

Getting Ready and Being Blameless

The First Reading and the Gospel both talk about a time when the Lord comes—for justice, as the First Reading says; and for judgment, as the Gospel implies. In the Gospel, Jesus warns people not to be overcome with the pleasures and anxieties of the world but to be ready for his coming. Those who are not ready will practically die of fright when they see him.

Well, then, what do we need to do to get ready?

The Second Reading in effect answers that question. At Christ's coming again, we are to be blameless in holiness.

And what is that?

If you are blameless under law, then no one can blame you for any violation of the law of the land. You weren't speeding, for example, or cheating on your income tax, or violating any other law of the city or country in which you are.

If you are morally blameless, then no one can blame you for any violation of the moral law. You weren't lying, for example, or cheating on your spouse, or violating any other command of the universal moral law that applies to all people no matter where they are.

But what is it to be blameless in holiness? The answer is in the Second Reading: in order to be ready for Christ at his coming, Christians need to increase in love and abound in it.

So here's the thing to see.

You can keep all the laws of your land and still be a real jerk. And the same truth holds for the moral law. You can be a priggishly righteous jerk too. Something more than having a great record for keeping the laws is necessary to be ready for the Lord.

That more is love.

If you want what is bad for your neighbor, if you curse him in public or even in your heart, if you wish he would just go away, if you tell him in your thoughts or to his face to go to hell—you do not love him. And you are blameworthy with regard to holiness if you don't. It doesn't matter how moral or legal your conduct is otherwise.

To be blameless in holiness, then, takes being loving. And being loving is what makes us ready for the return of the Lord.

Eleonore Stump

First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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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: 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 29th through December 5th:

Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tue: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
 Wed: Is 25:10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thur: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sun: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

11/28/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

12/5/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

11/21

TBD

"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

During this First Sunday of Advent Father Jim continues to pray for you as you pray for him. There are no words to express his gratitude to everyone for their help— the rides to treatment, the meals, the good thoughts, the food and the many prayers. Please continue to think of him during this holy season as he continues to battle cancer. It is through mercy, grace and all of you praying that he continues to be strengthened to fight.
 Ho-hou!

Mass Intentions this week

11/27:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
11/28:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Ardie Steinbronn
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	All those addicted
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Paul Lambrecht
11/30:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Strong Buffalo
12/1:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Special Intention
12/2:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Cindy Dodge
12/3:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass today
12/4:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
12/5:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Tyla Brown
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	All those in mourning
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	In thanks giving

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Zoe Friday

+Kenneth Shakespeare

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.

Synod 2021-2023

Please join us after the 9am Mass in Incarnata Hall to join our discussion!

Now that we have begun these conversations about walking together, let us prepare to enter Advent with renewed Faith and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us to find creative ways to continue walking together and deeply listening to one another. Form small discussion/prayer groups; spend time as a family exploring the image of Jesus, the crowd, and the apostles; reach out to family members and friends who have left the church and ask them to join you for prayer and conversation. Go to <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/synod-2021-2023> for updates and information.

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!



Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Contact Sister Teresa for baptism classes. God bless!