

## Welcoming God

Two stories about hospitality this week.

But as it turns out, it is hospitality to God!

The First Reading says that Abraham was sitting outside his tent on a hot day. He looked up to find three men standing nearby on the path, apparently satisfying their curiosity about the tent and its occupants. It is not clear that Abraham knew who they were, but we suspect that they were God appearing to Abraham in human form! How does Abraham react to this Godly presence?

He flies into action. He bows deeply. He begs the men to relax from their journey and receive comfort, nourishment, and rest. Beautiful hospitality from the Eastern part of the world.

He then rushes into the great tent, issuing pell-mell commands to his wife Sarah.

“Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls.” He picks the best steer and orders the servant to prepare it. He dashes outside to get curds and milk. At long last he sets the whole meal before the men.

Quite a scene. Quite a welcome.

All at once the men make a sudden, astonishing statement. Next year Sarah will bear a son by Abraham. As the dinner had progressed, Sarah had stood behind the tent flap listening, and now she actually laughs out loud as she hears this absurdity about her dried-up body, nearly 89 years old, which is to issue forth a tender baby. (Our scripture selection for Sunday leaves out the laughing part. If you want to read it, press here).

As you may know, after a time this amazing prophecy did indeed come to be. We can thank God that Abraham listened to the men, the presence of God.

Second story. In the Gospel, Jesus enters the house of his friends Mary and Martha.

He too is warmly welcomed. As he sits, Mary arranges herself at his feet and focuses her clear wide eyes upon him, while Martha bustles about preparing dinner.

Unfair! Martha gets tired and exasperated, and finally asks Jesus to make Mary stop lounging and help out a little.

Surprisingly, Jesus says, no.

“Mary has chosen the better part,” he explains.

Isn't this response unjust to Martha? After all, someone has to make the meal or there would be none. Or maybe Martha could have said, “we are not having any food tonight, we are just going to sit and stare at you.”

In truth, Martha's trouble was not that she was scrabbling about, but that as she did so she forgot about Jesus. She was not making him welcome, she was constructing a meal. He even tells her that she was anxious and worried about many things, not the one thing necessary.

What is the one thing necessary? Relation to Christ.

Real hospitality means a two-way relationship in which host and guest open to each other, become present to one another in various ways. Hosts do work out the details of preparation, and they work hard. But they always remember the visitor while they prepare. Excellent hosts manage somehow to get everything ready but also to truly listen and converse with the one who has come.

That is how we are supposed to act every day. We are to find God in all things, in all the people we know and/or help, no matter how busy we might be. We are to relate to them because God is within them, deep in their souls. Touch them. Hear them. Prepare meals for them without forgetting them. We will be giving hospitality to God himself.

Abraham gave it. Mary gave it. Martha forgot like you and I do, but she learned.

Let's try to learn it too.

John Foley, SJ

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 17, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission  
www.saintstephensmission.com  
856-7806  
33 St. Stephens Road  
PO Box 250  
St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Drew Duncan.....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 July 18th through July 24th:

Mon: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42  
 Tue: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50  
 Wed: Jer 1:1, 4-10; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6b, 15, 17; Mt 13:1-9  
 Thur: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7b, 8-11  
 Fri: Sg 3:1-4a; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18  
 Sat: Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:24-30  
 Sun: Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3, 6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens**

7/17/22

9:00am Mass  
Marilyn Duncan

5pm Mass  
Volunteer Needed

7/24/22

9am Mass  
Melissa Brown

5pm Mass  
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

7/10

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*

**Praised be Jesus Christ!**

**Praise Him now and always!**

**Mass Intentions this week**

7/16: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Bill G.
7/17: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Steve Gresback
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Alvena Oldman
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people
7/19: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Special intention
7/20: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Serena Gardner
7/21: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Vincent Brown on his birthday
7/22: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	All those battling addiction
7/23: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Bill G.
7/24: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Judy Warren
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Intention of donor
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the families of:

+Michaela Sisneros

+Lylah Makeshine

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.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

WCCW 68<sup>th</sup> State Convention

"Faith, hope, and love remain - greatest of these is love." 1 Cor. 13:13  
 Sept. 9-11, 2022 - Our Lady of Peace Church - Pinedale, WY

Keynote speakers:

**Danielle Bean** - Ascension Press published author (WHISPERS) and "Girlfriends" podcast

**Kitty Cleveland** - "music missionary" - singer and songwriter - CDs found at Lighthouse Catholic Media

More info. contact:

Kathy Larson - 307-360-7016

Peg Carney - 307-360-6350

Erica Bohnet - 307-367-2359

**Parish Business Manager**

St. Stephens Catholic Church on the Wind River Indian Reservation is seeking a full-time Office and Business Manager. While providing a welcoming and orderly atmosphere for parishioners and visitors, the position oversees the administration, personnel, finances, and the building facilities of the parish. Qualifications include being a full initiated and practicing Catholic with the ability to work effectively with personnel, clergy, diocesan staff, advisory bodies, and volunteers, also, the ability to work in a multicultural environment with special outreach to Arapaho and Shoshone people. Salary range: \$55,000 to \$60,000 (DOQ), with full benefits. Please contact Melissa at St. Stephens for the full job description.

**Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs**

If you would like to have your child baptized please talk with Sister Teresa.