

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)

2nd Sunday of Advent

OPENING SONG

On Jordan's Bank #41

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 31

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #885-889

CLOSING SONG

Jesus baapem daloowialeesh



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)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

look inside

Bro. Mike Dorn OFM Cap. Administrator/Pastor • Phone: (406) 620-7500
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Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is

greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.



John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

Family Connection

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 24th

10 am St. Dennis

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, Decemeber 24th

4 pm St. Xavier

7 pm St. Charles

8 pm St. Dennis

11 pm Our Lady of Loretto

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, Decemeber 25th

10 am St. Dennis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

A huge ahóoh to all who gave of their ovens, time, money, and other resources to help put on this year's Christmas Bazaar. Thank you as well for all who will be helping with today's Elder Appreciation Dinner at 12:30pm!

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you'd like to help with the purchase of poinsettias to decorate the churches, please see one of the priests.

CONFIRMATION & 1ST COMMUNION

Sacrament classes for children who are at least 7 years old & baptized will begin on **Sunday, Feb. 4th** at both **St. Dennis** and **Our Lady of Loretto** after Mass. Classes will run

about 30 minutes.

There is a sign-up sheet to begin the registration process.

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS

Our next class for parents/godparents is on

Saturday, Jan. 6th at 10:30am at St. Dennis with baptisms to follow for families having theirs done 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



Je - - sus WE - LA - HE - HE-LE

Baa-pemda-loo - wi-a-leesh bii_i - chaa - ki-kaa - wa-ku HE-LE
The day when you are coming allow me to be ready (for it).

Dii-leen bii áa - le - dí-a - wa-kuh Ak-baa - tat - dí-a HE-LE
You will lead me by the hand, dear God.

Je - - sus WE - LA - HE - HE-LE

Baa-pem bii da - la - sash bi-a-leesh bii_i - chaa-ki-kaa-wa-ku HE-LE
That day when you will call my name, allow me to be ready (for it).

Dii-leen bii áa - le - dí-a - wa-kuh Ak-baa - tat - dí-a HE-LE
You will lead me by the hand, dear God