

Who Is Worthy?

By this time we are well into Jesus' public life, his Galilean ministry, the one he began in Nazareth.

But this Sunday contains a surprise development. Isaiah, Paul and Peter are each expressing their own worthlessness! Three of the greatest witnesses in the Bible!

What is your attitude toward worthlessness? Do you agree with today's psychologized sentiment that, "I AM worthy," or "I am ok, you're ok," or "I buy this product because I'm worth it"?

Are Isaiah, Paul and Peter "worth it" in this way? Let us look at Sunday's readings and see if these men fit the current definitions.

First, in Reading One, Isaiah receives a vision of heaven itself. The Lord is seated on a high and lofty throne. The Seraphim angel choir is crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!"*

It seems that Isaiah reacts with shame. "My eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! But woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips."

In response an angel swoops down with a burning coal to cleanse his lips!!!! He is doomed, alright, but doomed to be made clean through suffering, to be made able through it to speak of God.

Second, St. Paul says that Christ appeared to him last of all, as to one born abnormally (Second Reading). "For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." Unworthy, yes. But did the grace of God discard him? No, it appointed him a key Apostle even though he had never even met Jesus.

Third, there is the famous Gospel story. Jesus tells Peter, James and John to fish in the deep water (where they had been fishing and fishing and fishing all night with no result). Without warning their nets are bloated with fish. Peter cries out, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Isn't the experience of God supposed to lead to peace, forgiveness, and joy—not to shame? Ok, make a distinction. The real reaction of all three figures is not really shame, which means concluding that they are each worthless. Instead it is a finding of their true place in reality. They are expressing a kind of humility!

How?

Each of them is forced to compare himself directly with the presence of God. When people meet the holiness of God head-on, they are therefore able to glimpse by contrast the humanness in themselves. They see that humanity seems full of holes like a sponge. None of them can any longer pretend that they shine like the stars because they see the real star bursting with light.

Experience of God let them understand that they are far, far less than God.

This is not bad, it is good. A falsely supposed importance cannot make us holy. But God can make us holy.

We can be proud to be unworthy if reception of God's love is a result. At Mass we echo that famous Roman centurion: "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed" (Mt 8:8).

I suppose we could we react with shame; but notice that God does not say in return, "I reject you," but "I love you dearly. Come be with me, you fine human being."

John Foley, SJ

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 6, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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Fr. Drew Duncan.....Associate Pastor

Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.....Past. Asst./ Gift Shop 856-4330

Patti McMahon.....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 February 7th through February 13th:

Mon: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
 Tue: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13
 Wed: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
 Thur: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30
 Fri: 1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Ps 81:10-11b, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37
 Sat: 1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7b, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10
 Sun: Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1st1-4, 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

2/6/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

2/13/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

1/30/22

\$1350

"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

Bishop Biegler will be here on Wednesday for a discussion/listening session on Boarding Schools. The session will be at 1pm at the Cottonwood room at the Wind River Hotel and Casino. If you would like to attend please let Fr. Drew know by tomorrow, Monday, 2/7. Please pray for this gathering. Hohou!

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions this week

2/5:	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
2/8:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Bailey Stalley
2/9:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Colleen Miller
2/10:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Colleen Miller
2/11:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Bill & Beth Tielke
2/12:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Kaanan Dowler
2/13:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Pattie Swanson
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Therese Olander

Please pray for the family of:

+Vernon Manderson

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

Pope Francis' Prayer intention for the month of February is for religious sisters and consecrated women. Here's a SOAR! prayer of thanks for Catholic Sisters:

God bless Sisters who educate us, open our minds, and who care for our bodies and spirits.

God bless Sisters who stand for justice, who bring hope to the poor, the marginalized.

God bless Sisters whose lives of prayer embrace a hurting world, beaming beacons of Christ's light and peace.

God bless Sisters whose lives of faithful service do not diminish with the passing of time, whose prayers and sacrifice bring boundless grace.

God bless the women called to be Sisters, bless them with courage and bless their companions along the journey of discovery.

God bless Sister Monica and Sister Teresa!

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.