

## Endlessly Softly

Doesn't the word "falling" describe our lives? Falling into debt, falling from faith, falling into blazing temperatures, or freezing ones, or happening into fallen youths, saying "what shall we believe in?" And the fall of that one true foundation of society, the family?

The First Reading talks about a time like ours. God had pulled his people out of ancient captivity by sending them on a 40-year "exodus" ("wandering") from Egypt. But in the difficult journey and fierce heat, things had begun to collapse. The freed people began to scorn and censure Moses and Aaron, their leaders. They actually said that they would rather have been killed in the land of Egypt—which at least had flesh-pots to eat from—than to starve, wandering, through the desert.

And how does anyone face the "falling apart" of the world?

Maybe these words of Annie Lamott hold a key:

When a lot of things start going wrong all at once, it is to protect something big and lovely that is trying to get itself born . . . and this something needs for you to be distracted so that it can be born as perfectly as possible.\*

In that ancient, 40 year "exodus," something very big and lovely was trying to be born. God was holding the people's "falling to pieces" gently. He sent a huge flock of quail for meat, and also "bread from heaven" (manna) from the skies.

The Gospel for Sunday flows straight out of this incident. The crowd that Jesus had fed grumbled to him:

Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written. "[But Moses] gave them bread from heaven to eat." What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?

A strange question, since only the day before Jesus had multiplied five barley loaves till there was enough to feed this very same huge crowd. Did they forget in one day?

Jesus replied, "It was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven." God sends the manna, God sends Jesus, the true manna. God holds it all in his kindly hands.

There is a poem by the German poet, Reiner Maria Rilke, which may apply here. If you will indulge me, I will quote it. It is called "Autumn."

The leaves are falling, falling as if from afar,  
as if from some far garden in the sky.

They fall with gestures of denial.

And in the nights the heavy earth falls

out of all the stars, in the loneliness.

We all fall. This hand, here, falls.

And look at the rest: it is in everything.

And yet, there is one, who holds all this falling  
endlessly softly

in his hands.\*\*

Perhaps the careening earth, the crushing human affairs, everything that falls apart, all of it, every bit of it, perhaps it has behind it something big and lovely trying to get itself born.

There is really no other answer to the continuing state of the world, the failures of our lives, the dropping away of opportunities, the shattering economy, the terrible leadership—no answer at all unless those supporting hands make our falling safe somehow and support it with tenderness.

So, instead of despairing, let us wait and let us help in the birth.

Perhaps something most lovely is being born.

John Foley, SJ

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 5, 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 6th through August 12th:

Mon: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10  
 Tue: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-23, 29; Mt 14:22-36  
 Wed: Jer 31:1-7; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Mt 15:21-28  
 Thur: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 16:13-23  
 Fri: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26  
 Sat: Hb 1:12-2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20  
 Sun: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51

### Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 8/12/18

#### 9:00 Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

Extraordinary Ministers: Linda Bebout & Laura Mamot

#### 5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

#### Parish Collection

7/29

\$1878.56

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

#### Happenings:

8/5: Rosary @ 8:20am  
Coffee and donuts  
8/8: Parish Council Meeting  
@ St. Joseph's  
8/11: 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).

#### Tri-Parish Picnic

Holy Rosary in Lander is hosting this summer's tri-parish picnic on August 19th. Everyone is invited to attend the Sunday 10am Mass and the picnic will be after Mass. Parishioners from St. Stephen's are asked to bring a side dish (salad, beans, fruit salad, vegetables etc.); parishioners from St. Joseph's are asked to bring chips (potato chips, dip, pretzels, etc...); and Blessed Sacrament parishioners are asked to bring drinks (bottled water, soda, tea, etc...). Everyone is asked to bring their own chairs. Please plan on attending and joining in the fellowship!



#### 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:

8/4: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Lindsey Lee  
 8/5: 9am St. Stephen's +Cathleen Galitz  
 11am St. Joseph's Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)  
 5pm St. Stephen's +Bronislawa Szupica  
 8/7: 7:15am St. Stephen's Special Intention  
 8/8: 5:00pm St. Stephen's  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service  
 8/9: 7:15am St. Stephen's Ron Mischke  
 8/10: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Harry E. Quirk  
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service  
 8/11: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament  
 8/12: 9am St. Stephen's Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)  
 11am St. Joseph's  
 5pm St. Stephen's +Cathleen Galitz

*It takes a person of great heart to see...the wisdom the elders have to offer, and so serve them out of gratitude for the life they have passed on to us."*  
 Kent Nerburn



Transfiguration of the Lord

## 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.