

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)

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING SONG

This Day God Gives Me #639

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 207

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG

Baakukkoolak Jesus

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isa-

iah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension

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)

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

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between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its require-

ments. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.



Family Connection

Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.

As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbor's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.

PRAYER & FASTING FOR THE HOLY LAND

On Tuesday (10/17), after the regular 6pm daily Mass at St. Dennis, there will be time for Eucharistic adoration and/or reciting of the Rosary in response to the ongoing violence unfolding in the Holy Land.

A message from Cardinal Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem:

On behalf of all the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, I invite all parishes and religious communities to a day of fasting and prayer for peace and reconciliation. We ask that on Tuesday, October 17, everyone hold a day of fasting abstinence, and prayer. Let us organize prayer times with Eucharistic adoration and with the recitation of the Rosary to Our Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the way we all come together despite everything, and unite collectively in prayer, to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice, and reconciliation.



May the Lord, your Shepherd guide you to The Ranch at Ucross nestled in the verdant pastures of the Big Horn Mountains. All married couples are invited to attend the next Marriage Encounter Experience in Ucross at The Ranch, November 3-5. Application fee is \$100. The Experience is a private time to reflect individually and with your spouse on the gift of a Sacramental marriage. To explore your personality style, to focus on activities that bring life and joy to our marriage and those that can create distance. It is an opportunity to learn communication techniques, allowing one to let down defenses and explore more deeply subjects that are difficult to talk about. To reconnect, to romance and to fully realize the gifts inherent in a Sacramental lifestyle.

To learn more about the Experience, visit the website wwme.org or apply today by calling 307-215-9444.

BINGO CONCESSIONS

We're still in need of volunteers to sign up and help with concessions. Please either signup in the doorway at St. Dennis or call 406-620-7500. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Bazaar, Friday 12/8

Elder Dinner, Sunday 12/10

More info will be posted at a later date for vendors reserving a table at the Bazaar.

INFANT/CHILD BAPTISMS (UNDER 7)

Our next class for parents/godparents is on Saturday, **November 4th** 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 or contact one of the priests to register.

CLOSING SONG

Traditional Crow Indian hymn and melody attributed to John Well Known, c1920



E - HE-LA YA-HE - HE-LE Baa - ku-kkoo-lak HE - HE-LE
He is in heaven.



Je - sus baa - ku - kkoo-lak. HE HE-LE
Jesus is in heaven.



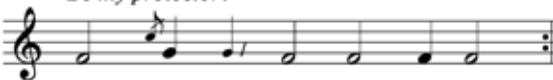
Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE
Be my protector. Be my protector.



Baa baat-chaa - che iis - chii-saa - lee - tak. HE-LE
Almighty one, before whom there is no one,



Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE *(Optional ending here)**
Be my protector.



Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE
Be my protector.

