

Preparing To Go

The Sunday's Gospel has a touching story. It features Jesus' preparation of his disciples for his suffering and death!

What he says is in many ways too profound, too high minded for the disciples to understand. But let's take a look anyway.

It helps to see that the structure of the reading is fairly simple.

First Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Obviously they are upset, so it is a kindly directive. And second, he elaborates the reason they should not be upset, which is the essence.

His initiating statement is this: "You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

Notice the two levels of meaning: The first is practical: trust me, I am your friend.

But the second requires much more consideration: I am so much at one with God that you can believe in me in exactly the way you believe in God!

Jesus then uses one of his parable-like stories to clarify.

The Father has a house somewhere with a whole lot of rooms in it. Jesus has decided to go there and prepare a spot for each of the disciples. He will come back and take them to that place so that they and Jesus will all be together again. This is a supremely consoling image, isn't it?

But not to the disciples, who at this point are not ready to do without Jesus even for a few moments. Remember when Jesus had asked them if they were going to leave him, (John 6:60) and Peter had said, "Where would we go—you have the words of eternal life"? Now Jesus himself is the one leaving.

Again, two levels of meaning: First, where are you going? Second, you are so close to God that your death itself will be a going home to God. Help!

So he tries another explanation, extending the image. He says, "Where I am going you know the way."

Ah, at last a practical statement that even doubting Thomas can deal with. Thomas says, "Sure, we could find a map and locate a path and follow it. But look, we can't even know where you are going! Be practical!"

Jesus' statement was a play on words, not "practical" in Thomas' way. Jesus himself is "the way (the truth and the life)." This meaning is much deeper. The way to the Father is not a literal roadway but rather the person of Jesus!

Philip barks out, "Look, Master, just show us the Father and we will be satisfied"! Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

The apostles, practical and broken-hearted, hear mainly the pragmatic level. But Jesus coaches them on to the spiritual level.

And they are left as "ships passing in the night."

Don't you wish he could have said it more plainly, more simply?

Ok, but we are listening to the deepest mystery of the whole Christian faith—the way God can become a complete human being without ceasing to be God or human.

Jesus did his best to show it to the disciples in Sunday's Gospel, with images, story, and description. Maybe it is now up to us to cling to him in prayer and contemplative listening, so that we too can move toward the answer.

Even when we are not allowed to go to Mass!

John Foley, SJ

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

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Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

332-9090

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

Please view the Diocese of Cheyenne website dioceseofcheyenne.org as they have a plethora of information on the Church's continued response to the coronavirus outbreak. There is also a link to view Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Steven. The link is very helpful and provides many, many resources to join in prayer.

The gift shop is still closed. The office is closed to the public as we encourage everyone to stay home. You may call 851-2912 in an emergency otherwise calls to the parish office will be returned as soon as possible. These continued 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 May 11th through May 17th:

Mon: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
 Tue: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13b, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
 Wed: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
 Thur: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
 Fri: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-12; Jn 15:12-17
 Sat: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
 Sun: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1295
"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

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

Mass Intentions this week

5/9:	Saturday	+Loriel Espinosa
5/10:	Sunday	+Loriel Espinosa
5/11:	Monday	SathTa Prue
5/12:	Tuesday	+Loriel Espinosa
5/13:	Wednesday	+Edward LaMorte
5/14:	Thursday	+Loriel Espinosa
5/15:	Friday	Special intention
5/16:	Saturday	Frances Hummingbird Simmons
5/17:	Sunday	Alessa Brown on her high school graduation

The churches at St. Josephs and St. Stephens are open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. No more than 10 people are to be in the church at one time.

We will be moving towards offering Mass with 10 people (9 parishioners and the priest) if we are granted a variance from the Wind River Intertribal Council's Resolution closures of public spaces on the reservation. Once we do begin celebrating Mass again everyone who attends will be required to wear a mask for public safety. There is still a dispensation in place relieving all parishioners of the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday so please feel comfortable viewing Mass on the Diocesan website link or K2 television station. Please visit the website or call the parish office if you have any questions or would like to be added to the rotating list to attend Mass with a limited audience.

Due to the coronavirus, Shepherds of the Good Shepherd are unable to be in parishes to sell our Olive Wood carvings that support Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. Please consider visiting the following website to purchase a gift for an upcoming First Communion, Confirmation, or other special event. Thank you. www.shepherdsofthegoodshepherd.org

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Anna Bell

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He Is Risen!



Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of the Sick

You may call the office to schedule an appointment for confession. If there is no answer please leave your name and phone number and Father Jim or Father Hugo will return your call. Please do not schedule an appointment if you are sick, please wait until you are well to protect yourself and the priest. Priest and parishioner will be required to wear a mask and maintain a safe six foot distance during confession.

The Sacrament of the sick will still be available for those who are terminal and is now available to those who have an upcoming surgery. Please call the office if you or a loved one is in need of this sacrament.