

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

Clergy Column

Contact Information

Clergy: Fr. Adam Hamness
frhamness@oggcatholic.org

Bookkeeper/Secretary: Ms. Ann Peterson
parishstaff@oggcatholic.org

Address: Post Office Box 126
 301 Governor Street
 Oklee, MN 56742

Website: www.oggcatholic.org

Telephone: (218) 796-5844

Emergency Line: (218) 209-2686

Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. — 11:30p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday: Noon

In view of our upcoming national celebrations, please consider the lyrics of the beloved tune *God Bless America*. Usually we sing it as merely a patriotic song. Throughout this week, let's recite it like a prayer. Let's ask God to bless the land of our birth.

God bless America, land that I love.
 Stand beside her, and guide her
 through the night, with the light from
 above. From the mountains to the
 prairies, to the oceans white with
 foam, God bless America, my home
 sweet home. Amen.

First Friday is coming up this week. Our Mass and devotions in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be at Saint Ann's Church in Goodridge at 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Schedule

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Oklee

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

St. Clement Parish in Grygla

	<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun:	10:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

	<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun.	12:00 noon	11:45 p.m.

What can we learn about the Apostle Thomas? Why is he sometimes called “Doubting Thomas?”

The Apostle Thomas

The Apostle Thomas might have been one of two twins in his family because his name “Thomas Didymus” means “the twin” but he is usually better known as or referred to more often, unfortunately, as “Doubting Thomas” which we will later read why he was referred to by this nick name. We don’t hear much from Thomas in the gospels at all and he is rarely mentioned until just prior to Jesus going to the cross and after His death at Calvary. One thing that I admire about Thomas is that he asked questions when others might have just been wondering about things but were hesitant to ask. For example when Jesus said that He was going away and that He was going to prepare a place for the disciples and would come again for them (John 14:2-4) everyone else was silent. When it seemed no one else would speak up, Thomas asked *“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way”* (John 14:5)? The other disciples might have been thinking the same thing but Thomas wasn’t shy about asking. At least he asked where Jesus was going to which Jesus responded by saying that He is *“the way, the truth and the life”* (John 14:6).

THOMAS’ BRAVERY

I think we are too hard on Thomas because Thomas was ready to go up to Jerusalem and die with Christ (John 11:16) while the others tried to talk Jesus out of going back to Judea (John 11:8). When [Lazarus had died](#) Jesus said *“Let us go to Judea again”* (John 11:7b) but *“The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?’”* Jesus answered, *“Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world”* (John 11:8-9). So the disciples apparently tried talking Jesus out of going for fear of being stoned and the disciples probably didn’t especially want to go either because if Jesus was stoned, what would become of them? Did they have fear about going back to Bethany too? Thomas seemed the bravest of them all by saying *“Let us also go, that we may die with him”* (John 11:16) so we should give Thomas some credit as he was apparently ready to die for the Lord, unlike the other disciples at that time.

“ DOUBTING THOMAS ? ”

I think it’s unfortunate that Thomas has the label “Doubting Thomas” because he was never called that in the Bible. That is a label that we have put on him and I do think it’s a bit unfair to him. How many of us who had been eyewitnesses of Christ and thought that He was the Messiah but was then later killed by unjust methods, illegal trials and evidence, by despicably wicked men would have doubted just as Thomas had? Wouldn’t we too have given up when all of our hopes were apparently dashed to pieces when Jesus was humiliatingly crucified? I believe I would have. Thomas must have been heartbroken,

having all his hopes crushed when Jesus died on the cross.

We should realize that the disciples were not any less doubting than Thomas was because after Jesus’ death, they were in hiding and had the doors locked for fear of the Jews, perhaps thinking that they would be next (John 20:19). It was only after Jesus appeared to them that they finally believed. That’s when they tried to tell Thomas which is recorded in John 20:24-25, 28 which says, *“Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe’* [but when Thomas saw Jesus] *“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”* Thomas made the first public profession of Jesus as being both Lord and God so let’s try not to judge Thomas too harshly because I believe if we were in his place, we too would have doubted.

