

# 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

## Finishing Advent Strong

### The Catholic Philadelphian | 12/18/2023

By now, two purple and a pink candle were lit at Mass on Sunday. It is an indication that our advent journey is almost over. At the same time, many have been sluggish. This can be relatable to those who wish they could've done better with their own preparations for Christmas. Perhaps a few practical suggestions can help us to rally and salvage our lack of preparation.

One key step in preparing room for Jesus is to seek his mercy. A key step to one's Christmas preparation is to make sure the internal home (our souls) is in order. Some churches will offer confessions for an extended hour on the Saturday before Christmas.

The second chapter of St. Luke's gospel offers a very thorough account on the birth of Christ. Read it with someone, a group, or by oneself. Bonus: Meditate on the passage when praying the joyful mysteries of the rosary.

Many churches have their indoor or outdoor creches on display. Some will take it down after Christmas is over. Then, Catholic Churches that are run by the Catholic Jedi (Franciscans) will keep it going for a special occasion.

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## 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	Saturday	12/23/23	4:00 p.m.	Neumann Family
Goodridge	Sunday	12/24/23	8:30 a.m.	For the People
Grygla	Sunday	12/24/23	10:30 a.m.	Taylor Mercil
Oklee	Sunday	12/24/23	4:00 p.m.	Steve Morinville
Goodridge	Monday	12/25/23	8:30 a.m.	†Paul & Theresa Mutnansky
Grygla	Monday	12/25/23	10:30 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Tuesday	12/26/23	5:30 p.m.	†Vernon Rogalla
Oklee	Wednesday	12/27/23	8:00 a.m.	†Richard Rolfson
Oklee	Thursday	12/28/23	8:00 a.m.	Jim & Karen Hammers
Oklee	Sunday	12/31/23	8:00 a.m.	Steve Morinville
Grygla	Sunday	12/31/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	12/31/23	12:00 p.m.	Joe Mutnansky

## CLERGY COLUMN

Merry Christmas, everyone!

I know we're still a day away and it might even seem strange to be celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent on Christmas Eve, but this is the life of the Church. It's ok for things to feel a little strange from time to time, and we can still fully embrace it.

Something I think about quite a bit: for many of us, we've been joining in Christmas celebrations throughout this entire season of Advent, and now that Christmas is just about upon us, we've grown a little fatigued by all the celebrations. For some reason, the general culture in the United States is one that likes to celebrate holidays - Christmas and Easter most specifically - earlier than the day itself. I'm not sure how this happened, but it's the most common thing. Many conversations are centered around the question, "When are you celebrating your family Christmas?" The answer is almost always one of the weekends before Christmas, which obviously just ignored the season of Advent altogether. Now, by this point in the article, you might be thinking that I'm just a crabby old priest. And you might be correct in your assessment, but I would also like to pose a different perspective.

We all know the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. What is that song all about? The first day of Christmas, the second day of Christmas..., the twelfth day of Christmas. There is some debate about what each of those gifts are, but the point I want to make is that the celebrations are meant to begin on Christmas Day, not end. I know I'm a little late to the game to suggest delaying your Christmas celebrations until after Christmas Day (would you have listened anyway? Probably not.), but if we can understand that the Lord wants us to be patient in waiting to celebrate his great Feast Day until the actual day, then celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent on Christmas Eve won't actually be strange. Think about this: if you know a pregnant woman, would you celebrate her giving birth before she actually gives birth? Sure, you might throw a baby shower, but there would still be an obvious sense of anticipation as you wait for the birth. Once the baby is born, then you would celebrate with the mother and child, and the celebration would last much more than one day. It's the same with a marriage - any prior celebrations are clearly marked with a sense of anticipation, and the real celebrations only begin on the day of the wedding.

The main point is this: we are meant to celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, for an entire season, we call it the Christmas Season. And that season is different from the Advent Season. We are meant to let our anticipation of the day build, rather than dwindle, as the day of Christmas approaches, and then to let the celebrations begin once we've attended Christmas Mass. Maybe we can allow this to be our new disposition moving forward.

