

*Youth, Young Adult, & Family Ministry*

New to the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal is a renewed focus on youth, young adult and family ministry. This is currently being led by one of our newest team members, Jessica Brown - who is working from Billings, MT. Her ministry will focus on youth outside of Sacramental Preparation (which is still being led by Thomas Dotterweich), young adults, and families. After a great deal of feedback and conversations around the Diocese, we knew that we wanted to have more focus on ministry to different ages and groups. One of the first tasks was to help with planning and leading the Diocesan Youth Event, which is taking place in Lewistown on March 16-17 (grab tickets for your high school students if you haven't already!). Additionally, there is development focusing on campus ministry, youth group leadership, young adult groups, outreach and events, and getting creative with intergenerational catechesis, etc. While she is just getting her feet wet, please reach out directly to Jessica with ideas, support, and prayers as she helps to bridge the gaps and connect parishes throughout Eastern Montana.

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

**Make a Stock Gift**  
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**Fasting & Abstinence in Lent**

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

# The Bulletin

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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.*

*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

**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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**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

## Third Sunday of Lent March 3, 2024

OPENING SONG - Led By The Spirit #128 (Missalette)

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 76

CREED-Apostles' page 10

MASS PARTS - Mass of Creation #884-888

CLOSING SONG - Akbaatatdiakaata #1 (Crow Hymns Sampler)

## Third Sunday in Lent

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.



We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

## Family Connection

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again.

As you gather as a family, talk about places and times when you have experienced God's presence. After his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples understood that Jesus was present with them as they gathered to pray and especially when they gathered to share a meal. Read together today's Gospel, John 2:13-25. Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

## 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!