

## Let It Sing

“Brothers and sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice.”

St. Paul commands this in the Second Reading. The word for rejoice in Latin is gaudete, so quite naturally this Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday.

Why all this exultation? Are we finally getting a break from the somberness of Advent? Yes, but there is more to it than that.

Remember that Advent is like a retreat for the worldwide Church. In this upcoming third week we will pray about our lives in the context of the great beauty God has put in us and around us. Can you think this way?

One line in the First Reading puts it in dramatic terms. Zephaniah says that the Lord “will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.”

Because of you! Have you ever in your life thought that God might be singing because of you? Have you ever let your image of God expand that far? Have you ever let God be one who sings you into existence, in the most profound sense of the word?

In one of the books of Narnia by CS Lewis, the children are taken back to the very moment of creation. They hear the voice of Aslan (the Christ figure) singing into the wilderness. When the voice goes high, birds, clouds, blue sky appear. At a certain lengthy turn of melody the mountains raise their heads laboriously. A low hum vibrates forth the depths of seas. Creation seems to be made out of melody.

Maybe it is.

Scientists still contend about it, however. What is the physical universe composed of, particles or waves? (I think that is the choice they give us.) Einstein and many others tried to reconcile these, but no luck.

If I could come even close to describing what is called “string theory,” we might have a choice theory about the universe’s makeup. Maybe you have seen TV shows about string theory on PBS or elsewhere, a model that some scholars actually do believe unites the two hypotheses. Such “strings” act a lot like sound does. Like the vibrations that come forth from a violin string.

Instead of saying that particles or waves or uncertainty or whatever else are the basis of matter and force-fields, and so on, these scientists instead postulate string-like particles: infinitesimal, ever changing, wriggling thingumabobs. By their dancing shapes these string circles generate (or constitute, or become, or whatever is the right way to say it) everything that is.

How about this for a possibility: God’s gladness sings out joyfully at every instant, and his song is the earth, the galaxies, the people and plants and chemicals and soaring hawks and encircling planets, droplets of dew and heavy black holes, youthful beauties, ancient wisdoms, and everything else that exists.

In other words, we are God’s song.

Apply this, please, to Sunday’s Gospel.

There people in long rows gather to be baptized in expectation of the Savior who is to come. Each segment (the crowd, the tax collectors, the soldiers) ask John the Baptist the exact same question: “Teacher, what should we do?”

“Let your life sing,” he answers.

Let it sing.

Let your life be what it is: God’s joyous, interleaved and always consonant melody, sounding outwards in deepest joy. Share your cloak and your food, collect only what is owed, do not extort.

Do these things and you will be sounding the true melody of your life!

John Foley, SJ

## Third Sunday of Advent

### December 12, 2021

### St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 December 13th through December 19th:**

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 1517a; Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27  
 Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32  
 Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23  
 Thur: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30  
 Fri: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17  
 Sat: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25  
 Sun: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens**

**12/12/21**

**9:00am Mass**

Lector: Marilu Duncan

**5:00pm Mass**

Lector: Volunteer Needed

**12/19/21**

**9:00am Mass**

Lector: Tom Kasper

**5:00pm Mass**

Lector: Volunteer Needed

**Parish Collection**

12/5

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*

**Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!**

**Congratulations to Logan and Gavin Chartier who were recently baptized!**

**Blessings upon their parents, Cheyenne and Erick and their Godmother Katherine!**

**Mass Intentions this week**

12/11: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
12/12: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Lucy Ponce
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	+Ivora Moss
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Howard Brown
12/14: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
12/15: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Wren Urbigkeit
12/16: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Special Intention
12/17: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass today
12/18: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Jim Wilson
12/19: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Richard Shelton
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Special Intention
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Zoe Friday

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Ardie Steinbronn

*Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heart of my Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, I unite to thy purity, thy sanctity, thy zeal and thy love, all my thoughts, words, acts, and sufferings this day, that there may be nothing in me that does not become through thee, a pleasure to Jesus, a gain to souls, and an act of reparation for the offenses against thy Heart.



**Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs**

Contact Sister Teresa for baptism classes. God bless!