

The Carpenter's Son

This week the other shoe drops. Last week Jesus spoke in a Nazareth synagogue and now we will hear the people's reaction to his message.

A hint: they will try to throw him off a cliff.

To see why, look at how bold Jesus was. First he searched out a prediction of the Messiah from the book of Isaiah. Here are the words he read in the synagogue:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (Isaiah 61:1-3)

The people loved him for this. But then he applied the reading to himself!

He said, "today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Gospel)! "This scripture passage" was known to all as referring to the Messiah. They saw clearly that Jesus was actually claiming to be the Messiah!

The synagogue was stunned. He had grown up in their midst. He was the carpenter's son, the one they used to see weekly in this same synagogue. Why in the world would a local man come up with such a bizarre story?

We already know why.

At the Jordan river, when he had received baptism, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him and a voice from the heavens said, "You are my beloved son, and in you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22)!

The Father's voice, out loud! Jesus' public ministry had begun. He was openly the anointed servant of God.

Immediately he fled into the desert to brood and to pray. His divinity formerly had been lodged mainly at the depths of his human awareness. Now it had to be drawn up into consciousness and dealt with.

He was human, as well as knowing the divine answer deeply, and so he was attracted to the wrong answers too, ones suggested by the devil. Turn his divinity into self-satisfaction, into power, into reputation. He was authentically tempted. But each time he refused.

Now, as Luke says, he came back to Nazareth in the power of the Spirit. It became obvious why he had selected that passage from Isaiah in the synagogue. Isaiah's words were about him! He had heard it from God at his baptism.

How were the Nazarenes supposed to have any understanding of this? He looked like a mad-man claiming equality with God! To them he was simultaneously insulting his home town, his people, his country Israel, and God.

"He is out of his mind!" they shouted.

Jesus tells them that neither Elijah and Elisha, great prophets, could work their miracles in Israel, but went elsewhere to do them. "No prophet is accepted in his own native place," he says.

Suddenly he is claiming to be one of the prophets!

They pull him out to a cliff to throw him off, planning to annihilate such a blasphemer. He escaped somehow but now the ball was in motion. This scene—and it is the first one described in his public ministry—forecasts his remaining life. First loved and accepted, then led to his death.

In the coming months we will see him carry out all of this. What will he do? We must find out, because we are to be filled with the same Holy Spirit.

John Foley, SJ

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 30, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

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!
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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 31st through February 6th:

Mon: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20
 Tue: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30:19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
 Wed: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
 Thur: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; (Ps)1 Chr 29:10-11b, 11d-12; Mk 6:7-13
 Fri: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51; Mk 6:14-29
 Sat: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34
 Sun: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

1/30/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

2/6/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

1/16/22 \$1188.87

1/23/22 \$924.37

"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

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 50% occupancy in attendance and face masks are required at Mass, per Wind River Intertribal Council Health Order. Please use hand sanitizer and maintain a safe distance apart from parishioners not in your household. The number of those testing positive have increased dramatically so thanks for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

Mass Intentions this week

1/29:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Jack Beaver
1/30:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Howard Brown
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Geraldine Brown
2/1:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Don Petska
2/2:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	+William Spoonhunter
2/3:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Bill Darrah
2/4:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	+Jim Beaver
2/5:	Saturday 9am St. Stephens	+Thurlo Jenkins
	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Father Jim
2/6:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	For the people
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Floyd & Darline Olander
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Jack Corbett

Please pray for the families of:

+Melissa LittleThunder

+JoAnne Blackburn

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

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!



FAMILY LIFE presents the art of marriage:



Join us on February 11 from 6pm-9 pm and February 12 from 9am-5pm Conference is hosted at the Neighborhood Alliance Church 4440 Riverview Rd, Riverton, WY Conference fee is \$55/couple and includes workbook and lunch on Saturday For more information, contact Niki at 307-840-0186 or Kim at 307-851-1662 Sign up online at www.rivertonalliancechurch.com

WYOMING CATHOLIC RETREAT

A Eucharistic centered retreat. Twenty-one years of offering a deeper relationship with our Lord through the Eucharist. "Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek." (St. John Paul II)

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

February 18-20, 2022

Ages 13-30

Lander Community & Convention Center

For more info or registration visit: www.wyomingcatholicretreat.com

Synod Listening Sessions

St. Stephens, February 6th: 10am

St. Josephs, February 13th: 12noon

Blessed Sacrament, February 19th: 3pm

Please join us and share your thoughts with your fellow parishioners so they can be forwarded to the Diocese.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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