

Love After Death

Death is hard to talk about. But life after death is even harder. Since both are in this week's readings, let's try it.

Death brings many images and experiences to mind. Often much suffering accompanies them.

I have been with a fair number of people as they died, and each time the event has seemed miraculous. Someone I had known and spoken with, someone whose every movement came from a mysterious source of life within them, burning bright as a candle in darkness, that someone has vanished. The body is the same one I knew before. The mouth is the same one that talked and laughed. But in the blink of my eye, the individual is gone.

"Where did she go?" "Where did he go?"

But even that way of talking is inaccurate. We "go" by means of walking, using our arms and legs, and thus changing locations. In death "going somewhere" is deceptive. It is accomplished by cessation of all motion whatsoever. Any "going" has to be at a much, much deeper level.

Only the thing called "hope" can tell us where these people go. One of the brothers in the First Reading says it this way: "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him."

Hope, not surety.

And we have only to glance at the crucifixion to see that Jesus chose to die this way. He knew his Abba so well that he kept hope alive even when everything screamed against it. God is God of life, the Gospel says; "to him all are alive," even the dead. Why are they alive? Because God keeps love.

What?

Yes. Real love is like a piece of rich earth that nurtures great trees. Roots dig deep down in this earth for nourishment and moisture. The green selves grow out of this earth. And notice something obvious: the earth does not grow out of them! Life grows out of love, not visa versa. Their life and our lives are rooted in the rich loam of love. It is difficult to say the last sentence correctly. Let me try again. Love is a force much deeper than life. When life ceases, love stays. It becomes the home, the embracing arms that enfold us. Love is the substance, life is the outgrowth.

So the "place" dead persons go, leaving their bodies behind, is into the heart of love, into the arms of God who is love.

Here is how the poet Hopkins put it:

Hither then, last or first,

To hero of Calvary, Christ's feet—

Never ask if meaning it, wanting it, warned of it—men go.*

Christ's feet are where you and I will be, honoring the perfect fullness of love he has achieved. Oh yes, we have to release our tight grip on the treasures we have hoarded, things we have chosen instead of love.

If we have a hard time "meaning it and wanting it" during our lives, even so we are still folded into the luxuriant soil of God's love. Of course sometimes we refuse it, and then our roots go dry in the sun. Yet love forgives and invites us and helps us back.

It is hard to talk about. But worth it.

John Foley, SJ

Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time November 6, 2022

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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33 St. Stephens Road

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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

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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 7th through November 13th:

Mon: Ti 1:1-9; Ps 24:1b-4b, 5-6; Lk 17:1-6
 Tue: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14; Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29; Lk 17:7-10
 Wed: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
 Thur: Phlm 7-20; Ps 146:7-10; Lk 17:20-25
 Fri: 2 Jn 4-9; Ps 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18; Lk 17:26-37
 Sat: 3 Jn 5-8; Ps 112:1-6; Lk 18:1-8
 Sun: Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens

11/6/22

9am Mass

Lector: Marilu Duncan

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

11/13/22

9am Mass

Lector: Melissa Brown

5pm Mass

Volunteer Needed

Parish Collection

10/30

\$1653.97

"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:

11/7: Baptism Class 5:30pm

11/13: Rosary before 9am Mass

St. Stephens Religious Ed/Baptism

Baptism Class: Monday, November 7 at 5:30pm in the Religious Education classroom.

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.

Bless This Child



Congratulations!

Ledger Mark is being baptized after the 9am Mass today. Congratulations to him, his parents and godparents! Welcome, Ledger Mark!

Mass Intentions/Schedule this week

11/5:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Intention of the priest
11/6:	9am St. Stephens 11am St. Josephs 5pm St. Stephens	Jon & Nic Blackburn for their birthday Christine Niedo For the people
11/8:	7:15am St. Stephens	Marie Willow on her birthday
11/9:	5:00pm St. Stephens	Steve Gresback
11/10:	7:15am St. Stephens	Teresa Hagestad
11/11:	5:00pm St. Stephens	Karen and Howard Brown
11/12:	4:30pm Blessed Sacrament	Gil & Mary Ann Rau's 50th Anniversary
11/13:	9am St. Stephens 11am St. Josephs 5pm St. Stephens	+Edward LaMorte +Thomas Matthew Denego For the people

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Like Zacchaeus, do you ever find yourself out on a limb in your marriage? Do you have to climb a tree to be seen/heard. It happens to all of us at one time or another. Learn a communication technique on the Marriage Encounter Experience that will even the playing field in your communication. Learn to communicate without being defensive and reap the benefits of being listened to.

Upcoming Experience dates: Billings, Montana, February 3-5, 2023. Application fee is \$100. For more information or to apply, call Dan and Clare 406-697-3275, or visit our website: wwme.org

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.