THOMAS’ LATER LIFE

Church tradition and history tells us that Thomas traveled outside of the Roman Empire as a missionary, possibly as far away as India to preach the gospel, which is yet another indication of Thomas’ boldness. He may have reached Muziris, India where he baptized several believers and was possibly the first to bring the gospel to the Far East. This might explain why he is considered the Patron Saint of India. His name in the Indian language, “Thoma,” remains quite popular to this day in India.

Not very much is known about the method of Thomas’ execution but that maybe due to the fact that he was a missionary in faraway India. Church tradition says that while he was establishing a church there, he was stabbed with a spear, dying from the wound. The irony here is that Jesus told Thomas to touch his side and his hands where the wounds from the cross were still visible (John 10:27). There are so few historical facts that are available beyond this account that we cannot add much more to this account and do so with absolute certainty.

Conclusion

Thomas got a bum rap. He was no more doubting than the [rest of the disciples](#) and the only reason he doubted and the others didn’t was because they had seen the resurrected Christ. When the women came back from the empty tomb and after seeing the risen Christ, the disciples also doubted. To me, there is no doubt that Thomas was a strong believer and a powerful missionary used by God to the glory of God.



Mass Intentions

Oklee	Sunday	07/01/18	8:00 a.m.	†Gerard Lessard
Grygla	Sunday	07/01/18	10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	07/01/18	12:00 p.m.	Alyssa Rogalla
Oklee	Tuesday	07/03/18	8:00 a.m.	†Cristine Tougas
Oklee	Wednesday	07/04/18	8:00 a.m.	†Al Paquin
Oklee	Thursday	07/05/18	8:00 a.m.	†Larry O'Neill
Oklee	Friday	NO MASS		
Goodridge	Friday	07/06/18	11:00 a.m.	†Donna Horachek
Oklee	Sunday	07/08/18	8:00 a.m.	†Cristine Tougas
Grygla	Sunday	07/08/18	10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	07/08/18	12:00 p.m.	†Patrick Mayernik

Oklee Pastoral/Finance Council

There will be another Pastoral/Finance council meeting at St. Francis Xavier Church on Wednesday, July 11th at 7:00 p.m.

The Declaration of Independence was approved unanimously by delegates representing the 13 American colonies at the Second Continental Congress. This significant step came more than one year after the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, and conveyed in no uncertain terms the grievances of the American people against King George III and the British parliament.

After this clarion call, militia and continental army soldiers would continue to battle British forces for another seven years until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. This treaty saw Britain recognize the sovereignty of the United States and end the war.

It is common for most cities and towns in the United States to have fireworks displays on Independence Day. Parades, fairs, carnivals, concerts, and ceremonies also take place during this holiday.

Families frequently have reunions featuring barbecues and small fireworks displays. Many people display flags on their lawns to honor the nation. Independence Day is the second of three summer federal holidays. It comes in the middle of summer when much of the United States is sweltering.



Pope Francis' July 2018 monthly Intentions

PRIESTS AND THEIR PASTORAL MINISTRY

That priest, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

Tithing

June 24, 2018

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Adult Envelopes	\$1266.00
Loose Plate	\$35.00
Retired Priest	\$80.00
Priest Endowment	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total	\$1391.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Adult Envelopes	\$521.00
Loose Plate	\$86.00
Priest Endowment	\$20.00
Retired Priest	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$652.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Adult Envelopes	\$570.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$45.00</u>
Total	\$615.00

ST. ANN'S MINISTRY

Sunday July 08, 2018

Commentator:	Carol
Lector:	Carol
EMHC:	Tony & Marie
Ushers:	Russell & Stanley
Counter:	Audrey & Marie

ST. CLEMENT'S MINISTRY

Sunday July 08, 2018

Commentator:	Coleen
Lector:	Laurie
EMHC:	Chris & Kaylani
Usher:	Justin & Bill N.

