

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

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



St. Gertrude the Great was a 13th-century German nun, writer, and mystic who was graced with many heavenly visions, including being one of the earliest mystics to whom Jesus encouraged a devotion to his Sacred Heart. It is recounted that Jesus showed her a vast number of souls entering heaven from purgatory as a result of her faithful and frequent recitation of this prayer.

We should note, however, that while this prayer has long been a part of our Catholic tradition, it is not officially *indulged*. This means that the Holy See has declared that we should reject any claims that a *specific number* of souls are released from purgatory with the recitation of the prayer. Nonetheless, the Church has always encouraged fervent prayer for those suffering in purgatory because our prayers help to alleviate their suffering. Our response, then, should be to simply pray with fervor, and let God take care of the details!

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	11/12/23	8:00 a.m.	† Marcella Violette
Grygla	Sunday	11/12/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	11/12/23	12:00 p.m.	† Bernadette Borowicz
Oklee	Monday	11/13/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Goodridge	Tuesday	11/14/23	5:30 p.m.	†Stan Cwikla
Oklee	Wednesday	11/15/23	8:00 a.m.	†Louis Violette
Oklee	Thursday	11/16/23	8:00 a.m.	Cory Mercil
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.	† Emmett Lesser

CLERGY COLUMN

Happy Lord's Day!

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

We might not hear much about Purgatory in today's Church culture. For some reason, Catholics don't seem as zealous about praying for their beloved dead. There could be a number of reasons for this: a lack of belief in Hell (despite the overwhelming evidence of it in the Bible), a lack of awareness that we will be judged by the Lord, a lack of understanding that "nothing unclean shall enter [heaven,] nor any one who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27) and what that means, etc. It's so common for people today to immediately assume a person's dwelling in heaven upon the moment of their death, which is not a Catholic notion, that we neglect our prayers for the deceased. It might feel offensive to suggest that a deceased person is not immediately brought into the joys of heaven, but it actually makes the most sense.

Read this quote from CS Lewis, the author of a number of great Christian books, including *The Chronicles of Narnia*:

Our souls *demand* **Purgatory, don't they? Would it not break the heart if God said to us, "It is true, my son, that your breath smells and your rags drop with mud and slime, but we are charitable here and no one will upbraid you with these things, nor draw away from you. Enter into the joy."**?

Should we not reply, "With submission, sir, and if there is no objection, I'd rather be cleaned first."

"It may hurt, you know."--

"Even so, sir."

I assume that the process of purification will normally involve suffering. Partly from tradition; partly because most real good that has been done for me in this life has involved it." (*Letters to Malcolm*, Letter XX)

CS Lewis was a Protestant Christian who understood that the reality of Purgatory makes the most sense for us. We look for things like this frequently. When you are out working in the garden, in the fields, in the shop, etc, what is something you know that you need to do before sitting down to eat? Wash your hands, of course. Or if you're going out somewhere to eat, what do you do in that case? You take a shower. If a person doesn't make sure they have cleaned their hands or their entire body in these situations, it's generally considered rude and/or gross. Wouldn't it be even more the case for a soul upon entering into Heaven? Wouldn't we feel out of place in the situation CS Lewis writes about in the narrative above? I'll spend some more time in future bulletin articles this month writing about how our prayers can assist those who are being cleansed in Purgatory. And maybe I'll write about how we can begin our own cleansing here and now.

May the Lord give you his peace!

Fr. Bryan

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who came down for coffee after MASS. You so generously gave to the Life Care Center in the month of October. The collections for the 2 Sundays totaled \$389.00 November 5th the collections was for the local Food Shelf and was \$100.00 Thank you to those who served the food and those who donated. Sign up sheets are on the table by the door and also includes where the free will offerings are being sent.

What is Purgatory?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines [purgatory](#) as a “purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven,” which is experienced by those “who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC 1030). It notes that “this final purification of the elect . . . is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC 1031).

The purification is necessary because, as [Scripture](#) teaches, nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven (Rev. 21:27) and, while we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

What Happens in Purgatory?

When we die, we undergo what is called the particular, or individual, judgment. Scripture says that “it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Heb. 9:27). We are judged instantly and receive our reward, for good or ill. We know at once what our final destiny will be. At the end of time, when Jesus returns, there will come the general judgment to which the Bible refers, for example, in Matthew 25:31-32: “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” In this general judgment all our sins will be publicly revealed (Luke 12:2-5).

Is Purgatory a Catholic “Invention”?

Fundamentalists may be fond of saying the Catholic Church “invented” the doctrine of purgatory to make money, but they have difficulty saying just when. Most professional anti-Catholics—the ones who make their living attacking “Romanism”—seem to place the blame on [Pope Gregory the Great](#), who reigned from A.D. 590 to 604.

But that hardly accounts for the request of Monica, mother of Augustine, who asked her son, in the fourth century, to remember her soul in his Masses. This would make no sense if she thought her soul would not benefit from prayers, as would be the case if she were in hell or in the full glory of heaven.

Nor does ascribing the doctrine to Gregory explain the graffiti in the catacombs, where Christians during the persecutions of the first three centuries recorded prayers for the dead. Indeed, some of the earliest Christian writings outside the New Testament, like the *Acts of Paul and Thecla* and the *Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity* (both written during the second century), refer to the Christian practice of praying for the dead. Such prayers would have been offered only if Christians believed in purgatory, even if they did not use that name for it. (See Catholic Answers’ tract [The Roots of Purgatory](#) for quotations from these and other early Christian sources.)

Continued next week.

St Francis Xavier’s

Sunday, November 12, 2023
Sacristan: Margaret
Lector:: Brady
Counters: Margaret & Linda

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 12, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Deb & Maggie

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 12, 2023
Lector:: Robbie

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

OCT 29, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1045.00
World Mission	\$100.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$80.00</u>
Total	\$ 1225.00

Nov 5, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2454.00
Endowment for Priests	\$10.00
St Mary's Mission	\$100.00
Flowers for Altar	\$44.00
Human development	\$10.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$42.00</u>
Total	\$ 2660.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

OCT 29, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$362.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total	\$412.00

Nov 5, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$725.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$30.00</u>
Total	\$755.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

OCT 29, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$520.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$51.00</u>
Total	\$ 571.00

Nov 5, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1025.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$576.00</u>
Total	\$1601.00

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

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.