

My Own Heart

Here is the question we will look at this week: what is life about?

Many times has this been asked! Let us look at Christ's answer.

According to the First Reading:

Deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. The body weighs down the soul, the earth weighs down the mind. ... What is within our grasp we find with difficulty.

Sounds like the writer was having a bad day. But these words actually do apply to all life. We have choices, we have problems. What are we to do?

God grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change;

courage to change the things I can;

and wisdom to know the difference.

This is the Serenity Prayer, well-known, possibly trite to some people. But it shows us the essence of humility: be who you are, not more, not less. Trust in God for everything you cannot do. Let go, let God.

So, there I find a first answer. Life here on earth, even though timid and weighed down, is about humility.

The second answer is love. Real, toiling, sweating love.

Look at the apostle Paul in the Second Reading—the fiery, tempestuous Paul—now an old man and in prison. We are reading a personal letter here, one he wrote to Philemon. It turns out that Philemon's slave Onesimus ran away and came to Paul in his jail cell. Paul became like a father to him, converted him to Christianity and now sends him back to Philemon not as a slave but "as a man and in the Lord."

Listen to the language Paul uses. "I am sending him, that is, [I am sending] my own heart, back to you." Onesimus is not a servant anymore. Paul is sending someone so dear to him that he refers to that man as "his own heart."

This is true personal love. It is what life here on earth is all about.

The third answer, as the Gospel tells us, is to get our values straight. Jesus says he wants you to

1. hate your father, mother, children, brothers, sisters,
and your own life,

2. renounce all your possessions,

3. carry your own cross just as he carries his.

Hang on, don't panic. These sound horrible, but examine them.

1. The word "hate" is probably an oratorical way to say "love them in proportion." If you let love of God be first in your life, your beloved family will come right along with it. If you do not, you will lose them. Hate means not having them be overboard in their importance to you.

2. "Renounce all your possessions." If you are tempted to love material things above all else, then renounce them. It is God you need to love above all things, and everything else only in proportion.

3. Why are we supposed to carry a cross? Because it is far too easy for us to pretend that the world is not really painful, that no one actually suffers. But they do and we do, in a big way. Taking up our cross sends us out with Jesus to help others carry theirs.

And that is the real and final answer to the problems presented in the First Reading. What is life about here on earth? It is about being humble, about loving others truly, and about loving God above all things.

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John Foley, SJ

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 4, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission
www.saintstephensmission.com

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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 September 5th through September 11th:

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11
 Tue: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19
 Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26
 Thur: Mt 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
 Fri: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42
 Sat: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49
 Sun: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17-19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

9/4/22

9:00am Mass
Jim Cunningham

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

9/11/22

9:00am Mass
Marilu Duncan

5pm Mass
Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

8/21 \$1723 8/28 \$1255

"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

9/3: Saturday 9am St. Stephens	+Judy Warren
Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Clyde Ray
9/4: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	Sathta Prue on her birthday
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Rhea Johnson
9/6: Tuesday 7:15am St. Stephens	Darrell O'Neal
9/7: Wednesday 5pm St. Stephens	Special Intention
9/8: Thursday 7:15am St. Stephens	+Mamie Cunningham
9/9: Friday 5pm St. Stephens	Shari Hinkle
9/10: Saturday 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	+Clyde Ray
9/11: Sunday 9am St. Stephens	James Mashburn
Sunday 11am St. Josephs	For the people
Sunday 5pm St. Stephens	Kimberly

Please pray for the family of:

+Ashley Addison

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.

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:

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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.

Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

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