

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

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).

The Feast of the Presentation

According to the Church's liturgical calendar, the feast held on Feb. 2 each year is in honor of the Presentation of the Lord. Some Catholics recall this day as the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary because such was the feast day named until the 1969 changes in the Church's calendar.

In fact, according to Luke's Gospel, the presentation of Jesus and the purification of the Blessed Mother took place in the Temple on the same day, and both are remembered during Mass on Feb. 2. Also, in several countries, Candlemas is simultaneously celebrated on this day and involves a candlelight procession that was popularized in the Middle Ages. Until the Second Vatican Council the feasts on Feb. 2 ended the Christmas season. Today, the season ends in January on the feast of the Baptism of our Lord.

As early as the fourth century Christians commemorated the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, but, at the time, there was no feast name attached. In seventh-century Rome, the Church named the celebration the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother Mary, and it remained that way for nearly 1,300 years. In the reforms after Vatican II, the feast was given a stronger focus on Jesus (by stressing the Presentation of Jesus), but clearly the events of purification and presentation that took place when Jesus was 40 days old (see Lk 2:22-39) are tied together and thus commemorated together.

Oklee	Sunday	01/28/24	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	01/28/24	10:00 a.m.	Diane Kalsnes Family
Grygla	Sunday	01/28/24	11:45 a.m.	Theresa Sorenson
Oklee	Monday	01/29/24	8:00 a.m.	Rick Dulka
Grygla	Tuesday	01/30/24	5:30 p.m.	†Austin Kalsnes
Oklee	Wednesday	01/31/24	8:00 a.m.	Irene O'Shea
Oklee	Thursday	02/01/24	8:00 a.m.	†Connie Foltz
Oklee	Sunday	02/04/24	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	02/04/24	10:00 a.m.	Stanley & Patty Skibicki & family
Grygla	Sunday	02/04/24	11:45 a.m.	Noah Mercil
Oklee	Monday	02/05/24	8:00 a.m.	Anna Hilleren
Goodridge	Tuesday	02/06/24	5:30 p.m.	Joe & Jody Mayo & family
Oklee	Wednesday	02/07/24	8:00 a.m.	David Bachand
Oklee	Thursday	02/08/24	8:00 a.m.	Abbie Mercil

CLERGY COLUMN

Brothers and sisters,

This year there are five weeks between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent, which is on February 14th (a happy Valentine's Day for all!). During that time we're going to take an opportunity to look at the State of the Church, which will include looking at Jesus' vision for his Church, whether or not the Church is living up to his vision, our current situation around the world and in our parishes, and make something of a prediction for the future. Because of that preaching series, the Scripture readings proclaimed during Mass will not be mentioned in the homily. **I'll provide** some commentary in the bulletin.

The scene that Moses is referring to in our First Reading today comes from the Book of Exodus, chapters 19-20, which is the establishment of the Mosaic Covenant. The Lord calls Moses up to Mount Sinai where he gives the Ten Commandments and establishes the other conditions for the covenant. When Moses goes up the mountain, the Lord comes down in the form of the cloud of glory. There is smoke, thunder and lightning, and the sound of a trumpet blast. It must have been quite a scene for the people, because their response is to beg Moses that the Lord would not speak to them any longer. *You speak to us*, they said. Moses acts as a mediator between God and the people.

In today's First Reading, Moses is telling the people that there will be another mediator sent from God, yet raised up from their own family, who will speak to them on God's behalf. This new prophet - a New Moses - will speak the very words of God to the people, so that they must listen (aka obey) the voice of this new Moses. Along with this promise from God, there is also a warning for anyone who thinks of abusing this promise by pretending to be the new Moses: *He shall die*.

We know that there are several prophets sent from God throughout the Old Testament times, several who speak to the people on behalf of God. They all call the people to repentance, but they also point forward to someone who is still to come, to yet another prophet/servant of God who is to come. The anticipation grows - these men must be sent from God, but they are not the new Moses promised by God through Moses. When will the fulfillment come?

Mark makes clear that Jesus is the new Moses. There are several passages from the Gospels that we could look at, but today's Gospel makes clear that the words of Jesus come from heaven with authority from heaven. Even the unclean spirit can see this clearly: *I know who you are - the Holy One of God!* He comes to teach and preach with the very words and authority of God, for he is God. *He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him*. Who can drive out demons but God alone?

If Jesus is God, which is what Christians of all denominations believe about him, then it makes sense to listen to his voice, to give him our full attention. *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts*, says the psalmist, and rightly so. St. Paul understands that a person would be well-suited to give his/her full attention to the Lord, even if it means foregoing the good of marriage. His exhortation points toward the incredible invitation offered to all who are unmarried: live entirely for the Lord as a celibate person in order to have a heart that is undivided. This is a challenging invitation, yet those who choose to embrace celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of God can be anxious only about the things of the Lord, how to please him - he who is the new Moses, who comes to speak to us with the very words of God.

May the Lord give you his peace!
Fr. Bryan



Purification and Presentation

Under Mosaic law found in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, a Jewish woman who gave birth to a child was considered unclean (see 12:1-8). The mother of a newborn could not routinely go out into public and had to avoid all things sacred, including the Temple. If her child was a male, this exclusion lasted for 40 days. If the child was female, the period lasted 80 days. This was a ceremonial seclusion and not the result of sin or some kind of wrongdoing on the part of the mother.

At the end of the 40 or 80 days the woman presented herself at the Temple to be purified. If the baby was her firstborn male child, the infant was brought along to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord. The law in Exodus specifies that the first male child belongs to God (see 13:2-16). This law is a tribute to God for His sparing the firstborn Israelite males during the time of the Exodus from Egypt. The firstborn Egyptian male children, of course, were not spared.

