

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

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Office Hours

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

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday: Noon

Clergy Column

We look forward to celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas, from December 25th through Epiphany. The famous Christmas Carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is rich in symbolic meaning. It was written as a basic method of teaching children their catechism. Here is a breakdown of the symbolism of each gift for each of the twelve days of Christmas.

1) The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God. 2) The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God. 3) The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide. 4) The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ. 5) The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses". 6) The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation. 7) The "seven swans a-swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit". 8) The "eight maids a-milking" were the eight beatitudes. 9) The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. 10) The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments. 11) The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples. 12) The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

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:	11:45 a.m.	11:30 a.m.

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

	<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun:	10:00 a.m.	9:45 p.m.

The History behind the Birth of Jesus in the Christmas Story

The census that was ordered by Caesar Augustus was the first of its kind. It was done because the Roman government wanted to make sure that every one in the Empire was paying their taxes correctly. The census was carried out all over Empire (most of Europe): but in Palestine, it was carried out in a Jewish way rather than a Roman way. This meant that families had to register in the their historical tribal town rather than where they lived. This also meant that Joseph and the very pregnant Mary would have had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as this was the town that Joseph's family (the royal family of David) originally came from - a journey of about 70 miles (112 kilometres).

Some people think that Bethlehem could also have been Joseph's actual home town and he'd traveled to Nazareth to collect Mary once they were betrothed/married to take to his home town to initially live.

The journey would have taken about three days and they might well have arrived in the evening, because if they had arrived earlier in the day, it is more likely that they would have found somewhere to stay. In those times, there weren't really such things as motels or inns, you normally would have stayed with some extended family or relations. A more accurate translation of 'inn' would be 'guest room'. You would normally stay with extended family in their 'guest room' but as it was a busy time the guest rooms were already full.

Most houses would have been shared with the animals that the family kept. Houses had two levels, the upper/mezzanine level where people slept and the ground floor where the animals slept at night and the family lived during the day. The animals were a kind of 'central heating' at night keeping the house warm! The 'guest room' was often an area on the upper/mezzanine level or even a hut put on the flat roof of the house!

As many people would have traveled to Bethlehem for the census, all the houses, or certainly upper levels were full. Many people think that Jesus was probably born in September or October during Sukkot, the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, rather than during December. During the festival, Jews live outside in temporary shelters (the word 'tabernacle' come from a latin word meaning 'booth' or 'hut').

So Joseph and Mary probably had to sleep with the animals on the low level (where it's common to have a manger cut into a wall where you put the animal food) or possibly (but unlikely) out in a stable, cave or even a covered market stall that sold animals (these stalls could be rented during tabernacles).

It was the custom in those times to wrap a new born baby very tightly in long bandages called swaddling clothes. The arms and legs of the baby were also wrapped, so they couldn't move. This was done because they thought it helped the baby to grow strong, straight limbs! And as no proper crib was available, the new baby boy was placed in a manger, or feeding trough. There's a theory that Jesus might have been born a couple of miles outside of Bethlehem where there was a special shepherds' watch tower called the Migdal Eder. So Jesus might have been born out with the shepherds.

The birth of Jesus probably didn't happen in the year 0 but slightly earlier, in about 4, 5, 6 or 7 BCE/BC. The dates that we use now were set by Monks and religious leaders in the Middle Ages and before. It's also quite likely that Jesus was actually born in the autumn (during Tabernacles), not in the winter! It can get very cold in the winter in Israel and it is thought that the census would have most likely taken place during the spring or autumn, at a time when many pilgrims, from all over the country, came to visit Jerusalem (which is about six miles from Bethlehem).



