

All Good Gifts

You probably saw *Babette's Feast*, or at least have heard about it. An impoverished fine cook from Paris makes her way into a small Danish town where the religion of the area made people hard and cold to each other, at least according to this movie, afraid to enjoy or even to relate to each other. Babette had only a small stash of possessions, but she was a top chef. So she prepared, over many days, a huge, delectable, exquisite feast, serving after serving, all for the uptight townspeople. As they began to taste and enjoy, they began also to communicate in kindness to each other. They even danced!

Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.

I have heard people say that the movie promoted self-indulgence, and I do not endorse such a thing. But I do notice similarities to the huge feast we hear about in the First Reading.

It is the famous invitation from the Lord of Hosts, full of unstinting promise. "A feast of rich food and choice wines," Isaiah says. A great feast, a "groaning board" in medieval England, just like the banquet in *Babette's Feast*.

Sunday's Gospel has a sumptuous feed too. The king gets his very best livestock fattened up, seasoned, readied for cooking, with invitations sent out. If you thought the people in Babette's town were reluctant, look what happened here. Some people refused outright to come. Others simply ignored the invitation as if it had not been given, and a number "laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them." The king punished these and then invited in street people.

Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.

But with so many people starving in today's world, how dare we fatten ourselves up with rich food and every other kind of riches? Shouldn't we much more becomingly abstain and deny ourselves? Isn't the "First World" currently fattening itself on food far more lavish than the ancient world could ever have imagined? Advertisements in the United States tell us we should luxuriate, should pamper ourselves, should not hold back. "Who says you can't have it all," they say. How are we to respond, we who try to be faithful to God and God's promises?

But remember that Jesus both fasted and feasted. He abstained from food for forty days at the beginning of his public ministry. But later on he said, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners' (Mt. 11:19)." How would he have gotten such a reputation except by enjoying his times with others at meals?

Which is it for us, then, fasting or feasting?

I think the answer is simple yet difficult to grow into. I think we are meant to receive humbly and to give to others as well. The mistake is to adopt a stance of only receiving (getting, grabbing) or on the other hand, only giving (giving, with nothing in return). Sunday's readings invite us to come into the kingdom, to open up, eat, enjoy what is there. To receive as Jesus did.

He went deep, accepting all things as coming from God's hand. Then, when it was time to let go of it all—life, friends, peace and possessions—he did that with love.

Receive and give. Jesus wants us to receive his life and then give it out to the world.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 11, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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332-9090

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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 October 12th through October 18th:

Mon: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7; Lk 11:29-32
Tue: Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Lk 11:37-41
Wed: Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:4-46
Thur: Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1-6; Lk 11:47-54
Fri: Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Lk 12:1-7
Sat: Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3b, 4-7; Lk 12:8-12
Sun: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1953

"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

10/11: Sunday	Special intention
Sunday	For the people
10/14: Wednesday	+Bob Luoma
10/15: Thursday	+Joe Lambrecht
10/18: 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 also email the parish office (melissa.brown@saintstephensmission.com) to make sure your contact information is on file with the Parish as this is our primary way to contact you when things change or if we have an event you might be interested in. Thank you!

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. We appreciate your cooperation as we move forward, safely, together.

Please pray for the family of the deceased: +Hubert Warren, III
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.

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 for private prayer. No more than 10 people are to be in the church at one time.

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 began on 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.