

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When

Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave. The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

### Family Connection

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus. Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In [Matthew 8:14-15](#) for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a

fever. [Matthew 20:20-28](#) relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships. Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life. As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority? Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

### **St. Dennis Bingo Resumes This Wed. | Concessions Sign-up**

Bingo starts up this Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm. We have a new sign-up sheet for volunteers to do the concessions in the foyer, or you can contact us by phone/email to get on the list. Volunteers are asked to bring a main dish to sell, while the church supplies everything else.

### **\*This Thursday (1/26) & Friday (1/27) - No Masses\***

The regular daily Mass schedule will return the following week.

### **Sacraments of Initiation Classes**

**Classes have resumed this month 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 of Each 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, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://crowcatholicparishes.com)

**Opening Song:**



Ak-baa-tat-dí-a a-hóoh. E Ak-baa-tat-dí-a a-hóoh. E  
Thank you God. Thank you God.



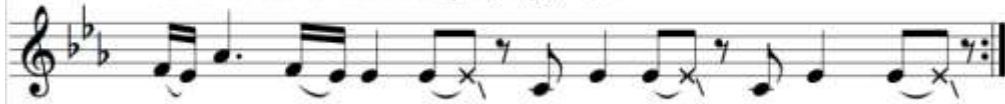
Chi - chíi - lak chí - chíi - lak  
He is seeking and seeking.



a - wáss í - kaak. HE A - hóoh. E A - hóoh. E  
and looking down. Thank you. Thank you.



Báa - ku - kkoo - líi - ak chí - wa - káa - la - kuuk.  
He is in heaven and he is praying for you.



A - xée WA - HE - LE a - hóoh. E A - hóoh. E  
Father thank you, thank you.

**Closing:**



Ak-baa-tat-dí-a-kaa-taa WE -LE Ak-baa-tat-dí-a-kaa-taa WE-LE  
Precious Lord, Precious Lord,



Dik áa - lee-tii-a - wa - kuh WE-LE Ak-baa-tat-dí-a-kaa-taa. WE-LE  
Please lead them by the hand, O Precious Lord.



Ihch-áa-kii-hkaa-wa - kuh WE-LE Ak-baa-tat-dí-a - kaa- taa. WE-LE  
Help them prepare themselves for you, I pray, O precious Lord.

# The Bulletin

76 Highway 1–Box 57 Crow Agency, MT 59022  
Parish Phone (406) 620-7500  
Youth Ministry (406) 953-8931  
crowcatholicparishes.com  
facebook.com/crowcatholicparishes

Bro. Mike Dorn, OFM Cap. *Administrator*  
Bro. Thomas Skowron, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*  
Bro. 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

**Parish Hall:**  
**Tuesdays:** Sewing Group @ 6pm, Meeting Room in Small Hall  
**Wednesdays:** St. Dennis Cash Bingo @ 6:45pm, Main Hall

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2023

OPENING SONG – Akbaatadía ahóoh

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 59

GLORIA – page 6

CREED-Apostles’ page 10

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Akbaatadíakaataa Akbaatadíakaataa

*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



## DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P.O. Box 1399 \* Great Falls, Montana 59403 \* (406) 727-6683

[www.diocesegfb.org](http://www.diocesegfb.org)



January 17, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I once heard a speaker talk about what helps married couples grow strong in their relationship. He pulled out a single strand of twine, grabbed both ends and then pulled until the twine broke. He then added a second strand of twine which made it harder for him to break. Then, he added a third strand. The three strands, now wound together, were too strong to break.

Married couples who live their lives separately as individuals, easily break apart. Even those couples who do strive to live a married life can struggle because of pressures within their day-to-day worlds. It is by keeping Christ central to their relationship (like the third strand) and integrating him into married life, that a marriage remains sacramental and strong. Keeping a marriage sacramental and strong involves ongoing maintenance and the effort is worth it. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience has something in it for every married couple. The Experience provides couples tools to strengthen their relationship, like combining strands of twine.

I am writing this letter to encourage married couples in the Diocese to make a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be in Billings, February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup> at Mary Queen of Peace Parish.

There are several opportunities to attend a weekend encounter:

February 3 – February 5: MQP, Billings, MT

April 21 – April 23: This will be held at the Historic Elk Mountain Hotel, Elk Mountain, WY.

June 9 – June 11: A third Experience will be at the Great Northern Hotel, Malta, MT.

November 3 – November 5: Finally, there is a fourth Experience in Ucross, WY.

As married couples, this is a wonderful gift to offer to each other in this New Year.

For more information or to apply visit [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org).

Email: [montana.dooleys@gmail.com](mailto:montana.dooleys@gmail.com) or call: Dan & Clare Dooley 406-697-3275.

In Christ,

Michael W. Warfel

Bishop of Great Falls-Billings



Giving is Safe,  
Simple & Secure!



Visit Our Website  
to give electronically at  
[www.DioceseGFB.org/ACA](http://www.DioceseGFB.org/ACA)



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



Make a Stock Gift  
Call the Diocese Development  
Office at (406) 604-1864



Donate Now!  
Scan this QR Code with your  
smartphone to give online!

## We Are an Offering

The 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is getting ready to officially begin in 2 weeks. The ACA supports the ministries and programs of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings - many of which support our local parishes and schools. Over the campaign, you will see more information in the bulletin each week to let you know how your offering supports our Catholic family of Eastern Montana. Our goal is to have 100% participation this year.

Please watch your mail for information from Bishop Warfel and Bishop Fleming over the next two weeks. We ask that you prayerfully consider your gift to the ACA during this time and come prepared to make your commitment the weekend of Feb. 4-5, 2023.

