

## Staying With

Sunday marks last day of the Church's Christmas season. Jesus' birth has now been celebrated. His public life comes next. His baptism begins it.

I know, I know, Christmas has been over for ages and we have gone on with life. The American custom is in force: just days to rip down decorations and go on to the next thing. But now we begin Jesus' public life, beginning with Baptism.

We hear the voice of God the Father speaking to him:\*

You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased (Gospel).

Wouldn't Jesus or anyone else want to hear such words over and over? The beloved of God! It is like having candy and circuses and ice cream and all your favorite things. God has settled upon you as his special one. Everything will be fine.

Except that "being fine" does not turn out to be the true meaning of being beloved.

Let me illustrate with a story.

I was visiting a Jesuit friend of mine in Washington DC, Pete, who is a prankster. He was in the kitchen cooking up homemade spaghetti. Lcky mess.

I asked him what time we were due to be somewhere or other, and he said "I don't know, but we can ask Joe." Joe was another Jesuit who on that Saturday was working at his job at an official Jesuit building. Pete put the kitchen phone on its speaker and floured in the phone number.

Joe answered and Pete said, "hi, how are you doing, Joseph?" Joe said, "just great." Pete said, "how wonderful, since you are spending your weekend working."

Joe came back semi-humorously and said, "No it is ok. God told me everything was going to be fine."

Without skipping a beat Pete said, "Yeah that's what he told his Son."

I was on the floor laughing at such a quick, piercing reply, seemingly delivered with no forethought at all.

But notice what is behind that joke. God does in fact tolerate pain and suffering for his beloved son on the cross. This is the other side of being "The Beloved" of God.

Suffering and temptation.

Jesus had gone to the desert to ponder the words he heard from the Baptist. But there the devil offered huge, slick temptations: be big, like me. Build up your earthly power and honor, use your new public status as "Beloved."

This was directly and deeply contrary to Jesus' mission, of course, but God let such a temptation happen.

Why?

Well, God is like a parent watching a teenager's growing pains. Help all you can, but definitely do not stop the growing. Temptation and suffering create an urgent need for a person to open up, to broaden their scope, to understand better what love is, to see that love does not mean God taking charge and making everything alright, but rather it means his staying with you, the beloved, continuing to love and admire you, but not just taking over. Love at its root means sharing another's life, not taking it over.

To paraphrase the Father's words at the Jordan:

Receive my love that never runs away, never lets go, even in the desert, even on the cross.

John Foley, SJ

## The Baptism of the Lord January 13, 2019

**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 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

.....  
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 January 14th through January 20th:

Mon: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20  
 Tue: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2a, 5-9; Mk 1:21-28  
 Wed: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39  
 Thur: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45  
 Fri: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12  
 Sat: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17  
 Sun: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

### Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 1/20/19

#### 9:00 Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

Extraordinary Ministers: Linda Bebout, Sister Monica, Carol Kellogg

#### 5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

#### Parish Collection

1/6 \$2647.29

*"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:

1/13: Rosary @ 8:20am  
Coffee and donuts  
after the 9am Mass

1/18: Adoration 3:45pm

1/19: Music Practice 3pm

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

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Classes for February will be posted next week.

Religious Education classes for K-8 grades will resume on January 20th!

Father Jim left for Rome on Thursday, January 9th and will return from his sabbatical on May 10th. Please keep him in your prayers while he is on sabbatical.

Father Hugo arrived safely at the Mission to assist Father Bryce with the Mass schedule and all other sacramental purposes in Fr. Jim's absence. Please welcome him!



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

1/12:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Rosalie Jacobson
1/13:	9am St. Stephen's	Debbie Delorme & Larry Mascaranez
	11am St. Joseph's	St. Francis Xavier Mission Circle Members
	5pm St. Stephen's	Liz Smith and family
1/15:	7:15am St. Stephen's	+Jean Watt
1/16:	5:00pm St. Stephen's	+Richard Shelton
	5:15pm St. Joseph's	Communion service
1/17:	7:15am St. Stephen's	+Tom Tourkolias
1/18:	5:00pm St. Stephen's	Fara Little Thunder
	5:15pm St. Joseph's	Communion service
1/19:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Sister Mary Spence
1/20:	9am St. Stephen's	Remacle Family in thanksgiving for the piano
	11am St. Joseph's	
	5pm St. Stephen's	+Jocelyn Watt

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual pro-life novena, 9 Days for Life, Monday, January 14 – Tuesday, January 22. Pray for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Download a free mobile app, or sign up to receive the novena through daily emails or text message. (A printable version is also available online.) Sign up at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

JOIN THOUSANDS AS WE PRAY FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN LIFE

9DAYSFORLIFE.COM

4 WAYS:

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

## Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism today!  
Congratulations to Kenzyn Beau Venne*

#### 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.