

Bulletin for the Catholic Parishes of Oklee, Grygla, and Goodridge

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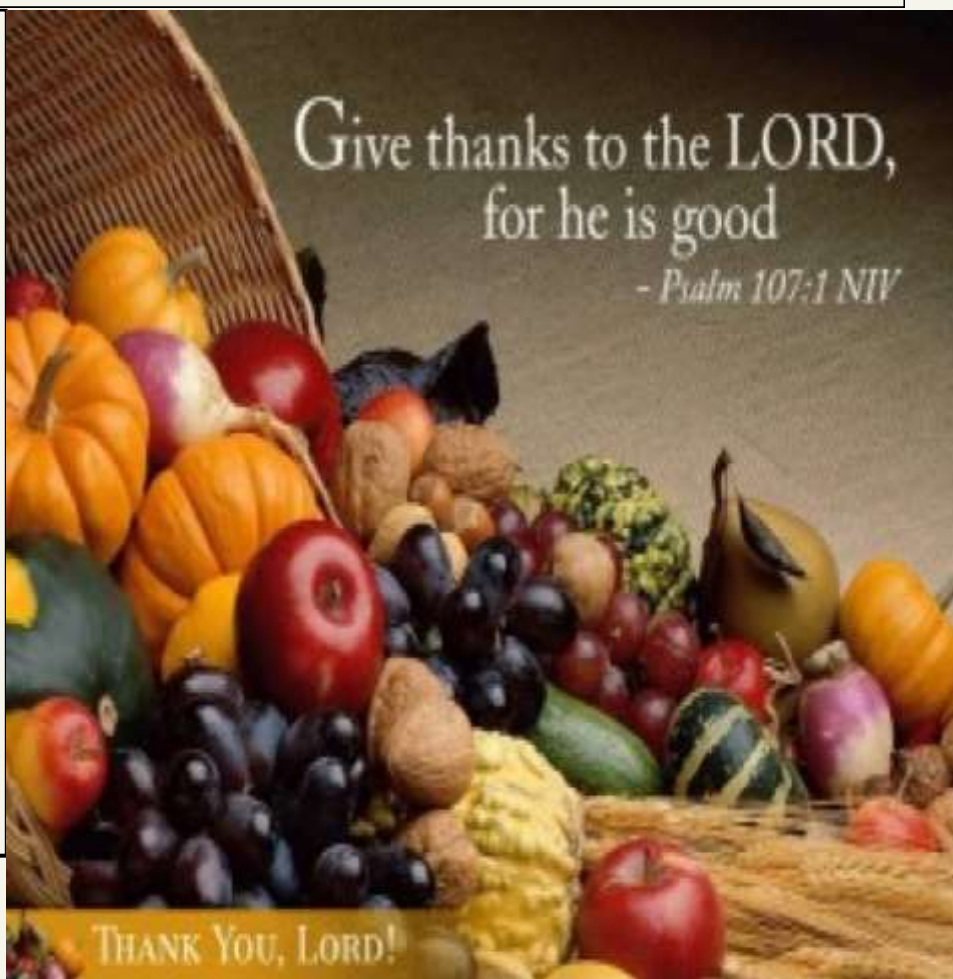
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Confessions: 15 minutes before Mass
 Tuesday Confessions: 1 hr. post Mass

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. Red Lake County Sheriff at 218-253-2996, Pennington County Sheriff at 218-681-6161, Marshall County Sheriff at 218-745-5411. In addition, the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).



Oklee	Sunday	11/19/23	8:00 a.m.	†Beth Super
Grygla	Sunday	11/19/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	11/19/23	12:00 p.m.	†Emmit Lessor
Oklee	Monday	11/20/23	8:00 a.m.	†Joey & †Jody Johnson
Goodridge	Tuesday	11/21/23	5:30 p.m.	†Stan Cwikla
Oklee	Wednesday	11/22/23	8:00 a.m.	†LeRoy Carriere
Grygla	Thursday	11/23/23	9:00 a.m.	Parishioners of St Clement
Oklee	Sunday	11/26/23	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Grygla	Sunday	11/26/23	10:15 a.m.	Phillip Cwikla
Goodridge	Sunday	11/26/23	12:00 p.m.	†Alyssa Rogalla

CLERGY COLUMN

Happy Lord's Day!

Each year, parishes around the country participate in the practice of counting the number of people attending Mass at each parish throughout the month of October. I made graphs out of the results of our parishes for the past eight years. As I mentioned last year, attendance was not counted in 2020, because of the pandemic. I took out the numbers in these graphs because the numbers aren't the important thing to me. I think these can be helpful for us to see any patterns that may be developing. Do you notice any patterns in the graphs?

