

No doubt, most of these were the same people who had attended his funeral a couple days before this.

The Gospel doesn't tell us what Lazarus saw or heard when he was on "the other side" during his death.

Up to this time, there had been no resurrection of the dead since Jesus hadn't died and hadn't risen from the dead Himself.

Lazarus didn't raise himself from the dead. He was raised from the dead through the power of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He then rose from the dead on the third day on His own power.

In our Catholic teaching on the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven, we teach that Mary went to sleep in the Lord and then was taken up into heaven through the power of Jesus Christ, and not through her own power.

Martha and Mary had gone through grieving the loss of Lazarus as he lay sick, then died, and was buried.

Even though Jesus raised Lazarus back to life, he would have to die again eventually. This means that Martha and Mary and all their friends would have to grieve the loss of their friend, Lazarus, to death for a second time.

The sister of Lazarus, Mary, had said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died."

This implies that Jesus was not present physically when Lazarus was sick and then died. True, Jesus wasn't present physically but He was present spiritually.

As you and I grieve the loss of a loved one, we can be assured that the Lord Jesus was present when our loved one was sick, and when he or she died.

Even though we may be tempted to pray hard so that our sick loved one doesn't die, yet each and every one of us will have to die a physical death someday.

None of us is able to escape dying. In New Orleans they have a saying, "Everybody wants to get into heaven but no one wants to die."

Even though we may wish and pray hard that a deceased loved one comes back to life again, we need to remember that eventually our loved one would have to die again, if they were to come back to life again.

At some point, we need to give our sick loved ones permission to die so that they can die in peace and not feel guilty about leaving their relatives and friends behind.

In simple words, we can tell our sick loved ones who are near death that it is okay for them to go to the Lord, that we will miss them when they are gone, and we will pray that we will be reunited again someday in heaven, God willing.

In the next life, there will be no more pain, no more suffering, no more separations. All human limitations will have come to an end in the next life.

The Gospel story today helps us get in touch with life and death, grieving the loss of loved ones, needing to repent of our sins, and preparing ourselves for our eventual physical death.

We also need to die spiritually by dying to the sin in our life. Lent is a time for dying spiritually with Christ so that we can rise with Christ on Resurrection Day.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of any of us what things the Lord has prepared in heaven for those who love Him.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

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Please view the Diocese of Cheyenne website dioceseofcheyenne.org as they have added a link that includes information on the Church's response to the coronavirus outbreak. There is also a link to view Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Steven.

Some of those responses include no daily Mass, no Sunday Mass, or Adoration and Stations of the Cross. All public meetings (including AA and Bible Study) normally held on the Mission grounds are also suspended until further notice. The gift shop is also closed. The office is closed to the public as we encourage everyone to stay home. There will be people still at the office making sure the church is clean and disinfected and although the office is closed to the public you may call and calls will be returned as soon as possible. These restrictions are necessary as it is imperative we are responsible and act in solidarity for the common good. Bulletins will be posted to the parish website at www.saintstephensmission.com.

Please remember the church is open for private prayer every day from 8am-7pm. Continue to pray for the end of this pandemic. God Bless!

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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 March 30th through April 5th:

Mon: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Tue: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-20
Wed: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thur: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Fri: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Sat: Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sun: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

Father Hugo is celebrating a PRIVATE Mass every day so the Mass for the scheduled intentions is still being celebrated. Please feel free to call and leave a message if you have an intention.

Mass Intentions this week

3/28:	Saturday	Jim Leonard
3/29:	Sunday	+Mary Lou Goggles Nephi
3/30:	Monday	Norma Higgs
3/31:	Tuesday	Danny Higgs
4/1:	Wednesday	Geraldine Warren
4/2:	Thursday	+Brother Llewellyn Kouba, OSB
4/3:	Friday	+Benedict & +Irene Benz
4/4:	Saturday	Mike Buffalo
4/5:	Sunday	For all people affected by COVID-19 or any serious illness, the elderly and homebound, as well as all medical personnel and caregivers for the sick.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always.

The church is open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. If you do come to pray individually, please protect yourself and others by following guidelines from the CDC. First, and foremost, if you are sick, stay home. When you enter the Church either wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use the hand sanitizer placed on the table and be certain to cover your entire hand. Avoid touching surfaces, and maintain a distance of at least six feet when other people are present.

Remember, you are not alone. We are on this journey together, and through courage and solidarity, we will strengthen our relationships with the Lord and with one another. Be not afraid, and place your trust in Jesus.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

St. Josephs church will be open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. No more than 10 people are to be in the church at one time. God bless!

5th Sunday of Lent – Cycle A Homily by Father Hugo L. Blotsky, O.S.B. March 29, 2020

Many Catholics believe that to have a loved one die during Lent is a special grace from God, but it is even a greater grace to be able to die during Holy Week. Their thinking is that since Lent is about preparing ourselves to die with Christ on Good Friday and then rising with Christ on Easter, there is no better way of preparing oneself for one's physical death.

In 2016, when Mother Angelica died on Easter Sunday, March 27th, Pope Benedict XVI said, "It's a gift that she was able to die on Easter Sunday." Pope Francis said, "She's in heaven." So, if I may suggest, if you are praying that you can die during Holy Week, ask the Lord to let you die on Easter Sunday.

When I was pastor of a parish and when we had a parishioner who was dying during Holy Week, I would ask them to ask the Lord to send us a sign that they made it into heaven. When one of our parishioners, Judy, was in the hospital near death, I said to her that when she gets to heaven that she ask the Lord to send us moisture since there was much drought in the area. I didn't say that we wanted moisture in the form of snow or rain. We got both snow and rain shortly after she died.

In the Gospel story of today, we read about Jesus' friend, Lazarus, who died and then was raised back to life again. He had been dead for four days and he had already been laid in a tomb.

When the sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, sent word to Jesus that his friend, Lazarus, was ill, they were asking for Jesus to come to Judea to see him. Jesus was nearly stoned to death the last time He was in Judea. To go back to Judea meant that the Jews might try again to stone Him to death.

By the time Jesus and His disciples arrived in Judea, Lazarus had already been dead for four days.

When Martha met Jesus upon His arrival in Judea, she said to Him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Martha and Mary led Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus had been laid. Jesus commanded Lazarus to come back to life. Lazarus came back to life and came out of the tomb with burial cloths wrapped around him.

Jesus tells them to untie Lazarus so that he can be set free.

Imagine the surprise of the people who were present when Lazarus came out of the cave. The Jews didn't bury their dead in a grave six feet under, they are buried above ground, or in a cave. The two Jewish cemeteries that I visited while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem in 1996 had all the bodies entombed above ground.

Nothing is said in the Gospel about what Lazarus' first words were when he saw his friends, two sisters, Jesus, and the neighbors at the entrance to the cave which was his tomb.