

King?

The Wise Men, or “Magi,” cross into one more kingdom in their long journey. Courteously they visit the monarch of that kingdom, not knowing he was the infamous Herod. I suppose every amenity took place: formal welcome, diplomatic over-do, huge meals, fine drinks. Such excesses must take place, even in a commonplace kingdom.

Finally, when the moment arrives, our Magi pose their question. “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have read the signs and know of his birth.” They trust Herod for the truth, since, obviously, this infant will be the next in line from Herod.

What seems like a sincere question strikes terror into the Herod heart. So he maintains his diplomatic balance, temporizing with a promise to find the answer, and skillfully ends the meeting for that night. But, within him are the words, Newborn King? No, no, no! I AM THE KING! My lineage is the answer to this menacing child. Herod’s insides shout for him to do something!

Do something!

He goes to the chief priests and scribes. He charms them with a seemingly idle interest, an “honest” question. Do you experts, busy studying day and night, do you know anything about the predicted Messiah figure we used to hope for? If he were to be born today, I wonder. Where that would be?

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they respond, where the great King David was born. These experts know the scriptures well, as Herod does not. The Messiah will be David’s successor, shepherd of the people Israel, fulfillment of everything the Jewish people have awaited for centuries.

The Herodian head swirls.

At last he forms a plan.

Kill him.

Herod will identify the town to these Magi and they will search out and find the baby for him! He makes his way across the halls and utters the words, “Bethlehem is the place! The child is in Bethlehem! All you have to do is find him. Oh, and of course, let me know where he is. Why? So that I too may do him homage.”

Death is the homage Herod has in mind.

His lust for power will banish the command of love, in order for him to stay in control.

He is most willing to compete directly even with God and with Christ. He is accepting in advance the same deal Satan will offer to Jesus in the desert thirty years later. “You can control the whole world, if you will only fall down and worship me. Help me defeat God.” Satan was a power-monger too.

The funny thing is that, for Jesus, “power” is not at all the same thing Herod and Satan are grabbing for. They want to become bigger and bigger, to out-stretch infinity. But his goal is to become less and less, to become transparent, just as love is. Heavy selfish greed cannot demolish this heavenly plan, but it surely can seem to.

To Herod it certainly seems to.

The child’s weakness shows what God has in mind as an answer to evil: tender, unfearing openness to love.

In our sinfulness, we scoff at such a plan. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus will never win out, will they? Evil will triumph in the end, won’t it? The cross will do what Herod could not, but that Satan could.

Will it?

Christmas is our down-payment on the cross!

John Foley, SJ

The Epiphany of the Lord January 2, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

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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 January 3rd through January 9th:

Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tue: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
 Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
 Thur: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
 Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
 Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
 Sun: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-15, 21-22

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

9:00am Mass Lector: Marilu Duncan	1/2/21	5:00pm Mass Lector: Volunteer Needed
9:00am Mass Lector: Tom Kasper	1/9/21	5:00pm Mass Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

12/19 \$2148.12	Christmas \$2012.08	12/26 \$873.96
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"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!

Begin the year with a bang in your relationship! Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers weekend experiences to enhance your communication within your marriage. Join millions of couples, priests and religious who revitalize their commitment and keep the excitement in their marriage. Upcoming dates: Billings, MT Feb 4-6, Gillette WY Feb 18-21, Elk Mountain April 22-24, or visit the website at wwme.org for more dates. For more information and to apply visit www.wwme.org, email montana.dooleys@gmail.com. or call Dan & Clare Dooley 406-697-3275.

Mass Intentions this week

1/1: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
1/2: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Joan Willow
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people
1/4: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Pat Stein
1/5: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Leisha Connors Bauer
1/6: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Mike Bowman
1/7: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	No Mass
1/8: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Sister Michael Marie, OCD
1/9: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Janice Goggles Family
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Dan Holman Family

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Cynthia Shakespeare

+Jude Jenkins, 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.



Poinsettias

Thank you again to all who donated poinsettias for the church! We haven't had that many poinsettias in years. The altar was beautiful.

Thank you!



Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Please contact Sister Teresa if you would like to have your child baptized.

Next week, Sunday January 9th after the 11am Mass, our community will come together to pray and discuss how the Holy Spirit has guided the Church's journey through history and, today, calls us to be witnesses of God's love. In preparation for our gathering, pray with Acts 15:1-12 throughout the week. Remember to gather your thoughts and bring your journal to our first synodal experience as a community.