"Because Mary is what God wanted us all to be, she speaks of herself as the eternal blueprint in the mind of God, the one whom God loved before she was a creature. She is even pictured as being with Him not only at creation, but before creation. She existed in the Divine Mind as an Eternal Thought before there were any mothers. She is the Mother of mothers. The closer one is to God, the greater the purity. But since no one was ever closer to God than the woman whose human portals he threw open to walk this earth, then no one could have been more pure than she. This special purity of hers we call the Immaculate Conception. The word 'immaculate' is taken from two Latin words meaning 'not stained.' Conception means that at the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Mother in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, and in virtue of the anticipated merits of the Redemption of her Son was preserved free from the stains of original sin." Archbishop Fulton Sheen (The World's First Love)

WEBSITE

Did you know the weekly Liturgy Schedule and Weekly Bulletin is on our website for your convenience? Check it out today www.oggcatholic.org

Bulletin Deadline

Deadline for announcements to get into the bulletin each week is 12:00 p.m. (noon), on Wednesdays.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

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, please contact Cindy Hulst, LSW, the diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

Feeling lost? Need Direction? The Diocese of Crookston has openings for spiritual direction and mentorship! If you are interested, contact Jessica at the Chancery by calling 218-281-4533. Your confidential request will be received and you will get a call back from coordinator, Deacon Steve Thomas, who will make arrangements for you. Visit www.crookston.org (Choose "Diocese" -> Then click "Spiritual Direction") to learn more about spiritual direction offerings in the Diocese of Crookston. Know that we are here to serve you so please don't hesitate to give us a call!

Mass Intentions

Goodridge	Sunday	12-24-17	10:00 a.m.	†DeWein Lappegard
Oklee	Sunday	12-24-17	4:30 p.m.	†Mike Keleher
Grygla	Sunday	12-24-17	8:00 p.m.	†Jackie Dobmeier
Goodridge	Monday	12-25-17	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Oklee	Tuesday	12-26-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Oklee	Wednesday	12-27-17	8:00 a.m.	Cindy Stoneouse
Pioneer Home	Wednesday	12-27-17	10:00 a.m.	†Francis Wells
Oklee	Thursday	12-28-17	8:00 a.m.	Steve Gervaise
Oklee	Friday	12-29-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Oklee	Sunday	12-31-17	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	12-31-17	10:00 a.m.	†DeWein Lappegard
Grygla	Sunday	12-31-17	11:45 a.m.	†Roland Verbout
Oklee	Monday	01-01-18	5:00 p.m.	Cindy Stoneouse

Announcements



Monday, January 1, 2018, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, Oklee.

The Yearly Calendars and Sunday Stewardship Envelopes for 2018 are in the back of the Church. If you haven't done so, please pick them up. Thanks



The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "[Angels Candle](#)," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14, NIV)

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and [made whiter than snow](#). "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)

Pope's monthly Intentions December 2017

The Elderly
That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

NOW HIRING! Our Northland Diocese newspaper is seeking freelance journalists! Freelancers will attend diocesan and parish events, conduct research, and write articles as assigned. High resolution photos will be expected to accompany written articles. Work will be submitted to *Our Northland Diocese* via e-mail by pre-established deadlines. Freelancers will work for the newspaper as independent contractors. Possession of a valid driver's license and the ability to travel independently in the diocese is a must. Visit www.crookston.org/employment for full details or contact Janelle Gergen with inquiries at jgergen@crookston.org or 218-281-4533.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

Tithing

December 17, 2017

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Adults	\$1879.00
Loose Plate	\$26.00
Candle Revenue	\$23.27
St. Mary's Mission	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$65.00
Centennial	\$10.00
Retired Religious	<u>\$138.00</u>
Total:	\$2161.27

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Adults	\$1387.00
Youth	\$5.00
Loose Plate	\$105.00
Retired Religious	<u>\$95.00</u>
Total:	\$1592.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Adults	\$470.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$142.00</u>
Total:	\$612.00

ST. ANN'S MINISTRY

Sunday December 31, 2017

Commentator:	Gerri
Lector:	Eliza
EMHC:	Eliza & Darwin
Ushers:	Darwin & Stanley
Counter:	Maggie & Louann

ST. CLEMENT'S MINISTRY

Sunday December 31, 2017

Commentator:	Angie
Lector:	Gary
EMHC:	Laurie & Kaylani
Usher:	Ron & Bruce

St. Francis Xavier Catholic church Prayer Blankets

You Matter. We care. You are not alone.
There are prayer blankets in the back of the church for those whom are sick, suffering or dying.

