

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)

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### OPENING SONG

Rain Down #621

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** begin on page 198

**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

Bro. Jerry Cornish OFM Cap. Youth Ministry

76 Highway 1  
P.O. Box 57  
Crow Agency, MT 59022

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## 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by





indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

### **Family Connection**

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our

forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.

### **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!

## SUNDAY CHILDREN LITURGIES

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

## BINGO RETURNS!

New bingo season will begin Wednesday, October 4th.

We are in need of volunteers to sign-up for Concessions (sheet in church foyer or speak with one of the priests). The church supplies the basics of drinks, popcorn and nachos & cheese. Volunteers are asked to donate their time and the food they bring as a main dish. All proceeds go to Crow Catholic Parishes.

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

We're  
Hiring!



Catholic Social Services of Montana (CSSM) is seeking a Montana licensed mental health counselor/therapist to join us in our mission to serve our neighbors. This position can be based anywhere in Montana and will provide counseling, therapy, and educational services across the state as a part of the new mental health services program at CSSM. This is a full-time position and benefits include—

- 29 paid leave days in the first year.
- A flexible work schedule.
- Employer paid medical, dental, and vision benefits.
- A retirement account with up to a 3% employer match.
- Paid time off to attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation.
- The opportunity to practice in a faith-centered workplace.
- A competitive starting salary.

A complete position description can be viewed by visiting [www.cssmt.org/staff-board/](http://www.cssmt.org/staff-board/). Applications must be received by September 27 to be included in the initial candidate review.

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## CLOSING SONG



Ak-baa-tat-dí - a I - láax baax-peesh a-lá-kaa - ssa - 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.*

