

## Listening

In our readings this Sunday, certain people get a direct invitation to do God's will. Wouldn't it be wonderful for you and me if we had such a straight invitation? Instead of going about in a fog and trying our best to remember how to live, maybe how to pray once in a while, and to get to Mass on Sunday when possible, wouldn't it be great to be caught up by a command that focused everything in our lives, drew us on like a far-shining star?

Maybe.

But in the First Reading Jonah was quite repelled by the call God gave him. And in the Gospel the disciples surely had no idea what they were getting themselves into when they dropped everything and followed Jesus. Would they have been so trusting if they had known about the crucifixion?

God says to Jonah, "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it; their wickedness has come up before me" (First Reading). Jonah, like a house cat, does exactly the opposite of what he is asked. He drops everything and runs in the opposite direction. He goes to the town of Joppa, finds a ship to Tarshish and gets on board, trying get as far from the task as possible.

Maybe you know the famous story. A terrible storm arises. Fleeing the command of God, Jonah tells the sailors to throw him overboard in order to save themselves—since by sea-superstition he is the cause of their trouble. So they toss him over the side and the sea quiets down.

Jonah is swallowed by a "large fish," usually referred to in tradition as a whale. Residence in a whale's interior gives Jonah ample time for thought. God does save him and tells him a second time to go to the great and sinful city of Nineveh to announce the Lord's message. Jonah submits at last and the whole city is converted. Why in the world didn't Jonah just follow God's command instead of running the other way? Because he already had his own prejudice in place. Jonah did not want the pagan city, Nineveh, to convert and be saved because this city was an enemy of the Hebrews. Better for it to perish in flames than to repent in ashes and sackcloth? As for the apostles, they decided to follow Jesus for their own understandable but perhaps skewed reasons (Gospel). Issues of livelihood and the excessive tax system surely helped prompt them to follow this charismatic man whose reputation had preceded him. Were they following their noses to some kind of political action?

In any case, these are direct invitations from God. Are we kidding ourselves that our life and following our call will be placid, satisfying, and without ambiguity?

We all already have prejudices in place about what we want and how things ought to go. In fact, any of us who pray occasionally actually might find ourselves asking God to do our will, rather than the opposite.

Let's grow, just like Jonah and the apostles did. Let's listen in quiet, and then, by following, come to learn what we have heard.

John Foley, SJ

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### January 24, 2021

#### St. Stephens Indian Mission

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Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

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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 25th through January 31st:

Mon: Acts 22:3-16; Ps 117:1-2; Mk 16:15-18  
Tue: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:31-35  
Wed: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20  
Thur: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6; Mk 4:21-25  
Fri: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34  
Sat: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; (Ps) Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41  
Sun: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

### Parish Collection

Last week mail in collection \$909

*"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

1/24:	Sunday	Intention of donor
	Sunday	For the people
1/27:	Wednesday 5pm	+Larry Englert
1/28:	Thursday 7:15am	+Bill Huddleston
1/29:	Friday 5pm	+Larry Mascaranéz
1/31:	Sunday	+June Shakespeare
	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:

+Leon Moon

*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!

### The Seminarian Education Fund

The Seminarian Education Fund appeal has begun. Many of you should have received a letter and prayer card in the mail this past week. In addition to praying for vocations, offering financial support to our seminarians is another way you can actively promote vocations in the Diocese of Cheyenne, which is among the goals of Vision 2030. Your gift will help to provide for tuition, room and board, and other expenses related to forming our seminarians. Perhaps more importantly, your gift, no matter how large or small, will encourage and sustain our seminarians as they make their journey toward priesthood. Please prayerfully consider your gift to The Seminarian Education Fund.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are you anxious about the things of the world? God's desire for your marriage is to experience the unconditional love that allows us to let go of our worries. Join us for a Worldwide marriage Encounter experience to learn about the gifts in your marriage. Upcoming dates: Feb. 19-21 or a virtual experience Sundays 2-5pm and Tuesdays 7-9 pm Feb 28 – March 23. For more information and to apply visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org), email [montana.dooleys@gmail.com](mailto:montana.dooleys@gmail.com). or call Dan & Clare Dooley 406-697-3275.