

Forgiveness

What happens when someone misbehaves and hurts you? What should you do, punch 'em out?

No. Jesus lays out a detailed plan in the Gospel about how to help a person, especially in the Christian community, who has done you harm. This strategy applies whatever the damage was: saying unfair things behind your back, embarrassing you in public, stealing, unfaithfulness, you name it.

First, go to the person and let her or him know that you believe you have been hurt by what they did or said. This is not an opportunity to "let my anger out," to get my rights, or worse, to hurt them in return. It is an attempt to repair the relationship, no matter whose fault it was. It is an effort to help, not hurt.

Of course, in Sunday's story, Jesus is presuming that there is a basis of love between you and the other person. Another way to say it is that you are both members of the church.

What if going to the person does not succeed?

Jesus says you should next take two or three witnesses along. They will back you up if your interpretation of the problem is correct. If the person still does not listen, keep trying, he says. Tell the church. Continue to work on it until the matter is smoothed out. Let truth and forgiveness rule.

The underlying reason behind this whole strategy is hinted at in the First Reading.

There the Lord says that Ezekiel must speak out to a person when they are doing evil and especially if they have been warned by the Lord.

The point is not to punish the them, or to turn Ezekiel into a police interrogation unit. The point is to try and help them back from the danger to their own self and to the community. "Frighten the poor sheep back," the poet Hopkins puts it. You speak out.

A personal story. I had a terrible disagreement with a colleague/friend a number of years ago. We were working together on a musical event and it seemed to each of us that the other had done something unforgivable, hurtful and unprofessional. Believe me, I do not know who was right and who was wrong. But we spoke about it one-on-one and gradually came back into each other's good graces. We remained very good friends.

Still.

The same thing happened a number of summers later. I was the one who "blew up" because of the wrongs I absolutely knew were being done to me. I even sent a peeved email. My friend sent a scorcher in return!

Then we worked together to create the event! We knew instinctively what had happened. "We were both tired and quite stressed out, weren't we," my friend said. "So we each did our stressed-out thing. But we were both trying to help the performance be wonderful." As you can guess, we remain great friends.

I think this is how it can work when Christians are "all too human" and hurt each other. It is not a matter of who broke the rules. All the rules are summed up in a single saying. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Second Reading).

How good it is.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

33 St. Stephens Road

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.

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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 7th through September 13th:

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12; Lk 6:6-11
 Tue: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16
 Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26
 Thur: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14b, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38
 Fri: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 8, 12; Lk 6:39-42
 Sat: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18, Lk 6:43-49
 Sun: Sir 27:30-28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$6096

"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

9/6:	Sunday	Ruth Suina
	Sunday	For the people
9/7:	Monday	
9/8:	Tuesday	
9/9:	Wednesday	Emma Heiser for her birthday
9/10:	Thursday	+Emily Wysochansky
9/11:	Friday	
9/12:	Saturday	
9/13:	Sunday	+Edward LaMorte
	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.

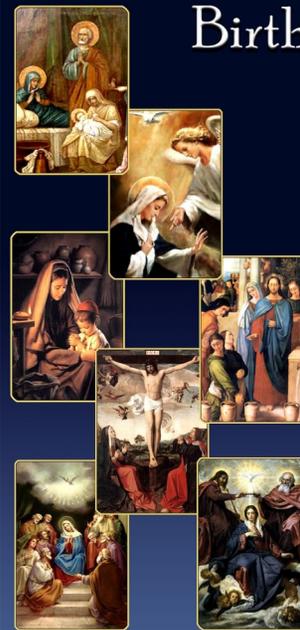
The churches at St. Josephs and St. Stephens are open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. No more than 10 people are to be in the church at one time.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Annalisa Davis Hudson

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.

Prayer for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Birth of Mary : A Purpose

O Virgin immaculate, thou who by a singular privilege of grace wast preserved from original sin, look in pity upon our separated brethren, who are nevertheless thy children, and call them back to the center of unity. Not a few of them, although separated from the Church, have kept a certain veneration for thee; and do thou, generous as thou art, reward them for it, by obtaining for them the grace of conversion. Thou wast conqueror of the infernal serpent from

the first instant of thy existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, thine ancient triumphs; glorify thy divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of thy Son on earth; let it be thy glory, O Virgin who destroyest all heresies, to restore unity and peace once more to all the Christian people.