

Ask and You Will Receive

When you want something, do you pray to God for it? A lot of people in this country, even in these troubled times, do say that they “whisper a little prayer.” Excellent. Others put aside time each day for prayer or even for Mass. A number use the present web site to understand and pray about the readings for the coming Sunday.

Of course, in our secular culture, there are those who do not believe in prayer at all. So, when their friend is having an operation or is traveling or if the world situation is as bad as it is, they say, “we will be thinking of you.” This instead of “we will be praying for you,” as we used to say. Thinking? Do you sit alone in your house and think?

Others go all out. Years ago, a group of cloistered sisters, called “the Pink Sisters,” prayed many months for sunny clear days during Pope John Paul’s visit to St. Louis. Guess what. Sunny clear days the entire time. I was present when his plane lifted off for Rome and I watched the clouds gather afterwards and the rain begin to fall—afterwards but not before!

Abraham in the First Reading is an example of this kind of refusal to give up. Remember his visitors from last week? This week they went on their way to the city called Sodom while God waited—during which he told Abraham about his intention to destroy Sodom and its surrounding cities because of their depravity.

Abraham, against all reason and expectation, began negotiating with God out loud.

Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? (First Reading)

God agrees that he will not destroy the city if fifty innocent people can be found. Abraham slyly asks for more. What if only forty-five innocent people are found? God agrees. What about forty? Ok, God says. Abraham goes on and on until he negotiates down to the number ten. God replies, “alright, for the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it.”

As you may know, not even ten innocents lived in that city, so Sodom did get destroyed. But notice, God actually had granted each of Abraham’s requests.

Jesus in the Gospel recommends the same kind of shrewdness. He tells the famous parable about knocking at the door of a friend late at night to borrow some bread.

The friend refuses because he and his family are all in bed. Jesus says, “if he does not get up to give loaves to the visitor because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of the visitor’s persistence.”

Fine, but why do we have to pray and pray over and over for what we need? Why must we haggle?

Because of love.

Like a good parent who cares for its child very much but will at times allow deprivation, allow what seems like a non-answer to pleading. Perhaps there is something even better than such a parent, or God, is trying to give us. The loving answer might be to sit beside our bed and suffer with us. This is true even in the midst of the violence now present in the USA! Look at Christ’s agony on the cross: God’s love will go to any lengths to give us what we most need and want, and that is: himself.

When we wait for him, God’s love, Jesus, will be there for u

John Foley, SJ

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 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 25th through July 31st

Mon: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1b-6; Mt 20:20-28
 Tue: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43
 Wed: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46
 Thur: Jer 18: 1-6; Ps 146:1b-6b; Mt 13:47-53
 Fri: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69: 5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27
 Sat: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12
 Sun: Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

7/24/22

9:00am Mass
Melissa Brown

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

7/31/22

9am Mass
Penny Robertson

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

7/10 \$1261 7/17 \$1653

"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

7/23: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Bill Gianola
7/24: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Judy Warren
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Intention of donor
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people
7/26: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Kathi McDonald
7/27: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Mitchell Family
7/28: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Jensen Family
7/29: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Sheri Hinkle
7/30: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Bill Gianola
7/31: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Sheri Hinkle
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	Mavis Willow Family
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people

Please pray for the families of:

+Gary Murphy

+Charlotte Lonedog

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 68th 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. 307.856.7806

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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