

## Pulling Out Weeds

Forgiveness is the important theme of this Sunday's readings.

This subject is hefty enough for Jesus to devote a well known parable to it, the one where servants ask the master whether they should pull out the weeds that have grown up with in the wheat-field.

"No," he replies.

"If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest" (Gospel).

If you or I have sinned, then we have weeds growing up along with the good that we are. Would we like part of us to be uprooted? No. Instead, God lets us develop, without destruction, steadily forgiving our weeds.

So, what kind of reality is forgiveness?

For one thing, it reverses an attitude at the bottom of entire ancient cultures and still at the root of modern (American) entertainment. If someone harms me or my family (or ... ), then I have the right and duty to destroy them. They are bad persons, not good, and no punishment is too severe.

Do not get me wrong, this kind of "justice" does in fact work. Take a look at the heroes in movies fighting person to person across the tops of skyscrapers, bare-knuckle blows to the face, spinning kicks to the head, all leading ultimately of course to the fabulous plummet over the side. Then we are entertained with magnificent slow-motion shots of his terror as he heads for the inevitable splotch. Justice is established. Everyone is relieved and happy. Except, of course, the bad guy.

Just for fun, pretend that you are that bad guy. Is there a reason you are committing crimes, ones that merit such punishment? Is it possible that one part of you went haywire but that there is much good in you, much that could be brought back to life? Is there a part of you that says, "I wish I could stop this ugliness and be pardoned"?

If so, you have missed the point of Sunday's Gospel. The crimes you commit don't really agree with your inner self. None of the weeds growing up in you are wonderful, but they are only a part of who you are. Your urge to steal, to impress others falsely, to get what you want no matter what, to be lazy, petulant, or ... (please fill in the kind of wrong you yourself are drawn to). These are not the full description of who you are.

When we endure someone who hurts us with their wrongs, maybe we can avoid rushing up to rip out weeds. Mixed with all the crab grass there are lovely flowers, and God loves very much all that you are.

So, tolerate the thorns. Keep your hands off them. Your own weeds are treated with care. What if Jesus had said from the cross, "Father, damn them to hell forever because of what they are doing to me"? He said instead "forgive them, they know not what they do." He knew there was good wheat in them, even alongside terrible weeds.

Forgiveness is letting go of an angering injury and giving God a chance to love. Wouldn't you like to be loved and forgiven this way?

John Foley, SJ

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 19, 2020

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Patti McMahon.....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.

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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!  
.....

*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 20th through July 26th:**

Mon: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42  
 Tue: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50  
 Wed: Sg 3:1-4a; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18  
 Thur: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7b, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17  
 Fri: Jer 3:14-17; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Mt 13:18-23  
 Sat: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1b, 2-6; Mt 20:20-28  
 Sun: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

**Parish Collection**

Last week mail in collection \$1150  
*"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**

7/19:	Sunday	Deacon Linh Vu
	Sunday	For the people
7/20:	Monday	
7/21:	Tuesday	
7/22:	Wednesday	Peter James Mwawra
7/23:	Thursday	Christina Kostelc
7/24:	Friday	
7/25:	Saturday	
7/26:	Sunday	+Barbara Hittle
	Sunday	For the people

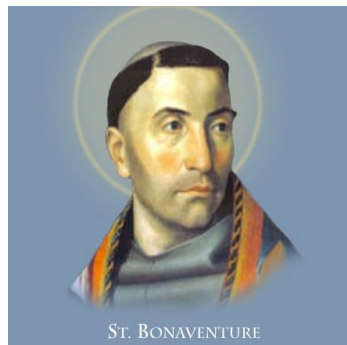
Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

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.

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.



ST. BONAVENTURE

Please pray for the family of the deceased:  
 +George Warren  
*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
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	As a recent event in Uinta county shows, gatherings of large numbers of people in a confined space creates the prime atmosphere for the transmission of the coronavirus. To preserve the lives of faithful and our worship, physical distancing is a needed practice, despite the administrative burden it causes.  <b>What is the primary opposition to physical distancing, and how can people be assisted in changing their hearts?</b>
<b>Wearing of face coverings</b>	Many have opposed the wearing of face coverings because they are uncomfortable, while others do not wear them because they think the practice is an imposition on their rights. Face coverings do not protect the ones wearing them, but rather protect everyone around the ones wearing them. This practice emerges from the values identified at the top of the list.  <b>What is the primary opposition to face coverings, and how can people be assisted in changing their hearts?</b>