

### Thanks

I was out for a drive in the beautiful weather. The city had its usual non-country and somewhat ruined appearance, and I was merely doing shopping chores. Suddenly, unexpectedly, simple gratitude came upon me. Not earth-shaking, not the result of complicated reasoning, just a modest, gentle joy. I looked in admiration at my hands, which work reasonably well. I thought of the friends in my life, the special ones.

Without being prompted, I said out loud the words, "thank you."

Later, this very quiet event had a conclusion: Gratitude is a springboard for giving back.

The primary motivation for giving is gratitude.

Another example, too personal I suppose. I have wide-set eyes. I have never been able to look through both lenses of any set of binoculars. For years my brother had set his mind to solving this problem and he came up with results that almost worked but never quite. Miraculously, even as I was writing this very reflection, a birthday present came in the mail. You guessed it, a set of binoculars.

But don't get excited, these did not fit either. I could look out of either one lens or the other, not both at the same time. Hoping against hope I wrestled with widening the distance between the arms and it got complicated. By accident I narrowed the distance instead of widening it. Suddenly I could see with both eyes! These binoculars at their widest were too wide for me!!!! With its arms narrowed I could see, and that meant seeing in 3D as well!

I love the binoculars, of course, but more, I imagined my brother sending them to me, his face holding back a grin. I was grateful to him and for him. That gratitude makes me want to do something for him in return.

Put simply, the primary motivation for giving is gratitude.

How does this apply? We must ask why Amos responded so boldly in the First Reading.

Amos, the prophet, who was a shepherd and "dresser of sycamores," found that God wanted him for a new job. No more watching the flock, no more pruning the trees. Now he was to be a visionary: someone who would prophesy to the people. Of course Amos dropped everything and went off to Bethel (about 10 miles North of Jerusalem) where he preached fire and brimstone against the way of life he saw in them. As a result the head priest of Bethel threw this rebel out of the city, but get this, Amos went south to Judah and sermonized there.

Why?

Perhaps the fierce, quiet landscape of the country had opened him and had let God give to him. In that case, his preaching was an act of gratitude.

We can say this same thing for the apostles in the Gospel. They were men of action so they probably did not actively notice that they were becoming grateful to Jesus. But they did have a growing realization of what he was giving to them, and quietly they loved him more and more. When he told them to go out and preach and banish demons, they knew that the mission fit them. He had found a way for them to begin seeing with both eyes. If so, their gratitude was the reason for going where he sent them.

Let's us keep our eyes open too. We are very much loved.

And ready to be sent.

John Foley,

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 15, 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

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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 July 16th through July 22nd:

Mon: Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21,23; Mt 10:34-11:1  
 Tue: Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24  
 Wed: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27  
 Thur: Is 26:7-19, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-21; Mt 11:28-30  
 Fri: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; (Ps) Is 38:10-12, 16; Mt 12:1-8  
 Sat: Mt 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21  
 Sun: Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

### Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 7/22/18

#### 9:00 Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

Extraordinary Ministers: Jim & Theresa Cunningham

#### 5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

#### Parish Collection

7/8 \$2270.74  
*"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola*

#### Happenings:

7/15: Rosary @ 8:20am  
Coffee and donuts  
 7/20: Adoration & Mass  
 7/21: Music Practice 3pm  
 8/19: Tri-parish picnic:  
Hosted by Holy Rosary

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

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Next classes will be in September.  
 If you have questions regarding baptism or religious education classes for the fall, please call the religious education office (856-7806 ext. 16).

**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 share their talent!

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!

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

7/14: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Justin Lee  
 7/15: 9am St. Stephen's +Glenn Charles Heiser  
 11am St. Joseph's +John Willow, Sr.  
 5pm St. Stephen's Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)  
 7/17: 7:15am St. Stephen's Lucy Willow  
 7/18: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Ruth Embleton  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service  
 7/19: 7:15am St. Stephen's D.J. Cunningham  
 7/20: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Victor Family  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service  
 7/21: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)  
 7/22: 9am St. Stephen's  
 11am St. Joseph's Dave Beard  
 5pm St. Stephen's Jimmy Vanvleet



Bishop Steven invites Catholic high school students from the Diocese of Cheyenne who graduate in 2019, 2020, or 2021 and their parents to participate in a pilgrimage to Italy. The pilgrimage will be June 14-24, 2019 and the cost is \$4,895 per person. All details including trip inclusions, criteria for attending, itinerary, and the registration packet are available at <http://www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/youth.html>. Space is very limited, and registrations are being accepted on a first come first serve basis. For questions contact Maria at [mward@dioceseofcheyenne.org](mailto:mward@dioceseofcheyenne.org).



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

## 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.

**Praised be Jesus Christ.**

**Praise Him now and always!**