

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

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Starting July 2nd Mass time change for St Ann's and St. Clement's Parishes.

4th of July, Human Dignity & the Catholic Church

If you dig deeply into the meaning of the fourth of July, you find that the entire American experiment is based on a single conviction — that there is a law that is inscribed into the very nature of the human person, a law that no government has the right to violate. Inalienable rights flow from the special dignity of human beings who are each made in the image and likeness of God.

Fireworks. Baseball games. Picnics. This is what the fourth of July means to most Americans today.

I N A L I E N A B L E R I G H T S

But July 4th, 1776, was a very solemn day for the 55 men who affixed their signatures to the Declaration of Independence. For in so doing, they were risking their lives and fortunes to defend the proposition that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Liberty was a corollary of human dignity and to safeguard human dignity was the reason for their war of independence.

H U M A N D I G N I T Y & T H E C A T H O L I C C H U R C H

So what does the 4th of July have to do with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

To answer this question, we must remember that the Catholic Church is the original Bible Church. Its official teaching is no more than interpretation and application of God's Word.

So when we ask how the Church reaffirms the inherent dignity of human beings, we have to start with the Bible. The various religions that existed in biblical times had gods who were made in man's image and likeness – the pagan gods had all the foibles and vices that can be viewed in a soap opera. They play favorites, scheme to destroy their enemies, cheat on their spouses, and hold grudges.

I M A G E & L I K E N E S S O F G O D

The Bible proclaims that human beings are made in *God's* image and likeness. And the God of the Bible is a community of per-

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Oklee

<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun: 8:00 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
Mon: 8:00 a.m.	7:45 a.m.
Wed: 8:00 p.m.	7:45 a.m.
Thurs: 8:00 a.m.	7:45 a.m.

St. Clement Parish in Grygla

<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun: 11:45a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Rotating w/ Goodridge see MASS schedules	
Tues: 5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun: 10:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.
Rotating w/ Grygla see MASS schedules	
Tues: 5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

CLERGY COLUMN

Brothers and sisters,

I don't know how much you learn about the lives of the saints, but it's one of my favorite things to read about the life of someone who has gone before us in faith, who persevered in holy virtue to the end of his or her life. I'm sure you know that each of these canonized saints has a particular day when the Church remembers his/her life and offers prayers to God in his/her memory, usually around or on the day that saint died. One of my favorite saints had her feast day this past week: St. Maria Goretti on July 6th. Hers is an incredible example in multiple ways.

Maria grew up in Italy right at the end of the 1800s and died as a martyr on July 5th, 1902 at the age of 11. She was raised in a poor family who ran into what appears to be bad luck - they moved to a different part of Italy in hopes of finding a little bit of prosperity and instead found malaria. Her dad became very ill and so they had to join up with a father and son, Giovanni and Alessandro, in order to complete their farming season.

As Maria was preparing for her First Communion, she was taught by her priest to preserve her soul pure and innocent, and to die rather than commit a mortal sin. To some, that might sound a bit extreme, but to someone who has faith this makes sense. We heard from Jesus a few weeks ago in the Gospel, *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna."* The priest was just giving the natural application to that passage: prefer to die rather than commit a mortal sin. Maria was presented with an opportunity to put this application to practice.

Alessandro approached Maria multiple times and asked her to engage in impure acts which would have been mortal sins. Maria refused, preferring to preserve her soul pure and innocent. On the final attempt, after Maria again refused, Alessandro brutally stabbed Maria 14 times, leaving her for dead. Once they found her, she was rushed to the hospital but they could not save her life. When the priest visited her to give her the Last Rites, he reminded her of how Jesus had pardoned his murderers when he died upon the Cross. After a moment of reflection, she said, "Yes, for the love of Jesus I too pardon him, and I want him to be with me in heaven." Incredible!

She died on July 5th and Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison, unrepentant and defiant. While he was in prison, Maria appeared to him in a dream, offering him 14 white lilies. He immediately had a conversion and began living his life differently. He went to Maria's mother to apologize, which was met with forgiveness: "If Maria could forgive you, so will I." He even sat next to Maria's mother at Maria's canonization Mass and ended his days living in a monastery in a spirit of penance for his grievous sins.

What a powerful story! This one girl had such an impact because she wanted to preserve her soul and live her life in imitation of Jesus. Let's each of us strive to do the same.

May the Lord give you his peace!

Fr. Bryan



Oklee	Sunday	07/09/23	8:00 a.m.	†Gary Paquin
Grygla	Sunday	07/09/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	07/09/23	12:00 p.m.	†Vernon Rogalla
Oklee	Monday	07/10/23	8:00 a.m.	Sandy Lambert
Goodridge	Tuesday	07/11/23	5:30 p.m.	†Alyssa Rogalla
Oklee	Wednesday	07/12/23	8:00 a.m.	Lois & Earl Vraa & Family
Oklee	Thursday	07/13/23	8:00 a.m.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity
Oklee	Sunday	07/16/23	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Grygla	Sunday	07/16/23	10:15 a.m.	Cory Mercil
Goodridge	Sunday	07/16/23	12:00 p.m.	†Alyssa Rogalla

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.

