

Bingo Concession Volunteers Needed – Season Ends May 15th

We've had a great show of support this season for concessions, thank you! We are still in need though of volunteers for the last four Wednesdays of this season. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer with more information. Ahóoh!

Infant Baptisms – First Saturday of the Month

The regular schedule of Infant Baptisms (children under age 7) is the first Saturday of the month, however these can be scheduled on other days as needed and at any of ou. Additionally, for parents/godparents who've not yet been through baptismal prep, there's a class at 10:30am at Saint Dennis Parish Hall. **The next class is Saturday, May 4th**. Please contact any of the priests to register/schedule baptisms.

Corpus Christi @ Lodge Grass – Sunday, June 2nd

If your family can help by sponsoring an altar/tipi, please contact Br. Mike at 406-620-7500. More info will be coming soon regarding location and time.

The Bulletin

76 Highway 1–Box 57
Crow Agency, MT 59022
Parish Phone **(406) 620-7500**
crowcatholicparishes.com
facebook.com/crowcatholicparishes

Bro. Mike Dorn, OFM Cap. *Pastor*
Bro. George Kooran, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*
Bro. Jerry Cornish, OFM Cap. *Youth Ministry*

CONFESSIONS before mass and on request.

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

Office of the Bishop

The Office of the Bishop is a ministry funded through your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your support ensures that Bishop Fleming has the ability and support to perform his ministry leading the Catholic Church of Eastern Montana. Our Bishop is responsible for teaching doctrine, governing Catholics in his jurisdiction and representing the Church to all people within their jurisdiction. Bishop Fleming's ministry is to all people of the Diocese, not just to Catholics. This includes celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation, joining in parish celebrations and milestones, and parish and school visits. Additionally, Bishop Emeritus Warfel continues his ministry and service to our Diocese and around the world, and he is supported through your gifts to the ACA. Our Bishops love to come meet, pray, and visit with you in your local communities and the ACA allows them to do exactly that.

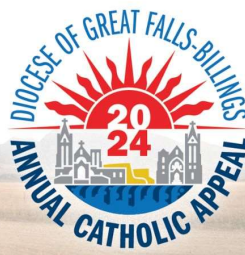
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Regular Sunday Mass Schedule:

9:00am – Saint Dennis
10:30am – Saint Charles Borromeo
12:30pm – Our Lady of Loretto
4:00 pm – Saint Francis Xavier

***Sunday, April 21st Mass Schedule:**

St. Dennis @ 9:30am
St. Charles @ 2pm

St Dennis Parish Hall:

Tuesdays: Sewing Group @ 6pm
Wednesdays: St. Dennis Bingo @ 6:45pm
(Last Day of Season – May 15)

Daily Mass Schedule:

6 PM @ Saint Dennis – Tues/Wed/Thurs
6 PM @ Our Lady of Loretto – Fridays

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

OPENING SONG – Now the Green Blade Rises #182

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 148

CREED-Apostles' page 10

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Jesus Jesus baawat baakale aakeen (handout)

Fourth Sunday of Easter



The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other

Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Family Connection

The Good Shepherd makes sacrifices for the sheep not because it is required, but because it is a choice. That sounds a lot like parenting and the dynamics of a healthy family life. Parents choose to make sacrifices for their children out of love, not obligation. Christian parents model and invite their children to choose to make sacrifices for other family members and for other people, acting out of love rather than obligation.

When you gather as a family, invite each family member to consider the attitude that permeates their participation in family life. Read a common examen, such as any of the following: *Do we do family chores cheerfully and without having to be asked multiple times? Do we gladly share with others? Do we willingly contribute to the family good when asked?* Read aloud today's Gospel, John 10:11-18. Discuss together how the example of the Good Shepherd might inspire your family life. Invite each family member to make a renewed commitment to one action/attitude to focus on in the upcoming week that show that we will choose to follow the example of the Good Shepherd. Pray together that we will be able to honor our commitment. Pray together [Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity](#).

Congratulations to all our candidates!

Many thanks to the sponsors and families who helped prepare the candidates for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Eucharist! A huge thanks as well to the candidates for their desire and commitment to their Catholic faith. A special thanks to Bishop Emeritus Warfel for his presence and ministry today!

Bible Study Group(s) – Sign Up Sheet

We're in the beginning stages of organizing a potential Bible study group to meet either weekly or twice/month, etc. If you're interested in learning more, please sign-up on the sheet near the doors. You can also contact Br. George at 313.949.5650 or franciscangv (at) gmail.com.