

Here Is Food For You

The background: Elijah had just come from a dangerous showdown with 450 prophets of a god called Baal, in the land ruled by Jezebel. The God of Israel had easily won this encounter, but Elijah had gone ahead and done great violence against the surviving prophets anyway. Queen Jezebel, understandably enraged, sent a message that she would do the same thing to Elijah and more within that same day.

In our First Reading Elijah was frightened, exhausted and dispirited. He had come back to find the Israelites being unfaithful to the one true God. So he became miserable—in spite of his great triumph. He prayed to God to give immediate death to his worthless self. As despondent people will sometimes do, he went to sleep. He lay himself under a broom tree (a tall hedge that desert people used to shield themselves from the sun in the day and the wind at night).

God could have been harsh to Elijah as a result of this depressed prayer. But instead, a quiet touch from God's angel awakened the man. The angel whispered, "get up and eat." And, lo and behold, "there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water."

Elijah did eat and drink, but then settled right back to sleep again. The angel whispered tenderly, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" Elijah did and was strengthened.

We are witnessing a mother's care, giving food to the discouraged child (First Reading). The other readings too are all about God's kindness, his goodness even in small things. The Responsorial Psalm invites us to share in it: "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. . . I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears."

In the Gospel, Jesus offers nourishment, and this time the provisions are for a very long journey indeed, the one to eternal life. The people listening (called by John "the Jews," but really just "the sensible people") will not have a bit of it. They argue among themselves, ridiculing his silly offer of miraculous food. They "murmur" that they knew his parents, which made him just a local boy acting crazy. Jesus ordered them to stop grousing and listen. He made the same comparison that we saw last week, between manna that came down from heaven in the desert, and himself, who was "the living bread that came down from heaven."

Just concentrate on the deliberate kindness of God: feeding the people, giving them drink, pursuing them again and again in order to offer the greatest gift of all, God's sacrificial love for us.

God follows us quietly, gently.

How might we respond? To start with, how about receiving the living bread in Communion? Another way could be to pray on the mellowness of God. Also, simply slowing down, stopping the running away and instead letting the Lord find us. God's kindhearted love, which is also tough, proves to be quite worth the struggle.

Here is how Paul puts it in the Second Reading.

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

John Foley, SJ

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

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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 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: 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!
♦♦♦♦♦

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 9th through August 15th:

Mon: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27
 Tue: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
 Wed: Dt 34:1-12; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20
 Thur: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-6; Mt 18:21-19:1
 Fri: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12
 Sat: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; ; Mt 19:13-15
 Sun: Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

8/8/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Penny Robertson

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

8/15/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

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| 7/25 | \$1798.53 |
| 8/1 | \$2315.00 |

"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 as we follow the Wind River Intertribal Council's resolution. Face masks are strongly encouraged at Mass. 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!

Mass Intentions this week

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| 8/7: | Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament | Harry E. Quirk |
| 8/8: | Sunday 9am St. Stephens | +Special Intention |
| | Sunday 11am St. Josephs | For the people |
| | Sunday 5pm St. Stephens | +Joseph Blackburn |
| 8/10: | Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens | +Thomasine Ridgely |
| 8/11: | Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens | Hubert Warren, Jr. |
| 8/12: | Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens | Special Intention |
| 8/13: | Friday 5pm St. Stephens | Azalea Hanway on her birthday |
| 8/14: | Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament | Ramona Bell Underwood |
| 8/15: | Sunday 9am St. Stephens | +Joseph Lambrecht |
| | Sunday 11am St. Josephs | +Chato Lyday |
| | Sunday 5pm St. Stephens | For the people |

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Chato Lyday

+Thomasine Ridgely

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: 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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

11am Mass

What a blessing it has been to see everyone at Mass at St. Josephs! Reminder that masks are strongly encouraged and please keep as safe distance as possible from those who are not in your immediate household. Hohou!