

Coming To Pieces

A tiny grain plants itself deep within the soil. It tucks its self into complete darkness. It is fearless, comforted by the tough, safe shell that is its home. It belongs there, and knows it. In quiet. In growth. Home.

Then calamity.

The shell-shelter turns tight and invading and painful. The growing seed finds its peace replaced by shock. Its formerly great protector is now opposing it, holding it back. Crushing it. Then, suddenly, as if planned from all eternity, the protecting shell cracks right open. "Wait, wait, I need you," shouts the seed. Nothing doing.

The shelter goes to pieces! Moisture trickles in, and bits of dank, cold soil. Anything and everything can now wriggle right into the heart of what was a quiet, pure place.

The seed goes crazy. What is left of it copes somehow, wildly extending a new, thin arm outward, then slithering out its whole self. "Steady by jerks" through the cracks in its shell. It had to get out of there, so it dares its way into the rough, cold mud. How foolish and how shaming. Stay where safety is, you fool!

But the slowly transforming tiny self seems to take on a new life. Is this its new home now, in the slippery soil? It moves with caution. It is going upwards.

Too much is in its path, including a huge, unyielding rock. A jagged, rough, uncarving rock, heedless of tiny green shoots.

And so the story ends.

Except that the former seed appears to have will power. It is seeking something—urging itself toward some pressing objective, rooting its way with intuitive ambition.

Along the under-edge of the rock, brutally, fearfully and with rending pain. After what seems like years it achieves the far under-edge of the gnarly rock and, guess what. It starts upward again.

Now there are hard clods to press through and plenty of pebbles. The higher it goes the more dry the surrounding soil becomes. Then the top crust. It forbids any penetration. It is an ultimate, intractable, stupefying barrier.

And so the story ends.

Except for one voice from deep within. Push. Push, it murmurs. I am with you.

Now just a thinnest lesion in the tough skin. With a certainty that might have been written on its heart, this vine-to-be gets to the place it was meant to be. In a heaven of light and warmth, bathed in the sun's astonishing rays, it is now a plant and it stretches and yawns in the wafting breezes of Spring.

This is just like our own journey, isn't it? Dark mud can take a chokehold on our life.

But Jesus says, do not worry, child, trust me. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (Gospel)

John Foley, SJ

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 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 March 22nd through March 28th:

Mon: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
 Tue: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
 Wed: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
 Thur: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10
 Fri: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
 Sat: Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56
 Sun: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

Parish Collection

Last week's mail in collection \$270

"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

3/21: Sunday	+John Cunningham
Sunday	For the People
3/24: Wednesday 5pm	No Mass
3/25: Thursday 7:15am	No Mass
3/26: Friday 5pm	Duane Bell, Jr.
3/27: Saturday Blessed Sacrament	Intention of donor
3/28: Sunday	Intention of donor
Sunday	For the people

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

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!

Bishop Steven's dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass Obligations has been extended through June 30th.

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.

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Virgil Whiteman, Jr. +Seattle Hanway
 +Michael "Rory" Lynch +Roberta Oldman

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the

Bishop Steven Biegler has extended to all the faithful in the Diocese of Cheyenne the dispensation from the obligation to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation through Wednesday, June 30, 2021. To read the full decree, go to: <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/the-living-church-in-a-time-of-crisis-covid-19>.

“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”
 -St. Gregory Nazianzen



Let us admit that, for all the progress we have made, we are still "illiterate" when it comes to accompanying, caring for and supporting the most frail and vulnerable members of our developed societies.

— POPE FRANCIS
 Fratelli Tutti, 64

It is our moral responsibility to accept the COVID-19 vaccine for the sake of our own health and solidarity with the most vulnerable

