

Toward Jerusalem

Jesus is fierce in Sunday's Gospel. He is on the march and will not be turned back. Sometimes the readings startle us.

He "rebukes" the disciples.

He shouts "let the dead bury the dead" to a man who wants to bury his father and then follow Jesus.

Jesus is moving fast, and his mood is intense. Get ready for it. But what is the reason for this intensity?

Do you remember back when Jesus began his public ministry before Lent and Easter? He came from the desert filled with the Holy Spirit and headed straight to Nazareth, his home town. He wanted to preach his mission. His own townspeople rejected him. They were more than blunt about it: they tried to throw him off a cliff (Luke 4:14ff).

We had been in the "Galilean Ministry" as scholars call it (Luke 3:1-9:50) (except for the insertion of Lent and Easter). Now a new section of Luke begins. It is called the "Journey to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51-19:28).

This new phase begins with the rejection of Jesus!

He leaves his home town. The people in Samaritan towns turn him away. He had sent messengers ahead to "warm up the audience," so to speak, but the villagers would not let him enter. Of course, Jews and Samaritans were hostile to each other, and surely that is part of the reason for the rejection of him. But Luke says the real reason is that they knew he was "going up to Jerusalem."

Think about that phrase, "going up to Jerusalem." The "going up" part is literal, since Jerusalem is built upon a hill or rise and you have to climb to get up to it. But Luke wanted the metaphorical sense too. Jesus had set his face to "go up" to the height of the cross.

The Greek word Luke uses for "go up" is the same one used in the Second Book of Kings for the prophet Elijah's ascent into heaven (2 Kings 2:11):

A flaming chariot and flaming horses came . . . and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. But for Jesus, "going up" will not be in a fiery chariot. His "ascent" will end up in a huge plunge downwards into humiliation and death. The hill of Golgotha was high and barren and his life's ending was low and shameful.

From this point, for the next ten chapters, Luke will skillfully trace Jesus' deeds in his urgent trip to Jerusalem. Maybe we can see now why Jesus was so severe with people in the reading for today. He knew what going up to Jerusalem would mean.

There is a question contained in all this, one we should think about. Do we want to go along with this man on his journey? What if we hear him say, "the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Neither will we. Or, "no one who sets a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God"? Very harsh.

Wouldn't you or I and turn on our heels and run away?

Yes, certainly. But think about it. Jesus is saying that Christianity (and Catholicism) are challenges, not just warm blankets. Jesus values God more than safe sleep, than family funerals, even more than mere courtesy to relations and friends. None of these are evil or bad, they are good. But they receive their worth from love. They are rooted in God-love as was Jesus' life. The primary reason for our existence and our deeds is the mission Jesus so urgently invites us to.

Love of God above all.

Love of our neighbor as ourselves, no matter what.

John Foley, SJ

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time June 26, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission
www.saintstephensmission.com

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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

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 27th through July 3rd:

Mon: Am 2:6-10, 13-16; Ps 50:16bc-23; Mt 8:18-22
 Tue: Am 3:1-8, 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-8; Mt 8:23-27
 Wed: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
 Thur: Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 9:1-8
 Fri: Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131; Mt 9:9-13
 Sat: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17
 Sun: Is 66:10-14c; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-2, 17-20

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

6/26/22

9:00am Mass
Jim Cunningham

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

7/3/22

9am Mass
Linda Bebout

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

6/19 \$6435

"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

Farewell Lunch is today at 1pm!

Everyone is invited to come thank Father Jim for his six years of ministry to our Mission. 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!

Mass Intentions this week

6/25: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Mary Ann Heiser
6/26: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Judy Warren
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Father Jim
6/28: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Tomasita Thayer
6/29: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Brian Farmer on his birthday
6/30: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Peter Wysochansky
7/1 Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Sasse Underwood
7/2: Saturday 9am St. Stephens	Special Intention
Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Nancy Yedinak
7/3: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Northern Arapaho Tribe
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Christine Niedo & family
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the family of:

+Judy Warren

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her 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!

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of Fr. Jim. Through him, we experienced your presence in the sacraments. Help Father Jim to continue to be strong in his vocation. Set his soul on fire with love for your people. Grant him the wisdom, understanding, and strength he needs to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire him with the vision of your Kingdom. Give him the words he needs to continue to spread the Gospel. Allow him to experience joy in his ministry in Buffalo. Help him to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

We are grateful for your ministry here for the past six years, Father Jim. Hohou.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Please join us at the farewell lunch for Father Jim at 1 pm at Saint Stephens today!