

Endlessly Softly

Doesn't the word "falling" sometimes describe our lives? Falling into debt, falling out of belief, falling from blazing temperatures, falling from the pandemic, worrying about youths who say, "what shall we believe in?" And the crumbling of that one true foundation of society, the family?

The First Reading talks about a time like this.

God had pulled his people out of ancient captivity by sending them on a 40-year "exodus" from the Egypt of that day. In this terrible journey and the blazing heat of those days, things indeed had begun to fall apart. The freed people began to grouse and censure Moses and Aaron, their leaders. They actually said that they would rather have stayed in the land of Egypt and be killed—Egypt which at least had flesh-pots to eat from—than to starve now, wandering, through the desert.

How do we face the falling of their world and ours?

Maybe these words of Anne Lamott hold a key:

When a lot of things start going wrong all at once, it is to protect something big and lovely that is trying to get itself born, . . . and this something needs for you to be distracted so that it can be born as perfectly as possible.*

In the exodus, something very big and lovely was trying to be born. God was holding their "falling to pieces" gently all the while. He even sent a huge flock of quail for meat as well as "bread from heaven" (manna) from the skies.

The Gospel for Sunday flows right out of this incident. The people grumbled to Jesus, saying, our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'he gave them bread from heaven to eat.' What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?"

A strange question, since, only the day before, Jesus had multiplied five barley loaves and fishes till there was enough to feed this same huge crowd. What a sign that had been. Did they forget just one day later?

Jesus said, "It was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven."

A crucial distinction. God had sent the manna, God sends Jesus, the true manna. Maybe God had distracted them (and us?) by the falling of his people.

There is a poem by Reiner Maria Rilke, the German poet, which may apply here. If you will indulge me, I will quote it. "Autumn."***

The leaves are falling, falling as from afar,
as if from some far-off garden in the sky.

They fall with gestures of denial.

And in the nights the heavy earth falls
out of all the stars in the loneliness.

We all fall. This hand, here, falls.

And look at the rest: it is in all!

And yet, there is one who holds all this falling,
endlessly softly, in his hands.***

Maybe the careening earth, and human affairs, everything that is falling apart, all of it, every bit of it, has behind it something big and lovely trying to get itself born.

There is really no other true answer to the failures of our world. The dropping away of opportunities, the broken but recovering economy, the racial infidelity, the starvation—no answer at all unless supporting hands make safe the falling and support it with tenderness.

Instead of despairing, we must wait, wait, and then act, act.

Because something lovely is being born.

John Foley, SJ

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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PO Box 250

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Fr. Jim Heiser.....Pastor

Fr. Drew Duncan.....Associate 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

St. Stephens

Friday: Adoration followed by benediction 3:45pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass at 7:15am

Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 5:00pm

1st Saturday: Adoration at 8:00am; Mass at 9:00am

St. Josephs, Ethete

11am Sunday Mass

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

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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 August 2nd through August 8th:

Mon: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21
 Tue: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:1, 3-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36
 Wed: Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7b, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28
 Thur: Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23
 Fri: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10
 Sat: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20
 Sun: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

8/1/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

8/8/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Penny Robertson

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

7/25

TBA

"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 throughout this past year! God Bless!

Mass Intentions this week

7/31:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Special intention
8/1:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people +Ardena Spoonhunter +Ronnie Givens
8/3:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Duane Bell, Jr.
8/4:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	+Blasé Jenkins
8/5:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Sophie Heiser
8/6:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Eva Brown on her birthday
8/7:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Harry E. Quirk
8/8:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Chester Moss For the people +Joseph Blackburn

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Chester Moss

+Joseph Blackburn

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.

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 25% occupancy in attendance as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council's resolution. Please call the parish office 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.

Face masks are strongly encouraged at Mass. Please use hand sanitizer and maintain a safe distance apart.

Praised be Jesus Christ!
Praise Him now and always!

WCCW Retreat and Convention, September 9-11, 2021 at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyoming: If you have indicated you will be attending the WCCW convention, please submit your registration form and fee to Nancy Hall at 216 Mandan Lane, Cheyenne, WY 82009 by August 16, 2021. Checks made payable to the Cheyenne Deanery. Registration forms are available from your CCW President and the Diocese of Cheyenne website. www.dioceseofcheyenne.org
For your shopping pleasure there will be silent auction items, raffles and a purse raffle. The Saturday Mass Offertory will support St. Joseph's Society for retired priests. Please contact Jan McGuire, 307-631-3507 or Rosemary Barrett, 307-640-4311 for information or questions.

TRAINING IN FAITH FORMATION AND THEOLOGY

The Diocese of Cheyenne invites you to participate in an opportunity for ongoing learning and formation in your faith, especially if you serve in the ministry of catechesis for youth or adults or on your parish's pastoral or finance council.

Discipleship Formation for Lay Leaders offers Catholics from Wyoming an opportunity to study scripture, spirituality, morality, and liturgy in an online format through the University of Dayton. Completion of four courses with your cohort will offer a Certificate in Lay Leadership. For more information and to register, please visit <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/discipleship-formation-for-lay-leaders>. The next cycle begins August 22. Cost is \$50 per five-week course using our diocesan discount.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

11am Mass

What a blessing to return to Mass at St. Josephs! Masks are strongly encouraged and please keep as safe distance as possible from those who are not in your immediate household. Hohou!