

ASK?

Often we think of God as someone who helps us get everything we need. The great parent in the sky.

The Responsorial Psalm says it well: "See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, to deliver them from death." (Psalm) James and John say the following to their teacher: "we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." They rush up to Jesus (Gospel). It a bit blunt, isn't it, like children making demands. Jesus replies mildly, "What do you wish me to do for you?" "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." Not a completely unreasonable request, I suppose. But rude. Moreover, the demand comes immediately—and I mean in the very next line—after he has predicted the passion. He says,

the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise. (Mark 10:33-34).

Hearing this, the apostles do what you and I often do. They change the subject.

There is nothing in their request about suffering, just glory. Jesus responds that they too must drink the cup that he will drink, or in other words, must also undergo pain. Jesus himself begged God to take the cup of suffering away, and he used the term, "Abba" (a familiar form of "father") when he was asking (Mark 14:36). And in another place, "during the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission (Hebrews 5:7).

He was heard?

What? God heard these fiery prayers and then sat by idly while the passion and cruel death went right along?

Such observations put us directly in front of The Terrible Question, the one that has plagued humankind since its beginning. Why does a trustworthy, loving, parental God permit suffering and catastrophe even when he has heard in detail the prayers of those about to be afflicted?

Maybe loss, death and suffering are not the worst thing for us, even though they certainly seem to be.

The worst would be loss of love's groundwork, the never-ending love of God. If [my servant] gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days.

Suffering may well stretch and widen the human soul, making it large enough to know God, to act on behalf of others, to let in that which is greater than death or life: love. Love stays even when life does not.

If this is true, then God's love is parental after all. He is allowing the worst in order to show what the best really is.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 17, 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!
 ♦♦♦♦♦

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 October 18th through October 24th:

Mon: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9
 Tue: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38
 Wed: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48
 Thur: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53
 Fri: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59
 Sat: Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-4b, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9
 Sun: Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

10/17/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

10/24/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

10/10

TBC

"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

Please contact Patti McMahon regarding Religious Ed. instruction at home...for baptism, First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. Patti can be reached at 856-7806 or at 332-9090 on Thursdays and Fridays!

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions this week

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 10/16: | Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament | Patti McMahon on her birthday |
| 10/17: | Sunday 9am St. Stephens | For the people |
| | Sunday 11am St. Josephs | Special Intention |
| | Sunday 5pm St. Stephens | +Ron Saban |
| 10/19: | Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens | +William Watt, Sr. |
| 10/20: | Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens | Mary Brown & Fr. Jim on their birthday |
| 10/21: | Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens | Red Star Pappan |
| 10/22: | Friday 5pm St. Stephens | Evvie Brown |
| 10/23: | Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament | Special Intention |
| 10/24: | Sunday 9am St. Stephens | For the people |
| | Sunday 11am St. Josephs | Gabriel Warren |
| | Sunday 5pm St. Stephens | Geraldine Brown |

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+William Watt, Sr.

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.

On October 22-23, 2021, the Diocese of Cheyenne will host a High School Youth Retreat, "Our Identity in Christ." Come together with other youth from across Wyoming to explore the question, "Who Am I?" If you have ever struggled finding your place, or have struggled with a sense of identity, God may have a great gift for you at this retreat. Please register your children by contacting Fr. Drew or email questions to Director of Pastoral Formation Joe Wotawa at jwotawa@dioceseofcheyenne.org

The Church of God is convoked in Synod. The path, "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission," solemnly opened in Rome on October 9-10, 2021. On Sunday, October 10, 2021, Bishop Biegler followed with the diocesan opening at the Cathedral of St. Mary at the 10 am Mass. A recording of the Mass can be found at <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/>

Each parish in the Diocese of Cheyenne will open the Synod for their communities on October 16 and 17, 2021. Parishioners are encouraged to wear red for this solemn service, as we invoke the Holy Spirit to empower and strengthen us that we may be a community and a people of grace. In preparation for this glorious opening, go to <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/synod-2021-2023> and read the *Preparatory Document* and the *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus* prayer (offered in both English and Spanish).

All Saints Day November 1st –5pm Mass

Cemetery Clean Up 3pm-7pm

St. Stephens

There will be a Mass at 5pm on Monday, November 1st for All Saints Day. AND the Wyoming Catholic College has graciously offered to help us clean our cemetery that day. If you have time, please come and help as we prepare the cemetery to celebrate All Souls Day! Fr. Drew will be providing a BBQ for all who pitch in and help. If you know for sure you will be coming to help please put your family name and how many will be coming in the collection basket so we prepare enough food! Many hands make light work, please join us!

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Don't forget to contact Sister Teresa regarding Religious Ed. instruction at home!