

God's Love

Jesus encourages us in Sunday's Gospel.

Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid.

God loves each of us down to the tiniest detail! God's is infinite, so he has an infinite amount of time and space for each person on earth, and above, and under the earth.

Here is a corollary to that reality. It concerns our ability to receive the love of God. Each human being is created to be a dwelling place for God and his love. We can never be truly human unless the greatest value in each of our lives is to receive the love of God and give it to the people around us.

I realize that our culture would never buy such a proposition. On television we see people seeking ease, beauty, convenience, pleasure and so on. Quite often, on cable and broadcast channels, one could conclude that the human person is made for one purpose only: comfort, and especially sex.

Someone has said that commercials, without realizing it, are built to encourage the seven Capital Sins (pride, gluttony, avarice, lust, sloth, envy and anger).*

We human beings get attached to many things and mesmerized by them. But if each of us is created to be a place where God and his love can dwell, then any other fascination we have should be indulged only in proportion to this reality, and put aside if it begins to take over God's place. If I am attached to wealth, or my stamp collection, or my good looks, or drugs, or even my mate—in a way that makes God's love take second (or third or fiftieth) place—then my life is disordered and I am headed for a fall.

That is the corollary. How do you react to it?

You mean I am to love God only and not care about my friends, my family, music, sports, food, health, etc.? Not care about anything except God?

Not at all. Healthy love of all these things has its roots in love of God. All things get their own individual value from God's indwelling. Each person, each blade of grass receives its full value of love because it proceeds from God's gentle hand.

But I can hear the reader saying right now that this is much too difficult. So many things get in the way. Have a look through your life and see how often you forget God, who is your source. Peter, for his part, remembered that he had actually deserted Jesus at least three times and he said "Leave me, Lord, I am a sinful man."

How many times have you and I needed to say the same thing?

Are you saying that maybe this corollary really applies just to people who never sin?

Not at all. God has said throughout the ages, "If you sin, I will love you. I will not leave you." The cross of Jesus is the ultimate statement of that truth. God's love remains constant and precious in spite of the rampant sin in all of us and in each of us. His love will help us get closer to the goal.

Rejoice. No matter how many hairs you have on your head, God's love does not go away.

Just receive it.

John Foley, SJ

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 21, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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

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 penitent 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.

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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 June 22nd through June 28th:

- Mon: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
- Tue: 1 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14
- Wed: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80
- Thur: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Mt 7:21-29
- Fri: 2 Kgs 25:1-12; Ps 137:1-6; Mt 8:1-4
- Sat: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Mt 8:5-17
- Sun: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$670
"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

THANK YOU to all the parishioners who continue to tithe and mail their donations. We appreciate it. God bless!

Mass Intentions this week

- 6/21: Sunday All Fathers
Sunday For the people
- 6/22: Monday
- 6/23: Tuesday
- 6/24: Wednesday James Cole & Family
- 6/25: Thursday Sarah Cole
- 6/26: Friday
- 6/27: Saturday
- 6/28: Sunday +Kyle Her Many Horses
Sunday For the people

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

As we continue moving forward and celebrate 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. On June 7th we moved 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.

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office. Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for Mass.

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.

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Ryan Monroe, Sr.

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

Value/Practice	Understanding and Application
<p>Preferential Option for the Poor & Vulnerable</p>	<p>Christ showed compassion to the poor and needy, identifying himself with the "least." He said, "Whatever you did to the least brothers of mine, you did to me." (Mt. 25). In the pandemic, the most vulnerable include the sick, elderly, homebound, those with health conditions, the unemployed, the uninsured, minorities, etc. Do I act in a way that is mindful of Christ who dwells in the least? Do I promote the principle of "survival of the fittest", or do I treat the weakest members of society with the preferential love of God?</p>
<p>Communion in Christ</p>	<p>We need to prioritize our communion in the Body of Christ over the prevailing social discourse that segments people into parties, camps, or ideologies. Unity is greater than uniformity; yet, to preserve the health of all, we are called to practice unity to ensure our Communion as the local Church of Wyoming. How does our communion with those who will join us only if they feel safe, or who cannot join us in liturgy, guide our decisions about how we celebrate the sacraments?</p>