

## Breaking the Chain of Causality

This Sunday is about forgiveness, and most of us have something to learn about this important act.

Our First Reading tells how awful wrath and anger are, and how the sinner “hugs them tight,” a wonderful image. Release them and let them go, it says.

The Psalm speaks beautifully about God’s absolving love: God is kind and merciful, slow to anger, rich in compassion. The Second Reading says we ought to live not for ourselves but for others. We should imitate God. When we live for the Lord, it says, we will also be graced to die for the Lord.

Forgiveness is a major ingredient of living for God and for others. People do not always do right, and we need to forgive them as God does. Forgiveness is the gift and the goal.

But what does it consist of?

Our culture has some pretty diverse ideas about this. For some it is a condescending act performed only by a person who is higher than another—a King or Queen or a judge or a boss or a media star—someone who leans down to grant pardon. For others it means “I can forgive but I can never forget.” Perhaps this means, I will remain angry forever but I will never act upon it. Such a stance can include an uncomfortable attitude: “I will choke back my hurt and anger by a sheer act of the will. I may have been savaged by someone, but I will not display it in my reaction.”

On Easter Sunday of 1960, that seer of truth and lover of God, Dag Hammarskjöld, wrote an interpretation that moved me:

Forgiveness breaks the chain of causality because he who “forgives” you—out of love—takes upon himself the consequences of what you have done. Forgiveness, therefore, always entails a sacrifice.

There is a price you must pay for your own liberation. Since it has come through another’s sacrifice, you in turn must be willing to liberate in the same way, in spite of the consequences to yourself. You absorb them, if doing so truly flows out of love. (from Hammarskjöld, *Markings*, p. 197)

Let us apply these insights to the Gospel.

There, Jesus tells a long and involved parable about a servant who is pardoned by the master but then goes out and refuses, viciously, to forgive his own fellow servants.

At about six lines from the end the owner of the vineyard calls him a “wicked servant” and says, “should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”

What is the lesson? That the deepest motivation for forgiveness is loving gratitude.

If someone has forgiven me out of love, then my authentic reaction will be deep appreciation. I will want spontaneously to pass the gift on. It follows that if God has forgiven me, I will want to give to anyone else the same liberation I have received.

By doing so you or I halt the chain of causality and pass along love instead of hate.

## Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 2020

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

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

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!  
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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 September 14th through September 20th:

Mon: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17  
 Tue: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27  
 Wed: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22; Lk 7:31-35  
 Thur: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50  
 Fri: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1b-d, 6-7, 8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3  
 Sat: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15  
 Sun: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

### Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1926

*"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

9/13:	Sunday	+Edward La Morte
	Sunday	For the people
9/14:	Monday	
9/15:	Tuesday	
9/16:	Wednesday	Salas Family
9/17:	Thursday	+Tom Ryan
9/18:	Friday	
9/19:	Saturday	
9/20:	Sunday	+Suzanne Kaufman
	Sunday	For the people

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Dorothy Sitting Eagle

*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. Amen.*



Congratulations to those who received First Holy Communion this past week!

Martin Gonzalez  
Zuli C'Bearing

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From September 23 through November 1, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way on the SW Corner of 2nd and Main Street, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information - and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Lisa @ 561.379.8052, Karen@ 954.303.4523 or [www.40daysforlife.com/lander](http://www.40daysforlife.com/lander)

## Sacramental Preparation 2020-2021

### First Communion and Confirmation Classes

Due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions, there will not be group religious education classes until at least January 2021. Preparation will be individualized. Sr. Teresa or Patti will meet with the parents/guardians of the students, and the parents/guardians will then do the preparation at home. Materials will be provided.

If you wish your child to make First Communion or be Confirmed in the spring of 2021, please call:

Sr. Teresa 332-9090 (St. Joseph's and Blessed Sacrament)

Patti McMahon 856-7806 (St. Stephen's)

Registration and parent meetings will begin by October 4, 2020. Sr. Teresa and Patti will meet with each parent/guardian every 3-4 weeks, materials will be given, and parents/guardians will then work with their child on those materials.

If possible, we will resume group classes in January. Only children who have been working with parents/guardians will be admitted to classes when they resume.

These are unusual times and we are attempting to make the best of the unusual situation. We want children to have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments, so we will work hard to make this happen for them.

So, please call Sr. Teresa or Patti at the above numbers and arrangements will be made to meet with the parents/guardians in order to begin the sacramental preparation.

### Baptism

Please call Sr. Teresa or Patti for Baptism preparation classes.

### Baptism and Confirmation for adults

Anyone age 18 or older who wishes to be Baptized or Confirmed, please call Sr. Teresa or Patti.