

The Real Story

There is a very powerful truth-telling device, as we saw two Sundays ago: the device called story.

Our brains love stories because they include events with “before-and-after” built right in, along with suspense, action, relationships and intercommunication; not to mention emotion and disappointment and elation and so on. These elements are the most like daily experience of any device we have in the language.

So, Sunday we will hear several tales of a vineyard.

The first story tells about “a friend” who carefully built a vineyard: clearing stones, building a watchtower, planting the choicest vines (First Reading). He even “hewed out a wine press.” But the vineyard yielded bad grapes. God tells the people of Jerusalem and Judah in vivid language that they themselves are this vineyard, and that he is going to destroy it and trample it down. They would not let God's love grow up among them.

In the Gospel Jesus embroiders this tale. In just one sentence he handles the part about planting a vineyard, digging out a wine press, building a tower. Then he goes further.

In his version he says that the owner rents his rich vineyard to tenants, as was the custom, and he trusts them to raise choice grapes for him. In due season he sends his servants to collect the yield—which must have been great because the tenants dishonestly want to keep everything including the vineyard. But the tenants beat or stone or even kill the servants!

Next, a surprising, seemingly implausible twist to the tale. The owner decides to send his own son, thinking that the tenants will surely respect him. Would you have done the same? Wouldn't you or I have said, “I will keep my family away from these criminals”? I surely would. But not the owner. He sends his only son into the trap and the tenants kill him.

The details of the two stories are different, but isn't it the same story, about God punishing those who fail to produce?

Actually the two parables are not the same. There is much, much more in the Gospel. Jesus hints at this afterwards:

Did you never read in the Scriptures:

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

by the Lord has this been done,

and it is wonderful in our eyes. (Gospel)

This is a new metaphor, and it is the key to the Gospel tale. It fills the story with dramatic new meaning.

The son sent into the vineyard is Jesus himself!

He is to be rejected and killed, just as the prophets and the owner's son were. But here is the difference: as God's son he is entirely willing to go among the sinning people. He lives by compassion, so danger takes second place.

If the main character in the Gospel were called Life, and it had its own choices to make, it would desire to turn into another being, one called Love. Life always yearns to go back to its source, the everlasting union called by that simple name, love.

Greed and disregard stop this progress. True Life gets buried. It rises again when we look to Jesus on Sundays. He is love. He is there for us in our vineyard.

God sent his own son into the trap of human life not because life is perfect, but because love is.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4, 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 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!
.....

*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 5th through October 11th:

Mon: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
Tue: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
Wed: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
Thur: Gal 3:1-5; (Ps) Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
Fri: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
Sat: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
Sun: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$523

"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

10/4:	Sunday	For the people
	Sunday	Byron H.
10/7:	Wednesday	+Martika Spoonhunter & Baby John
10/8:	Thursday	Kashis Alonzo Glenmore
10/11:	Sunday	Bernie Underwood & sons Kingzley & Zayden
	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.

Rosary for America

Join Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), bishops, priests, and Catholics across the country in praying a virtual rosary in a moment of unified prayer for America on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. We pause in a moment of prayer for America at this time when there is so much unrest and uncertainty. Join in this prayerful moment of unity for our country to seek healing and ask Our Lady, on her feast, to pray for us and help lead us to Jesus. The rosary will premiere on Wednesday, October 7 at 1 pm. You will be able to join in prayer via the Diocese of Cheyenne Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dioceseofcheyenne/), the Diocese of Cheyenne webpage (www.dioceseofcheyenne.org), the USCCB YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/usccb) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/usccb/). For more information, go to: <https://www.usccb.org/rosary-america>.

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.