

Not Far From The Kingdom of Heaven

In the Gospel Reading, a scribe asks Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Maybe the point of asking this question is like the point of asking, "what are the most important requirements for this course?" A student who wants that information is trying to figure out what is crucial for passing the course. In his view, if he does the most important thing, maybe he doesn't have to do everything else.

In response to the scribe's question, Jesus tells him not only the commandment that is the first of all but also the one that is second. Taken together the two commandments cover the ground. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.... [And] you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

So if the scribe does just the most important things, he will have done pretty close to everything, won't he? If he was hoping for a way to get through without doing everything required for the kingdom of heaven, these two commandments will show him that he hasn't got a chance. If he doesn't do everything, he will have done virtually nothing, because he will have failed at the most important stuff.

There is something that the scribe likes about the answer of Jesus: it privileges morality above ritual. And so the scribe thinks that he has found something that isn't crucial for getting into heaven. Yes, the scribe says to Jesus affirmingly, obeying these two commandments is better than sacrifice.

Jesus doesn't disagree. But what he says to the scribe is, "you are not far from the kingdom of God."

Not far?! How can the scribe be distant in any way if he understands these commandments and accepts them as most important for the kingdom of heaven?

But here is the thing to see. What person among us loves God with all his heart? Who loves his neighbor as himself? If obeying these commandments is the most important thing for getting into heaven, what hope is there for anybody?

The answer is—Jesus. He is the Savior, who came to rescue people from their failures to obey the most important commandments.

All true hope of the kingdom of heaven lies in him.

And so the scribe, who is next to Jesus, is not far from the kingdom of heaven in more than one sense.

Eleanore Stump

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time October 31, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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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 November 1st through November 7th:

Mon: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1bc-4b, 5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
 Tue: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11; Jn 6:37-40
 Wed: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33
 Thur: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 37:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10
 Fri: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8
 Sat: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15
 Sun: 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

10/24/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

10/31/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

10/24

\$1343.27

"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

Father Jim would like to thank everyone for the tremendous outpouring of love and support he has received during his battle with cancer. Fr. Jim has received so, so much support through cards, text messages, phone calls, food drop offs, desserts and most importantly - prayer. He feels all the good energy and every prayer offered on his behalf and says ho-hou!

Mass Intentions this week

10/30:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Jerome Bell
10/31:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Serena Gardner
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Bonnie White
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Cabrielas Family
11/1:	Monday 5pm St. Stephens	Special Intention
11/2:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	All the souls of the faithful departed
11/3:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Dalene Fike
11/4:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Karen Brown
11/5:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass today
11/6:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
11/7:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Red Wing
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Pam Brown
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Jon & Nic

Please pray for the family of the deceased:

+Byron Lincoln

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.

Synod 2021-2023

This week, consider how we, as Church, are living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process. Do we offer everyone, especially those, who for various reasons, find themselves on the margins, the opportunity to express themselves so that they may contribute to the edification of the People of God? As you reflect on these questions, consider "what steps the Holy Spirit is inviting us to take as we continue our journey together" and pray with Luke 6:17-36.

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

All Saints Day November 1st –5pm Mass

Cemetery Clean Up 3pm-7pm

St. Stephens

There will be a Mass at 5pm tomorrow, Monday, November 1st for All Saints Day. AND the Wyoming Catholic College has graciously offered to help us clean our cemetery. 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 tomorrow! Many hands make light work, please join us if you can! God bless!

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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