

## Mary, The Mother of God

In his moving musical composition Like Winter Waiting, John Foley, SJ, has Joseph sing about Mary, "Who is this woman?" For many people (and, of course, maybe for Joseph too) the question is really, "Who is this woman to me?" These two questions are very different in character.

Consider the first one. The traditional answer to it is that Mary is the Mother of God.

This answer can be hard to understand. All Christians agree that God is without beginning. It seems that a God without beginning can't be born. And so it seems that God can't have a mother either.

But Jesus is fully human and fully divine. As man, God can be born. And so, after all, God can have and did have a human mother.

The woman who was that mother is Mary.

And that is why, if it is taken theologically, the answer to the question Joseph sings in John Foley's music, "Who is this woman?" is this: Mary is the Mother of God.

But the more pressing question remains: "Who is this woman to me?"

The answer to this question depends on the life and love of each person who answers it, doesn't it?

Think about it this way. For every person who reads this Saint Louis University Liturgy Website, John Foley is the Jesuit priest who is the editor of the website and the composer of powerful and influential liturgical music. But the answer to the question, "Who is John Foley to me?" depends on the person answering the question. To me, he is a dear friend. But that is because the history of my life includes care for him and commitment to him.

But, you might think, how much care and commitment should I have for Mary?

Isn't that a backwards way to think about relationship with any person, Mary included? What a person is to you depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her. We will discover our right relationship to Mary if we ask ourselves the question Elizabeth asked: "Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Eleonore Stump

## Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

### 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;

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 January 2nd through January 8th:**

- Mon: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Tue: 1 Jn 2:29-36; Ps 98:1, 3c-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Wed: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Thur: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
- Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11
- Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
- Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-1, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephens**

**1/1/23**

**9am Mass**

Lector: Jim Cunningham

**5pm Mass**

Volunteer Needed

**1/8/23**

**9am Mass**

Lector: Linda Bebout

**5pm Mass**

Volunteer Needed

**Parish Collection**

12/25 \$2818.30  
*"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*

**Happenings:**

1/7: First Saturday Mass 9am  
 1/8: Rosary before 9am Mass

**St. Stephens Religious Ed/Baptism**

Please call Patti at 856-7806 if you would like to have your child baptized.



Heavenly Father, You blessed the Virgin Mary with fullness of grace. She

is my model of faith, hope and love. I give this new year to her intercession and ask for her holy prayers. Place my needs into the protection of her motherly love. With her help, I want my faith to grow. Give me an increase in the virtue of hope when troubles tempt me to despair. Guide me in understanding your infinite love. And join my heart, dear Lord, to the Holy Mother's Immaculate Heart, so that I may improve in loving everyone unconditionally, in imitation of my savior, Jesus. Amen.

**Mass Intentions/Schedule this week**

- 12/31: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Gil Rau
- 1/1: 9am St. Stephens For the people  
 11am St. Josephs +Thomas Matthew Denego  
 5pm St. Stephens +Wayne Brown
- 1/3: 7:15am St. Stephens Shannon Brown for her 50th birthday (1/1)
- 1/4: 5:00pm St. Stephens Lavina Witt
- 1/5: 7:15am St. Stephens Karen Black
- 1/6: 5:00pm St. Stephens Special intention
- 1/7: 9am St. Stephens Jack Herrera  
 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament +Gil Rau
- 1/8: 9am St. Stephens For the people  
 11am St. Josephs +John Redman, Sr.  
 5pm St. Stephens Dominic Littleshield for his birthday

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

+Matthew Behan

*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.*

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who helped clean and decorate for Christmas! Special thanks to Jim, Theresa, Ellen, Louis, Celeste, Marilu, Linda, Melissa, Fr. Drew and Doug. Your help was very appreciated!

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias for the altar! Your loved ones were remembered at the 9am Mass on 12/26. The altar was beautiful with all the poinsettias. Thanks, again!



**Blessed Sacrament and St. Josephs**

**Thank you to all who helped during this Christmas season!**

**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.