

## Light To The Nations

This Sunday we will hear that Christ alone is light to the people, to all the world (First Reading). Jesus' preaching, his life, his death and resurrection, are a revelation of God to every single person, no exceptions.

Alright, but how can this be?

What if God is present in other world religions? How can Jesus and his Christianity be the light of the world if other religions reach to God also? Is there not a contradiction here?

Whatever else the 9/11 bombing of New York's World Trade Towers did, it alerted many people in the United States to the reality of Islam, which had mostly escaped their attention. Tragically, just a few extremists brought this awareness, and they had very little to do with real Islam. Muslims are a great people who worship the same God that we Catholics and we Christians do. Their ideal, like ours, is love.

They do have terrible fanatics, as we do, who will kill to achieve domination. These, in the same way that the IRA did for a great while in Northern Ireland, are a very small percentage of a religion that pledges eternal fidelity to the one God. The Spirit of that God is present in Muslims and Jews as well as in Christians. As St. Paul will put it this Sunday, we are all "members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

The question of which religion contains God more than the others reminds me of kiddies asking their parents which child heir folks love the most. "If you love her more than me," one will say, "then you don't love me at all." Now, now, children, we love each one of you in a special way, a way that is perfect just for you.

Let us not ask which religion is the only true one. Let us not make all the others false—there is not really a competition. Religions are different approaches to God, and they each bring out a special aspect of who God is. Our jealousy and hatred of one another is an exact equivalent to dysfunctional families, in which each person has to fight to be recognized at all. Think of a world in which God loved only Christians and left all the others out in the cold.

A much better way is to look at how each religion and belief helps the others.

For its part, Christianity is a very special revelation to the world, because, in it, God enters the underside of human life. His suffering shows forth love in a way that is not full of rewards, but is still is crystal clear, instructive of just what the other ways need to hear. Because Jesus did not hesitate to suffer, even to suffer under the rule of sin, disgrace and death, he became a light to all nations. Not a light instead of other lights, not the light that puts all the others to shame, but the most rare and poignant one of all, whose glow gives fiber and strength and depth to each and every light that shines. So is one religion first?

Maybe, but Catholic Christians would do well to seek last place and try to be servant of all. Especially if we would like to know why, on this Epiphany, Christ is the light to all nations.

John Foley, SJ

## The Epiphany Of The Lord January 5, 2020

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

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PO Box 250

St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor  
Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330  
Patti McMahon.....Director of Religious Education

### Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

332-9090

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.....Past. Asst./Director of Religious Education

#### St. Stephens

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. Josephs, 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 6th through January 12th:**

- Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
- Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
- Thur: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
- Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
- Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
- Sun: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens**

**1/12/20**

**9:00 Mass**

Lector: Marilu Duncan  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Carol Kellogg, Sister Monica, Linda Bebout  
 Lector: Cindy Davis  
 Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

**Parish Collection**

12/29	\$2841.09
Solemnity of Mary Masses	\$342.00
<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:**

1/5: Rosary @ 8:20am  
 Coffee and donuts  
 after the 9am Mass  
 1/11: Choir practice 3pm

**St. Stephens Religious Ed/Baptism**

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Classes for January will be posted soon.  
 Religious Ed Classes will resume on 1/19/20.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Theresa Cunningham and Dominic Littlesfield for the frybread last week. Thank you also to the Needham family for hosting the Soup Supper, The Vincents and all those who brought soups! Thanks also to those who wash the linens, those who help with cleaning, Tom Kasper for making sure we have hot coffee, Steve Gora, Doug Bebout, Remacle Family, and Leillani Manguia for making sure we have music at Mass, Howard Brown for always sweeping or shoveling the snow on the steps to Eagle Hall, Steve Gresback and Sue Acres for assisting after Mass, Millie Shelton for all she does, our lectors, ushers and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, those who help after coffee and donuts and to those who do all the hidden things for our church. We appreciate you so much! May your kindness come back and bless your families as we are blessed by you all.

**HAPPY 2020!**

**Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week**

- 1/4: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Scott Smith
- 1/5: 9am St. Stephens Mary Ann Gora  
 11am St. Josephs Annie McKee  
 5pm St. Stephens For the people
- 1/7: 7:15am St. Stephens +Yvonne Romberger
- 1/8: 5:00pm St. Stephens +Lewis Heiser  
 5:15pm St. Josephs Communion Service
- 1/9: 7:15am St. Stephens Russ Millar
- 1/10: 5:00pm St. Stephens Pauline Boyd  
 5:15pm St. Josephs Communion service
- 1/11: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Special Intention
- 1/12: 9am St. Stephens For the people  
 11am St. Josephs +Taylor Powell  
 5pm St. Stephens +Edward LaMorte

**Christ Is Born!  
 Let Us Adore Him!**



"The smile is the rose of the world, the grace that settles over the world, embodying all three graces -brightness, good cheer, and bloom - in a delicate and gentle gesture. An unsmiling religion is anti-religion; ... Becoming religious is a matter of learning how to smile."  
*Hoping Against Hope (2015), by John D. Caputo, p 42*

**Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs**

**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.

All classes will continue on January 12, 2020

**Thank You**

Thanks to all who helped decorate at Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs for Christmas-also thanks for poinsettias and great food for receptions!