

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

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## Office Hours

**Friday** 8:30 a.m. — 11:30a.m.

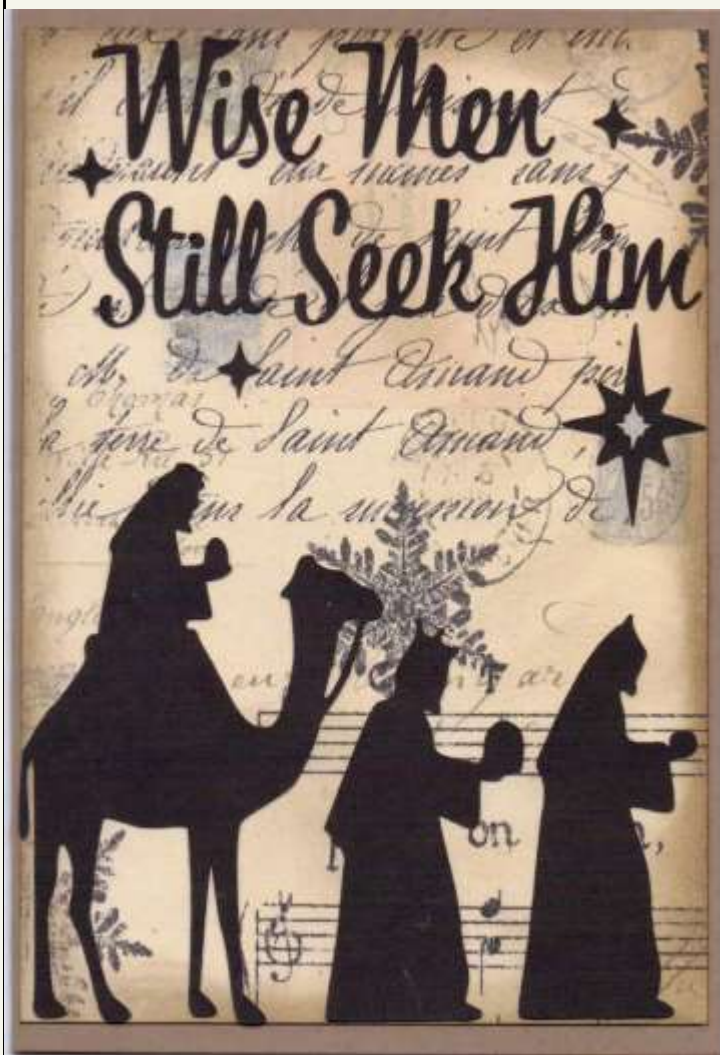
## Bulletin Deadline

**Wednesday:** Noon

**Fr. Adam is home at his mother's**  
his address is

20897 Co Rd. 108  
Strathcona, MN 56759

## CLERGY COLUMN



### St. Francis Xavier Parish in Oklee

#### Mass Times Confessions

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.

### St. Clement Parish in Grygla

#### Mass Times Confessions

Sun:	11:45a.m.	11:30 a.m.
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### St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

#### Mass Times Confessions

Sun:	10:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.
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# The Epiphany of the Lord

Fr. Thomas Hoisington



***“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”***

Secular culture takes what is three-dimensional and flattens it. Christians, then, must be alert to secularism’s encroachment upon Christian culture. If, for example, Christians adopt secularism’s counterfeits of Christmas and Easter, not only do Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny become the seasons’ patron saints. The seasons themselves become distorted, so that Christmas begins on the day after Thanksgiving and ends on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

By contrast, the Church calls Christians to order their lives in a way that recognizes December 25<sup>th</sup> as the first full day of Christmastide, and the day of celebrating the first of several mysteries that the Church ponders throughout Christmastide. Among all these mysteries, the Nativity and the Epiphany of the Lord are the two most important.

The Nativity focuses upon the divine Gift given by God the Father to fallen man. The Epiphany focuses upon the gifts that men offer to God in return. We might say that the Epiphany is the Church’s first focus upon the stewardship of grateful disciples.

In this Sunday’s Gospel Reading, we hear three wise men arriving before the manger. They are men willing to sacrifice of themselves in order to find a newborn King. This is a sign of their wisdom: their willingness to make profoundly personal sacrifices in addition to the material objects they offer

in sacrifice.