A couple of reminders:

- The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1st), is usually a Holy Day of Obligation. Whenever the day falls on a Saturday or Monday, however, the U.S. bishops have removed the obligation. **You're still invited to come** to Mass on Monday, the 1st, which will be in Oklee at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in Grygla.
- Starting after January 1st, the Mass schedule will switch in Grygla and Goodridge. Goodridge will have Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m. (Confessions at 9:45) and Grygla will have Mass at 11:45 (Confessions at 11:30).

May the Lord give you his peace!  
Fr. Bryan

### LOCAL MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

**St Bernard's (TRF) 9:00 am Christmas Day**  
**St Joseph's (RLF) 10:00 am Christmas Day**  
**St Joseph's (Brooks) 8:00 am Christmas Day**



St. Francis created the first in 1223. We also have an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence until February 2nd in honor of the octocentennial of its first creation by the 13th Century reformer. Traditionally, some would pray before the child Jesus for their intentions. Families would also take their annual Christmas picture with the Nativity scene before or after Christmas Mass. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intentions of the pope.

What better way to share the true meaning of Christmas than to bring the message of life outside of an abortion facility near you. Pro-Life Action League runs their annual pro-life caroling event throughout the month of December. Find one nearby here.

Homeless shelters will need clothes and other things with the winter months approaching. Make room for new clothes by getting rid of old ones.

We know someone who is ill or has had an awful year. It will mean the world to them if someone pays a visit unannounced.

Further, it may also be charitable to take a friend or family member out for lunch or a hot beverage. This shows them that someone cares about them.

The best way to prepare for the greatest moment in salvation history is to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Those are just a few of the many suggestions to give these final days of Advent all that you have. Finish strong. You got this.

*Catholic 365*



### St Francis Xavier's

Saturday, December 23, 2023  
 Sacristan: Emily  
 Lector:: Paul

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
 Sacristan: Phyllis  
 Lector:: Bob  
 Counters: Lora & Deb

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
 Sacristan: Brady  
 Lector:: Gerri  
 Counters: Margaret & Linda



### St Ann's

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
 Lector:: Paula  
 Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, December 25, 2023  
 Lector:: Paula  
 Counters: Maggie & Deb

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
 Lector:: Carol  
 Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
 Lector:: Paula  
 Counters: Deb & Maggie



### St Clement's

Sunday, December 24, 2023  
 Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, December 25, 2023  
 Lector:: Jim C.

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
 Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
 Lector:: Gary



## The Gift of Giving

Giving Tuesday, which focuses on supporting the many groups that help make up our communities is a beautiful chance to reflect on what a gift giving to others can be, not just for who receives but also for who gives.

Every time we have the opportunity to help someone, even in a small way, we make a difference.

A simple donation of \$5 might be small for one person but make a difference to another. When a donation is given, both parties are connected by a feeling of joy. Gifts remind us that we are all human, and each has the chance to be supportive of or kind toward others.

This type of connection should not be limited simply to one day, such as Giving Tuesday, but should be embraced daily. Each day, we have ways to serve others, big or small, if we take the time to seek them out.

*Catholic 365*

### 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  
†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 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 (deployed)  
Theresa Sorenson

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

## TITHING

### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Dec 17, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1740.00
Christmas Flowers	\$160.00
Endowment for Priests	\$85.00
Coffee (St Gianna & Pietro Molla Mater- nity home)	\$160.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$67.00</u>
Total	\$ 2212.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

Dec 10, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$435.00
Retired Religious	\$20.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total	\$465.00

Dec 17, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$336.00
Endowment for Priests	\$20.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total	\$376.00

### St. Clement's in Grygla

Dec 17, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$515.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Endowment for Priests	\$55.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$183.00</u>
Total	\$763.00

*Say Hello!*

