

Eat Up

A Polish-American Jesuit friend once invited me to dinner at his mother's house. This sound-
ed quite agreeable. The only instruction I was given beforehand was: do not refuse second
helpings.

I was young and skinny and I knew I would even accept thirds.

But ...

Polish mothers take great pride in their traditional foods and in the multiple, large, large
bowls in which they serve each one. Different foods, every one delicious, each and every one
astonishingly filling.

So I ate and ate and ate until the terrible moment arrived. "Here, have some more, oh my
goodness you don't have anything on your plate, take some of this. And this. You are going
to starve. You won't be ready for dessert if you don't eat your meal!"

Luckily I did not roll my eyes. I took as little of each as I could politely do, dealt with dessert,
and took my stuffed self away from the table, graced with a new friend in my new Polish
mother, and a sore stomach.

Why do I tell you this?

Because Simon's mother-in-law in the Gospel must have been this sort of a woman. When-
ever guests visited I'm sure she would be hustling and bustling, stirring up a welcome, dish
after dish.

But, when Jesus and the apostles came over one day, she was ill and helpless.

Jesus, immersed in his new career of preaching, curing, driving out unclean spirits, and
showing the great tenderness of God for people, he saw how much out of character it was
for her to just lie there and watch her guests. He took her hand, healed her without ceremo-
ny, and lifted her out of her frustration. The Gospel says that, "she waited on them." Just like
the Polish mother.

But there is a contrast. In the First Reading we hear the ancient words of Job, who does
nothing but complain that everything has been taken away from him. "My life is like the
wind," he says, "I shall not see happiness again."

I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"

then the night drags on;

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.

Many of us will recognize these symptoms from our own lives. But Job lost more than just
sleep. He had been prosperous, with a wife and servants, children, land, livestock, and a
sterling reputation. Now they were taken away.

What had he done to deserve such huge deprivations?

For that matter, what did Jesus do to deserve the loss of his people (and his frequent meals
with them), and of his preaching and curing and befriending? When he hung on the cross did
he remember his mother's meals?

And did she?

We too have to know that loss is included in the way of the world.

God knows this also.

And he remains with us either way. "Father and fonder of heart he has wrong."* God shows
that love means "being with us" in good times and in bad as well. Yes, he does join us in de-
lightful meals.

But he does not take troubles away.

He joins us in them.

John Foley, SJ

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7, 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 confes-
sion. 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.

.....
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!
.....

*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 8th through February 14th:

Mon: Gn 1:1-9; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tue: Gn 1:20-2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wed: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thur: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30

Fri: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37

Sat: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-4c, 5-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Sun: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Parish Collection

Last two weeks mail in collection \$2225/\$1654

"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

2/7:	Sunday	For the people
	Sunday	+Georgie Crawford
2/10:	Wednesday 5pm	+Georgie Crawford
2/11:	Thursday 7:15am	+Georgie Crawford
2/12:	Friday 5pm	+Bob Meeboer
2/14:	Sunday	For the people
	Sunday	+Edward LaMorte

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:

+Melissa April Brown

+James Arthur

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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

God Bless You

today

&

always



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Is your marriage getting boring? Complacent? Need some excitement back? Join us from the comfort of your living room to learn how to bring back the excitement in your marriage. Don't miss out. Upcoming dates: Feb. 19-21 or a virtual experience Sundays 2-5pm and Tuesdays 7-9pm Feb 28 – March 23. For more information and to apply visit www.wwme.org, email mon-tana.dooleys@gmail.com or call Dan & Clare Dooley @ 406-697-3275.

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.