



The Bulletin

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

Confessions: Before Mass, & On request

Sunday Mass Schedule:

9:00 am – St. Dennis
10:30 am – St. Charles Borromeo
12:30 pm – Our Lady of Loretto
4:00 pm – St. Francis Xavier

Weekday Mass Schedule:

6.00 pm @ St. Dennis: Tues. Wed. Thurs.
6.00 pm @ Our Lady of Loretto: Friday

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

Our Lady of Loretto Women's Group

Tues & Thurs @ 6:00pm (Call 679-6978)

St Dennis Parish Hall:

Tuesdays: Sewing Group @ 6:00pm

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024

OPENING SONG – **#497** (Breaking Bread – BB)

GLORIA – **BB #6**

SCRIPTURE READINGS begin on BB page **177**

CREED-Apostles' on BB page **10**

OFFERTORY - **#16A** (Apsáalooke Hymns Sampler – AHS)

MASS PARTS – Mass of Creation BB **#884-888**

COMMUNION - (AHS) **#4**

CLOSING SONG – (AHS) **#13**

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church

returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.



Family Connection

Church documents call the Christian family the "domestic church." This is both a compliment and a call to commitment. Because the family is a community formed in love and dedicated to the physical and spiritual growth of its members, it is a miniature version of the Kingdom of God on earth. This Sunday's Gospel Reading, Mark 4:26–34, consists of two parables that Jesus used to help us discern the

mystery of the Kingdom of God. The beginning of the kingdom is compared to a tiny seed that over time matures and ripens. Many of the things we do within the family seem insignificant. They are part of our daily activity and attract little attention. Yet they show our love and concern for one another. According to the Gospel, it's these small things that yield big results, acting as significant contributions to the growth of God's kingdom on earth. The growth of the seed illustrates the nature and the results of a strong faith.

Read aloud together the Gospel of Mark 4:26–34. Consider how your family's concerns reflect the Church's concerns for those members who are poor, forgotten, hungry, ill, shunned, or lonely. Together think of a specific action that you can do to assist a person in your extended family, neighborhood, or parish. Now pray together the Lord's Prayer, pausing briefly to consider the import of the words "thy kingdom come." Each evening this week as you gather for supper, share with one another the simple acts of love you witnessed within the family that day.

Happy Father's Day! - Let us give thanks to Akbaatatdia for the role of our fathers and grandfathers in our lives! May our prayers through the intercession of St. Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus, inspire and rekindle the tender and compassionate love and commitment of fathers of all kinds. Amen.

Native Days: Let us remember in our prayers this week all the families who will be preparing, assisting, serving, and competing within Native Days. May all the activities continue to spread joy, pride, and honor among the Apsáalooke people!

Bible Study Group(s): We're in the beginning stages of organizing a Bible study group to meet preferably on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. There are a few who have already signed up. If you didn't know, please get in touch with Br. George at 313.949.5650 / franciscangv (at) [gmail.com](mailto:franciscangv@gmail.com)

Lector & Altar Server: Let us revitalize our Parish by offering ourselves to be Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers etc. Every Baptized person of age can do these services. If you would like to serve as Lector/ Altar server, please put your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Necessary instruction will be given to you to do the service.

Infant Baptisms – Usually children under 7 are baptized on 1st Saturdays. (If needed, other days too). Next class for parents/God-parents who haven't yet had baptismal prep, is at 10:30am at St. Dennis Parish Hall on **Saturday, July 6th**. Please contact any of the priests to schedule a Baptism.

Job Open: Great Falls Catholic Schools need Director of Advancement. Please see diocesegfb.org

We are Invited: St Patrick's Co-Cathedral in Billings is hosting a 60th Anniversary of Ordination for Fr. John J. Houlihan on Sunday, June 23, following the 10:30am Mass. The members of St Patrick's Parish cordially invite everyone to a reception (meat, cheese, fruit and desserts) in his honor.



The Vatican published Global Catholic Church the data from end of 2021:

Comparing to the previous year,
 Number of Catholics increased by 1.3%
 Number of Priests decreased by 0.57%
 Number of Nuns decreased by 1.7%
 Number of Seminarians down by 1.8%
 Number of Permanent Deacons increased -1.1%
 North & South Americas together has world's 48% Catholics, but only 29% of world's Priests
 - (Imbalance in ratio).

Church growing quickly in Africa - 3.1%
 In Africa there is an increase in number of Seminarians (0.57%)
 Brazil has the most number of Catholics (180 M)
*...It's time to think about Crow Seminarians, Crow Priests and Crow Permanent Deacons, Crow Nuns and **Crow Capuchins***



No Joke! On June 14th, Friday Pope Francis hosted an audience with over 100 comic entertainers, also including Stephen Colbert, Whoopi Goldberg, Chris Rock, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Conan O'Brien. They "have and cultivate the gift of making people laugh", the Pope said. With so much "gloomy news," in the midst of both public and personal crises, comedians are able to spread "serenity and a smile," and are among the few who can speak "to very different people, of different generations and different cultural backgrounds." Precisely because "laughter is contagious," it can "break down social barriers and create connections," the Pope said, noting that comedians remind us that "playful fun and laughter are central to human life."



Montana Catholics For Life

For Babies For Mothers For Families

"Every child that arrives is God's gift. Every baby, in every case, and in whatever situation is to be welcomed," - Pope Francis via video Love Brightens the World's Darkness, 2021

Families are sacred. They are the domestic church and the most significant factor in helping determine the lifelong flourishing of each member, children and parents alike. Part of the reason for this is that they know how to lovingly meet challenges together, including the challenge of an unplanned pregnancy. They understand that rallying to support a new mother is a true expression of love and that her life as a mother will be deeply fulfilling and enriching.

Motherhood, even if unplanned, is a gift to women, their children, families, and all of society. It is not a prescription for certain failure or poverty, and it is certainly not a "problem" that needs to be solved by taking the life of a child through abortion. Families know this and throughout history have supported mothers with unplanned pregnancies.

CI-128 would enshrine abortion in the State Constitution of Montana eliminating regulations by rendering them unconstitutional. This includes the current requirement for parental notification when a minor obtains an abortion. This change is unacceptable as it eliminates a young mother's very best chance of flourishing in life by creating a barrier of secrecy between her and her family. Mothers deserve better in Montana.



From Montana's Bishops
 Joint Letter & Video
 Stand for Life in Montana



Please continue to pray and spread the word - decline to sign the petition to place Constitutional Initiative 128 (CI-128) on the November ballot.

"Mother of Life", Nellie Edwards. All Rights reserved. www.PaintedPath.net