

Cowering

Have you noticed the way dogs hang their heads and grovel when they are scolded, wheedling their way back into good graces.

To us humans it looks as if they are saying "I'm really, really sorry for what I did, and please, please, please forgive me. To make up for it, I will do any base thing you want."

Poor dog.

And poor prodigal son in this week's Gospel. Like a dog at Easter table, this son ate up his father's money on riotous living in a faraway country. Obviously he would run out of funds, but was having too much fun to notice.

Then there came the terrible famine.

This once pampered youth now had to feed somebody's herd of pigs just to live. He would have been happy to gobble their husks.

It took a while for the truth to hit him, what he had done to himself and to his family. He first noticed indeed that he was starving. He made a forced but perhaps humble decision to go back to his father and ask for mercy, hanging his head just like dogs do. "Please, please, please, please forgive me."

He dragged down the dusty road to his father's estate, practicing his speech over and over.

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I no longer deserve to be called your son;

treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers. (Gospel)

In other words, he would "grovel and do any base thing needed." He would even admit the sins he was so embarrassed about.

You and I might have such an occasion too.

Often we are terrified that anyone even would know our faults. And we think God will respond with rage against us if he finds out. So we make Lenten "firm purposes of amendment," and urge our New Year's promises (or whatever else). We want to be "worthy" before God, with our sins hidden from sight.

But in the parable does this father fold his arms and put on a "parental" angry face? No. He spots far down the road his prodigal son (who is still memorizing the his lines) and sets out running to the lost one. See them meet, enveloped in thirsty road-dust. Father embraces his son and kisses him. The boy tries to blunder his lines.

Father, I have sinned terribly! I am no longer worthy of ...

But his dad drowns him out, calling for the finest robe in the house, a ring for the boy's finger, sandals for his feet, and a huge banquet of celebration. This father shows that he does indeed understand. And he is ecstatic that his son came home.

Apply that now to you and me. We assume that God is angry. Our shame says, "Father, I am no good. I am totally unworthy."

But God is saying, "I know what you have done, child. You needn't cower. You are precious to me, not because you never sin. I know that it can happen, and I am all forgiveness! Come, come, have back your brothers, sisters, neighbors and, most of all, your Father.

"Let me hug you."

Because he invites us so close to his heart, God is most willing to absorb the losses we inflict.

Even if we were to join forces with evil in the world, God would wait and pray, welcome us back, sins and all, with open arms. And help us overcome the evil that plagues the world.

By the way, notice that Jesus' arms are wide open on the cross.

John Foley, SJ

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 27, 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 McMahon.....Director of Faith Formation

Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

332-9090

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.....Past. Asst./Director of Faith Formation

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 March 28th through April 3rd:

Mon: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Tue: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Wed: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
 Thur: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Fri: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 Sat: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Sun: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

3/27/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Linda Bebout

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Shelley McConnell

4/3/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer needed

Happenings:

3/27: Rosary at 8:20am

3/31: Just Faith

4/1: Stations of the Cross
after 5pm Mass

4/3: Rosary @ 8:20am

Parish Collection

3/20/22

\$1401

"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

If anyone would like to see the Annual Financial statement you may stop by the office.



Mass Intentions this week

3/26:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	For the people
3/27:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	People of Ukraine +Thomas Denego Special Intention
3/29:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Judy Warren
3/30:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Debbie Delorme
3/31:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	People of the Wind River Reservation
4/1:	Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Rayel Johnson
4/2:	Saturday 9am St. Stephens Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Colleen Miller Corbett Family
4/3:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens Sunday 11am St. Josephs Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Richard Hinkle Special Intention For the people

Please pray for the family of:

+*Alvin John Cole, Jr.*

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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Applications are now being taken for Parish Secretary at Holy Rosary. Candidates should possess computer skills and be able to use Excel, Publisher, and Word. Candidates need to be able to learn Parish Data Software Parish Soft and other user friendly software. Pleasant communications skills required, along with professional confidentiality and service to Our Lord. This is a part-time position with hours 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday. Employment applications can be picked - up at the Parish Office. Background check also required. Deadline to submit application is March 28th.

Metropolia invites you to make donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine – Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia (ukrarcheparchy.us)

There are no small or large donations. But your donation can change someone's life for the better. The Lord God will repay the happy donor a hundredfold. Pray for the people of the war victims! May the Lord bless you and our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

Praised be Jesus Christ! Praise Him now and always!

Don't forget to share your feedback on the Disciple Maker Index! The survey is available until April 4th. You can visit the links at the bottom of this notice or you can pick up a paper copy at the entrance of the church if that is easier for you to participate/complete the survey. Completed surveys can be dropped in the collection basket or given to Patti McMahon at the Mission office. Please participate and help make this a success! Thank you!

St. Stephens:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/kpx782>

St. Josephs:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/kpg2a2>

Blessed Sacrament:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/k80g42>

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Joseph John Washakie and Jerome James Washakie received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Congratulations to Joseph and Jerome and their parents, Maria Underwood and Lester Washakie!

