

## Yearning For God's Goodness

The readings for this nearly mid-summer Sunday reflect the beauties of the earth: its golden harvests, its astonishing Spring, its delicate birds, beasts, mountains, hills and plains. Even in this time of virus, those whose eyes can see will find infinite surprise!

Yes, even in this time of virus and troubles.

I want to quote a complete poem in this space, hoping that I am not just indulging my attachment to poetry. The Jesuit poet Hopkins was so filled with the world's beauty that I want him to speak here, in the poem called "Pied Beauty."

Glory be to God for dappled things—

For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;

For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;

Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;

Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.

Some of the language is unusual, I admit. I hope the footnote below will help you, especially when you read the poem out loud. If you spend time with these glorious images you will come to love our ever-evolving blue planet like someone bathing in the gentle tide of ocean swirl. All of it luxuriant, all of it precious.

In the First Reading the Lord uses this ebb and flow of seasons to show the workings of his visceral love for the earth.

He says,

Just as the rain and snow come down to earth,

and do not return there till they have watered the earth,

making it fertile and fruitful, ... so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth.

It comes to the world and does not return until it has moistened

and nourished life in every single creature that will receive it.

A fruitful harvest, the Psalm calls it.

Then, in the Second Reading, St. Paul speaks of all creation groaning in labor pains. Human beings too groan within themselves like seeds which break open and push their way through tough ground and evolve into full trees that stretch up for Christ's light.

Can such rich images apply to you and me? How is our own soil? God pours his grace into it always. Do you and I groan and yearn for the goodness of God which is already lavished upon us? Do we take time each day to let love in? Or when we listen to the Word on Sunday, perhaps with some interest, do we then forget everything by Monday?

Jesus lists a number of things we might have to correct in order to accept the gifts he has ready for us (Gospel). We might be shallow ground, he says. Or rocky soil. Weeds might choke us.

Discouraging, isn't it? Must I pretend to be rich soil, though I know my shallowness?

No. I must be fully myself and allow God to do the rest. The Indian poet Tagore put it this way:

The cloud stood humbly in a corner of the sky. The morning crowned it with splendor.

(Tagore, Stray Birds, #100)

Let us be humble and join in the revolving refreshment of all earthly things. Can't we open our leaves, and allow the sun to come in?  
John Foley, SJ

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 12, 2020

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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PO Box 250

St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330

Patti McMahan.....Director of Religious Education

### Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

332-9090

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 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 July 13th through July 19th:**

Mon: Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9; 16b-17, 21, 23; Mt 10:34-11:1  
 Tue: Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24  
 Wed: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27  
 Thur: Is 26:7-9; 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14b, 15-21; Mt 11:28-30  
 Fri: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; (Ps) Is 38:10-12, 16; Mt 12:1-8  
 Sat: Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21  
 Sun: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

**Parish Collection**

Last week mail in collection \$1510  
*"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**

7/12:	Sunday	
	Sunday	
7/13:	Monday	
7/14:	Tuesday	
7/15:	Wednesday	+Glenn Charles Heiser
7/16:	Thursday	Christina Kostelc
7/17:	Friday	
7/18:	Saturday	
7/19:	Sunday	Deacon Linh Vu
	Sunday	For the people

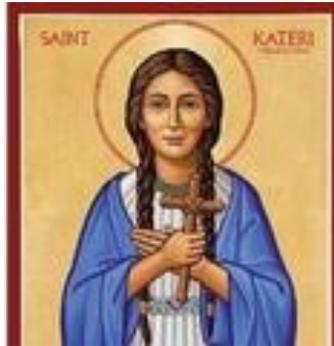
Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

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. Please remember that 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.

Fr. Joe Fraher died in the early morning on July 8th. Please pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family. Condolence can be mailed to:  
 The Fraher Family  
 1814 E. 22nd St.  
 Cheyenne, WY 82001

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

Value/Practice	Understanding and Application
<b>Social Responsibility</b>	<p>While individuals have clear responsibilities to each other, our Church also has a larger, social responsibility. The way we gather together will have national impact, as people will quite likely return to their places of work, recreation, and families after they are sent at the conclusion of liturgy. If we do not observe good practices in our liturgical celebrations – especially during tourist season – we risk putting an uncountable number of people at risk.</p> <p><b>How do we hope our Church will be remembered on the other side of this crisis in terms of our care for our neighbors through good practice?</b></p> <p>This pandemic remains outside of our control in many ways. So, we need to adapt to circumstances as they change and understand that different levels of the virus' spread warrant different responses.</p>
<b>Agility</b>	<p><b>If cases spiked, and the parish needed to suspend liturgical celebrations, would the parish be ready and able to respond?</b></p>