

## Grow Unobserved

The farmer sows seeds in the earth and then waits. He will use a scythe (“blade”) to reap the crop when it is ready. Then he and his neighbors with him will gather it into piles, or “pooks” as they were called in England, so that the farmer by counting pooks could know how much grain to expect from his harvest. Next, threshing, separating the husks and straw from the grain, followed in older cultures by winnowing, which detached the heavier grain from the lighter chaff.

This is the process described to me by an Irish friend as we drove around his country. He said this older method promoted community among farmers as they helped one another. The invention in America of the combine in the early 19th century made it possible for each farmer to reap, thresh and winnow all alone, using the combine harvester. Despite all their efficiency, giant machine-driven harvesting makes it possible to forget the mystery of growth and human effort, as well as community.

For his part, Jesus was much more interested in persons and the miracle of the yield. The first parable in the Gospel for Sunday shows us that. A farmer scatters seeds on the land and waits. His ordinary life then continues. He would

sleep and rise  
night and day,  
and through it all  
the seed would sprout and grow,  
he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit,  
first the blade, then the ear,  
then the full grain in the ear.

Jesus gives quiet admiration to this act of life. Seeds begin as tiny morsels and become, by the time the farmer can discern, sprouts. Then they burgeon into a whole field of crops, finally ready for harvest. The farmer has waited modestly for the mysterious process to take place. Jesus compares this everyday miracle to the Kingdom of God. The Catholic Encyclopedia says the Kingdom of God is “a tone of mind (Luke 17:20-21),” that “stands for an influence which must permeate men's minds if they would be one with [Jesus] and attain to his ideals” (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 646, “The Kingdom of God”). The seeds of love are planted in human souls and grow up unobtrusively, easy to miss, as each person sleeps and wakes.

In the second parable the humility of the seed is apparent. Jesus says that a mustard seed is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. In fact it was not, so I am told. Smaller still are the petunia, the begonia and orchid seeds. But the tiny mustard seed (the size of a pinhead) unassumingly grows to be a great shrub or even a tree, one that is taller than a man's head! The white mustard species grew to ten or twelve feet with a stem the size of a man's arm! It was well known in Israel.

How does this apply to the Kingdom of God? Well, we are small. The movements of the Spirit in us are so modest as to be nearly disregarded. Yet if we are patient, if we watch for growth within us, in winter and in spring rain, the Spirit gradually will surge up and will give us the yield of much fruit.

It is a miracle of growth in plants and trees, but even more in the goodness and grace that is God's kingdom in us.

John Foley, SJ

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 17th, 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  
Fr. Bryce Lungren.....Associate Pastor  
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

.....  
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 June 18th through June 24th:**

- Mon: 1 Kgs 21:1-16; Ps 5:2-3, 5-7; Mt 5:38-42
- Tue: 1 Kgs 21:17-29; Ps 51:3-6, 11-16; Mt 5:43-48
- Wed: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Ps 31:20-21, 24; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thur: Sir 48:1-14; Ps 97:1-7; Mt 6:7-15
- Fri: 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Ps 132:11-14, 17-18; Mt 6:19-23
- Sat: 2 Chr 24:17-25; Ps 89:4-5, 29-34; Mt 6:24-34
- Sun: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's**

**6/24/18**

**9:00 Mass**

Lector: Melissa Brown

Extraordinary Ministers: Jim & Theresa Cunningham

**5:00 Mass**

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

**Parish Collection**

6/10

\$2228.67

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

**Happenings:**

- 6/17: Rosary @ 8:20am  
Reception for Fr. Bryce  
after 9am Mass
- 6/22: Adoration & Mass
- 6/24: Soup Supper

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

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. July classes are scheduled for 7/2, 7/9 & 7/16

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.

**Favorite Page**

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

**Vita Nova Coffee**

The coffee shop is open Monday through Thursday from 2:30-5pm. Come enjoy a free cup of coffee!



**Praised be Jesus Christ.**

**Praise Him now and always!**

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

- 6/16: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Paul Sponheim
- 6/17: 9am St. Stephen's Father Bryce Lungren  
11am St. Joseph's Missa Pro Populo  
5pm St. Stephen's All fathers, grandfathers, uncles & godfathers
- 6/19: 7:15am St. Stephen's Special intention
- 6/20: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Joe Brown  
5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
- 6/21: 7:15am St. Stephen's Sheridan rosary makers
- 6/22: 5:00pm St. Stephen's John John Jenkins  
5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service



**Father Bryce Alexander Lungren**

Please join us in Eagle Hall after the 9am Mass today to congratulate Father Bryce! We will be having brunch and this will be a great time to receive a blessing from Father Bryce and help him celebrate his saying YES! to the call.

There will also be a reception after the 5pm Mass next Sunday (6/24) to give everyone a proper chance to receive a blessing and extend their congratulations to Father Bryce. The reception will be in conjunction with the monthly soup supper. Please join us in congratulating Father Bryce.



Congratulations to Cooper James Baldes & Angeline Rose Medina who are being baptized today! Welcome to our church family!

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

**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.

**Religious Education**

For those students who started but were unable to finish classes please call or talk to Sister Teresa now to make arrangements to finish classes. Thanks.