

What's in a Name?

This week, Peter is in for a big surprise.

In last week's Gospel Jesus retired the name "Simon" and replaced it with the name Peter.

And so I say to you, you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18).

We heard that, at root, the name Peter meant "rock." Simon is to be a "Rock," the foundation of the church.

Surprise, surprise, the name Jesus gives Peter this week has a very different flavor: he calls him "Satan" (Gospel). If this name were to stick, Peter would be the leader of the very "netherworld" which Jesus promised could not prevail against the church. What has happened?

First, it is quite clear that Jesus' emotional state has changed.

He is obviously dreading the suffering and death he will soon have to face. His rebuke to Peter is so sharp, so instant, so contradictory, that its emotional roots are showing. He knows what a terrible toll human misery and affliction will take on him. He snaps at Peter and even resorts to name-calling.

Second, Jesus had been gradually schooling the disciples about who he really is. Not just a great teacher, or good friend, or magnetic preacher, but the complete revelation of divine love. They had achieved their first high mark last week when Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Gospel, 21 Ord A 20)

Up until now he had not spoken a word to them about the crucifixion. At this stage, they should be able to begin to understand what it means for Jesus to be the Christ. Shouldn't they? So this week he shows the real meaning of Christly love: for the good of the world he must suffer greatly under the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Do the Apostles get it? No. The Gospel reports that Peter "rebukes" Jesus. Something like this:

No, no, no, Lord, we will protect you—this will not happen to you, please don't worry so much. Everything will be ok, you'll see. We need you to be alive. You are the Christ! Use your powers!

It is an impulsive response. Very human. But notice that Peter is telling Jesus to avoid pain by selfish use of his divine powers.

This is just what the devil had recommended in the desert temptations (Matthew 4:1-11)! When Jesus was hungry, Satan had said, stealthily, you are Messiah! Why don't you simply turn these stones into bread? After that, have your angels save you from all danger. And then, be a real Messiah, be in charge of all the lands there are. Why not? Because all of this would require bowing down and worshipping Satan.

To put it another way, Jesus would have to act according to the self-seeking, self-interested part of human nature. Go for the wealth, the power and the reputation. Forget Godly love.

Since he was human, Jesus must have felt within himself the rewards that would come with such desert temptations. And he must feel it now as Peter gives him the same enticement.

So he reacts strongly.

Does he really mean that Peter is Satan? No. But surely he remembers with pain the devil's temptations.

No wonder that name slips out.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30, 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.

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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 August 31st through September 6th:

Mon: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Ps 119:97-102; Lk 4:16-30
 Tue: 1 Cor 2:10b-16; Ps 145:8-14; Lk 4:31-37
 Wed: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Ps 33:12-15, 20-21; Lk 4:38-44
 Thur: 1 Cor 3:18-23; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
 Fri: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk 5:33-39
 Sat: 1 Cor 4:6b-15; Ps 145:17-21; Lk 6:1-5
 Sun: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$2049
"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

8/30:	Sunday	Byron H.
	Sunday	For the people
8/31:	Monday	
9/1:	Tuesday	
9/2:	Wednesday	Don Burns
9/3:	Thursday	Jim Arnold
9/4:	Friday	
9/5:	Saturday	
9/6:	Sunday	Byron H.
	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 limited to 10 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 10 people are to be in the church at one time.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Joseph "Bird" Underwood
 +Alfred "Bliss" Spoonhunter
 +Martin Goggles

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

St. Stephen, pray for us!

O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice: For those who are discriminated against because of their race, color or religion; For those imprisoned for working for the relief of oppression; For those who are hounded for speaking the inconvenient truth; For those tempted to violence as a cry against overwhelming hardship; For those deprived of reasonable health and education; For those suffering from hunger and famine; For those too weak to help themselves and who have no one else to help them; For the unemployed who cry out for work but do not find it. We pray for anyone of our acquaintance who is personally affected by injustice. Forgive us, Lord, if we unwittingly share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates injustice. Show us how we can serve your children and make your love practical by washing their feet.

A Child's Prayer

O Almighty God, who hast given unto me my father and mother, and made them to be an image of Thine authority, and love, and tender watchfulness; and hast commanded me to love, and honour, and obey them in all things: give me grace cheerfully and with my whole heart to keep this Thy law. Help me to love them fervently, to honour them truly, to yield a ready obedience to their commands, to comply with their wishes, to study their happiness in everything, and to bear their rebukes with patience and humility. Deliver me O God, from pride, rebellion and wilfulness, from passion and stubbornness, from sloth and carelessness. Make me diligent in all my duties and studies, and patient in all my trials; that so living, I may deserve to be Thy child, who art our Father in Heaven.