

The Prodigal Us

A ridiculous story.

Who would be dumb enough to adore something they have constructed with their own hands! Imagine worshipping a molten calf! (First Reading)

Of course, we do have our beautiful houses, refrigerators, cars, magazines and clothes, don't we? And our famous "bottom line" in business. And a low score at golf or high score at softball or hunting. And money. And cigarettes. And drink. And sex all over the place. More people in the United States watch pornography than watch sports.

And we do often worship the current "stars" in Hollywood or on MTV, things we have created with our own hands.

But never mind that. In the First Reading we find God becoming quite upset because the people in ancient days put up cheap products as their God. While Moses is away, they have built a golden calf, and are making it their God. Ridiculous.

God had a different idea of his relation to the people. We could sum it up as follows: What about the two-way covenant of love I have been offering you?

I will be your God and you will be my people. I will love you more than you can ask or imagine. Won't you just love me in return?

But they refuse and willfully run away to their paltry desires. God becomes angry, maybe in the way a parent would with a seriously disobedient child. He shouts at Moses,

let me alone, then,

that my wrath may blaze up against them

to consume them. First Reading

A few lines later, Moses acts as a family friend. He says,

Why, O Lord, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? ...

Let your blazing wrath die down; relent in punishing your people.

Just calm down, Give them some time. God agrees.

Yet they were "worshipping" false gods! Maybe you and I do not exactly worship (fall down and adore) all the man-made items that demand our time, but have you ever run away from God so you can have whatever arouses your own addictions?

For sure the prodigal son (Gospel) did. He left what he felt were the "shackles" of home life and also the confining love from his father. He made himself "free"! He squandered everything on a life of dissipation, the equivalent of our many refrigerators, cars, houses, magazines and clothes.

When he finally comes crawling back home, defeated, we would expect his father to say: "Oh sure, now you turn up, thinking everything will be just like it used to be.

Well think again, pal."

But instead his father actually runs to meet his son, embraces him and prepares a huge feast of welcome. Did the young man get what he deserved? No, he got what his father prepared for him. Entire forgiveness.

God does not want to keep us from the things that attract us. He wants us to value them in due proportion. Love God above all things. Then you can love everything and everyone else as they deserve.

We fail, of course, like the prodigal, and like the ancient Israelites did. So Jesus pleads for us, just as Moses pleaded. God puts his arms around us and says, "welcome, welcome, welcome. You came back! We can love one another again, can't we?"

We will do our best, we say.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission
www.saintstephensmission.com

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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 September 12th through September 18th:

Mon: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 7:1-10
 Tue: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 7:11-17
 Wed: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Thur: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28' Jn 19:25-27
 Fri: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3
 Sat: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15
 Sun: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

9/11/22

9:00am Mass
 Marilu Duncan

5pm Mass
 Volunteer Needed

9/18/22

9:00am Mass
 Melissa Brown

5pm Mass
 Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

9/4

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

9/10: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Clyde Ray
9/11: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	James Mashburn on his birthday
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Kimberly
9/13 Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Kelli White Eagle
9/14: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Special Intention
9/15: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Joseph Lambrecht
9/16: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Roy Spoonhunter
9/17: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Jerome Bell
9/18: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Alicia Mousseau on her birthday
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Patti Stalley

Please pray for the families of:

+Gilberta Willow +Kelli White Eagle +Travis Blackburn

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.

September 19 – 25, 2022, marks National Migration Week for the Universal Church, which offers, in a particular way, opportunities to remember the plight of those moving to new countries and spaces. This year's theme, Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees, presents the opportunity to show that all are welcome in our Church, communities, and country. Catholic Charities of Wyoming encourages everyone to use the USCCB's National Migration Week Toolkit for 2022. Let us take the opportunity to be a living reflection of Christ's love and hospitality.

Beginning Experience of Wyoming

Casper October 14 – 16, 2022

Beginning Experience is a weekend program that offers healing and renewal to divorced, widowed, and separated men and women. It is a non-profit, faith-based, comprehensive program offered to all persons, regardless of religious preference. A Beginning Experience weekend offers support and direction to help resolve grief or anger that can follow the end of a marriage by divorce, separation, or death. The weekend can be a time for a real awakening, a re-evaluation, and a new start. Beginning Experience is a positive experience of hope. You can anticipate an intense reflective, possibly painful, but spiritually honest self-encounter. You will also find support, warm fellowship, and community. The next Beginning Experience weekend will be in Casper and starts promptly at 7:00 P.M. on Friday evening Oct, 14th and runs through Sunday afternoon around 4pm Oct. 16th. You must commit to the entire weekend. The donation we ask for the weekend is \$150.00, which includes sleeping arrangements, meals, and materials. We do not provide meals on Friday P.M. or Sunday P.M. Scholarships are available. No one is turned away due to finances. Registration deadline is Oct. 12, 2022. Contact these team members for more information: Sandi 307-462-3922 (phone or text) Email at sandi.pa2731@gmail.com

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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