

Ascension

He has been telling the apostles about his crucifixion and death, remember? The possibility of losing him had terrified them, as we saw.

But then he rose again.

This too was a shock, a huge one. It was “unbelievable” for many of them, in the full sense of that word.

Some simply refused to accept it! But in time they got over “resurrection-shock.” All of them, even Philip, could let go of the sorrows of Jesus’ crucifixion and death and have some real joy for a change.

And then he told them he was going away, this time forever.

He did not exactly tell them, he let them overhear his great prayer to the Father. (7 Easter Gospel) A really huge jolt. Whiplash material. First it involved insurmountable sorrow and loss, followed then by out-of-your-mind astonishment and joy, but resulting in goodbye forever.

Jesus’ great prayer in the Gospel for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is one very helpful way in which he consoled them. There he is praying not for the world but for the ones his Father gave him. His words aren’t about separation but just the opposite: the disciples are always to be with him, and with the Father as well, even to the end of time! You and I, just like the disciples, need a lot of time to understand this.

Here is what Jesus is saying, in one interpretation:

The Father and I are one. When you see me you see the Father.

And I will be one with you in the same way the Father is with me.

We all will be present to each other in the oneness of love.

Then a funny thing happens. Instead of breaking in with a clownish “couldn’t you just show us the Father and forget all this talk about unity and oneness,” Phillip begins to listen as Jesus prays in a remarkable way.

In essence, Jesus says,

they have accepted your words, Abba, and they truly understand the fact that I came from you. They believe that you sent me.

What is it that they have accepted and believed? It is the power of God’s love even amid departures and loss.

And something else, something we saw last week, but could not identify yet. Jesus was so wide open to God that the two were completely at one. “Whoever sees me sees the Father,” he said. That is a very deep description of such love.

How does this make sense to us?

We need to have the Holy Spirit of God come to us tenderly and lift us into flight so we can see how the risen Christ works.

From such a vantage point, maybe Jesus would say something like the following to us:

I have shown you who God is and who I am. Now I go, like all human beings, back to the Father—your Father and my Father. This Holy Spirit of God I have been describing? It is no fantasy. I am going to send it into you, and as often as you accept it you are one with me and with the Father.

Next week, on Pentecost, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. For now we are waiting. Let us drink a lot of spiritual coffee so that we will not sleep through it.

John Foley, SJ

Ascension Sunday

May 24, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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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.

The gift shop is still closed. The office is closed to the public as we encourage everyone to stay home per the Wind River Intertribal Council Resolution. 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 25th through May 31st:

Mon: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-5acd, 6-7b; Jn 16:29-33
 Tue: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
 Wed: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36a, 35bc-36b
 Thur: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
 Fri: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; Jn 21:15-19
 Sat: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4-5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
 Sun: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$767

"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 weekday 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

5/23:	Saturday	Intention of the priest
5/24:	Sunday	+Kathy Vincent
5/25:	Monday	+Brad Harris
5/26:	Tuesday	Keith Wade Spoonhunter, Jr. on his birthday
5/27:	Wednesday	+Darrel James Smith, Sr.
5/28:	Thursday	+Flossie Brown
5/29:	Friday	William Fox
5/30:	Saturday	+Beatrice Buckman
5/31:	Sunday	Poor souls in purgatory

As we continue moving forward to having Sunday Mass at St. Stephens, we will be limited to 9 people in attendance. If you would like to be added to the rotating list of parishioners for Mass please call the office or email the parish office. There will be 9 parishioners for each Sunday remaining in May. On June 7th we will move to having two Masses on Sunday. Please remember Bishop Steven's general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in effect for the duration of Mass attendance restrictions. Mass is available for viewing on K2 Television at 9am and/or you may watch via livestream on St. Margaret's or Holy Rosary's FB pages.

Face masks will be required at Mass, use hand sanitizer, please refrain from exchanging handshakes during the Sign of Peace and maintain at least six feet apart from parishioners (except if you are in the same household) including processing to receive the Eucharist. If you are not feeling well and are scheduled to attend Mass please stay home and call the office so we can switch you with another parishioner until you feel well. Please keep our church family safe.

The churches at St. Josephs and St. Stephens are open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. No more than 9 people are to be in the church at one time.

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He Is Risen!

Prayer of Pope Francis during the pandemic:

O Mary,
 you always shine on our path
 as a sign of salvation and of hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
 You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need,
 and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.
 Amen.

St. Stephens Graduation is today at noon and can be heard on 93.1



Lord, on this "commencement" day, let there be a beginning of my life. In the days of darkness, be my Light so that in turn I can radiate your truth and your message of love, hope, and joy. In the days of blandness and of blahs, Lord, be my Salt, so that in turn I can fend off the corruption, the staleness, the mediocrity around me. In the days when I am flat on my back or fall flat on my face, Lord, be my Leaven, so that not only can I rise again, but also raise the downhearted to the celebration of your Love. And Lord, thank You, for the school years, for the talents I received. Amen.

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.