Few persons don’t want to be rich. However, there are many people who believe they’re rich, but who have become satisfied with riches that—in the end—aren’t going to do them real good.

Humility is what we see in the three wise kings, who were willing to leave the splendor and riches of their kingdoms and enter a grotto where animals lived, in order to prostrate themselves before a child born of a peasant girl.

Picture this: these three wise kings fall to the ground in adoration before the newborn Jesus in a stable, where the hay of the animals was mixed with the animals’ waste. Would you be humble enough to kneel in that hay?

Look at these three wise kings. Look at their sacrifices. Consider two parts of the sacrifices that the kings make.

The first part is their journey. It is long and fraught with peril, much like the journey of discipleship. These three leave behind the lands where they rule, where they are in control, in order to bow down before the Ruler of Heaven and Earth: in order to follow Him wherever He asks them to journey for His sake.

The second part of their sacrifices are the objects that the three wise kings take from their treasuries and place before the new-born King. These splendid objects reflect their human wealth.

Yet these gifts are given as a response

to a greater Gift. These gifts are more a reflection of the One to whom they’re given than of those who give them. So also in the practice of stewardship, while one’s giving is in proportion to one’s means, it’s also meant to be given in proportion to the goodness of the One to whom we give.

The gifts the three wise men give to Jesus reflect the subject of their gift-giving. The gold and frankincense reflect Jesus’ kingship and divinity. These gifts are foretold in the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

But Isaiah does not prophesy about the gift of myrrh. Myrrh is a resin used to prepare corpses for burial. What an odd gift for a newborn! Can you imagine someone today showing up at a baby shower with a gift obtained from a mortuary? Nonetheless, the gift of myrrh reflects the wisdom of the three wise men.

It’s often said that God is never outdone in generosity. That truth is reflected in the gift of myrrh. God the Father had given the Gift of His Son. In response, the three wise men give three gifts to the Holy Family. Yet Christmastide is only the start of the Gospel story, and a preparation for its climax during Holy Week. On Mt. Calvary, God the Son will offer in sacrifice the Gift of His Body and Blood, soul and divinity. The gift of Good Friday is the source and summit of the Christian life, the gift that gives infinite depth to the journey of discipleship.

Oklee	Sunday	01/02/22 8:00 a.m.	†Audrey Martell
Goodridge	Sunday	01/02/22 10:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
Grygla	Sunday	01/02/22 11:45 a.m.	†Irene Kiesow
Oklee	Monday	01/03/22 7:00 p.m.	Holy Rosary
Oklee	Sunday	01/09/22 8:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
Goodridge	Sunday	01/09/22 10:00 a.m.	Linda Babinski
Grygla	Sunday	01/09/22 11:45 a.m.	†Lawrence Kiesow



Remember: At the beginning of January, the Mass times will rotate for Grygla and Goodridge. On Sunday January 2, the Mass times will be 10:00 a.m. in Goodridge and 11:45 a.m. in Grygla, with confessions 15 minutes before Mass.

### Thanks to all who decorated!!

Thank you to all the people who stayed after Mass and decorated. Our church looks wonderful and its because of you who were so willing to help. It is appreciated by all.

### Weekly Reflections

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

*"...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (MATTHEW 2:11)*

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ's wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense – represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh – is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

### **The Blessing of Homes at Epiphanytide**

*This is a tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages, done on (or near) the feast of Epiphany. Using chalk blessed on Epiphany, mark your main door (or its lintel) with:*

**20 + C + M + B + XX**

*where 20XX is the current year.*

*The following prayer may be said while making the marks:*

**The three wise men**

**(C) Caspar, (M) Melchior, and (B) Balthasar**  
**followed the star of God's Son who became human**

**(20) two thousand and (XX) \_\_\_\_\_ years ago,**

**(++) May Christ bless our home**

**(++) and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.**

*\* Chalk is an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made. The initials CMB stand for the legendary names of the Magi, as well as Christus Mansionem Benedicat, "May Christ bless this house."*

## **Tithing**

### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee Christmas

Flowers for Altar	\$50.00
Christmas Day	\$1765.00
Retired Religious	\$75.00
<b>St Mary's Mission</b>	\$200.00
Loose Plate	\$101.00
Total	\$ 2191.00

### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee December 26, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$722.00
Endowment Priests	\$7.00
Candles	\$18.00
Christmas Day	\$953.00
Loose Plate	\$135.00
Total	\$ 1835.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

#### December 12, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$615.00
Memorial Paul Troska	\$20.00
Loose Plate	\$50.00
Total	\$ 685.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

#### December 19, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$235.00
Loose Plate	\$22.00
Total	\$ 1835.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

#### Christmas

Christmas Day	\$292.00
Loose Plate	\$00.00
Total	\$ 292.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge

#### December 26, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$355.00
Loose Plate	\$30.00
Total	\$385.00

### St. Clement's in Grygla

#### Christmas

Christmas Day	\$755.00
Loose Plate	\$41.00
Total	\$796.00

### St. Clement's in Grygla

#### December 26, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$445.00
Endowment Priest	\$20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Loose Plate	\$20.00
Total	\$495.00



**St Francis Xavier's**  
Oklee, MN

Sunday, January 2, 2022  
Sacristan: Mary Lynn  
Lector:: Jacob Melby  
Counters: MaryAnn L. & Jan D.

Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Sacristan: Margie Buer  
Lector:: Paul Cyr  
Counters: Jo L. & Deb

Sunday, January 16, 2022  
Sacristan: Rick Dulka  
Lector:: Jan D  
Counters: Lora J & Margie B

**St Ann's**  
Goodridge, MN

Sunday, January 2, 2022  
Lector:: Carol

Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Lector:: Paula

Sunday, January 16, 2022  
Lector:: Eliza

Sunday, January 23, 2022  
Lector:: Carol



**St Clement's**  
Grygla, MN

Sunday, January 2, 2022  
Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, January 16, 2022  
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, January 23, 2022  
Lector:: Jim C.



**Prayer to St. Bernardine of Siena**

Patron of those who suffer of chest and lung problems, respiratory ailments and hoarseness of voice

(Feast Day: May 20)

Saint Bernardine of Siena, words were very important to you. You suffered a lot carrying the natural defects of your lungs and it prevented you for a long time to speak God's word. Through your love of the Virgin Mary she intercede for your healing, you were delivered from this respiratory defect, and your voice grew stronger with every preaching for the glory of God. You spent most of your life speaking the golden words of Jesus' mercy and his Holy Name. And you abhorred words that were shameful.

Pray for us that we may be cured from every respiratory ailment so that we may always choose to use our strength for God's glory and to speak Jesus' name with reverence by choosing words of love over words of shame. Through the intercession of our Mother Mary pray for us. Amen.

Hail Mary (3 times)



**Recently Deceased Loved Ones**

†Jim Dulka  
†Avis Frazer  
†Lauretta Stucy  
†Tom Toulouse  
†Marlyn Dessellier  
†Gerald Cote  
†Phyllis Martell  
†Theresa "Bergeron" Lucken  
†Jerome Hruby  
†Irene Kiesow  
†Donnie Knutson  
†Ron Rustan  
†Joan Carpenter  
†Leroy Irlbeck  
†Lowell Smeby  
†Dorothy Plante  
†Jim Lussier  
†Tim Whalen  
†Iona Berry  
†Kim Johs  
†Elias Abboud  
†Audrey Martell  
†Harold Cyr  
†Judie Hendrickson  
†Alden Morinville  
†Kathleen Erickson



**Pray For Those Who Are Sick**

Delton Sebenaler  
Donnie Tougas  
Kenneth LaCoursiere  
Shirley Dessellier  
Michael Bachand  
Annette LaCoursiere  
Debra Olson  
Jack Miller  
Ambrose Beaudoin  
Steve Sebenaler  
Don LaCoursiere  
Cindy Determan  
Marie Adams  
Grace Rundell  
MaryAnn Lambert  
Bailey Herried Drotts  
George Pittman  
Bambi Lambert  
Lucille Christianson  
Doris Dessellier  
Danielle Swanson  
Mark Stromberg  
Sylvia Remick Morey  
Penny Kalar  
Jo Lambert  
Richard Perreault  
Tony Radniecki  
Darren Tougas  
Elaine Radniecki  
Rick Dulka  
Greg Whalen  
Richard Bourque  
Tony Weber  
Jason Moe  
Judy Zavoral  
Carolyn Pittman  
Jude Syvertson  
Barbara Heard  
Fr. Adam Hamness  
Fr. John Melkies