

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF OUR LADY OF LORETTO (LODGE GRASS), ST. CHARLES BORROMEO (PRYOR),
ST. DENNIS (CROW AGENCY), ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (ST. XAVIER), ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA (WYOLA)

Third Sunday of Lent

OPENING SONG

Forty Days and Forty Nights, #128

SCRIPTURE READINGS

begin on page 77

APOSTLES' CREED

page 10

MASS PARTS

Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG

Akbaatatdía lláaxbaaxpeesh alákaassalahtaa

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Saint Dennis
10:30 AM Saint Charles Borromeo
12:00 AM Our Lady of Loretto
4:00 PM Saint Francis Xavier

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

6:00 PM Saint Dennis

FRIDAY

6:00 PM Our Lady of Loretto

CONFESSIONS

Before mass and on request.

PARISH HALL

TUESDAYS

6:00 PM Sewing Group
Meeting Room in Small Hall

WEDNESDAYS

6:45 PM St. Dennis Cash Bingo
Main Hall

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Youth Ministry: (406) 953-8931

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Bro. Mike Dorn OFM Cap.
Administrator/Pastor

Bro. Thomas Skowron OFM Cap.
Assoc. Pastor

Bro. Jerry Cornish OFM Cap.
Youth Ministry

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no

running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about wor-



ship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be creat-

ed among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Family Connection

Lent is a season for repentance. It is a season during which we are called to reflect upon and to live deeply the promises of Baptism. The well and the conversation about water immediately recall for us the Sacrament of Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was converted and sent on a mission because of the conversation about water, we too are converted and sent by our Baptism to preach the good news of Jesus to others.

Take this opportunity to reflect upon the importance of Baptism with your family. If you have photos or other mementos of your family's Baptisms, bring them out and take some time to recall the day of Baptism and its importance to you and your family. Create a prayer table that includes these mementos and a bowl of holy water. After you have spent some time talking about Baptism, invite everyone to listen carefully and prayerfully to today's Gospel. Read John 4:5-42 together. Ask how Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well is like Baptism. (Jesus knows the woman's sin and forgives her. The woman comes to know Jesus as the Messiah. The woman invites others to meet Jesus.) Pray a prayer of blessing for each member of the family that God will help each one live the promises of his or her Baptism.



NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

The next baptism class will be on Saturday, April 1st at 10:30am at St. Dennis Parish Hall. The date and location of the baptisms will be determined by the parent(s) and the priest celebrating the baptism.

HELP NEEDED GIVING RIDES FOR PARENTING CLASSES

Crow Tribal Housing is requesting volunteer help in finding drivers to give rides to their location across from Song Bird Day-care on Tuesdays for students attending a parenting class from 1-2:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Heather Bear Cloud at 406-679-4006.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENT CLASSES & ADULT FORMATION

Sacraments of Initiation (First Reconciliation, Confirmation, & First Eucharist) for children are at St. Dennis on **Wednesdays, 5pm**. Additionally, there's class after the **Thursday 6pm** Mass for individuals who are older. Contact Bros. Mike or Thomas at 406.620.7500 for more information.

COFFEE MINISTRY

We are grateful to those who've been bringing items to share at coffee hour after Sunday Masses as well as for those who stay and help clean-up afterwards! If you are interested in organizing or helping with this ministry, please let one of the brothers know.

CLOSING SONG



Ak-baa-tat-dí - a I - láax baax-peesh a-lá-kaa - ssaa -la-htaa
God's Holy Spirit, even if you don't see Him,



Dáh-ka - la-tche-lak ii baa koot-kaá-sheesh koók. HE HE-LE
If you believe in Him, then all things are possible.