

Knowing From The Heart

Shepherds were extremely important to the well-being of a flock. They guided the sheep, made them safe, led them to food and drink. Today, Jesus said sadly that the people looked like “sheep without a shepherd.”

Let us take this opportunity to reflect on animals and their humans.

Look at the endearing way domestic beasts recognize their owners. Dogs collapse into a frenzy of delight when you come home, even if you have been gone only for an hour.

Hysterics are the least they can do.

Somewhere there may be a cat like this, but most of them have the opposite reaction to the heartsick dogs. “Oh it’s you again.”

I know one exception. One of my cousin’s cats models indifference with most people, but when I am in the house this cat makes a quiet bee-line to where I am sitting, making no secret of how it enjoys being petted by me. I am not sure whether to be complimented or not, nor can I explain it. There might be months between visits and still the cat makes its way to the petting machine, with both dignity and craving.

Did Jesus notice such things? He watched life around him carefully, judging from his stories. He certainly watched the relationship between shepherds and their flocks.

So what does he mean by his brief remarks about his sheep this Sunday?

In the Jerusalem of Jesus’ day various flocks of sheep would arrive with their respective shepherds, only to be turned into the same sheepfold together. This made for a rather large gang of sheep, and there wasn’t any practice of branding or marking to tell which was which. You can see the practical problem right away. Sheep, unlike dogs, do not rejoice themselves into knots when their shepherd shows up.

Then how does each shepherd get his own sheep back?

Two ways. One, the shepherd knows all his own sheep by heart. He has a special name for each character in the flock. And second, the sheep themselves know their master’s voice unmistakably. When he calls out, they simply get up and come to him. They follow him out through the sheep-gate. No mistake about it.

And that is Jesus’ reference in Sunday’s short Gospel. “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me,” he says. You and I are the sheep he is talking about. He says we “shall never perish,” because he holds us in his own hands. In fact, it was the Father who gave us to Jesus, and no one can ever take us out of the Father’s hands.

Think about it. Have you ever longed for someone who could make things alright, who could help lift the responsibility from your shoulders? Someone who knows you by name and cares about you?

Maybe you do recognize Jesus’ voice when you hear it. It might be in the Gospel at Mass. Or when you receive the bread of everlasting life and the cup of salvation—not as a stranger might, but as a member of the well-fed and greatly cared for flock.

This Sunday, what about trying to notice how your spirit automatically inclines to Jesus? How you settle into his grasp for petting. How your soul seeks him.

And finds him.

John Foley, SJ

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

856-7806

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PO Box 250

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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 9th through May 15th:

Mon: Acts 11:1-18; Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; Jn 10:1-10
 Tue: 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
 Wed: Acts 12:24-13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
 Thur: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
 Fri: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11b; Jn 14:1-6
 Sat: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
 Sun: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

5/8/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer needed

5/15/22

9:00am Mass

Lector: Penny Robertson

5:00pm Mass

Lector: Volunteer needed

Happenings:

5/11: Just Faith tonight
 5/15: Rosary @ 8:20am

Parish Collection

5/1

TBD

"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

"...Mass is not about whom you sit next to. It's not about which priest says Mass. It is not about what you wear or who is there. Mass is not about the music. It's not even about the preaching. It's about gathering as a community to give thanks to God for all the blessings He fills our lives with. It is about receiving the body and blood of Christ, not just physically, but spiritually. Perhaps you have been receiving the Eucharist physically every Sunday for your whole life. Next Sunday, prepare yourself, be conscious of the marvel, the wonder, the mystery, and receive spiritually. Rediscover the wonder."

Rediscover Catholicism" by Matthew Kelly

Mass Intentions this week

5/7:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Dan Budimer
5/8:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	All who fill the role of mother
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	People of Ukraine
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Rita Campbell's brother, P. Fulton
5/10:	Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Lonnie Harris
5/11:	Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	+Debbie Harris
5/12:	Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	All those who suffer from anxiety
5/13:	Friday 7pm St. Stephens	All those who suffer from depression
5/14:	Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Those who have cancer
5/15:	Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Elaine Yellow Horse
	Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Special Intention
	Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Those with addictions

Please pray for the families of:

+Rosemary Doyle

+Lonnie Harris

+Debbie Harris

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.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Each one of us has been blessed by God

with varied graces. Good stewards are not passive recipients of grace; rather, they are intentional disciples of Jesus, embarking on a lifelong journey of conversion, continuing along that path without counting the cost. This week, please prayerfully consider making a gift to *Living and Giving in Christ*. Our parish goal is ***. 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. If you use an in-pew envelope or give online, please be sure to include our parish name. You may donate online at:

<https://dcwy.org/living-and-giving-in-christ>

St. Stephens/St. Josephs hosted the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. A huge thank you to all who helped with Confirmation:

Musicians: Barb and Gene Hunt; Eagle Drum

Altar servers: Aurora and Allie Baldes

Reception hosts: Teresa Cunningham, Linda Bebout,
 Marilu Duncan, Gayle Barnett

Dinner hosts for Bishop Steven and religious: Laura and Ron Mamot

All who answered the call for donations of goodies.

Thank you all so much. May God Bless you abundantly!

The Sacrament of Confirmation was held on May 6th at St. Stephens at 7pm. Congratulations to our young parishioners who were 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

