## 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. 29<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

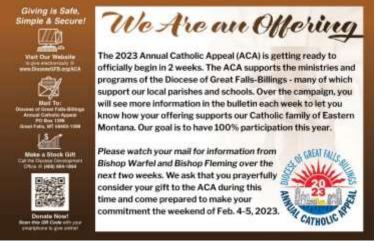
## **Sacraments of Initiation Classes**

**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 4<sup>th</sup>) - 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



#### **Opening Song:**







# 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 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 <sub>Wyola</sub>

#### Parish Hall:

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

# 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 alákaassaalahtaa