

How Blessed Are You?

On the feast of All Saints, we will hear Jesus proclaim “The Beatitudes.” This may lead us to his idea of a saint.

Let us look.

First, a “beatitude” is a spoken declaration of the blessedness of a person. Blessedness, in plain words, means to be given a spiritual benefit, as for instance, “May the Lord bless you with a safe journey.” Or, “Blessed are those who show mercy.” Often there is a condition involved: “The people who keep the law will be blessed” (Proverbs 29:18).

Jesus did not invent beatitudes: the First Testament has up to 50 examples of them. By Jesus’ day, people would have recognized one when it was spoken and would have been at home with it. Jesus gave nine of them in the Sermon on the Mount. But there is something strange about his. Have you noticed?

(a) The first four seem to name bad things and call them good. Blessed are the poor, the mourners, the meek, the hungry and thirsty. Jesus seems to be saying that “it is a blessing to be weak and unhappy.”

Why use the beatitude form in this way?

Because he is radically innovative. Radical [from the Latin radix, root] means that he is rooted deeply in God, who is the profound wellspring of life and love, not in some other place nearer the surface. These first four beatitudes are actually assurances to people who suffer—the displaced, the abandoned. Jesus is saying that they too are blessed and much loved by God.

(b) The next three more resemble the ancient form: Blessed are the merciful, the clean of heart, and the peacemakers. These three sound reasonable, if a bit bland. But actually they are a spiritual step upwards from the first four. They are encouragements to people who want to take action in the world on behalf of the Kingdom. Their blessedness consists of being at work with Jesus as a companion.

(c) Then come the last two, which are stunning: “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.” And, “Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you. ...” These sound like curses, not blessings. Who could want them? Yet they too are an enhancement of what precedes them. They presume that you might actually want to participate in Jesus’ ultimate act of love, a love which cuts through false honor, wealth, and pride. Maybe you will be called to take up the cross with Jesus. Such radical love is blessed because it comes from being so close to God, whose very identity is love.

So we find at least three stages of ascent in the following of Jesus: (1) suffering, (2) working for others, and (3) persecution endured as a result. The saints are examples in each of these areas because of their love for God and others. This is the very root of happiness, or “blessedness.”

The question for you and me is whether we even begin to be attracted in any way to such categories. We can take a review of our lives and get an idea. If we do not fit into them, we can meditate on this question: how strong is our desire for anything at all? Can we “desire to desire” regarding an openness to Jesus and to his Father? We do not have to want persecution yet, but what do we want?

Maybe it is simple: the blessedness he speaks about.

John Foley, SJ

All Saints November 1, 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 is available for those who are in need, terminal and 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 November 2nd through November 8th :

Mon: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11; Jn 6:37-40
Tue: Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-32; Lk 14:15-24
Wed: Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 14:25-33
Thur: Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10
Fri: Phil 3:17-4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8
Sat: Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9; Lk 16:9-15
Sun: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$435

"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

11/1:	Sunday	For the people
	Sunday	Recovery for those suffering from COVID19
11/4:	Wednesday	Fr. Augustine Carillo
11/5:	Thursday	+Jack Corbett
11/8:	Sunday	Toby & Juanita Littlethunder
	Sunday	+Rachel Danforth

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Television Mass Announcement

Due to program changes that would affect consistency in air time for televised Masses on KLWY in Cheyenne, the Diocese of Cheyenne will move permanently to KKTQ in Cheyenne, where Mass will air Sundays at 9 am. Televised Masses will continue to air Sundays at 9 am on KTWO out of Casper.

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.

Why do we wear masks?

"It is a simple and selfless act of love for the common good."

*Bishop Steven Biegler
Diocese of Cheyenne*

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Erika Antelope
+Wilbur Antelope
+Silas Sitting Eagle

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.

Please join our faith community for an evening of Faithful Conversations. On November 4, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, staff from the Diocese of Cheyenne will lead us in a brief period of guided prayer and contemplation, which will then generate an opportunity for open conversation about how the local Church of the Diocese of Cheyenne can respond to racism, both for the communities of faith of Wind River and for Wyoming. The evening will take place over Zoom. Please contact Joe Wotawa (jwotawa@dioceseofcheyenne.org) with any questions.

*How shining and splendid are your gifts, O Lord
which you give us for our eternal well-being
Your glory shines radiantly in your saints, O God
In the honor and noble victory of the martyrs.*

*The white-robed company follow you,
bright with their abundant faith;
They scorned the wicked words of those with this
world's power.*

*For you, they sustained fierce beatings, chains, and
torments,*

they were drained by cruel punishments.

*They bore their holy witness to you
who were grounded deep within their hearts;
they were sustained by patience and constancy.*

*Endowed with your everlasting grace,
may we rejoice forever*

with the martyrs in our bright fatherland.

*O Christ, in your goodness,
grant to us the gracious heavenly realms of eternal life.*

Unknown author, 10th century

During November, we are called in a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection.

There will be a book at the entrance of the church for parishioners to write the names of their beloved dead who will be remembered in prayer throughout the month.