

## Prepare The Way

Now begins the second week of the Church's world-wide retreat in preparation for Christmas. It is Advent, the quiet time, the great contrast with our culture's wild consumer-bonanza. It lets you and me examine just how open we are to the birth of Christ in our souls.

No mistake about it, we are afraid. The present era of world time discourages many of us. Terrorism desiring to destroy our way of life, for one thing. But add in Iraq, Palestine, Chechnya, Afghanistan, Georgia, Africa, the Balkans, and so many more. And consider the gigantic unemployment and loss of jobs in the United States, the disenfranchisement of the poor, the biggest annual deficit in history, huge corruption in the most trusted and giant companies, the biggest annual budget spending increases in history, and the world-wide climate disaster—who would not be depressed?

Parents in the United States worry themselves either too little or too much about conditions for their growing children. Not just the unstoppable sale and use of drugs in high-schools and grade schools, not just sexual promiscuity as a way of life that is being aggressively marketed to the youth segment of the population, but also the increasing collapse of values that we call the "new morality," but which is really dissolution.

In the face of all this, who can just sit back and have Advent?

But listen to what the First Reading proposes for our Advent retreat.

Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name.

God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever as the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Has someone quietly lost their mind? Or is Church just irreparably cut off from the "real world," hiding in pews and doting on a comforting and "nice" view of life?

Neither.

We are being asked to let our approach to life and to tragedy undergo some revision, some stretching.

The one who is gestating right now in our hearts, the one who is to be born there very soon, that one comes not to make the world pleasant and polite, but to connect it at its very roots with the mysterious depths of God, that one is on the way.

What does it mean to have widespread terrorist factions planning to throw down our life and all that surrounds it? The One who wants to be born in us knows the answer intimately well.

This happened to him. What does it mean to have failure and disillusion as your daily bread? He knows that too and he has been there.

So the question is, will you let him be born in you this year, a little more than in the past? Are you willing to let your womb stretch wider than ever before and so make room?

"Yes, but ..."

Is that your response?

Well, be at rest. You do not have to be capable of such a Christ-like feat all by yourself. As Paul says in the Second Reading, "the one who began the good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." The tender care of God and of his carefully-tending mother are with you just as they promised, if you will allow them to help.

Against this background, the Gospel begins the Advent storytelling that is such native soil to human beings. Once upon a time the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah (John the Baptist) in the desert, and he began announcing the coming of Jesus.

Listen.

Let us do all we can to "prepare the way of the Lord."

John Foley, SJ

## Second Sunday of Advent

### December 5, 2021

#### St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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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 December 6th through December 12th:

Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tue: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Wed: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Thur: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15  
 Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Sun: Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

### Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

12/5/21

#### 9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

#### 5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

12/12/21

#### 9:00am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

#### 5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

## Synod 2021-2023

Please join us after the 5pm 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.

### Mass Intentions this week

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
12/7:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
12/8:	Wednesday 5:30pm St. Stephens	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12/9:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Michael Manderson
12/10:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass today
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

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Ivora Moss

+Michael Manderson

*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.*



Wednesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday at St. Stephens. Please join us!

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Contact Sister Teresa for baptism classes. God bless!