

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)

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING SONG

For the Fruits of This Creation #204

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 209

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG

Baakukkoolak Jesus

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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In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes.

Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation. Herodians favored the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities.

Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites.

Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going fur-

ther still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God.

Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?

Family Connection

Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects



their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives.

As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.

ALL SOULS: COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Following the solemnity of All Saints on November 1st, on **Thursday, November 2nd at 6pm** we'll celebrate the All Souls Days Mass. After today, you are invited to bring in pictures of your deceased loved ones which will be displayed at a side altar during the month of November. There will also be a book of the

deceased which you are invited to write any names you wish to be remembered during this time. Please write your name and phone number on the back of any items you leave on this altar to help us return these to you at the end of November.

DONATIONS FOR DOOR PRIZES & TURKEY BINGO NEEDED

On the last Wednesday of each month there will be a raffle for door prizes at Bingo. If you have new items to donate to this effort, please see one of the priests. Additionally, we'll be having a Turkey Bingo in November, if you're able to donate a frozen ham or Turkey for this event, please also let us know to schedule a time for drop-off. Thank you!

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.

COFFEE MINISTRY

A big thanks to those who've been bringing items to share after Mass. We appreciate your help with serving and clean-up!

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.

