

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)

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### OPENING SONG

Shepherd Me, O God #480

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** begin on page 67

**MASS PARTS** Mass of Creation #885-889

### CLOSING SONG

Bik baa éwahcheleetkaatak

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, mod-

ern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was

### 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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identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

### **Family Connection**

Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was



faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go

on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

## *Commitment Weekend Follow-Up*

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for and given gifts to the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. Commitment weekend was February 3 & 4, 2024 and we have been blessed by a wonderful response from across the Diocese. The St. Matthias Giving Circle donors helped to kick off the 2024 ACA with just under \$200,000 thus far and then we have had an additional \$25,000 turned in as well. We expect that number to continue to grow as parishes mail and/or drop off the gifts given through them over the past weekend - but we are humbled by the initial response this year!

Remember, we are simply asking for each of you to make a commitment for your gift to the ACA this year. You can give now, or you can give any time prior to the end of 2024. Additionally, please know that you can give one lump sum, break your gift up into installments, or give on an ongoing monthly basis. Please also refer to the ACA brochure for different ways of giving including cash/checks, IRA distributions, stocks, grain, etc.



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Diocese of Great Falls-Billings  
Annual Catholic Appeal  
PO Box 1399  
Great Falls, MT 59403-1399



**Make a Stock Gift**  
Call the Mission Advancement  
Office @ (406) 604-1854

## *Go Make Disciples!*

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES, 2/14**

8:30 AM: Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy Student Mass

8:30 AM: St. Charles Mission School Student Mass

12:00 AM: Ash Service at St. Dennis (followed by soup & bread, finished by 1:00 PM)

6:00 AM: Mass at St. Dennis

6:00 AM: Mass at Our Lady of Loretto

6:00 AM: Ash Service at St. Charles

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT**

Beginning this week, at both St. Dennis and Our Lady of Loretto, there will be Stations of the Cross followed by the Mass of the day. Please join us on Thursdays, 6pm @ St. Dennis or Fridays, 6pm @ Our Lady of Loretto

## HELP PLAN AN EASTER EGG HUNT

We're looking for 2-3 individuals who can plan & organize an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am Easter Sunday Mass at St. Dennis. Please see/call Br. Mike if you can help, thank you!

## FASTING & ABSTINENCE IN LENT

For information about fasting & abstinence from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/crowlent>.

## PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR BINGO CONCESSIONS

Typically, our volunteers provide a main dish and dessert while the church provides the other items. However, if you wish to volunteer but are unable to provide food, just let us know and we would still appreciate your handling the orders/sales for one of the nights. See the sign-up sheet in the doorway for available dates or call 620-7500. Ahooh!

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## CLOSING SONG



1. A E - HE-LE Bik baa é - wah-che - leet-kaa - tak. E HE-LE  
*I don't know anything by myself.*



Ak-baa-tat-dí - a kon bii baa óo - wiiak. E A-HE - HE-LE  
*My God, he is the one who teaches me.*



An baat - cháa - cheesh ko bii óo - wiiak. E HE-LE  
*His great power and wisdom is what he has taught me.*



2. A E - HE-LE Bik baa é - wah-che - leet-kaa - tak. E HE-LE  
*I don't know anything by myself.*



Ak-baa-tat-dí - a kon bii áa - lee - teek. A-HE - HE-LE  
*My God, he is the one who takes my hand.*



A - la sáa - shii - ash ko bii hii - hchek. E HE-LE  
*It is his light that teaches me*

Traditional Crow Indian hymn and music received by Maggie Brass , c1945.

Also attributed to Xaxua Ee, c1950.

Sung by Dorothy Hoops, c1970

