

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)

Feast of the Holy Family

OPENING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful #99

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 53

MASS PARTS Mass of Creation #885-889

CLOSING SONG

Hinna Baakáatsaapkaatdak Hiláwikaattaak
Daachík (tune: What Child is This)

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

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

Find us on Facebook:
Crow Catholic Parishes



Visit our website:
crowcatholicparishes.com



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although

the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel



is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticum of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimittis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

Family Connection

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be

a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together.

CONFIRMATION, FIRST 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.

ST. DENNIS SEWING GROUP TO RESUME IN JANUARY

The sewing group will be taking a break for the remainder of the year. We'll let you know when it resumes in January.

CLOSING SONG

Hinna Baakáatsaapkaatdak Hiláwikaattaak Daachík *Who is this child sleeping so peacefully?*

45

“...Ikaalah. Hinné ii élahchelohmah. Baa chilaxchikáatam bikkaasapsia itták-kaalichkaatdak ii chilaxták baaaxuawishé an baaluusúua awúuan xapñkuum koon xapkáattaak daachfk.”

—Luke 2: 12



Traditional English carol

Paraphrase by Larry Plain Bull and Grant Bull Tail, 1987

“What Child is This”

GREENSLEEVES 8 7 8 7 Ref.

Traditional English melody, 16th century

Em D C B7

Hin - na baa-káat - saap-kaat-dák hi - lá - wi-kaa - ttaak daa-chfk.
Who is this child sleeping so peacefully?

Em D C B7 Em

Sáap - dak ii ba - lách - kuu - o - lak sáap - dak ii fa-ssii - o - lak
Why are they singing to him? Why are they watching him?

G D C B7

Is - ché Dak-kaa súush ba - lách - kuuk i - sah-kéesh ít - chi - kaa-tak.
They're singing for Christ and the Blessed Mother.

G D C B7 Em

Baa-woóm Ma-rysh dáak - ba - chee baa - tát ba - chee - ít - cheesh koók.
And now we know that Mary's son is the king of everything.