

## The Fear Factor

The Gospel story is pretty simple. A wealthy man leaves his goods for each of three servants to care for while he is gone. He doesn't give them instructions, at least none that we are told of. When he returns, he sees that two of the three servants have invested the money and got back twice the amount. He is delighted.

So at this point the moral of the story would be: "Make the most of what you have."

But we miss the most interesting part of all if we look just at the successful servants (as does the shortened version of the Gospel in the lectionary!!!). We miss the fascinating and puzzling story of the third servant. This poor soul did not invest the money at all. He buried it. Quite simply, he was afraid of investing it and losing it.

He was right to be afraid, given the owner's attitude. He listened to the fearful servant's story and then had the man thrown into "the darkness outside," where there would be "wailing and grinding of teeth." Quite an overreaction, it seems. The poor guy just wanted to keep the owner's money safe!

Maybe the proprietor was simply a "demanding person," as the parable says. Dark spirited.

But there is much more to it. The monetary unit "talent" in Jesus' time was not a small amount. Even one talent could be worth more than a laborer would earn in a lifetime. And the owner entrusted a lot more than just money to the servants—he left them all his possessions, everything he had. He took a great risk and he wanted them to do the same, not leave the investment moldering around somewhere.

Ok, now make the switch. Assume that the parable is about God. Maybe God entrusts an even greater amount to you and me! Life, abilities, the gift of love, the living breathing human beings around us, and every so often, real and open acts of unselfish love. God gives all this free of charge, gives to us our own lives with all their rewards and catastrophes, and he says to us, dive in. Have your life. Make whatever you will with it because you are my own beloved.

It is wonderful. But then an awful question arises. Does God curse those who are afraid and who bury what they are given? Jesus at least seems to say so.

To everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. (Gospel)

Ouch. That hurts.

Except that, in the realm of spirituality, there is one thing I know of that will go away if it is buried, but which gets greater if you use it.

Love.

If fear closes the door tightly against love, guess where the loveless one will be. In the darkness outside the door, wailing and gnashing those teeth. Without love.

Get this:

We are all frightened, and God always has compassion upon us. God waits for ages to see if we will not accept just a bit of the love he offers, and if we will even find just enough courage to invest some of it in other people. God is often disappointed in this risk he takes, and I'm sure he says, "oh no, not again" when we fail.

But this is the disappointment of someone who loves us very well.

Let love in.

Love casts out fear.

John Foley, SJ

## Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15, 2020

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

33 St. Stephens Road

PO Box 250

St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330

Patti McMahon.....Director of Religious Education

### Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

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 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.

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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 November 16th through November 22nd :

Mon: Rv 1:1-4, 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43  
 Tue: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10  
 Wed: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 19:11-28  
 Thur: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 19:41-44  
 Fri: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48  
 Sat: Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1-2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40  
 Sun: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

### Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1750

*"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

11/15: Sunday	Toby & Juanita Little Thunder
Sunday	For the people
11/18: Wednesday	Special Intention
11/19: Thursday	Amy Heiser
11/22: Sunday	+JFK
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 are required at Mass. Please use hand sanitizer, 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:

+Rachel Brown +Florence Bell

*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.*

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.

Scholarship applications for new students are due on November 30th!! If you or your family member would like an application please have them call the office at 856-7806 or email Melissa: melissa.brown@saintstephensmission.com

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.

*So our parishioners may plan as they need: There will NOT be a communal penance service this Advent. You may call the office and leave a message if you would like to schedule an appointment for confession. Thank you!*

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.

### Why do we wear masks?

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

*Bishop Steven Biegler  
Diocese of Cheyenne*