Please sign the book to whom it is given to so we know who the prayers are for. Thank you

St. Francis Xavier, Oklee Lay Contacts

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

Pastoral Council & Finance Council

Virginia Weber	3/3—June 2017 (2nd)	P
David Bachand	3/3—June 2017 (1st)	P
Jacob Melby	3/3—June 2017 (1st)	F
Don LaCoursiere	2/3—June 2018 (2nd)	P
Phyllis Melby	2/3—June 2018 (1st)	P
Mitch Bernstein	1/3—June 2018 (1st)	F
Margaret Buer	1/3—June 2019 (1st)	P
Rick Dulka	1/3—June 2019 (1st)	P
Janet Halvorson	1/3—June 2019 (1st)	F

Parish Trustees

Al Paquin	2/2—Sept. 2017(1st)
Shirley Cyr	2/2—Sept. 2017 (1st)

St. Clement, Grygla Lay Contacts

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

Joint Pastoral & Finance Council

Ron Kiesow	3/3—June 2017 (2nd)
Tom Morrissey	3/3—June 2017 (1st)
Jim Carriere	2/3—June 2018 (1st)
Gary Polansky	2/3—June 2018 (2nd)
Bill Zavoral	1/3—June 2019 (1st)
Angie Kiesow	1/3—June 2019 (1st)

Parish Trustees

Jody Miller	1/2—Sept. 2018 (2nd)
Jack Miller	1/2—Sept. 2018 (2nd)

St. Ann, Goodridge Lay Contacts

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

Joint Pastoral & Finance Council

Darwin Eidelbes	3/3—June 2017 (2nd)
Gerri Rustan	3/3—June 2017 (1st)
Audrey Rogalla	2/3—June 2018 (1st)
Cindi Kotrba	2/3—June 2018 (1st)
Marlin Kotrba	1/3—June 2019 (1st)
Karyl Mayernik	1/3—June 2019 (1st)

Parish Trustees

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

Recently Deceased Loved Ones

† Janet Pearson
 † Imelda Carin
 † Richard Radniecki
 † Carol Haugen
 † Tom Karakash
 † Steven McPherson
 † Mary Ann Lessard

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

- Susan Sunberg
- Bob Carriere
- Carter Torgerson
- Debra Olson
- Floyd Neuschwander
- Dorothy Plante
- Alice Bluemke
- Ann Peterson
- Tom Radniecki
- Del Determan
- Joey Johnson
- Cindy Stoneouse
- Kathleen Amiot

Oklee Ministry List

Saturday December 23, 2017 (5:00 p.m.)

Sacristan:	Phyllis Melby
Lector:	Bob Melby
EMHC:	Mike & Audrey Bachand
Usher:	Jake Martell & Doug Cote
Greeter:	Mary Ann Lambert /Ann Hammer
Counter:	Lora Johnson & Margaret Buer

Sunday December 31, 2017

Sacristan:	Margaret Buer
Lector:	Mike Bachand
EMHC:	Carolyn Rystad & Janet Halvorson
Usher:	Ken & Shirley Boucher
Greeter:	Shirley Cyr & Delores Longtin
Counter:	Shirley Cyr & Jan Dulka

Sunday January 7, 2018

Sacristan:	Rick Dulka
Lector:	Dorothy Sebenaler
EMHC:	Bonnie Cote & Ann Hammer
Usher:	Don LaCoursiere & Al Paquin
Greeter:	Karen Fossum & Sue Carriere
Counter:	Anne Hammer & Dolores Grimm

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.
- 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.