

Shocking

Jesus has been distressing the disciples by his words, at least in John's Gospel. For instance, last week he said we have to consume his flesh and blood in order to have eternal life. His followers could not possibly have understood this. They whispered, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

This Sunday his words would make it harder still.

Does this shock you?

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. . . .

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life

and no longer accompanied him (Gospel).

A sad scene, and puzzling too. Why is Jesus saying such mystifying things to his followers, and, just as a side issue, how are we ourselves supposed to understand them today? Do they make sense?

Here is a key: whenever an event or saying does not seem to make complete sense in the Gospel of John, we have to seek deeper meanings. There is often a delicious significance hidden behind events that John describes in a bewildering way.

Alright then, what does he mean in the line 5 and 6 of the Gospel reading by what seems like a non sequitur:

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

What?

Well, likely, he was talking about the Ascension. Where was the "before"? We know that he had been in the bosom of the Holy Trinity! God's love had leaned out to us in Christ's life, death and resurrection. At that point Jesus had to "go to the next life." He was still a human being, as well as divine. He was telling them that if eating his body and blood was shocking to you, wait till you see me ascend into heaven!

Then the words a few lines later, "It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is to no avail."

We already celebrated the Ascension. There, Jesus said he would not desert us but would be present on earth in a new form. The third person of the Trinity would come to dwell within people who believe. Since the members of the Trinity share everything they are with each other, Christ would be within the Holy Spirit. That Spirit would offer to live deep within each believer, within each human who says yes to its presence.

How then do we acquire the Holy Spirit? Through Baptism, definitely. And of course, as in Jesus' command from last week, by eating and drinking his body and blood. Communion lets us "become what we have eaten," the body of Christ. We are to let Christ have flesh again, in our hearts and in our actions. By communing each week, each day, we are more and more carriers of Christ. When we are part of the "Body of Christ," we therefore have eternal life, as he told his followers in this week's Gospel.

Peter sums it up. "We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Let us make that statement too. Let us open wide to this Holy One of God as we celebrate Mass this Sunday.

Let us become bearers of the Word to the world.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time August 26, 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

332-9090

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 August 27th through September 2nd:

- Mon: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-5; Mt 23:13-22
- Tue: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13; Mt 23:23-29
- Wed: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mk 6:17-29
- Thur: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51
- Fri: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13
- Sat: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21; Mt 25:14-30
- Sun: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's

9/2/18

9:00 Mass

Lector: Carol Kellogg
 Extraordinary Ministers: Linda Bebout, Laura Mamot, Jim Cunningham

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed
 Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection
8/19 \$1476.93
<i>"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Corinthians 9"7</i>

Happenings:

- 8/26: Rosary @ 8:20am
 Coffee and donuts after the 9am Mass
 Soup Supper after 5pm Mass
- 9/1: Music Practice 3pm

Soup Supper

Please join us for the monthly soup supper today after the 5pm Mass. Bring a soup to share if you can but please join us for fellowship!

We will not be taking any donations for the thrift "store" and are planning a clothing giveaway in September.

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 on 9/10, 9/17 and 9/24 @ 5:30pm.
 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.

Music Ministry

A reminder of the importance of participation during the liturgy: "Music does what words alone cannot do. It is capable of expressing a dimension of meaning and feeling that words alone cannot convey. While this dimension of an individual musical composition is often difficult to describe, its affective power should be carefully considered along with its textual component."

Praised be Jesus Christ.

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

- 8/25: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Sue Tamburino
- 8/26: 9am St. Stephen's Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)
 11am St. Joseph's +Mike Bearing
 5pm St. Stephen's +Cathleen Galitz
- 8/28: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Irene Miller
- 8/29: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Sarah & Ray
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
- 8/30: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Verna Thunder
- 8/31: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Leo Montoya
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
- 9/1: 9:00am St. Stephen's First Saturday
 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)
- 9/2: 9am St. Stephen's +Leslie Six Toes
 11am St. Joseph's +Mike Bearing
 5pm St. Stephen's +Mary Addison

"Love calls us in. Love opens hearts, expands them, helps us to stand tall in our own goodness. Love shows us the beautiful variety of colors, textures, tastes, smells, sounds that are part of our world, even in the midst of the blacks and grays."

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. Thank you!

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!

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.