

## Heaven's Gate

Maybe you remember the parable which Jesus told two weeks ago. There was a man knocking on a friend's door at midnight, wanting to borrow some bread. The friend yelled back, do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.

Jesus responds:

I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Doesn't it feel good knowing that constant prayer will get the door opened?

Well, hold that feeling back for a while and look at this Sunday's Gospel. Here again someone is knocking on the door late at night. But they receive nothing. The master of the house says,

I do not know where you are from. The one(s) knocking replies: "but we ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets."

Look carefully at those words: clearly, the askers have to be mere casual acquaintances, if that. Something like this: we liked what you did, and now we want more!

The master says,

I do not know where you are from.

Depart from me, all you evildoers!

Ouch. What about "ask and you shall receive"? As if to rub it in, Jesus says,

There will be wailing and grinding of teeth

when you see the saved ones—

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets—

looking down from heaven

while you are being cast out!\*

What is going on here? Is Jesus just in a bad mood? We know that he is "making his way to Jerusalem" as he tells this parable, walking straight into the crucifixion, so maybe he is just anxious.

Yet notice that, in last week's parable, even though the owner opens the door just to get the noise stopped, the interruption was being caused by a friend—albeit a rude one—who would not stop asking for what he needed. That parable told us to keep asking God, our friend, for what we need, even though he may be a bit grumpy.

But, in the parable for this Sunday, the people outside are obviously not friends and in fact they have no relationship at all to the master of the house. This parable states that they knew about him only from parties and from the streets. They heard him preaching but they did nothing. They did not come to his house at a reasonable hour and begin a friendship.

No amount of midnight knocking will make up for it.

What is our lesson? That God keeps the door open long beyond what anyone would expect, all the way to the end. But if we are too busy partying and dancing, then finally there is nothing he can do. He has to accept our decision to stay outside.

The message? Get to know God now. Do not delay till you find yourself at the end of your life at heaven's gates and have nothing to show for yourself.

John Foley, SJ

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time August 21, 2022

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

Fr. Andrew 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 August 22nd through August 29th:

Mon: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-5; Mt 23:13-22  
 Tue: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13; Mt 23:23-26  
 Wed: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51  
 Thur: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51  
 Fri: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13  
 Sat: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21; Mt 25:14-30  
 Sun: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:34-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens**

**8/21/22**

9:00am Mass  
Marilu Duncan

5pm Mass  
Volunteer Needed

**8/28/22**

9:00am Mass  
Forrest Cole

5pm Mass  
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/14 \$1397.30

*"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**

8/20: 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
8/23: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Ernesto Cabriales
8/24: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Keith and Kylaya Spoonhunter for their birthdays
8/25: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	Darrell O'Neal
8/26: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Ryan Squires
8/27: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Irene Millar
8/28: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	+Russ Millar
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Jim Leonard

Please pray for the families of:

+Diane Behan

+Catherine Addison

+Billy Topaum

+Terrance Posey

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. 307.856.7806

**Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs**

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