

He Began To Teach Them

Jesus cures a deaf mute in this Sunday's reading and arouses astonishment in the crowd. (Gospel)

Christians tend to think that the healing of people was the main goal in Jesus' life. But after this Sunday there are only four more healings by Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Why? Earlier (in the first seven chapters) he had worked so many cures that people were mobbing him.

And that was the trouble. He was in danger of becoming famous as a mere wonder-worker. People were besieging him at every stop, thinking that he would solve all their problems—if only he gave their health back, or if only he took away their poverty and death, or if only—well, you name it. He was in danger of receiving Andy Warhol's illustrious "fifteen minutes of fame," and only that.

But would fame really reveal God's love for the world and its peoples? Jesus thought not. In Mark Jesus stopped the miracles and began a new phase of his mission.

He turned his face toward Jerusalem. And the cross.

This change of direction will come next week. Suddenly and without warning Jesus will say to the disciples, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise" (Mk 9:31). What more shocking statement could this supposedly invincible leader and healer make to them? How could death go together with healing?

A man and wife told me of the death of their tiny son, and how they had prayed so hard for his healing. Their prayers were not answered, they said. Yet somehow they discovered that God had been present throughout the dying, that God had been immersed in their son's life and death, and that this intimate presence was enough, more than enough. Their sorrow was immersed in love, and their son was safe in God's arms.

The point? A human person is made to be loved by God, not merely to have good health, riches or reputation. Real life consists of love exchanged with God and with others, not just in seeming to be a leader or a success. There is a greater good than these, a relationship with the divine being, a seeking of the one who is already close. Such an intimate relationship sends us out to help give God's love to the world. Miracle cures help for a while, but pretty soon the suffering world has to be faced in its full suffering self.

As a result, Jesus moves toward the events that will show God's solidarity with us in our anguish, our rejections, and in that famous event which each and every one of us will face sooner or later: death. Beyond cures, which are wonderful yet partial, God gives us companionship within each instant of our life.

This Sunday at Mass, let us ask ourselves whether the intimate presence of God is part of what we desire in our own lives. Do we know that Christ is deeply involved with us? Do we let his love flow into us and through us to others, or must it just fight its way through?

Let's pray to hear, as the deaf man finally could.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 5, 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 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: 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 September 6th through September 12th:

Mon: Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
 Tue: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
 Wed: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
 Thur: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38
 Fri: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42
 Sat: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49
 Sun: Is 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

9/5/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

9/12/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/29

\$1471.25

"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

9/4:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	SathTa Prue
9/5:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Donna Marie Collom Joan Willow & Family For the people
9/7:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Poor souls in purgatory
9/8:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Annin SoldierWolf
9/9:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Emma Heiser
9/10:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	+Emily Wysochansky
9/11:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	For the people
9/12:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Poor souls in purgatory +Thomas Denego Annin SoldierWolf

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Maxine Sollars

+Ariel Rosaline Bernice Mendoza

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.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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