

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)

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING SONG

Rain Down #621

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 196

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG

Akbaatatdía Iláaxbaaxpeesh alákaassalahtaa

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)

Bro. Mike Dorn OFM Cap. Administrator/Pastor • Phone: (406) 620-7500

Bro. Thomas Skowron OFM Cap. Assoc. Pastor • Phone: (406) 425-2567

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23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved,

the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide



the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

Family Connection

Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of family life. Yet, within our family, we have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect.

As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes

in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples the way in which they are to handle conflict within the Christian community of the Church. Read together this Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20. Invite family members to summarize the steps that Jesus proposes for resolving conflict. How might today's Gospel inform your family's handling of disagreements? If you have time, your family might choose to role play how Jesus' teaching about conflict resolution might be applied to a disagreement that sometimes occurs in your household.

In today's Gospel, Jesus also promises that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner. Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

OUR LADY OF LORETTO PARISH PICNIC - SUNDAY 9/24

Planning has begun for an outdoor Mass & picnic on **Sunday, Sept. 24th** with the location in or near Lodge Grass to be announced.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of church for bringing side dishes and desserts, and for volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up afterwards. Thank you!



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 at **(406) 426-2567**.

SUNDAY CHILDREN LITURGIES

Sunday Children Liturgies will resume on Sunday, September 24th.

INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS (UNDER 7)

Our next class for parents/godparents is on Saturday, **October 7th** 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 or contact one of the priests to register.

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.