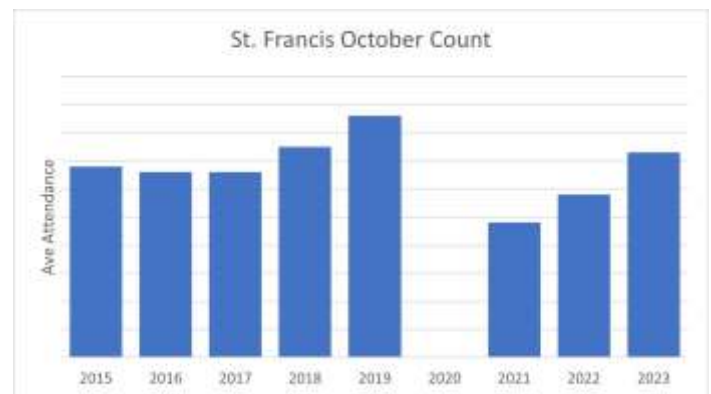
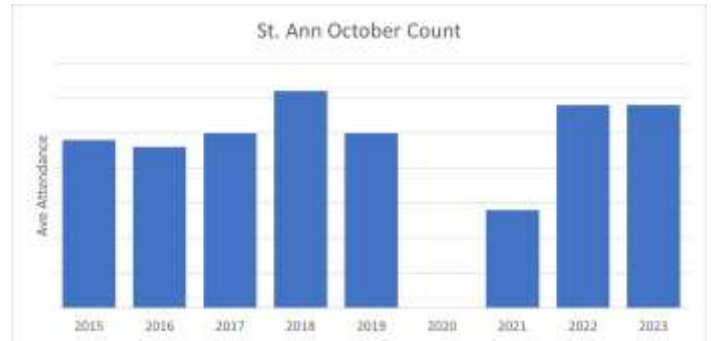
Here are some observations from my perspective after being in this assignment for just under a year and a half:

- Attendance at St. Francis has grown quite a bit, which is encouraging. The numbers were helped by the guests who came for the First Communion we had in October, but the trend was still up quite a bit without the extra boost. It's also gone up at St. Clement's - higher than it's been in the last nine years! - which is also encouraging.
- It seems like the parishes have pretty well stabilized after the pandemic from a few years ago, which is a good thing. I know it was a difficult thing for people to navigate with different sensitivities to illness, so I'm glad to have that behind us.
- In total, our numbers are higher than 2019, which is the highest total I have on file. Surely there have been times when all three parishes had more attendance than this, but it's been quite a few years since then. As far as recent history goes, 2023 is the highest between all three parishes. Good news!
- And yet there is still room in the pews for more. Maybe it's a fault of mine, but I am always on the lookout for room to grow. We all know Catholics who should attend Mass (every healthy Catholic *should attend Mass, after all!*) *but who don't attend Mass. It would be worthwhile to pray about how we can get them back.*
- Of course, we know that Mass attendance is not the only factor in determining whether a person is a disciple of Jesus Christ. Still, it is one of the most fundamental factors, the most basic factor. We are made to offer worship to God on the day that he has chosen, and he has chosen Sunday, the Lord's Day, for his people to worship.
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One simple invitation for you to consider: **Can you think of anyone in our area who doesn't currently attend Mass each week that you could invite to come?**

May the Lord give you his peace!

Fr. Bryan



Why No Protests?

A study of the history of doctrines indicates that Christians in the first centuries were up in arms if anyone suggested the least change in beliefs. They were extremely conservative people who tested a doctrine's truth by asking, Was this believed by our ancestors? Was it handed on from the apostles? Surely belief in purgatory would be considered a great change, if it had not been believed from the first—so where are the records of protests?

They don't exist. There is no hint at all, in the oldest writings available to us (or in later ones, for that matter), that "true believers" in the immediate post-apostolic years spoke of purgatory as a novel doctrine. They must have understood that the oral teaching of the apostles, what Catholics call tradition, and the Bible not only failed to contradict the doctrine, but, in fact, confirmed it.

It is no wonder, then, that those who deny the existence of purgatory tend to touch upon only briefly the history of the belief. They prefer to claim that the Bible speaks only of heaven and hell. Wrong. It speaks plainly of a third condition, commonly called the limbo of the Fathers, where the just who had died before the redemption were waiting for heaven to be opened to them. After his death and before his resurrection, Christ visited those experiencing the limbo of the Fathers and preached to them the good news that heaven would now be opened to them (1 Pet. 3:19). These people thus were not in heaven, but neither were they experiencing the torments of hell.

Some have speculated that the limbo of the Fathers is the same as purgatory. This may or may not be the case. However, even if the limbo of the Fathers is not purgatory, its existence shows that a temporary, intermediate state is not contrary to Scripture.

"Purgatory Not in Scripture"

Some Fundamentalists also charge, "The word purgatory is nowhere found in Scripture." This is true, and yet it does not disprove the existence of purgatory or the fact that belief in it has always been part of Church teaching. The words Trinity and Incarnation aren't in Scripture either, yet those doctrines are clearly taught in it. Likewise, Scripture teaches that purgatory exists, even if it doesn't use that word and even if 1 Peter 3:19 refers to a place other than purgatory.

