

Simon Peter

What a scene it must have been.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” If I were him, I couldn’t have uttered an answer at all.

For his part, Peter would simply deny that he even knew who Jesus was. The people around him were members of the persecuting crowd, and he knew how delighted they would have been to tag him along with Jesus.

But before you give Simon Peter a simple excuse, take a look at it.

Have you or I ever felt unable to profess our own beliefs when caught in a threatening situation? I suspect that Peter was the representative of the rest of us, who are weak at heart. Previously he had been the only disciple who blurted out the true identity of Jesus. “You are the Christ, the son of the living God,” he had said (Mt 16:16), and then protested that his love for Christ would never be discarded or die. His slide from believer to denier was a lot more than just a mildly excusable mistake. It was a change of heart.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus does the unexpected: he asks Peter a second time, not if he was sorry for having sinned, not if he felt guilty, but whether he would affirm the real issue: love. Personal relationship is what was at issue.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

I notice that Jesus does not simply use the name he himself had given to Peter, but includes the unredeemed one, Simon. Is he letting Simon slide back to his pre-believing status? I do not think so. He seems to me instead to be giving Simon freedom to choose again his basic stance in life, to reaffirm himself as Peter, the Rock. Not a word is mentioned about the denials, but they form the substance of this scene. Jesus had handed over to him the whole post-Resurrection church, whose job it will be to take care of the beloved ones of God. Feed my lambs, feed my sheep. No one would be able to do this unless his stance were one of love and care, as opposed to just following the rules.

So Simon Peter has affirmed his remarkable faith. That is the end of the scene, isn’t it?

Not at all. The dramatic third part follows, in which Jesus asks one more time the famous, intrusive question: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Simon Peter might have said, “I thought I had already answered your question. Lord, what was unclear?” But our reading says that instead he was distressed that Jesus asked him a third time.

Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. (Gospel)

This squeamish sounding reply actually came from the truth-telling part of Simon Peter. It was not only a trust in Jesus’ knowledge of him, but also a realization of the truth presented by his own innermost core. Peter was at core a believer and a lover of Jesus.

This is why Jesus said to him finally, “Feed my sheep,” and why Peter could become such a promoter of the faith.

John Foley, SJ

Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 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 May 2nd through May 8th:

Mon: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
 Tue: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
 Wed: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
 Thur: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
 Fri: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
 Sat: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
 Sun: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

5/1/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer needed

5/8/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer needed

Happenings:

5/4: Just Faith tonight
 5/6: Confirmation 7pm
 5/8: Rosary @ 8:20am

Parish Collection

4/17 \$2423 4/24 \$1659

"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 Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

St. Stephens is hosting the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Confirmation is on May 6th at 7pm. We are looking for volunteers to bring cookies, brownies, lemon bars, smore's bars etc...for the reception. If you are able to donate goodies, please call Patti at the Parish Office and let her know.

Mass Intentions this week

4/30:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Gil Rau
5/1:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Brenda Squires
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Darrell O'Neal
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Richard "Jimmy" Littleshield
5/3:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Norman Willow
5/4:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Poor souls in purgatory
5/5:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Vera Trospen
5/6:	Friday 7pm St. Stephens	Confirmation Candidates
5/7:	Saturday 9am St. Stephens	Pat Steen
	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Dan Budimer
5/8:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	People of Ukraine
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Special Intention
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Rita Campbell's brother P. Fulton

Please pray for the families of:

+*Brian Bearing*

+*Francis "Frenchie" Warren*

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.

In today's Gospel (John 21: 1-19 or John 21: 1-14), the Risen Lord repeatedly asks us, not just Peter, "Do you love me?" If we dare to answer "yes," as Peter does, then we must accept the call to serve others; to take seriously our co-responsibility for the mission of Christ. Please prayerfully consider how you may serve God and neighbor by contributing to the **2022 Diocese of Cheyenne annual appeal, Living and Giving in Christ: Unity through Diocesan Ministries**. You may return your pledge form or in-pew envelope to the parish or mail to: Diocese of Cheyenne Chancery Office; P.O. Box 1468; Cheyenne, WY 82003-1468. Be sure the name of our parish is on your return card; if you use an in-pew envelope or give online, please include the name of our parish with your gift. You may give online at: <https://dcwy.org/living-and-giving-in-christ>

Congratulations to those who will receive the
 Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. Josephs!

Dominic Gerald Crispin
 Kal Ryder Goggles
 Devin John Littleshield
 Xavier Keith Quiver
 Justine Nevaeh Tindall



Micah Henry Crispin
 Morningsky Rose Ironeyes
 Maliyah Ann Littleshield
 Skuya Rayne Medicine Horse
 Isabelle Marie Wagon

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on May 6th at St. Stephens at 7pm. Congratulations to our young parishioners who will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit!



Destiny Kayln Blackburn
 Maliyah Ann Littleshield
 Shyanne Dalice LoneBear
 Benjamin Blaine Niedo
 Isaiah Rayjohn Niedo
 Shawn Garrett Tabaha
 Maria May Underwood