Pray for our parishioners who have been away from the sacraments.

Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.

TITHING **St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee**

July 2, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3001.00
Retired Priests	\$90.00
Endowment for Priests	\$60.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$135.00</u>
Total	\$ 3286.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

July 2, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$.NA00
Loose Plate	<u>\$NA.00</u>
Total	\$ NA 00

St. Clement's in Grygla

July 2, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$760.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$59.00</u>
Total	\$ 819.00

From front page

-sons who give themselves to each other eternally in love. And this God of love is a sublime artist who creates the world in love as a masterpiece of beauty and nobility. In creating man and woman in his image and likeness, he invites them to an intimate personal relationship with himself and offers them the incredible privilege of being co-creators with him.

Sin gets in the way of all this, of course, defacing God's likeness in us. Every sin is an offense against God precisely because it debases us as well as others. But how does God respond to the outrage and ugliness of sin? He does not draw back in revulsion but instead draws close. He even assumes our human nature so he can come to our rescue. He never loses sight of the divine dignity hiding underneath the rags of our sin. He loves Matthew and Zacchaeus, the tax-collectors, back into their dignity. He takes time to listen to the Samaritan woman with five husbands and to offer her a new life.

F R E E D O M F L O W S F R O M D I G N I T Y

The Second Vatican Council does nothing but draw out the implications of this biblical witness.

It bases the right to freedom of religion on human dignity. It teaches that morality can never just be imposed from without as so many rules and regulations, but must be internalized in a sanctuary called conscience. It teaches that not just a select few, but all, are called to the heights of holiness, regardless of their state in life or occupation. **It teaches that if all are created in God's image and likeness, then all are equal in dignity, whether man or woman, adult or child, born, or unborn, cleric or lay.** It teaches that societies must strive to bring about living conditions that correspond to human dignity.

M O T H E R T E R E S A

The teaching of Church is beautifully expressed in councils, encyclicals, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. But it is expressed even more beautifully in the lives of its saints. The life of St. Teresa of Calcutta is a moving testimony to the dignity of the human person. **Plunging into one of world's most disgusting slums, she recognized and honored the image of God in people cast off by society and left to die in the gutter.** Many would judge such creatures useless and revolting. Mother Teresa and her sisters befriended them. Others would judge unwanted children, conceived "by accident", as equally useless and inconvenient. Mother Teresa spoke out in their defense, making even presidents squirm.

J O H N P A U L I I , A P O S T L E O F H U M A N D I G N I T Y

And then there is St. John Paul, the apostle of human dignity. His courageous witness helped bring about the collapse of communist tyranny in his native Poland and the entire Soviet bloc. His opposition to the death penalty on grounds of human dignity caused a **quite a stir.** But let's not forget how he himself responded when gravely wounded by an assassin. He did not simmer in resentment and outrage. Neither did he simply forget about the man. As the Good shepherd went out after the lost sheep, the wounded pope went to the prison cell of his attacker, looked him in the eye and spoke to him of his forgiveness and God's love.

A L L M E N A R E C R E A T E D E Q U A L

In raising these two witnesses to the dignity of the altar, the Church is reaffirming the dignity of every single human person without exception. It is also affirming the duty to stand up for that dignity. **It is insisting that indeed "all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights"** – which means rights that no government can take away.

The article was written in honor of US Independence day, July 4th, and the founders of the American republic who believed all government must bow to a higher law, the natural law which the Creator inscribed in the nature of every human being.

DR. MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO

St Francis Xavier's

Oklee, MN

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Sacristan: Phyllis

Lector:: Bob

Counters: MaryAnn & Jan

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Sacristan: Rick D

Lector:: Jan

Counters: Anne & Dolores

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Sacristan: Emily

Lector:: Jacob

Counters: Margaret & Deb

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Sacristan: MaryLynn

Lector:: MaryLynn

Counters: Jo & Deb



St Ann's

Goodridge, MN

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Lector:: Paula

Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Lector:: Carol

Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Lector:: Paula

Counters: Audrey & Ma

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Lector:: Carol

Counters: Deb & Maggie



St Clement's

Grygla, MN

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Lector:: Jim C

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Lector:: Gary



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 Klein-
schmidt
†Judy Zavoral
†Dean Lambert
†Richard Bronken
†Jerome Carriere
†Gary Paquin
†Gayle Radniecki Grossman
†Dolores Longtin
†Lorraine Cote
†Lorraine LaCoursiere

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
Elaine Radniecki
Rick Dulka
Richard Bourque
Jude Syvertson
Mary Radniecki
Dave Zavoral



Save the date!!

ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

July 11

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

at The Pickel Ball Court

BBQ and Baked Beans

There are sign up sheets in the entry for volunteers to
please sign up to bring either one. Questions call Jo
Lambert @ 218-796-4527.

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).