

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy, fortunate, or favored*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status. Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family

summary of the Beatitudes. Post the summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider "true happiness."

Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., "We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord." All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Welcome Bishop Fleming to Crow Country for Catholic Schools Week!

As part of Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 29th through Feb. 4th, we are grateful to Bishop Jeffrey Fleming who will be celebrating Mass on Tuesday, 1/31 at both St. Charles Mission School (10am) and at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy (2pm).

St. Dennis Bingo Wednesdays, 6:45 / Concessions Sign-up

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.

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 (Feb 4th) - 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 4th, 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

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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.

DIocese of GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS
2023
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Opening Song:

Traditional Crow Indian hymn and melody attributed to John Well Knows, c1920



E - HE-LA YA-HE - HE-LE Baa - ku-kkoo-lak HE - HE-LE
He is in heaven.

Je - sus baa - ku - kkoo-lak. HE HE-LE
Jesus is in heaven.

Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE
Be my protector. Be my protector.

Baa baat-chaa - che iis - chii - saa - lee - tak. HE-LE
Almighty one, before whom there is no one.

Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE (Optional ending here)*
Be my protector.

Bii kux-shih. WE E* - HE-LE
Be my protector.

Closing:



Ak-baa-tat-dí - a I - láax baax-peesh a-lá-kaa - ssaa -la-htaa
God's Holy Spirit, even if you don't see Him,

Dáh-ka - la-tche-lak ii baa koot-kaá-sheesh koók. HE HE-LE
If you believe in Him, then all things are possible.

The Bulletin

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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

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

Parish Hall:

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2023

OPENING SONG – Báakukkoolak Jesus

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 61

GLORIA – page 6

CREED-Apostles' page 10

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Akbaatatdía Iláaxbaaxpeesh alákaassalahtaa