of fire, as in former days. But it is the same Spirit of Jesus and of the Father that has been bestowed throughout history.

Can we open to it?

John Foley, SJ

## Pentecost Sunday May 20th, 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 McMahan.....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

.....  
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!  
.....

*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 May 21st through May 27th:**

Mon: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29  
 Tue: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11, 23; Mk 9:30-37  
 Wed: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3; 6-11  
 Thur: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50  
 Fri: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12  
 Sat: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16  
 Sun: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's  
5/27/18**

**9:00 Mass**

Lector: Penny Robertson  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Marilu Duncan & Tom Kasper

**5:00 Mass**

Lector: Volunteer Needed  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

<b>Parish Collection</b>	
5/13	\$2154.05
<i>"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola</i>	

**Happenings:**

5/20: Rosary @ 8:20am  
 Coffee and donuts  
 after 9am Mass  
 5/25: Adoration & Mass

**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.



**St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism**

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. June classes are the 4th, 11th & 18th.  
 If you have questions regarding baptism or religious education classes for the fall, please call the religious education office (856-7806 ext. 16).

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.

**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)

**Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

**Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:**

5/19: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Howard & William Brown on their birthday  
 5/20: 9am St. Stephen's Missa Pro Populo  
 11am St. Joseph's +Carol DeLois  
 5pm St. Stephen's +Marjorie Sheridan  
 5/22: 7:15am St. Stephen's Women Tours Bicyclists  
 5/23: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Leo Stream  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service  
 5/24: 7:15am St. Stephen's Women Tours Bicyclists  
 5/25: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Jana Warren  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service

**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.

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Add our website to your favorites page. Classes, events, and the bulletin are all on there:  
[www.saintstephensmission.com](http://www.saintstephensmission.com)

**Soup Supper**

Just a friendly reminder that soup supper is next Sunday after the 5pm Mass in Eagle Hall. Please bring a soup to share if you can but definitely come join the fellowship!

**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!

**Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's**

**Thank you to all who helped with the  
 First Holy Communion Mass and reception-  
 it was a beautiful celebration!**

**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.