

Getting Ready For Getting Ready

Jagged and dark.

These are the kind of images you will find in the readings for Sunday. They are called “apocalyptic literature.” *

For instance,

Some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

A time unsurpassed in distress.

The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Why such terrible imagery, especially now with beautiful Advent just two weeks away?

One reason, of course, is so that there might build within us a specific need for relief, for the coming of the simple Christ baby.

Recall that in our 21st century we find the opposite: competing ideologies striving to take over, and leaders more than willing to approve them. Look at the advertising world: shampooing your hair will make you ecstatic (with a corn-cob-eating grin on your face as you use the product).

Casual sex without commitment—taken for granted and very often illustrated. Free cable movies freely practicing the blasphemous use of God’s and Jesus’ name, for no real reason, even while censoring out words referring to bodily functions. And so on.

Of course, on top of such dehumanizing media forces, the world is faced with crises every bit as bad as apocalyptic literature might suggest. Real threats of unrecoverable climate changes, economic crises that more than wreck people’s lives, toxic wastes, holes in the ozone layer, tsunami and hurricanes, shootings and killings, just to start the list.

Our readings do contain a few grains of hope. At the end of the First Reading we find a tempting promise of rescue:

... the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,
and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

This passage can bring us peace—
and a problem.

When the greatest tribulations in history are staring us in the face, should we be nourished by such lovely words?

Maybe we should get hyper-active instead. We should reform video games, television, movies, digital anarchy, recordings, and so on. Then stop spending money of the poor on luxuries that 50 years ago no one could have even imagined. And reinstate honesty and fairness instead of greed as the goal in life. Work harder to care for individuals and families who otherwise have no chance.

Shine brightly by helping rightly.

The problem with this reasoning is not at all that it is wrong. It is right. But how can you or I have any effect on the enormity of today’s situation?

First, get smart. Examine carefully what you are able to do and with what effect. You are not helpless, no matter how you feel.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Second, let your courage rest in divine help. Remember that famous passage from Jeremiah: I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you and bring you back (Jer 29:11).

That is what Advent will aim towards. This Sunday’s purpose is to help us wait for the Advent waiting.

John Foley, SJ

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 18, 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

.....
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 November 19th through November 25th:

Mon: Rv 1:1-4, 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43
 Tue: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10
 Wed: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 15:1-6; Lk 19:11-28
 Thur: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1-6, 9; Lk 19:41-44
 Fri: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48
 Sat: Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1-2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40
 Sun: Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8-11; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's
 11/25/18**

9:00 Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham
 Extraordinary Ministers: Laura Mamot, Tom Kasper, Carol Kellogg

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed
 Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

11/11 \$2697.72
"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

Happenings:

11/18: Rosary @ 8:20am
 Coffee and donuts after the 9am Mass
 RelEd classes
 11/22: Thanksgiving Mass 9am
 11/23: No Mass today
 11/24: Music practice 3pm
 11/25: Soup Supper after the 5pm Mass

St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Classes for November continue on 11/19.

Bishop Steven will celebrate the 5pm Mass at St. Stephen's on November 28th. There will be a listening session in Eagle Hall after the 5pm Mass along with a carry-in dinner. Please bring a dish to share (we will be having soup and frybread) if you can but definitely join us!

Mark the 25th Anniversary Calendar

During November, we are called in a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. There will be a book at the entrance of the church for parishioners to write the names of their beloved dead who will be remembered at a special Mass on 11/28.

Praised be Jesus Christ.

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

11/17: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Mass of reparation
 11/18: 9am St. Stephen's +George Watts
 11am St. Joseph's Holly, Halle & Selena
 5pm St. Stephen's For the people
 11/20: 7:15am St. Stephen's Northern Arapaho Tribe
 11/21: 5:00pm St. Stephen's +Mark Soldierwolf
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion service
 11/22: 9am St. Stephen's Thanksgiving Day (Benefactors of SSIM)
 11/23: 5:00pm St. Stephen's No Mass
 5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service
 11/24: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Rita Barnes
 11/25: 9am St. Stephen's +Mary Herrera on her birthday in heaven
 11am St. Joseph's For the people
 5pm St. Stephen's

The parish council would like to again have a Children's Mass here at St. Stephen's during Christmas. If you would be interested in helping please see Theresa Cunningham during coffee and donuts! Thanks and God Bless!

Recently it has come to Bishop Steven's attention that a woman, Jennie Spin, has been presenting herself to parishioners in various parts of the state as Sister Jennie Spin, a Third Order Religious, wearing a full habit.

Religious who are working in the diocese are to have a written agreement between the diocesan bishop and their religious superior detailing the works the religious is undertaking and various aspects associated with it. There is no such agreement. Therefore, she cannot be allowed to minister within the Diocese of Cheyenne. Please allow this to serve as an alert to all parishes and missions within the diocese.

Remember this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to listen but slow to human anger. James 1:19

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 332-9090 to schedule classes.

Religious Education Classes

Classes are during the 11am Mass.

Confirmation

Confirmation class begins promptly after the 11am Mass.