

Why do we have Advent?

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You say, "I don't know, it always just comes along," or, "I don't know, no one ever told me." I have heard these answers and others, a number of times. Especially this one: if Christ has already been born, what is this Advent "waiting" about? Have we forgotten that he is already born, and a long time ago?

Strangely that is part of the answer. It does have to do with his birth long ago, but also into our hearts today. And our forgetfulness as well.

Our hearts get drowsy and lazy, tired out by the anxieties of daily life. Maybe we distract ourselves from our troubles by working very hard, or becoming depressed, or becoming fascinated with drink, or sex, or out-of-control emotions, or gambling, or email, or golf, or surfing the web, or pride, or, or, or. Whatever it is for you, the very clear message of Advent is, "Settle down for a while." Open the door just a crack to let God in. Jesus is to be born again.

Something you may not have noticed. The Church has a liturgical strategy in the Advent Sunday readings. Each week's First Reading is the carrot: usually positive, a promise of good. Then the Gospel hits you with a big stick to wake you up.

Take the encouraging First Reading this Sunday. It reminds us of the promise God has made to his people: rightness and justice will come to the earth. Security. The day of the Lord will arrive, though long delayed. Peace in our day.

What a lovely thing it is to think of such a time. Too good to be true? Just pious thought? Read the First Reading now and ask yourself those questions. Spend time with them. Pray to God for help. The Responsorial Psalm will help you. It asks God to make known his ways to us, to guide us and to teach us.

The Second Reading urges us to put God's promise of peace into action, even if we are not yet sure what it means. Love others and be loved.

Ah, and then the Gospel. It tries to wake us up, especially if the above has not helped. "But I am perfectly awake," you say. Alright then, go ahead and read the Gospel. It is the "stick."

Signs in the sun, moon and stars, nations in dismay, the roaring of the sea and the waves, people dying of fright, and the Son of Man appearing in the clouds with power and great glory.

Terrifying?

So you are all ready for it? Let yourself imagine what it might be like. Picture it scene by scene and don't worry about being exact. Just experience it.

Will such a shakeup really happen literally? We do not know.

Maybe much worse is to come, judging from the state of the world today. Do you live without fear of terrorist acts, of proliferating nuclear weapons, of a horrific climate change, of a crash of the entire world economy, of amateur leadership at the top, or the greed that fills so many hearts to overflowing in your city, in your state, your world?

If you can say "You are right, I am afraid of these," then go back to the Responsorial Psalm and pray. Beg that Christ be given birth in your soul and in so many others in this world that need it so badly.

Welcome to Advent.

John Foley, SJ

First Sunday of Advent December 2, 2018

St. Stephen's Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

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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 McMahan.....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!
.....

*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 December 2nd through December 9th:

- Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-12, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wed: Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
- Thur: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
- Sat: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Sun: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's
12/9/18**

9:00 Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown
Extraordinary Ministers: Laura Mamot, Tom Kasper, Carol Kellogg

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed
Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

11/25 \$1540.42

"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:

- 12/2: Rosary @ 8:20am
Coffee and donuts after the 9am Mass
RelEd classes
- 12/5: PFC Meeting 5:45pm
- 12/7: Vigil Masses:
5pm St. Stephen's
6:30pm St. Joseph's
- 12/8: 9am Holy Day Mass
Music Practice 3pm

Penance Services 6pm:
12/18 St. Stephen's
12/19 St. Margaret's
12/21 Holy Rosary



St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Classes for December are 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17.

Thank you to all those who attended Mass with Bishop Steven as the celebrant. Thank you also to those who helped with the dinner and those who attended the listening session. Everything went so, so well!



Theresa Cunningham is coordinating the Angel Tree (the "angels" are children whose parent(s) are incarcerated this Christmas). Thank you for helping!

Please see Theresa Cunningham or Melissa if you would like to help organize the Children's Mass!

**Praised be Jesus Christ.
Praise Him now and always!**

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

- 12/1: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Mass of Reparation
- 12/2: 9am St. Stephen's For the people
11am St. Joseph's Poor souls in purgatory
5pm St. Stephen's Rosalie Jacobson for her birthday
- 12/4: 7:15am St. Stephen's Special Intention
- 12/5: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Tyla Brown on her 13th birthday
5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion service
- 12/6: 7:15am St. Stephen's +Fr. Frank Schmitt
- 12/7: 5:00pm St. Stephen's Mark & Eric Heiser (Vigil Mass)
6:30pm St. Joseph's For the people (Vigil Mass)
- 12/8: 9:00am St. Stephen's The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin
4:30pm Blessed Sacrament For the people
- 12/9: 9am St. Stephen's Celia Demarco
11am St. Joseph's Deceased member of Steve Kuzniar family
5pm St. Stephen's Deceased members of Morohovic family



WIN this bike Sister Monica is modeling!

Again, a generous couple from Sheridan has donated a wonderful mountain bike (Sister Monica can attest to the soundness of the bike!) to give away to a lucky young person in our parish. All youth who attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent will receive a free ticket and be eligible to win this bike. A lucky ticket will be drawn during coffee and donuts after Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please tell everyone and join us at Mass for your chance to win!

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation!

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.