

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death



would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John

does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the

sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Family Connection

Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

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!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday (3/24) – Regular Sunday Schedule

Holy Thursday (3/28) – Way of the Cross from St. X to St. Dennis (8am-4:30pm)

Mass @ St. Xavier & St. Charles – 7pm

Good Friday (3/29) – Service @ Our Lady of Loretto & St. Charles – 7pm

Easter Vigil (3/30) – Mass @ St. Dennis – 8pm

Easter Sunday (3/31) – Regular Sunday Schedule

Communal Penance Service at St. Dennis on Tuesday 3/19

This Tuesday, 3/19, at 6pm we'll have a communal penance service followed by the regular daily Mass.

Palm Sunday Breakfast Plate Sale – 3/24/24

Next Sunday after the 9:00am Mass at St. Dennis there will be the annual breakfast plate sale. Please see the signup sheet at the door or talk with Michael Stops or Glenda Dawes for what to bring or how to help. Thanks!

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

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Bro. Mike Dorn, OFM Cap. *Pastor*
Bro. George Kooran, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*
Bro. Jerry Cornish, OFM Cap. *Youth Ministry*

CONFESSIONS before mass and on request.

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

Safe Environment Program

The Diocese leads the Safe Environment program for all of our parishes, schools, and other programs/ministries to follow. The Safe Environment program provides education around abuse and neglect for our children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

The Safe Environment program is completed by all employees and volunteers who are working within the diocese and have any kind of contact with our children, young people, and vulnerable adults. The education helps to identify the signs for abuse and neglect, then helps to educate them on how to report the suspicions so that it may be investigated.

The Safe Environment program also has components that are used with our young people to help them be aware of safe boundaries and interactions with others (including their own age) and who to ask for help if they have a concern.



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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

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024

OPENING SONG – Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days #139

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 86

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MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG – Jesus Hiliashiek #21 (Crow Hymns Sampler)