

## Shepherding

In his youth, a Jesuit friend of mine had been an actual shepherd. I asked him what that must have been like.

I suppose my ulterior motive was that three of our readings today have references to shepherds.

But he surprised me.

He said he had hated that job and would never go near it again. There were so many sheep in a herd that you could never know which was which, much less give names to them, and that sheep-dogs were the only way you could keep them more or less together in a herd.

Was my friend a “bad shepherd” like the ones we find in the First Reading? Not at all. He was an outstanding shepherd of people, in spite of this youthful experience. But in our day the tending of sheep is an industry, not a personal act.

The flocks were small in Jesus’ day. A shepherd could indeed name each one and the herd knew his voice by heart, just as the family dog knows yours.

So, in Jesus’ day, good shepherds would search and search for a lost sheep. Or find one turned absurdly on its back, unable to roll over again because of its full fleece. The shepherd took his “crook,” which had a big curve on one end, and easily maneuver the sheep to its feet. If there was real danger, as for instance if wolves were ready to pounce, the shepherd would take out his “staff,” a pole-like instrument, and deal with the predators.

Bad shepherds, on the other hand, would actually scatter the sheep; drive them away without care. The sheep feared and trembled, and many went missing. Sometimes workers were hired who were not shepherds at all and who simply ran away when a wolf approached (Jn 10:12). God’s anger flamed out against such bad shepherds. Of course these sheep and shepherds were symbols representing God’s people and their rulers.

In the Responsorial Psalm, Jesus was the Good Shepherd. What about the Gospel? So many people were coming and going that Jesus and his apostles “had no opportunity even to eat.” He advised his friends to come away with him to a quiet place to rest. Even shepherds must take a break. They used a boat to go to a deserted area.

But the needy people saw where the boat was headed and they went there and formed a “vast crowd”! What should Jesus do? Start ministering again instead of resting?

The Gospel says “his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd,” so “he began to teach them many things.”

God’s words in the First Reading had come true: “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock and bring them back to their meadow.”

The question for you and me is not whether we should go without our rest and food and become workaholics for the sake of others.

It is whether our own hearts are ever moved with pity for the scattered and fear-filled sheep of our own time. Can we love them as Jesus does? As he loves each of us?

Can we imitate God’s good shepherd?

John Foley, SJ

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### July 18, 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

Fr. Drew Duncan.....Associate 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

#### St. Stephens

Friday: Adoration followed by benediction 3:45pm will resume on August 6th

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 will resume on July 25th**

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!  
.....

*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 July 19th through July 25th:

Mon: Ex 14:5-18; (Ps) Ex 15:1b-6; Mt 12:38-42  
 Tue: Ex 14:21-15:1; (Ps) Ex 15:8-10, 12, 17; Mt 12:46-50  
 Wed: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Mt 13:1-9  
 Thur: Sg 3:1-4a; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18  
 Fri: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23  
 Sat: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Mt 13:24-30  
 Sun: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

### Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

7/18/21

#### 9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

#### 5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

7/25/21

#### 9:00am Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout

#### 5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

### Parish Collection

7/11

\$2705.41

*"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

7/17:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Marion & Darrell Offe
7/18:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Intention of donor For the people
7/20:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Special intention
7/21:	Wednesday 5pm	Vincent Brown on his birthday
7/22:	Thursday 7:15am	John Heiser
7/23:	Friday 5pm	Special intention
7/24:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	For the people
7/25:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Lorraine Addison +Marge St. Clair +Danny Ortiz

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Lorraine Addison

*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.*

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 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.

### **Bishop Steven's dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass Obligations expired June 30th.**

Face masks are strongly encouraged at Mass. Please use hand sanitizer and maintain a safe distance apart from parishioners (except if you are in the same household).

**Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!**

In the spirit of transparency, the Diocese of Cheyenne reports that Reverend Eckley Macklin (85 years old) has been restricted from public ministry due to a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Rev. Macklin is a priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT). The alleged incident of abuse did not take place within the Diocese of Cheyenne; however, he served in the Diocese of Cheyenne from 2003-2015 in the parishes of St. Ann in Saratoga; St. Joseph in Lovell, St. Stephens Mission in St. Stephens; and St. Margaret in Riverton.

Anyone who has suffered sexual abuse should contact the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Family Services. Upon notification of authorities or if you have questions, contact the Chancellor Jean Chrostoski at 307-638-1530, ext. 105 (jchrostoski@dioceseofcheyenne.org) or the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Adams at 307-220-0485.

## Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

**11am Mass**

Mass will resume at St. Josephs next Sunday, 7/25!! Masks are strongly encouraged and please keep as safe distance as possible from those who are not in your immediate household. Hohou!