

Waiting For Patience

"I want patience and I want it now," or so the joke goes.

Fine.

But remember, the purpose of Advent is to wait. Did you ever stay awake on Christmas eve as a child and sneak into a hiding place in order to see the Christmas tree being decorated? I surely did. I was impatient. We kids also had big felt stockings hung on each of our doors and I remember during the night trying to keep an eye open to see Santa or the Good Fairy or at least someone putting the prizes into it. Did I keep my eyes open all night? No. I woke in the morning to find a bulging stocking, mysteriously full, having arrived by magic alone. So, I had gone to sleep instead of patiently spying. Patience is not often a virtue of the young.

Hopkins, the Jesuit poet, has a poem on patience that speaks to this first Advent Sunday.

Patience, hard thing! the hard thing but to pray,
But bid for, patience is! Patience who asks,
Wants war, wants wounds; weary his times, his tasks;
To do without, take tosses, and obey.
Rare patience roots in these and, these away,
No-where. Natural heart's-ivy, Patience masks
Our ruins of wrecked past purpose. There she basks
Purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves all day.
We hear our hearts grate on themselves;
it kills To bruise them dearer. Yet the rebellious wills
Of us we do bid God bend to him even so.
And where is he who more and more distils
Delicious kindness?—he is patient. Patience fills
his crisp combs, and that comes those ways we know.

Our most beloved plans and purposes come often to wreckage, just like ancient buildings. Patience resembles beautiful ivy, Hopkins says, gradually spreading its way over the rubble, making it a picture of quiet composure. The phrase, "Purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves," doesn't just remind us of how ivy looks, it bathes us in the luxury, the peace and the relief of such a sight. Hopkins portrays patience also as "delicious kindness," a honey that fills the combs of our lives. A gift to us.

God's kindness provides us with comfort and also time to prepare—an allowance of days, weeks, years, and even a lifetime—to get ready, to desire, and gradually, along the way, to receive. With patience. Even though infants demand their every wish be granted right now, our adult humanity is simply too deep to get an instant fill-up. If there were nothing worth waiting for, then patience would be silly. The birth of Christ into this world and into our hearts is well worth the wait. We know that his birth has happened already—but also, in a surprising way, it has not happened at all. We are still mean to our neighbors. We still hide truth from those who love us. We envy and lust after what is not ours., and there is horrendous evil all around us in this twenty-first century.

We need the birth of Jesus into our hearts, into the world.

We need Advent patience.

John Foley, SJ

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 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 30th through December 6th :

Mon: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 18:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
 Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thur: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 17:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sun: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$1018
"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

11/29:	Sunday	In remembrance of the Sand Creek Massacre
	Sunday	For the people
12/2:	5pm Wednesday	Buck & Dean
12/3:	7:15am Thursday	+Gladys Morris
12/6:	Sunday	Mark & Eric Heiser
	Sunday	For The People
12/8:	7:15am Tuesday	Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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:

+Gary Wolfname +Martin Brown, Jr. +Marge St. Clair

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their 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.

First Sunday of Advent begins today! There are many guides online for prayer during the Advent season. Find one that is good for your family!

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.

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!



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

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!