

The Heart of the Matter

The people in this week's Gospel are quarreling about who has and who hasn't washed his hands for dinner.

If you were a follower of the Jewish custom of that time, you would know that every person was required to wash up before eating. The rule was "a tradition of the elders," to preserve physical health, of course. But Jesus is now telling people they have to live also from the inner meaning of traditions and laws.

So, let us talk about the interior of traditions, rules and laws.

Children do not yet have a developed interior value system, as parents know.

"It is bedtime. Let's brush our teeth and get our pajamas on."

"I don't want to."

"I know, it is hard to stop playing and go to bed. I understand.

But bedtime is here so let's get started."

"But why?"

"Because we have to get our rest so we can be bright and cheerful tomorrow."

"Why?"

"Because I said so, now get moving."

Rules, the right ones, must be imposed upon a child.

As we grow up, the child's "why?" question gets answered by experience and maturity.

Adults go to bed because they need a certain amount of sleep each night and they know it.

Well, at least a lot of us do.

But why have rules and laws in the first place? I have heard the following: rules are meant to describe the minimum that has to be done in order to belong to a country or state or city or business or group or family. Not too many rules, not too few.

This is difficult to achieve. Under the best circumstances, people follow rules because their allegiance comes from within and they act from their own desire.

Apply this to a group. Take a faith-sharing group, for instance. It has an implicit expectation, even a requirement, that its members be present at each weekly meeting. What if a person shows up only once or twice a year, but in that case, is the heart-and-soul of the discussion? And what if another person attends every single meeting but contributes nothing and in fact has no interest in the topics?

Neither person really fits well into the group, but which would you rather work with? The first has real relevance to the organization and might not need much convincing to come more often (and therefore comply better to the rule). But it would be much harder to kindle a fire in the second, wouldn't it, the one who is following the external rule but not its insides.

The interior life of Jesus IS the Holy Spirit of love. Jesus knew that any law of the Kingdom of God must emerge from love or else be empty. He was angry that Pharisees and Scribes had manipulated exterior laws to feed their own egos. "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

He is not telling them to ignore the laws and have just inner devotion. He is saying you must have both, external plus internal adherence. Would it be worth it for you and me to look at the various obligations in our life and weigh how much correspondence they have to our inner values and convictions?

Maybe that would help us have the right heart both inside and outside.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29, 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

.....
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 August 30th through September 5th:

Mon: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30
 Tue: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
 Wed: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
 Thur: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
 Fri: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 5:33-39
 Sat: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5
 Sun: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

8/29/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

9/5/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/22

\$1210

"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

8/28:	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
8/31:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Jim Leonard
9/1:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Charles "Chuck" Concanon
9/2:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Anita Marie Spoonhunter
9/3:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	+LeRoy Westika
9/4:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	SathTa Prue
9/5:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Donna Marie Collom
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Joan Willow & Family
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Ladonna Littleshield +Thomas Denego +David Brown, Sr.

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.

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.

WCCW Retreat and Convention, September 9-11, 2021 at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is quickly approaching. Cheyenne Deanery is excited to be hosting this year and look forward to the event. Parish CCW organizations are reminded to please bring your banner with an easel to display, and a gift basket for the silent auction. Live raffle, silent auction and purse raffle will be held for your shopping pleasure on Thursday, September 9 and closes with the banquet that evening. 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.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Information regarding Religious Education classes will be coming in the next few weeks!