

There He Sat

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus did fine with the big holy days. Even with the reading of the Haggadah, especially with the Seder and its special foods, songs, and customs. Jesus was twelve years old. The family had gone up to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.

As expected, Jesus, obedient, stayed with his parents. The savory and pungent odors sought him out, even though mixed with human and animal fragrances, and with the dust of Jerusalem, ancient even then.

Imagine reassembling the caravan and putting everything in order. The procession home was like a huge family, so you knew your child would be with friends or relatives when he was not by your side.

Road dust, camel sniffables, and so on, now dominated. It was a happy time, recalling the festivities, remembering the earliest acts of God on behalf of his people.

The sun began to sink and families came together for sleep. "Joseph, I think we should look for our son. He is probably talking with his friends as usual."

Little did she know.

No relative had seen him anywhere. Last sighted the day before.

In Jerusalem.

Mary's heart must have broken. What mother on earth cannot imagine it. Missing child. My child. Gone. They scoured the cramped city.

Day One, looking everywhere, no sign of him. They sleep an hour or so. Day Two, searching everywhere, asking everyone, following every trail. He was not there. Images of kidnapping, slavery, terrible accidents, and so many more hovered just beneath their consciousness. Somehow they trusted, but ...

Day Three. To the temple. This time finally daring in their panic to enter directly into the utterly private rooms where teachers and Rabbis debated major and minor points of scripture. No regular people allowed there, especially poor travelers.

But there he sat.

Perfectly at home for these three eternal days, the twelve year old, questioning teachers and answering them.

Imagine his parents. "Son, how could you? How could you?"

His answer was odd and we are told that Mary pondered it in her heart for years to come. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Was this reply preposterous? Obviously he needed a good spanking if he believed that desertion of his parents was perfectly fine.

Yet think about it.

He had not come to earth in order to be Mary and Joseph's child. Just the opposite. Mary and Joseph came into earthly existence to prepare this boy for his role as the adult son of the Father of all things.

Every family's duty is to send their young children out from home when they are approaching adulthood. In this case, even at twelve years old, Jesus was showing how God interacts with the world.

A learning experience for the family, painful, good, and pointing toward the future Easter.

John Foley, SJ

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 26, 2021

St. Stephens Indian Mission

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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 27th through January 2nd:

Mon: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Tue: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8; Mt 2:13-18
 Wed: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
 Thur: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
 Fri: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
 Sat: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

12/26/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

12/26/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

12/19

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

Christ is born!

Let us adore Him!



Mass Intentions this week

12/26:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Ron Mamot
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Joan Willow
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	All our holy families
12/28:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
12/29:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Karen Brown
12/30:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Dan Holman Family
12/31:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass
1/1:	Saturday 9am St. Stephens	Shannon Brown
	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
1/2:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Special Intention
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For an end to the pandemic

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Derrick Oldman

+Wendall Antelope, Sr.

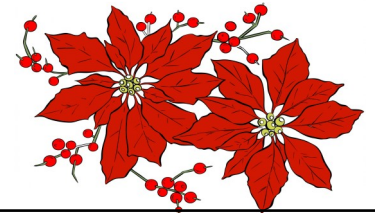
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas Decorations

Thank you, Thank you! Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas!

Poinsettias

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias for the church! Thank you!



Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Thank you to all who helped decorate and make this Christmas season special. God bless.