

## Getting Ready to Pray

We live the Eucharist as a mission. The Body of Christ is alive as we move out and toward his sisters and brothers. During our Eucharistic journeys we encounter bumps in the road. We would wish it were smooth and easy to live. We pray these days of Eucharistic living for the grace to have clean hearts. We pray for the freedom to touch what calls to us for healing. We pray as well for the honesty to have our uncleanness touched by God. We can pray to reach those who are considered outside the camp, outside the circle, but who, by Christ's touch, are in the Eucharistic pale. We pray as well to trust God's good time in healing us from our sores, bumps, rashness boiling-overs, and various physical and emotional injuries experienced during our journeys. We also pray for the grace to join Jesus in his ways of reaching out to those who are injured, sick, or alienated.

### Some Thoughts

Fear of exclusion and abandonment is central to our human condition. We hear in the First Reading only a few verses from two whole chapters from Leviticus dealing with one specific topic, leprosy. This book, one of the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures, deals mostly with laws contributing to proper order in the camp resulting from God's direct word through Moses and or Aaron. The original garden of perfection was a picture of orderliness, everything had its name and proper place. Any imperfection, or something out of place was ungodly and so unholy. The person who was judged to have disease by the priests would have to walk around shouting their identity as "unclean" and live according to that name. In the next chapter of Leviticus there is a description of quite an extended process of examination, purification and restoration back into the community. When reading that, one might choose to stay in the previous condition of leprosy. The Gospel has some interesting features. The "unclean" man, instead of keeping his distance according to the tradition and the law, came to Jesus for healing. Jesus did touch the man, not keeping his distance either. The physical healing took place as an act of faith. The man is told to go and show himself to the priests and offer what Moses prescribed. The man, cured, is now in the camp, and Mark states clearly that Jesus stayed outside in deserted places so as to remain available for further healings. He remains an outsider welcoming people back in harmony with God and themselves. What Jesus did most for this man was to change his identity from being "unclean" to being present in the community of the Good News. What Jesus does most in our lives as Savior is to restore our good-enough-to-share self. We might have only one paint can, one color, maybe not filled to the brim and a smaller brush than others. But Jesus paints our world with his color and invites us back always, into his camp, this world. We come to him, kneel down and after admitting our truth, Jesus' constant words are "I do will it," his missioning healing response. We will know his healing when we want to get up, get back in, and start painting again.

*They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.*

*Psalm 78:29-30*

Larry Gillick, SJ

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 14, 2021

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 February 15th through February 21st:

Mon: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13  
Tue: Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21  
Wed: Gn 11:2-18; Ps 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
Thur: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25  
Fri: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6b, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15  
Sat: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32  
Sun: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

### Parish Collection

Last week's mail in collection \$930

*"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

2/14: Sunday	For the people
Sunday	+Edward LaMorte
2/17: Wednesday 5pm	+June Shakespeare
2/18: Thursday 7:15am	Elma Brown on her birthday
2/19: Friday 5pm	Souls in purgatory
2/21: Sunday	For the people
Sunday	Linda McDonald

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:

+LaDonna Dewey

*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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

 *Happy Valentines Day* 

### ASH WEDNESDAY

In light of the pandemic all ashes will be distributed by sprinkling on the penitent instead of tracing a cross on each person's forehead. There will be several opportunities for parishioners to receive ashes this Wednesday (2/17) here at St. Stephens:

9am: Mass followed by imposition of ashes

11am: Imposition of ashes

1pm: Imposition of ashes

3pm: Imposition of ashes

5pm: Mass followed by imposition of ashes

If you are unable to come on Ash Wednesday this site has a resource to have your own service at home with your family:

<https://familytogether.stcdio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Ash-Wednesday-Home-Prayer-Service-English.pdf>