

He Said *What?*

Had you ever noticed the number of flat-out contradictions in scripture? For example,

- the last shall be first;
 - lose your life to find it;
 - take the lowest seat if you want to have the highest;
 - the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served;
 - a virgin will conceive;
- and,
- if you are an old woman with an old husband, you will have a child.

and so on.

To begin with, if we want to be first, we would have to get to the front of the line, not the end of it. And, if we want to be alive, we must make some moves not to lose our lives. These are common sense.

Instead, this Sunday's readings are introducing us, gently and partially, to ways in which such common sense opinions do not go deep enough.

In the First Reading a distinguished lady in the little village of Schunem shows great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, even to the point of building and furnishing a little room on the roof of her house with a bed, table, chair, and lamp for him for whenever he visits. She is childless, yet Elisha promises that in one year she will be fondling her own baby son. She is shocked. But the promise comes true.

Then, when the boy becomes a young man, he suddenly dies (2 Kings 4:18-37). Elisha comes from twenty miles away and brings him back to life.

Life is given twice where there was no hope of life; death triumphing but life restored. Contradictory. Is this the way of the Lord?

Then in the Second Reading, St. Paul writes to the Church in Rome that they are baptized into Christ's death and are buried with him!

A grim statement. But then he says, if we die with Christ, we shall also live with him, shall live a life in God (Second Reading).

Die in order to live?

In the Gospel Jesus makes a most enigmatic statement: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

No matter how we try to explain that statement away and neuter its content, it still means what it says. Losing your life is the only way to possess it. Letting go is the only way to hold on. How can such contrary claims simultaneously be true?

I want to suggest a metaphor. A glass has to start out empty in order to succeed as a glass. If it is sealed up, or if it is solid, or if it is already full, nothing can be poured in. Does this sound like one more contradiction? No. A container has to be empty if it is to be filled.

The same goes for us. We have to be empty, like earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us. This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday.

We have to empty out if we are to be filled up with God's gifts.

John Foley, SJ

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 28, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 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.

.....
♦ 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 June 29th through July 5th:

Mon: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
 Tue: Am 3:1-8, 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-8; Mt 8:23-27
 Wed: Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:7-13, 16b-17; Mt 8:28-34
 Thur: Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 9:1-8
 Fri: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1b-2; Jn 20:24-29
 Sat: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17
 Sun: Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$2788

“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 who have continued to make financial contributions to St. Stephens Indian Mission through these most trying times! God Bless!

Mass Intentions this week

6/28:	Sunday	+Kyle Her Many Horses
	Sunday	For the people
6/29:	Monday	
6/30:	Tuesday	
7/1:	Wednesday	
7/2:	Thursday	
7/3:	Friday	
7/4:	Saturday	
7/5:	Sunday	Dr. Greg Marino
	Sunday	For the people

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

As we continue to celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Stephens, we are still limited to 9 people in attendance as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council’s resolution. 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 safely 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 family of the deceased:

+Hubert Redman

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
Solidarity	<p>In the Encyclical <i>Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</i>, Pope Saint John Paul II described solidarity in the following way: “It is above all a question of interdependence, . . . a system determining relationships in the contemporary world, in its economic, cultural, political and religious elements, and accepted as a moral category. When interdependence becomes recognized in this way, the correlative response as a moral and social attitude, as a ‘virtue,’ is solidarity. [It] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of . . . people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all” (38).</p> <p>How might we increase in clergy and laity alike a “firm and persevering determination” to the common good, that is, to fellow Catholics and to society-at-large, fellow citizens of the state and nation?</p>
Co-responsibility	<p>By Baptism, every Catholic is co-responsible for the mission of Christ. Every disciple is co-responsible for our communion in Christ, the common good, protection of the vulnerable, the health of all, etc.</p> <p>Does each baptized person think and act as one who is co-responsible? Does local parish leadership take responsibility for the policies that protect the common good?</p>