Christ refers to the sinner who "will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come" (Matt. 12:32), suggesting that one can be freed after death of the consequences of one's sins. Similarly, Paul tells us that, when we are judged, each man's work will be tried. And what happens if a righteous man's work fails the test? "He will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Cor 3:15). Now this loss, this penalty, can't refer to consignment to hell, since no one is saved there; and heaven can't be meant, since there is no suffering ("fire") there. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory alone explains this passage.

Then, of course, there is the Bible's approval of prayers for the dead: "In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the dead to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin" (2 Macc. 12:43–45). Prayers are not needed by those in heaven, and no one can help those in hell. This verse so clearly illustrates the existence of purgatory that, at the time of the Reformation, Protestants had to cut the books of the Maccabees out of their Bibles in order to avoid accepting the doctrine.

Prayers for the dead and the consequent doctrine of purgatory have been part of the true religion since before the time of Christ. Not only can we show it was practiced by the Jews of the time of the Maccabees, but it has even been retained by Orthodox Jews today, who recite a prayer known as the *Mourner's Kaddish* for eleven months after the death of a loved one so that the loved one may be purified. It was not the Catholic Church that added the doctrine of purgatory. Rather, the Protestant churches rejected a doctrine that had always been believed by Jews and Christians.

Continued next week

St Francis Xavier's

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Sacristan: Phyllis
Lector:: Jan
Counters: Jo & Deb

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Sacristan: Emily
Lector:: Paul
Counters: MaryAnn & Jan

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Sacristan: Mary Lynn
Lector:: Mary Lynn
Counters: Delores & Anne

St Ann's

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Deb & Maggie

St Clement's

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, November 26, 2023
Lector:: Jim C

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Lector:: Gary

The Prayer of St. Gertrude, below, is one of the most famous of the prayers for souls in purgatory. St. Gertrude the Great (pictured above) was a Benedictine nun and mystic who lived in the 13th century. According to tradition, our Lord promised her that 1000 souls would be released from purgatory each time it is said devoutly. Whether or not this is actually the case, this is a great prayer for focusing on helping the Holy Souls in Purgatory nonetheless:

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Nov 12, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1240.00
Flowers for Altar	\$25.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$51.00</u>
Total	\$ 1316.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Nov 12, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$202.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total	\$202.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Nov 12, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$530.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$207.00</u>
Total	\$737.00

Say Hello!



It is time for Our annual Traditional Thanksgiving Day Dinner served for the Oklee Community on November 24th from 11 AM to 1 PM this year at the Oklee Community Hall. We had a great success last year because of your support and are hoping to do the same this year. We served 92 people last year. We need your help to make this year a success as well, there are more options for helping this year. There are sign up sheets in the entrance of the church. Thank you for your past support. Any questions call Jo Lambert 218-796-2745



Recently Deceased Loved Ones

†Iona Berry
†Kim Johs
†Elias Abboud
†Audrey Martell
†Harold Cyr
†Judie Hendrickson
†Alden Morinville
†Kathleen Erickson
†Joseph Cullen
†Laura Nadeau
†Lucy Christianson
†Vernon Rogalla
†Donovan Stoneouse
†Adelore Plante
†Richard Perreault
†Cecelia Christianson
†Corlan Magnell Kleinschmidt
†Judy Zavoral
†Dean Lambert
†Richard Bronken
†Jerome Carriere
†Gary Paquin
†Gayle Radniecki Grossman
†Delores Longtin
†Lorraine Cote
†Lorraine LaCoursiere
†Tony Weber
†Matt Genova
†Elaine Radniecki

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler
Donnie Tougas
Kenneth LaCoursiere
Shirley Dessellier
Michael Bachand
Annette LaCoursiere
Debra Olson
Ambrose Beaudoin
Steve Sebenaler
Don LaCoursiere
Cindy Deterrman
Marie Adams
Grace Rundell
MaryAnn Lambert
Bailey Herried Drotts
George Pittman
Bambi Lambert
Doris Dessellier
Danielle Swanson
Mark Stromberg
Sylvia Remick Morey
Penny Kalar
Jo Lambert
Tony Radniecki
Bob Radniecki
Darren Tougas
Rick Dulka
Richard Bourque
Jude Syvertson
Mary Radniecki
Dave Zavoral

Bernadette Lambert-
Daymunde
Josie Rodriguez
Jake Martell
Roy Rystad
Dave Longtin, Shorty
Bonnie Cote
Joyce Tougas
Brad Gunderson
Brian Peterson
Jim Carriere
Antoinette Holtusen
Roger Lambert
Theresa Mutnansky
Carolyn Pittman
Shirley Cyr
Cliff Melby
Jack Miller
Mike Dessellier
Joel Schmitz
Lacy Knott
Jim Knott
Julie Paquin
Adam Cwikla
Tyler Larson

Anyone wishing to have a MASS offered for a loved one you may leave name and the customary donation of \$10.00 in the offering basket in an envelope.