The mother's purification ritual obliged her to bring, or purchase at the Temple, a lamb and a turtledove as sacrificial offerings. The lamb was offered in thanksgiving to God for the successful birth of the child; the turtledove was a sin offering. Families that could not afford a lamb could bring two pigeons or two turtledoves. After these animals were sacrificed, the Temple priest prayed over the woman and she could once again resume her normal role or status.

Mary, the ever spotless Mother of God, certainly did not have to comply with this ritual, but did so to honor God and observe all the rules handed down by Moses. She was the holiest of all women, but she still submitted to the humbling requirements of the law. She remained at home for 40 days, denied herself all association with sacred things and on the day required walked the five miles from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem. Arriving at the Temple, Mary likely stood in line and waited her turn to see the priest.

Nunc Dimittis

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus, Mary and Joseph go to the Temple offering two turtledoves for Mary's purification. Along with Mary's willing submission, Jesus is presented into the hands of the priest and thus to God. In accordance with the Old Testament, the child was blessed and then bought or ransomed back by the family who would pay five shekels into the Temple treasury. The Savior of the world is ransomed in the manner of every other Hebrew boy. "When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord'" (Lk 2:22-24; see Nm 18:15-16).

The Gospel of Luke explains that the old prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna were at the Temple that day (see 2:22-38). They, like many others, had spent their lifetime waiting, longing for a Messiah, and the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Among all the children and mothers coming into the Temple, Simeon recognized Jesus as the Christ Child; he held Jesus and exclaimed this hymn of thanksgiving, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (2:29-32). The hymn has traditionally been termed the *Nunc Dimittis*, from the Latin, "*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace.*"

Like Mary, Jesus the Divine Son of God did not have to undergo these rituals, but His parents willingly complied in order to pay tribute to Jewish laws, to avoid any possible scandal and in so doing demonstrated profound humility. They acquiesced to the law like all poor Jewish families.

The Holy Family must have experienced great joy, even wonder at all that had happened to them. Consider the events of the previous weeks. First, the shepherds miraculously arrived to adore and praise Jesus on the night He was born. And now, Simeon, another stranger, singles out Jesus as the Savior, not only of Israel but of the world. Someday all the other children being presented will know Jesus as their Savior. But here in the Temple there is also pain. The old prophet, moved by the Holy Spirit, tells Mary that she will experience unspeakable grief because of the outrageous way the world would judge and treat her Son. But Mary remained always committed to God's will and to her Son.

Feb. 2 is on the liturgical calendar as the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, but in addition to the presentation, the Mass recalls Mary's humble submission to the purification ritual.

D.D. Emmons writes from O'Fallon, Ill. Simplycatholic.com

St Francis Xavier's

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Sacristan: Brady
Lector:: Gerri
Counters: Mary Anne & Gerri

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Sacristan: Paul
Lector:: Paul
Counters: Anne & Dolores

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Sacristan: Margaret
Lector:: Jacob
Counters: Margaret & Lora

St Ann's

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Lector:: Karyl
Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, February 18, 2024
Lector:: Karyl
Counters: Deb & Maggie

St Clement's

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Lector:: Jim C.

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, February 18, 2024
Lector:: Robbie

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Lector:: Dawn

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's

St. Bernard's in Thief River Falls is forming a perpetual adoration program for its new Adoration Chapel, scheduled to open at Easter! The St. Bernard's Adoration Society invites you to prayerfully consider committing to spending an hour with Jesus in the Eucharist each week.

For more information regarding perpetual adoration at St. Bernards, call Norm at the parish office at (218) 681-3571. To sign up for a holy hour, visit: stbernardscc.weadorehim.com

Men's and Women's Cursillo dates for 2024.

The dates for the men's and women's Cursillo Weekends are fast approaching. The Cursillo is an opportunity for fellowship, Study and spiritual growth which is offered by the Diocese of Crookston and will be conducted at the beautiful Pastoral Center in Crookston Minnesota. We encourage all women and men 18 years of age and up, to strongly consider attending the Cursillo weekend that works best for your schedule. A Cursillo weekend does not disappoint. Ladies and Gentlemen Jesus is patiently calling you.

Please contact Steve Klocke at SKlocke1013@gmail.com or by phone at 701-405-4848 to discuss the Cursillo weekends and to ask any of your questions regarding these very special weekends.

Following are the dates for the two men's weekends and the two women's weekends. Let this year of Eucharistic Revival be made even more special by saying yes to Jesus and attending one of the following Cursillo weekends. Space is Limited so Please register early.

Men's Spring Cursillo weekend 2024 – February 22-25

Women's Spring Cursillo weekend 2024 – March 14-17

Men's Fall Cursillo weekend 2024 – October 24-27

Women's Fall Cursillo weekend 2024 – September 26-29

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
 †Richard Rolfson
 †Gary 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 Determan
 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 (deployed)
 Theresa Sorenson
 Bonnie Paquin

TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Jan 14, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$1685.00
 Flowers for the Altar \$70.00
 Total \$ 1755.00

Jan 21, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$1320.00
 Church in Africa \$75.00
 Endowment for Priests \$65.00
 Coffee after Mass (Life Care Center) \$111.80
 Loose Plate \$42.00
 Total \$ 1613.80

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Jan 14, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$760.00
 Church in Africa \$10.00
 Loose Plate \$4.00
 Total \$737.00

Jan 21, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$378.00
 Endowment for Priests \$40.00
 Church in Africa \$100.00
 Loose Plate \$36.00
 Total \$554.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Jan 14, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$411.00
 Loose Plate \$20.00
 Total \$431.00

Jan 21, 2024

Adult Envelopes \$380.00
 Endowment for Priests \$35.00
 Church in Africa \$20.00
 Loose Plate \$20.00
 Total \$455.00