

Called By Name

We now begin what the Church calls "Ordinary Time." Christmas season is over, and we begin to see Jesus at work.

We begin with a significant story, found in the First Reading for this Sunday. A young man named Samuel is sleeping in the temple. He wakes up instantly when he hears his name spoken out loud. He cries out, "Here I am!" and runs to his master, Eli, who is sleeping in another place in the temple. "You called me, what do you want?"

"I didn't call you," Eli rasps. "Go back to sleep."

But the same thing happened again. Samuel runs to Eli, with the same result. On the third time, the old man at last understands. Wisely, he says "Samuel if this happens again, say these words: 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" Samuel goes back to sleep. He hears his name again, "Samuel, Samuel"! Following instructions, he says, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!" God speaks, and Samuel grows up accompanied by the Lord's presence.

So much for the First Reading. Another naming is represented in the Gospel. John the Baptist points to Jesus. Jesus is waiting for standers-by to notice him and get interested. They follow and Jesus says bluntly, "What are you looking for?" There are several layers to this question. The plain meaning is, "What's up? Why are you following me?" But the depth charge is there too, the same one that finally shook Samuel loose: "Are you looking for God? Is that your hunger? Is there something about me that answers the deep desire of your heart?"

They stammer. They give some kind of reply. "Well, uh, well, um, where, where are you staying?" Jesus replied as he does to you and me: "Come and see."

They do go and see, spending the day with him. One of them, Andrew, runs to get his brother Simon, shouting, "we have found the Messiah"! They run back to Jesus and the most important event in Simon's life takes place: Jesus gives him the name Cephas (Peter), a new deep identity for him. The word Cephas' base meaning is "the rock." Jesus must have seen innermost stability in him.

Peter could never have become fully himself if someone had not named him all the way to his depths. The same goes for Samuel. God can call any of us by a name that reaches all the way down into our souls, to a place that we do not even know about! Our job is to begin hearing and to grow.

Must it always be God or Jesus who calls our name in order for us to become ourselves? Couldn't a psychologist do it, or a spouse, or a dear friend who believes in us? Yes, of course, each of these know us and beckon us to be ourselves.

But only God can know our very deepest desires, and only God can satisfy the one that is the most precious in each of us: the reaching out for that person we want most and for whose sake we love others. Jesus God.

Do you sense in your insides a kind voice whispering such an invitation, calling you by your real name, calling you to be an ally of the Christ of God? John Foley, SJ

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 17, 2021

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 McMahan.....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 January 18th through January 24th:

Mon: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tue: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5,9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wed: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thur: Heb 7:25-8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Fri: Heb 8:6-13' Ps 85:8, 10, 11-14; Mk 3:13-19
Sat: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sun: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$2095

"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

1/17:	Sunday	Charlene Gambler Brown
	Sunday	For the people
1/20:	Wednesday 5pm	Poor Souls in purgatory
1/21:	Thursday 7:15am	+Monsignor James O'Neill
1/22:	Friday 5pm	Charles Emerson, Jr.
1/24:	Sunday	Intention of donor
	Sunday	For the people

As we continue to celebrate 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:

+Daniel "Danny O." Ortiz

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.

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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Be Not Afraid...

Be Not Afraid will be the theme for this year's 21st Annual Wyoming Catholic Retreat. Wyoming Catholic Retreat is a spiritual initiative established to draw people to a deep and lasting union with Jesus Christ, placing the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life" at the centre of its mission. It is modeled after the National YOUTH 2000 which was founded in 1990, by a young English man named Ernest Williams who was inspired by John Paul II's call to young people at World Youth Day in 1989 at Santiago de Compostela asking young people to be apostles and to go into the world and spread Christ's message to all. Wyoming Catholic Retreat will be February 12-14, 2021 and this year we are opening it to all age groups. We are encouraging families to come together as we know all ages could deeply use a retreat with Jesus this year, more than ever. Please see schedule, ticket pricing, and registration forms at www.WyomingCatholicRetreat.com. For questions, please email to: all4christ85@gmail.com