

Octave of the Nativity / Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ. In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel

Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honored her commitment to God by naming her child *Jesus*, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child *Jesus* because he will save the people. The name *Jesus* means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you've served as a Eucharistic Minister before the pandemic or you would like to become one, please see Fr. Mike or contact us at 406.620.7500 or stdenniscrowagency@gmail.com. We'll be arranging a training session for sometime in January for those interested in this ministry.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION CLASSES

Classes will resume in January on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45pm at St. Dennis for the Sacraments of Initiation (First Reconciliation, Confirmation, & First Eucharist) and will run through the first week of April. If you'd like to register your child, please talk with one of the priests or with Brother Jerry.

INFANT BAPTISMS – FIRST SAT/SUN EACH MONTH

The schedule of Infant Baptisms (children under 7) is the first Saturday/Sunday of every month. Additionally, there's a mandatory class for parents and godparents on the first Saturday at 10:30 AM at Saint Dennis Parish Hall. **The next class is Saturday, January 7th, 2023, followed with Baptisms for those families who request it.** Please contact any of the priests to register before the class. More info at crowcatholicparishes.com

WELCOMING FR. THOMAS SKOWRON, JAN. 8th

As many of you know, it's been several months without a second full-time priest to serve the parishes, but on Sunday, January 8th, Fr. Thomas Skowron, OFM Cap., will arrive on the Crow Reservation to begin his new long-term assignment. We are very grateful that our brother chose to return to Montana after recently serving a year at St. Labre while he was still in ministerial formation. He is very excited to begin his next chapter living and serving with everyone here in Crow Country! Meanwhile, Fr. Michael Sullivan, who's been assisting us since October 15th, is returning to his parish north of Detroit on Monday, January 2nd. Our sincere gratitude for his help over these past two and a half months!

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE:

Are you tired of making New Year's resolutions that fade into the sunset? Consider a resolution this year to do something positive for your marriage – one thing – a weekend alone together, a private and prayerful experience with your spouse. \$100 Application fee. You need only show up Friday night and we will take care of everything else. Upcoming WWME Experiences are Feb 3-5 in Billings, MT and April 21-23 at The Historic Elk Mountain Hotel. For more information or to register call Dan and Clare: 406-697-3275 or visit our website: wwme.org



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



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



Sáap - dak ii ba - láx - kuu - o - lak saap - dak ii ía-ssii - o - lak
Why are they singing to him? Why are they watching him?



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



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.



The Bulletin

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Fr. Mike Dorn, OFM Cap. *Administrator*
Fr. Thomas Skowron, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*
Br. Jerry Cornish, OFM Cap. *Youth Ministry*

CONFESSIONS before mass and on request.

Sunday Mass Schedule:

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

Daily Mass Schedule:

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

The Octave of Christmas / Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2023

OPENING SONG – What Child is this? (Crow– back, English BB#96)

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 53

GLORIA – page 6

CREED-Apostles' page 10

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Ootchia baaxpáam / O Holy Night (Insert)

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