

Wake Up Call

Why do we have Advent?

You say, "I don't know, it always just comes along," or, "I don't know, no one ever told me." I have heard these answers and others a number of times. Especially this question: if Christ has already been born, what is this Advent waiting about? Are we supposed to have forgotten about his birth?

Strangely that is part of the answer.

Let yourself imagine what it might be like. Picture it scene by scene and don't worry about being exact. Just experience it.

Our hearts get drowsy and lazy, tired out by the anxieties of daily life. Maybe we distract ourselves from our troubles by working very hard, or by becoming depressed, or becoming fascinated with drink, or sex, or out-of-control emotions, or gambling, or email, or golf, or surfing the web, or pride, or, or, or (you name yours). Whatever it is for you, the very clear message of Advent is, "Settle down for a while." Open the door just a crack and let God in.

To help, the Church has a liturgical strategy. Each week's first two readings of the Advent Sundays give the carrot: usually positive, a promise of good. Then the Gospel hits you with a big stick to wake you up.

Take the encouraging First Reading this Sunday. It reminds us of the promise God has made to his people: rightness and justice. Security. The day of the Lord will arrive, though long delayed. Peace in our day.

What a lovely thing it is to desire such a time. Too good to be true? Just pious thought? Read the First Reading now and ask yourself those questions. Spend time with them. Pray to God for help. The Responsorial Psalm will help you. It asks God to make known his ways to us, to guide us and teach us.

The Second Reading urges us to put God's promise of peace into action, even if we are not yet sure what it means. Love others and be loved.

But then comes the Gospel. It tries to wake us up, especially if the above has not helped. "But I am perfectly awake," you say. Alright then, go ahead and read the Gospel. It is the "stick."

Signs in the sun, moon and stars, nations in dismay, the roaring of the sea and the waves, people dying of fright, and the Son of Man appearing in the clouds with power and great glory.

Terrifying?

Let yourself imagine what it might be like. Picture it scene by scene and don't worry about being exact. Just experience it.

Will such a shakeup really happen? Maybe much worse is to come, judging from the state of the world today. Do you live without fear of terrorist acts, of proliferating nuclear weapons, of a horrific climate change, of a crash of the entire world economy, or the greed that fills so many hearts to overflowing in your city, in your state, your world?

If you can say "You are right, I am afraid of these," then go back to the Responsorial Psalm. Beg that Christ be given birth in your soul and in so many others in this world that need it so badly.

Welcome to Advent.

John Foley, SJ

First Sunday of Advent November 27, 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 McMahan.....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;

Anointing of the sick for anyone wishing to be anointed

St. Josephs, Ethete

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

Reconciliation 15 minutes before Mass

Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM

Reconciliation 15 minutes before Mass

Wednesday: 10:30 AM Communion Service @ Morning Star

♦♦♦♦♦ Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome! ♦♦♦♦♦

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 November 28th through December 4th:

Mon: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wed: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
 Thur: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

11/27/22

9am Mass

Lector: Tom Kasper

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

12/4/22

9am Mass

Lector: Jim Cunningham

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

11/20 \$1590.27
"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

Happenings:

12/3: First Saturday Mass
 12/4: Second Sunday of Advent

St. Stephens Religious Ed/Baptism

December Baptism class will be on December 5th at 5:30pm in the Religious Ed. Office.

Having Mass offered for an anniversary, marriage, special occasion, or in memory of someone is a special gift. Cards are available at the office. Diocesan guideline is \$10.00 for Mass.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise Him now and always.



All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.
 Amen.

Mass Intentions/Schedule this week

11/26:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	For the people
11/27:	9am St. Stephens 11am St. Josephs 5pm St. Stephens	Steve Gresback +Tony Harris Special Intention
11/29:	7:15am St. Stephens	Special Intention
11/30:	5:00pm St. Stephens	For all those written in the book in church and all our beloved deceased.
12/1:	7:15am St. Stephens	For a holy Advent season
12/2:	5:00pm St. Stephens	Doug Brown
12/3:	9am St. Stephens 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Pat Stine For the people
12/4:	9am St. Stephens 11am St. Josephs 5pm St. Stephens	Steve Gresback +Thomas Matthew Denego Mike & Sean Friday

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

+Stephanie Piper +Melvin Brown

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.

During November, we are called in a special way to remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection. There will be a book at the entrance of the church for parishioners to write the names of their beloved dead who will be remembered in prayer throughout the month.

Scholarship applications for new students are due on November 30th!! If you or your family member would like an application please have them call the office at 856-7806 or email Melissa: melissa.brown@saintstephensmission.com

←—————→
Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs

Baptism Classes

Please call Sister Teresa at 332-9090.

Religious Education

First Communion and Confirmation classes are full. First Communion and Confirmation classes are after the 11am Mass.