

Why So Upset?

The Gospel for this Third Sunday of Lent gives us a shocking picture of Jesus. Our gentle savior has turned violent. He erupts as he sees merchants vend oxen, sheep and doves in the temple, sees money-changers doing base commerce in God's house.

Not only is this unlike the Jesus we know, but doesn't it violate the holy temple? These trades-people were selling animals because living creatures were needed for burnt offerings. People had to buy them somewhere. And they had to get their money changed, since so many of them came from lands with different currencies. Sounds quite reasonable doesn't it? Not to Jesus. He yells, "you are desecrating my Father's temple!" He grabs some dividing cords, yanking them into a knot, and whips the vendors. Whips them! Quite a terrible sight. He heaves the carefully sorted coins into an unholy mess on the floor and finishes up by hurling the tables into this chaos he has created.

How in the world does such fury coincide with the quiet, humble Jesus we will see in Holy Week? There he will barely say a word, even though his enemies will be violating the Father's holiest temple of all, Jesus' very self.

What is going on here?

Some external reasons for his vehemence are evident.

Vendors were allowed only in the courtyard of the temple, not inside where they now had established themselves. And perhaps the dishonest practices of outdoor market-places had stolen their way into the temple. The thumb on the scale, the inflated prices, all of that.

There is another, internal reason which is much more important. Jesus knew with blessed certainty what human beings were created to be. We are made to be filled with God's presence, to be beloved by God personally and to love God in return. We are most ourselves when we are not entrapped by riches honor and pride. We are designed to "let go and let God." Jesus must have been overwhelmed when he saw merchants winking at these Godly values, preferring cold cash and cheating for it at the dead center of sacred space.

Everything was upside down.

Why did he react so very differently during Holy Week? Why was he silent then? Because by then Jesus had come to understand the depths of his mission: not just to do social action—that's what the temple scene was—not just to cure the people miraculously, not to preach from the hillsides. He saw that he must become one with our death as well as our life, must unite with us in the terrible hurts we get from each other. Only then could he show how very close God is.

Wrath for sure can be an understandable and just reaction to selfishness and greed. The merchants were seeking short-term profit at the expense of freedom, holiness, truth, and completion of the human spirit. Worse, they were foisting all this upon the people Jesus had come to save.

No wonder he hurled himself against these blind money grubbers. His emotion was real and quite impressive. But by contrast, on the cross he would empty himself out. He would surrender everything, including his fury, a surrender that would cancel out the grubbing of the money changers.

John Foley, SJ

Third Sunday of Lent March 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 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.

.....
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 March 8th through March 14th:

Mon: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tue: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wed: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thur: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
 Sat: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b; Lk 18:9-14
 Sun: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Parish Collection

Last week's mail in collection \$992

"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

3/7:	Sunday	Diane Woolford
	Sunday	For the People
	Sunday	Intention of donor
3/10:	Wednesday 5pm	+Darold Kniffin
3/11:	Thursday 7:15am	+Zach Knigge
3/12:	Friday 5pm	+Edward LaMorte
3/14:	Sunday	Jim & Tuck Mills
	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:

+Kyle Blaine White

+Janelle Warren

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.

Here are the Church regulations for fasting and abstinence during Lent:



- Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."— Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

JOB POSTINGS

Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation has two openings:

Administrative Assistant – provides clerical support, bookkeeping services, and donor relations services to advance the programs and day-to-day activities of the organization.

Director of Development – conducts major gift fundraising activities to meet both the short-and-long term funding needs of Catholic ministries.

St. Joseph Children's Home has an opening for:

Director of Spiritual Wellness – coordinate ministry and direction sensitive to the spiritual backgrounds of each resident and work to further enhance the appreciation of spiritual values among staff.

~ APPLICATION PROCESS ~

Visit <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/job-openings> for complete job descriptions and application. Submit an Application, Letter of Interest and a Resume by mail, email or in-person by March 31, 2021 to: Tammy Skala, Human Resource Director, Diocese of Cheyenne, 2121 Capitol Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001, tska-la@dioceseofcheyenne.org Tel: 307-638-1530.