

Which Side Are You On?

There seem to be two realms, God's and Caesar's. Jesus says so in Sunday's Gospel: "Give to God the things that are God's and to Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Which realm do we live in?

Are we "Sunday Catholics," giving to God maybe an hour per week at Mass and then getting on with television and cars and work and food? And maybe with being afraid? Or with wishing things had turned out better? Do we leave it to professionals to pray to God while we live a lesser life? Have we given our life to Caesar?

Or do we try it the other way around?

Perhaps we are so serious about Christianity and spirituality that we try to get away from enjoyment of any worldly thing so as to live uncorrupted. Through the history of Christianity there have been marvelous examples of this. The desert hermits. The cloistered nuns and monks. The great mystics. "A penny for Caesar and all the rest for God"?

If you push this statement too far, however, everything of Caesar must go away because it is not God, or on the other hand, God has to go away because science and secularism are so powerful.

Maybe Jesus made his statement to settle the argument that was posed to him by the Pharisees. Here is a key. Can God and Caesar co-exist? What if you are created to be a channel for God's presence right in the midst of the secular world?

What if, in spite of the voices within you that say you are not worth much, in spite of the setbacks of life, the losses, the flatness, in spite of all these, what if God created you with room inside you where God, out of love for you, can be quietly present?

I can hear objections to such an idea: "God would never be at home in me, not until I do a lot better with my life." Or, "You want me to be some kind of nut, running around acting holy?" Or, "Sure, I want to let God in, but I like beer and TV too much." Or, "What does all this have to do with real life?" Or simply, "I don't want to."

But what if God were a great friend? In fact, how would it be if God were a companion who truly and actually accepts you and forgives you completely whenever you need it? Wouldn't this give you another way to look at the connection between heaven and earth?

Wouldn't it mean that God put you and me into the world to be holy in it, to be friends with the things of Caesar? To work in the world of sin in spite of our own sins?

Could it be that we ourselves are those "things that belong to God" that Jesus spoke of? "Belong," not in a possessive way, but in the way felt by people who love and are loved. We "belong." If this were so, why wouldn't we want to give ourselves to God, and then also to bring our God-filled selves to Caesar's palaces and to the dirty roads outside them and show everyone what Jesus is all about?

Which realm should we live in?

Both.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 October 19th through October 25th:

Mon: Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21
Tue: Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 12:35-38
Wed: Eph 3:2-12; (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4c-6; Lk 12:39-48
Thur: Eph 3:12-41; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Lk 12:49-53
Fri: Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59
Sat: Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9
Sun: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1325

"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

10/18: Sunday	+Edward LaMorte
Sunday	For the people
10/21: Wednesday	Eloise and Stacy Stewart
10/22: Thursday	+Jared Sonnen
10/24: Saturday	Special Intention
10/25: 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: +Jared Sonnen

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.

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.

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.