

Here Is Food For You

For the last several weeks Jesus has been using his words to distress the disciples. Yes. Last week he said that if they want eternal life they have to eat his flesh and drink his blood! His followers could not possibly have understood this.* They muttered. "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

And they left.

This Sunday he makes it even harder.

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them,

"Does this shock you?"

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. . . .

As a result of this,

many of his disciples returned to their

former way of life and no longer accompanied him. (Gospel)

A sad scene, and puzzling too. Why is Jesus saying such things to his followers, and how is anyone supposed to understand it?

The following unwritten guideline might help in reading the Gospel of John, from which our Sunday reading is taken.

There, whenever an event or saying does not seem to make complete sense, we can understand that it is masking deeper meanings. In other words, often a delicious significance is hidden behind events that are described in a bewildering way.

Let us try to apply this axiom to a saying from this week's Gospel:

. . . ascending to where he was before. . . .

Where was he "before"?

He was in the bosom of the Holy Trinity. God's love leaned out to us in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. He "descended" to us.

But he will have to "go back to the next life," because he was a human being, even though he was God. He is telling them this: if body and blood shock you, wait till you see me ascend into heaven!

And what about the words,

It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is to no avail.

In the readings from the past few weeks we have seen that Jesus' ascension would never be a desertion of us but would be his presence on earth in a new form. The third person of the Trinity was going to dwell within any people who believe.

The third person will dwell in us?

Where will our Jesus be? Well, since the members of the Trinity are at one in everything, they are completely present within each other. So Christ is within the Holy Spirit. That Spirit offers to live deep within each believer, within each person who says yes to its presence. The same thing can be said for the Father.

Ok, but how do we acquire this Holy Spirit? Definitely through Baptism. And, of course, as in Jesus' command from last week, through eating and drinking his body and blood. Communion makes us "become what we have eaten," the body of Christ. We are to let Christ have flesh again, in our hearts and in our actions. The Spirit is to be the soul of the Body of Christ, and we are to be the body.

When we are part of the "Body of Christ," we therefore have eternal life, as he told his followers. Peter sums it up. "We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Mass this Sunday will be meant to give us the power to live the Body of Christ into the world.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22, 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

Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation 15 minutes before Mass

Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation 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 23rd through August 29th:

Mon: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6z, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
 Tue: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
 Wed: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12b; Mt 23:27-32
 Thur: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
 Fri: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1-2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
 Sat: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30
 Sun: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

8/22/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

8/29/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/22 \$1467

"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

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 25% occupancy in attendance and face masks are required at Mass, per Wind River Intertribal Council Health Order. Please use hand sanitizer and maintain a safe distance apart from parishioners not in your household. Thanks for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions this week

8/21:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Irene Millar
8/22:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Keith Spoonhunter for his birthday
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Father Jim Heiser
8/24:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Kylaya Spoonhunter
8/25:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	All addicts and those who love them
8/26:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Father Andrew Duncan
8/27:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass today
8/28:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Nick & Molly
8/29:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Special Intention
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Father John Apel
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Herman Lajuennesse, Jr.

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.

JustFaith Catholic

How are we being called to address poverty?

Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response, part of the JustFaith Catholic series, explores God's call to respond to poverty in our local communities, equipping participants to take action in effective and sustainable ways. In this program, participants explore these two questions: 1. What tools does my Catholic faith have to offer regarding huge questions around poverty and injustice, and 2. In light of poverty and other forms of human suffering, what is the Good News of the Gospel? Participants will emerge from this program with a transformed understanding of who they are as God's child and how God is calling them to use their lives.

We will be offering Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response at St. Stephens beginning Wednesday September 8, 2021. The program will meet for 8 weeks on Wednesdays from about 6pm to 830pm right here at St. Stephens. There is a retreat and immersion experience involved as well for those who can attend. If you would like more information or would like to register contact Kevin Wilson at 407-873-1003 or kevinwilson1987@gmail.com.

The Pope has joined his voice to those of Bishops across North and South America to urge people to get vaccinated. In a video message produced in conjunction with the Ad Council, Pope Francis praised the work of researchers and scientists in producing safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines.

"Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable," he said.

Pope Francis then prayed to God that "each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love."

"No matter how small, love is always grand," he said. "Small gestures for a better future."

View video at <https://fb.watch/7vXy1SViSE/>

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

First Communion Today!

Congratulations to

Ariyana Lynelle Willow



Samuel Blasé Jenkins