

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)

## Palm Sunday

### OPENING SONG

All Glory, Laud, and Honor #141

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** begin on page 86

**APOSTLES' CREED** page 10

**MASS PARTS** Mass of Creation #884-888

### CLOSING SONG

Akbaatatdiakaataa Bii Daásdeeawakuh

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday (4/2)** Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**Holy Thursday (4/6)** 7:00 PM Saint Xavier  
7:00 PM Saint Charles

**Good Friday (4/7)** 8:00 AM Walk with Cross  
from St. X to St. Dennis  
7:00 PM Our Lady of Loretto  
7:00 PM Saint Charles

**Holy Saturday (4/8)** 8:00 PM Saint Dennis (Easter Vigil)

**Easter Sunday (4/9)** Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

### 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

76 Highway 1  
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Crow Agency, MT 59022

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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

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father. In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will. Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: "... for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins."

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame

the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him,

or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

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## Family Connection

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for chil-

dren to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week: Sunday, Mt 21:1-11; Monday, Mt 26:14-25; Tuesday, Mt 26:26-35; Wednesday, Mt 26:36-56; Thursday, Mt 26:57-27:14; Friday, Mt 27:15-54.

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love Is This."

## INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS

Baptisms will resume with the Easter Vigil on April 8th. The next class for parents and godparents is on **Saturday, May 6th at 10:30am** at St. Dennis (and on every 1st Saturday of the month). The date and location of your child's baptism will be determined by the parent/guardian(s) and the priest who will be celebrating the sacrament.

## PARISH HALL OR GYM USAGE

As we approach the graduation season later this spring, there's often a high demand for the

use of our facilities. We are prioritizing requests from our parishioners over non-members. As a parish member, If you anticipate the need to reserve one of our locations for your family's event, please let us know as soon as possible or at least two weeks prior to the event.

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING

Today, at 9 AM at St. Dennis and after the 12pm OLL Mass in Lodge Grass. If you want to help but haven't signed up yet, please contact Bros. Mike or Thomas at 406-620-7500 for more info.

Ak - baa - tat - dí - a - kaa - taa HE - LE  
*Dear God,*

Bii daás - dee - a - wa - kuh. A - HE - HE - LE  
*Have mercy upon me.*

A - wé áa - keen - maak bii daás - dee - a - wa - kuh. A - HE - HE - LE  
*While I'm still on earth, please have mercy on me.*

Bas baa - pé ii - háa - ke bii ku - lu - tta - wa - kúh.  
*On my last day, come take me.*

A - HE - HE - LE

Bii daás - dee - a - wa - kuh. A - HE - HE - LE  
*Please have mercy on me.*