Special Collections July 8th

Peter's Pence (Holy Father)

2nd Sunday in July

St. Francis Xavier, Oklee
Lay Contacts

Body *Year of Term—Term Ends (Term #)*

Pastoral Council & Finance Council

Don LaCoursiere	3/3—June 2018 (2nd)	P
Phyllis Melby	3/3—June 2018 (1st)	P
Mitch Bernstein	3/3—June 2018 (1st)	F
Margaret Buer	2/3—June 2019 (1st)	P
Rick Dulka	2/3—June 2019 (1st)	P
Janet Halvorson	2/3—June 2019 (1st)	F
Virginia Weber	1/3—June 2020 (3rd)	P
David Bachand	1/3—June 2020 (2nd)	P
Jacob Melby	1/3—June 2020 (2nd)	F

Parish Trustees

Vacant	1/2—Sept. 2019(2nd)
Shirley Cyr	1/2—Sept. 2019(2nd)

St. Clement, Grygla
Lay Contacts

Body *Year of Term—Term Ends (Term #)*

Joint Pastoral & Finance Council

Jim Carriere	3/3—June 2018 (1st)
Gary Polansky	3/3—June 2018 (2nd)
Bill Zavoral	2/3—June 2019 (1st)
Angie Kiesow	2/3—June 2019 (1st)
Jean Schulz	1/3—June 2020 (1st)
Bill Neuschwander	1/3—June 2020 (1st)

Parish Trustees

Jody Miller	2/2—Sept. 2018 (2nd)
Jack Miller	2/2—Sept. 2018 (2nd)

St. Ann, Goodridge
Lay Contacts

Body *Year of Term—Term Ends (Term #)*

Joint Pastoral & Finance Council

Audrey Rogalla	3/3—June 2018 (1st)
Cindi Kotrba	3/3—June 2018 (1st)
Marlin Kotrba	2/3—June 2019 (1st)
Karyl Mayernik	2/3—June 2019 (1st)
Darwin Eidelbes	1/3—June 2020 (2nd)
Gerri Rustan	1/3—June 2020 (1st)

Parish Trustees

Patty Skibicki	2/2—Sept. 2018 (1st)
Vernon Rogalla	2/2—Sept. 2018 (1st)

Recently
Deceased
Loved Ones

†Donna Horachek
†Joey Johnson
†Allen Paquin
†Kathleen Amiot
†Chris Tougas
†Larry O'Neill
†Yvonne Boucher
†Bonnie Buchmeier
†Janet Pearson

Pray For Those
Who Are Sick

Anne Hammer
Shirley Dessellier
Karyl Mayernik
Irene Kiesow
Michael Bachand
Audrey Rogalla
Annette LaCoursiere
Bob Carriere
Debra Olson
Floyd Neuschwander
Ann Peterson
Mark Stromberg
Frankie Cyr
Jack Miller

Oklee Ministry List

Sunday, July 01, 2018

Sacristan: Rick Dulka
Lector: Carol Bachand
EMHC: Bob & Emily Bernier
Usher: Mitch Bernstein & John Melby
Greeter: Shirley Cyr & Delores Longtin
Counter: Pat Asselin & Jo Lambert

Sunday, July 08, 2018

Sacristan: Phyllis Melby
Lector: Jacob Melby
EMHC: Bonnie Cote & Anne Hammer
Usher: Jake Martell & Doug Cote
Greeter: Karen Fossum & Sue Carriere
Counter: Lora Johnson & Margaret Buer

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Sacristan: Margaret Buer
Lector: Mary Lynn Bachand
EMHC: Jacob Melby & Phyllis Melby
Usher: Ken & Shirley Boucher
Greeter: Don & Annette LaCoursiere
Counter: Shirley Cyr & Jan Dulka

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

- Have Masses offered for friends or relatives, deceased or still living. Just drop a note in the collection basket, along with your donation; the usual amount is \$5.00/Mass. If this would be a financial hardship, please let me know, and I will be happy to offer one without a stipend.
- Offer Memorials in honor of your deceased loved ones to your parish's building and maintenance fund, or to your parish cemetery.
- Leave a legacy gift to the parish in your will, or name the parish as the beneficiary of your retirement policy or life insurance plan.