

Motivation

Sometimes God appeals to people's self-interest to get them to do what is right. Many of us need it, so that, through self-interest, we can overcome our self-interest.

We are shown this in the First Reading, where we find a straight-out argument between the people and God. They claim that "The Lord's way is not fair!" They quote the famous saying, "The parents eat sour grapes, but the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ez 18:2). Apparently their argument is that sin belongs to their fathers or mothers, not to them. So, God is punishing unjustly.

God's reply in this reading is as follows:

The house of Israel says, 'The Lord's way is not fair!'

Is it my way that is not fair, house of Israel?

Is it not your ways that are not fair?

Then he shows them that punishment comes to those who actually commit an iniquity, not to those who just happen to be born of sinful parents. It is your own actions that matter. If you sin, it is fair that I punish you. If you do virtue, it is fair that I give you life. Jesus' parable in the Gospel takes it one step further. There we hear about a man whose father asks him to go work in the vineyard. The man says, rudely, "I will not." Surely he would be counted as one of the sinful people described above. Or maybe he just had a headache, or was not a morning person, or whatever. But when his father leaves the house he changes his mind and goes out to work hard on the vines.

He has a brother. This one says in effect, "Yes, of course I will go out and do your will!" Isn't this exactly what God had been telling the people in the First Reading? I am sure the father in the present parable was pleased, especially after the rude reply he had gotten from his first son. Of course, as we know, this brother changed his mind and did not bother to go at all.

This second brother's selfish interests were served by saying "yes, yes" to his father. It made him look good. But he did not trouble himself to actually do what he had promised. Self-interest did not get him to do good, but only to seem to do good.

So finally God decided to show us motivation that cannot be reduced to self-interest. If we want motivation, as well as encouragement, solace in love, participation in the Spirit, compassion, and mercy, St. Paul says to look at what Christ did (Second Reading). Then you will not act out of selfishness, but will serve others humbly, as Christ did. This is the ultimate motivation in Christianity.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus,
Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross. Because of this God greatly exalted him.

Self-interested motives are not the only ones. Just look at Christ—when you are at prayer and at Mass—and let him form you in humility.
Let God make you good.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 28th through October 4th:

Mon: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1b-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tue: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Wed: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10b-15; Lk 9:57-62
Thur: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9c, 13-14; Lk 10:1-12
Fri: Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14b; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Sat: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24
Sun: Is:5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$332

"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

9/27:	Sunday	In thanksgiving for LoriAnn Brown's healing
	Sunday	For the people
10/4:	Sunday	Byron H.
	Sunday	For the people

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.

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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Please pray for the family of the deceased: +Charleen Hoover
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.

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 McMahan 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.