

brings with him many experiences that can benefit our parishes. We are both excited and grateful that he's chosen to minister and to be with us! Welcome brother!

Graduation Party reservations at our sites

As we've done in previous years, we give priority dates for graduation parties to our parishioners before others' requests. Please contact Br. Mike by March 15th if you plan on requesting to have a party around late May or early June at one of our sites.

Corpus Christi at Lodge Grass – 6/2/24

This year's celebration of Corpus Christi will be at Lodge Grass. We are looking for families to either host the celebration and/or sponsor tipis/altars at this summer's feast day events on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024. Typically, we begin with Mass, followed by a Eucharistic procession to tipis/altars, and then a feed. The church will provide the meat, while each parish location provides the other items. Please contact Br. Mike if you're interested.

The Bulletin

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

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. Thomas Skowron, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*
Bro. Jerry Cornish, OFM Cap. *Youth Ministry*

CONFESSIONS before mass and on request.

Sunday Mass Schedule:

9:00am – Saint Dennis
10:30am – Saint Charles Borromeo
12:30pm – 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

Lenten Activities:

Stations of the Cross @ 6pm, then Mass
*Thursdays – St. Dennis
*Fridays – Our Lady of Loretto

St Dennis Parish Hall:

Tuesdays: Sewing Group @ 6pm
Wednesdays: St. Dennis Bingo @ 6:45pm

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 10, 2024

OPENING SONG – Forty Days & Forty Nights #130 (Missalette)

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 81

CREED-Apostles' page 10

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Akbaatatdíakaata #1 (Crow Hymns Sampler)

Seminarian Support

One of the areas that your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal support is for our men in formation, also known as our Seminarians. This begins with our Vocations Team, who assist with praying with and for them, answering questions to help them discern what God is calling them to do with their lives. If they continue their path towards priesthood, the Diocese (with your help through ACA gifts) will provide graduate level seminarian education including books, tuition, room and board, and even some of the travel expenses. While in Seminary, we have a Vocations team member who supports them throughout out, up to and including Ordination. These are key pieces of support to these men. By helping to ensure that they are not having to be concerned about the financial aspects of their formation, these men can fully devote their focus on their formation and education! Our Seminarian program is growing, and therefore, so is the need for financial resources - but we want to ensure this is funded so we can continue to have holy priests to serve our Diocese.



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Fourth Sunday in Lent

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We



wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Family Connection

Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John’s observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God’s great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about what it felt like to be in the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn’t see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today’s Gospel, John 3:14-21. John’s Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the [Act of Contrition](#).

Easter Egg Hunt – Planning & Donations

We’re looking for 2-3 individuals who can plan & organize an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9am Easter Sunday Mass at St. Dennis as well as the 12:30pm Mass at Our Lady of Loretto. Additionally, if you can donate plastic eggs & candy to place inside the shells, please contact Br. Mike, Ahooh!

Fasting & Abstinence in Lent

For information from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops about fasting & abstinence, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/crowlent>.

Welcome Br. George Kooran, OFM Cap. to Crow Country!

A new Capuchin friar has arrived from Detroit after serving six and a half years of ministry primarily at the Solanus Casey Center. Beginning his Capuchin life in his motherland of Kerala, India, Br. George has been a priest for 33 years, and thus