

St. Dennis/Our Lady of Loretto Needs Altar Servers

If you have received your First Communion and would like to serve as an Altar Server or Lector at our liturgies (Mass) on Sundays and other Holy Days, please list your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Necessary instruction and training will be given before you are scheduled to do these services

Infant Baptisms – First Saturday of the Month

The regular schedule of Infant Baptisms (children under age 7) is the first Saturday of the month, however these can be scheduled on other days as needed and at any of you. Additionally, for parents/godparents who've not yet been through baptismal prep, there's a class at 10:30am at Saint Dennis Parish Hall. **The next class is Saturday, June 1st.** Please contact any of the priests to register/schedule baptisms.

Corpus Christi @ St. Anne Mission site (LG) – Sunday, June 2nd

Corpus Christi will be hosted at the old site of St. Anne's Mission. If your family can help by sponsoring an altar/tipi, please contact Br. Mike at 406-620-7500.



The Bulletin

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Crow Agency, MT 59022
Parish Phone **(406) 620-7500**
crowcatholicparishes.com
facebook.com/crowcatholicparishes

Bro. Mike Dorn, OFM Cap. *Pastor*
Bro. George Kooran, OFM Cap. *Assoc. Pastor*

Confessions: before mass and on request

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule:

09:00 am – Saint Dennis
10:30 am – Saint Charles Borromeo
12:30 pm – Our Lady of Loretto
04:00 pm – Saint Francis Xavier

Daily Mass Schedule:

6.00 pm @ Saint Dennis – Tues., Wed., Thurs.
6.00 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
Wyola

St Dennis Parish Hall:

Tuesdays: Sewing Group @ 6pm
Wednesdays: St. Dennis Bingo @ 6:45pm
(Last Day of Season – May 15)

Deacon Formation

Like Christ, a deacon is called to serve - and your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal, help men in discernment and formation to prepare for that call to serve! The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings currently has two cohorts (groups) of men in formation to become permanent deacons. They are led by our Director of Deacon Formation, Deacon Pete Woelkers. Each cohort meets one weekend a month and, God willing, after four years of formation go on to be ordained. Deacons often assist priests in their parishes, provide outreach to prisons, hospitals and long-term care facilities, etc. To learn more, we encourage you to read through the extensive coverage about the Diaconate in the April/May 2024 Harvest Magazine.

Ordination for six of the men in formation is planned for June 8, 2024, in Billings, MT and we will be sharing video interviews with each for you to get to know them better.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

OPENING SONG – Love Divine all loves excelling #497
SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on page 152
CREED-Apostles' page 10
OFFERATORY - #3 (Apsáalooke Hymns Sampler – AHS)
MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation #884-888
COMMUNION - #4 (AHS)
CLOSING SONG – #13 (AHS)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus must lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel. One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude. Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.



This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

Family Connection

In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.

As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word *generosity*. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost or seeking a reward. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did.

Mother's Day is next Sunday, May 12th

In preparation for honoring all mothers, we welcome anyone who'd like to bring salad or fruit, or another item to share with one another after Mass next Sunday to do so. The church will be providing a sheet cake at both St. Dennis & Our Lady of Loretto.

Bible Study Group(s) – Sign Up Sheet

We're in the beginning stages of organizing a potential Bible study group to meet either weekly or twice/month, etc. If you're interested in learning more, please sign-up on the sheet near the doors. You can also contact Br. George at 313.949.5650 or franciscangv@gmail.com.