

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)

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### OPENING SONG

Gather Your People #309

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 192

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #884-888

### CLOSING SONG

Akbaatatdía Iláaxbaaxpeesh alákaassalahtaa



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### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**9:00 AM** Saint Dennis  
**10:30 AM** Saint Charles Borromeo  
**12:30 PM** 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.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

TUESDAYS

**6:00 PM** Sewing Group  
Meeting Room in Small Hall  
(St. Dennis)

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

**6:00 PM** Women's Group in Classroom  
(Our Lady of Loretto)

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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

## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term church in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

### Family Connection

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

As you gather together as a family, talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm or an Act of Faith.





Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Michael W. Warfel, as the seventh Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings effective August 22, 2023. With the acceptance of his resignation, Bishop Jeffrey M. Fleming automatically assumes full responsibility and pastoral care for the diocese.

Bishop Warfel served as the leader of the over 32,000 Catholics of Eastern Montana for the past fifteen and a half years. Prior to Great Falls-Billings, Bishop Warfel was the Bishop of the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska. He also served as a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Anchorage before being named the leader of the Diocese of Juneau.

Of his time in Great Falls-Billings, Bishop Warfel said:

“It has been a true pleasure ministering to the People of God of Eastern Montana. While Great Falls-Billings is one of the largest geographical dioceses in the United States, I always felt close to the Catholic parishioners from Plentywood to Cascade, from Broadus to Havre, and everywhere in between. Though my resignation from office has been accepted by Pope Francis, I plan to continue ministry throughout the diocese, as well as my work with the Worldwide Marriage Encounter, as a member of the North American Secretariat which includes a seat on the World Council for Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

The Future of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is bright, as they now have a new shepherd in Bishop Fleming. I pray that many blessings will come down upon him as he continues God’s work.”

Succeeding Bishop Warfel as the eighth Bishop of Great Falls-Billings is Bishop Jeffrey M. Fleming. Bishop Fleming was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the diocese in April of 2022, was ordained as a Bishop in June of 2022, and has since served the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in the capacity of Coadjutor.

Bishop Fleming noted the acceptance of Bishop Warfel’s resignation from office by saying:

“The past year has truly been one of many blessings. It has been a privilege to get to know the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings: her lay faithful, priests, and religious. Together Jesus calls us to Go Make Disciples. It has been a joy getting out to the parishes and communities of Eastern Montana. It is good to be home!

As Pope Francis accepts Bishop Warfel’s resignation from office, I am so grateful to the Holy Father for calling me to this ministry. I am also grateful to Bishop Warfel for his support, mentorship, and friendship. I am grateful for his leadership and discipleship to the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. And I am humbled by the welcome that I have received from my brother priests, religious, and lay faithful of the diocese.

Please know of my prayers for everyone in Eastern Montana as together we “Go Make Disciples.”

At the moment of acceptance of Bishop Warfel’s resignation from office, Bishop Fleming automatically became the leader of the diocese. A ceremony consisting of Evening prayer followed by a social event, will mark the change of leadership. It will be held at St. Ann’s Cathedral in Great Falls beginning at 5:00PM, Sunday, August 27, 2023. Any notes of congratulation can be sent to the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings Box 1399, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Catholic Church Law requires Bishops to submit a letter of resignation on or before their 75th birthday. Bishop Michael W. Warfel will be 75 on September 16th of this year.

## BINGO RETURNS SEPT. 20TH CAN YOU HELP WITH CONCESSIONS?

We need your help in raising funds for the ongoing needs of our parishes! Please consider signing up for a night to serve concessions. Volunteers purchase and prepare a main dish and desert to be sold during Wednesday bingo. If you're unable to volunteer but still want to help, consider donating prepared food or the equivalent funds for one of the nights. Sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 24TH

More info will come as the date draws near.

## LOOKING FOR ALTAR SERVERS

We're looking for new altar servers at all church locations. Everyone who has already received their first communion is welcome: young, old, male, female.

If you're interested or know someone who could be interested, please talk to **Br. Thomas** or call him on **(406) 426-2567**.

## INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS (UNDER 7)

Our next class for parents/godparents is on Saturday, **September 2nd** from **10:30-11:30am** at St. Dennis with baptisms to follow for families having theirs done afterwards inside the chapel. Other dates and locations will be scheduled accordingly.

Please visit [crowcatholicparishes.com](http://crowcatholicparishes.com) or contact one of the priests to register.

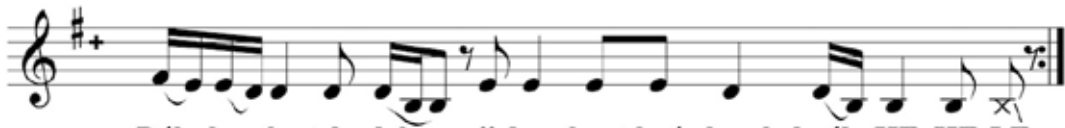
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## CLOSING SONG



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.*

