

The Fury of Love

I was sitting on a screened-in porch in Wisconsin during my yearly retreat. I was listening to the delicious, drenching sounds of a huge rain, splattering, slapping the earth.

But why so huge? It surely must have been well intentioned, but then why so able to hurt? Without question such a storm would beat us down if we dared to go outside. If its violence was caused mainly by the need to bring water out of the skies and into the earth as fast as possible, did it have any intention of harming anything?

I feel a twinge of fright, especially for St. Louis, where immense rain has been causing flooding.

That night, the rain ignored my question. In fact it redoubled its efforts. Its huge sound got more huge, like a swell of applause. Nice going, it was saying.

I knew something was trying to give goodness for the hitherto tough earth. Comfort sighed deep within this tender, rough pounding. Huge branches bowed their heads to receive the cleansing and nourishment.

Why so furious? If sweetly intended, then why so able to hurt? Is “tough love” what keeps our planet in bloom? How long will this poor planet last?

Hopkins addressed God as

Father and fondler of heart thou hast wrung:

Hast thy dark descending

and most art merciful then.

Jesus headed into such a “dark descending” in this Sunday’s Gospel. He was heading toward Jerusalem. He loved her and her people, and wanted to shower abundance upon them, in the same way that the rain desired that night. But he knew with increasing certainty that Jerusalem would place him—not merely down a cistern as the soldiers did Jeremiah, not just outside the gates and walls—but right straight into the jaws of death. It will be a baptism, he says, and he wants it. He shouts to his disciples that he has come to set the earth on fire, blazing like lightning!

“How great is my anguish until it is accomplished,” he says. He is filled with the Spirit of God and he cannot wait to let it flow.

But at the same time this Spirit knows that he must stand inside the horrible down-pour. He must not run away. He will walk relentlessly into a storm that had by no means reached its peak.

No wonder he was distraught. Love, rather than being just sweetness and light, consists also of the dark and pounding rain. The people will say a vigorous NO to him.

Alright, think of the First Reading. There, Jeremiah was quite explicitly “stuck in the mud.” He had foretold events too truly and too many times. The princes threw him into an empty cistern with just enough mud into which he would sink. How could he prophesy from there?

And how could Jesus speak God’s Word from a criminal’s cross?

Down it rained, rained, that night. Suddenly I saw a single lamp across the lake, shining through it all. A porch-light of welcome! My soul found some relief. But as I concentrated, the lamp surrendered itself as just an old, white piece of leaf that had caught itself on my screen. Its light came from my lamp. So I played a game. I shifted my eyes up on the screen and it was a lantern. I looked down and it was only a remnant of leaf-life. Back, forth. Which was it really?

Take comfort, since, of course, it was both. Christ makes a home of both.

John Foley, SJ

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 14, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission
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Fr. Andrew Duncan.....Pastor
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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 August 15th through August 21st:

Mon: Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab.; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
 Tue: Ez 28:1-10; (Ps0 Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36b; Mt 19:23-30
 Wed: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16
 Thur: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14
 Fri: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40
 Sat: Ez 43:1-7b; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12
 Sun: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1-2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

8/14/22

9:00am Mass

Tom Kasper

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

8/21/22

9am Mass

Marilu Duncan

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/7 \$2766

"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

8/13: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Intention of donor
8/14: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Azalea Hanway for her birthday
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	J. Sammie Ferris
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	For the people
8/16: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Howard Brown on his 75th birthday
8/17: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Shahayla Suhn
8/18: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Intention of donor
8/19: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Christyl Hanway on her birthday
8/20: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Special Intention
8/21: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Ryan Squires
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	+Glen Sunrhodes

Please pray for the family of:

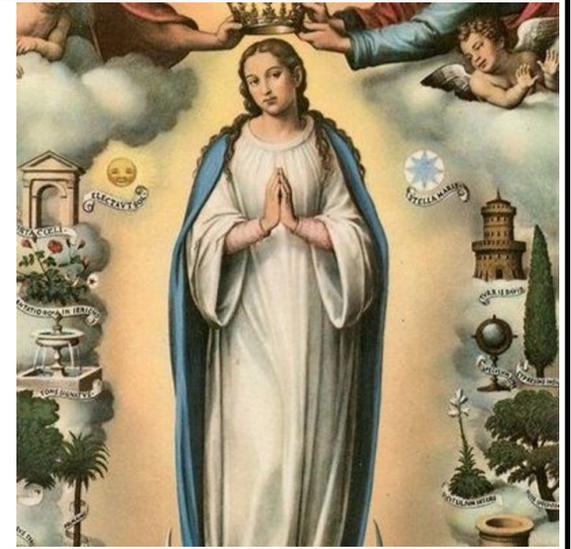
+Yvette Bartel

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.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Although not a holy day of obligation this year, everyone is invited to attend a 5pm Mass on 8/15 at Sunset Park in Riverton. Fr. Louie and Fr. Drew will be concelebrating Mass on this feast day.

Please bring your own chairs and join us!



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.