

Why Go To Church?

Many people today, especially young people, say that they do believe in God. They are on a spiritual quest, yes, but they do not need an organized religion to help them.

Sunday's Mass will make the question especially poignant. To put it in the worst light, why would you Catholics go each week to be given a flat wafer called a "host," and perhaps a small sip of wine? It seems like a lot of trouble, and would appear to have very little to do with the spiritual quest.

As Catholics we answer that the host is no longer "bread" but has undergone a "transubstantiation." In simple words, even though it has the appearance of a flat piece of bread, its substance has been transformed from that of bread to that of Christ's body. The same goes for the wine.

The non-church folks might reply, "aren't God and spirituality something interior, something private? If the point is that we should help each other, why can't we do it without all the paraphernalia, without all this 'body and blood' business?"

Again, let us attempt an answer. Go on if you are bored with this.

(1) Jesus is the speaking-out of God's love. He and the Father are one. The scriptures attest to this.

(2) Jesus died on the cross in a showdown between goodness and the forces of selfishness and greed.

(3) Evil won. But at his depths, Christ was deeper than evil. He was made of something stronger than either life or death. This something endured in him, even though he was dead and buried. What was it? God's love. Love founded the life of Jesus. He was the direct expression of God-love. Jesus emerged from the tomb because he was rooted in love.

(4) He ascended into heaven, apparently leaving us behind without him. But he sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe, so that he would still be present to us. Pentecost had been the full expression of this fact.

Fine so far: our churchless brothers and sisters would agree. The Holy Spirit of God dwells deep in the wordless depths of a person. You have proved our point. We do not need ceremonies and ritual.

Oh oh. Maybe they are right!

Not quite.

Think of it this way. When you are hungry and you want, say, a hamburger, does thinking about a burger do the job? Or picturing it in your mind? Since your hunger is internal, should it just stay there, with no answer in the material world?

No.

We human beings do have an insides and it is very important, but we have an outside too. We are not built to just stay there within ourselves but also to let our spirits walk, play, and suffer in the material world. The Holy Spirit's presence at the depths of our being makes us desire to find Jesus with our eyes, ears, nose, tongue, hands, and purgations.

So, that is why we go to Church. We want to find a reply to our spiritual quest, now in a fleshly presence—of Christ. At Mass, which is a ritual, we find that presence given to our senses in Communion, and it fulfills our Spiritual and physical yearning.

Are you hungry for Christ? Come and eat. You are what you eat, you know.

John Foley, SJ

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 19, 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

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 June 20th through June 26th:

Mon: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
 Tue: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14
 Wed: 2 Kgs 22:8-13, 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37, 40; Mt 7:15-20
 Thur: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80
 Fri: Ez 34:11-16; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5b-11; Lk 15:3-7
 Sat: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Lk 2:41-51
 Sun: 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

6/19/22

9:00am Mass
Melissa Brown

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

6/26/22

9am Mass
Jim Cunningham

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

6/12 \$1844

"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

Feast of the Sacred Heart

June 24th is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The Brown family would like to invite you to their home (4 Northern Arapaho Rd in Arapahoe) as they continue to pray the Novena until June 24th. (This was a promise made while Howard was hospitalized.) We start at 6pm each evening with a light meal afterwards. On June 24th we will have Mass at noon as we conclude the Novena. Please come join us and pray your own intentions while we give thanks for Howard's recovery, pray for his continued healing and also thank all those who prayed for him by sharing a meal together. Hohou.

Mass Intentions this week

6/18: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+George Smith
6/19: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Father Drew on his birthday
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Patti Stalley and Family
6/21: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Colleen Miller
6/22: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Shari Hinkle
6/23: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Monty Webb
6/24: Friday Noon Brown Residence	Novena Intentions
Friday 5pm St. Stephens	+John Gate
6/25: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Nancy Yedinak
6/26: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Mary Ann Heiser
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Christine Niedo & family
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the family of:

+Nathan Loneman, Jr.

+Colleen Miller

Eternal rest grant unto them 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.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always!

Farewell Lunch!

Everyone is invited to come thank Father Jim for his six years of ministry to our Mission. We will have lunch on June 26th at 1pm. The Mission will provide the condiments, hamburgers and hotdogs and paper goods. Parishioners with last name beginning with A through G are asked to bring a side dish of baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad or the like; H through N are asked to bring a dessert; O through U are asked to bring chips and dip; V-Z are asked to bring drinks. If you are unable to bring a dish please come anyway! Please bring chairs!

The Prayer to the Sacred Heart

Oh Lord Jesus Christ, to Your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention {name petition}.
 Only look upon me, then do what Your love inspires. Let Your Sacred Heart decide.
 I count on You. I trust in You. I throw myself on Your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.
 Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You.
 Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.
 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.
 Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked You for many favors, but I earnestly implore this one.
 Take it, place it in Your open Heart.
 When the Eternal Father looks upon it, He will see it covered with Your Precious Blood.
 It will be no longer my prayer, but Yours, Jesus. Sacred Heart of Jesus,
 I place all my trust in You. Let me not be disappointed.
 Amen.



Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Please join us at the farewell lunch for Father Jim at 1 pm at Saint Stephens on 6/26!