

Staying With

Today marks the formal end of the Church's Christmas season. Jesus' birth into earthly life has now been sufficiently celebrated. His public life comes next and his baptism begins it, even though the vestment color is still white.

I know, I know, Christmas has been over for ages and we are making ready for Easter eggs or whatever else. But the Church has sense and gives us a Christmas season of weeks instead of just ripping down decorations and going on to the next thing.

Good for the Church.

But what about Jesus' public life, beginning with Baptism? In the Gospel we hear the voice of God the Father speaking to him. This only happens twice in the Gospels, though on the other hand, Jesus talks and prays to his Abba often. Here it is the same message from God both times.

"You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased" (Gospel).

Who would not want to hear these words over and over? I would. The beloved of God! It is like having candy and circuses and ice cream and all your favorite things. God has settled upon you as his special one. Everything will be fine.

Except that "being fine" is not the true meaning of "beloved."

I was visiting a Jesuit friend of mine in Washington DC, Pete, who is a prankster. He was in the kitchen cooking up homemade spaghetti. Icky sticky mess.

I asked him what time something or other was going to happen and he said "I don't know, but we can ask Joe." Joe was another Jesuit who on that Saturday was working at his job in the Jesuit Conference building. My friend put the kitchen phone on its speaker and floured in the phone number.

Joe answered and Pete said, "hi, how are you doing, Joseph?"

Joe said, "just great."

Pete said, "how wonderful, since you are spending your weekend working."

Joe said, "No it is ok. God told me everything was going to be fine."

Without skipping a beat Pete said, "Yeah that's what he told his Son."

I was on the floor laughing at such a funny, quick, piercing reply, delivered seemingly with no forethought at all.

But notice what is behind that joke. God does in fact tolerate pain and suffering, now in his beloved son, on the cross. This is the other side of being the beloved of God.

Suffering, temptation.

Jesus heard the voice from the cloud and went to the desert to ponder. Maybe by now he saw the implications. The devil was going to give him huge, slick temptations to help win him over. Build up your earthly power and honor, use your now public status as "Beloved."

Be big.

Directly and deeply contrary to Jesus' mission, of course, but God let the temptation happen.

Why? Well, God is like a parent watching a teenager's growing pains. Help all you can, but definitely do not stop the growing.

Temptation and suffering create an urgent need in a person to open up, to broaden the scope, to better understand what love is, to see that love does not mean God taking charge and making everything alright but rather God staying with the beloved, continuing to love and admire him or her, since love at its root means sharing another's life, not taking it over.

To paraphrase the Father's words at the Jordan: receive my love that never runs away, never let go, even in the desert, even on the cross.

John Foley, SJ

The Baptism of the Lord January 9, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

33 St. Stephens Road

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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 10th through January 16th:

Mon: 1 Sm 1:1-18; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
 Tue: 1 Sm 1:9-20; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Mk 1:21-28
 Wed: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
 Thur: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
 Fri: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
 Sat: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10-1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
 Sun: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

1/9/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

1/16/21

9:00am Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

1/2/22

\$2523.01

"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!

As we continue to celebrate Mass at St. Stephens, we are limited to 25% 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. Thanks for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

Mass Intentions this week

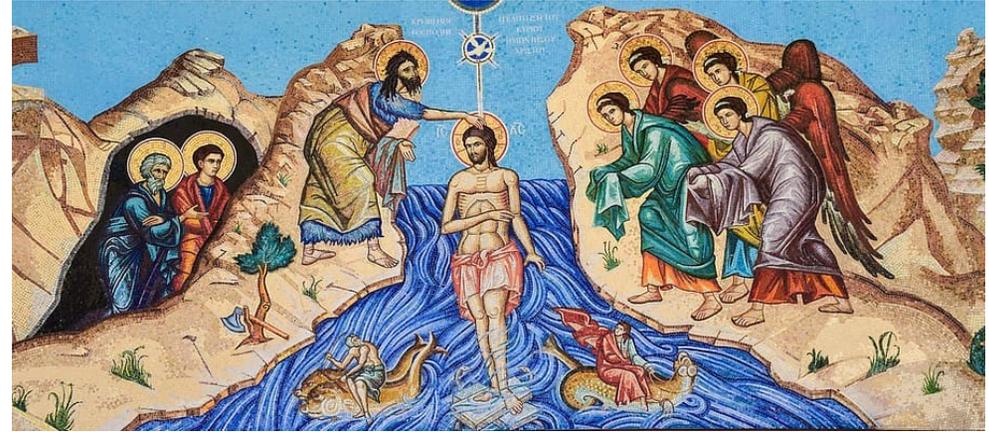
1/8:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Sister Michael Marie, OCD
1/9:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Janice Goggles Family
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Lewis Heiser
1/11:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Royce Yellowplume
1/12:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Bill Darrah
1/13:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Jim Beaver
1/14:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	+Jessica Floyd
1/15:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	William Grady
1/16:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Steve Gresback
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Jack Nicholas

Please pray for the families of the deceased:

+Samantha Littleshield

+Angelita Mascaranez

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.



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

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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

Today, 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.