

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

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

Today is Gaudete Sunday. It is a Sunday of Rejoicing, and we hear that message loudly and clearly in the readings at Mass. We remember today that the Gospel is the Good News! We have a Savior, and we are waiting for him to arrive. Think of the guests at a surprise party as they wait in stillness and darkness for the arrival of the person they are celebrating. Advent is a lot like that. We wait in stillness and darkness, but with excitement and joy in our souls.

One thing to keep in mind about the Good News is that it does not necessarily mean that it is pleasant news. I have sometimes heard people complain that priests preach more about sin and repentance than they do about happiness and joy. To this I would simply say, "Have you actually read the Gospels?" Ninety percent of the time Jesus is talking, he is speaking about the absolute need for us to repent and have a conversion, so that we can experience the blessing and joy of Heaven. It is all oriented toward joy and beatitude in heaven, but before then there is real work to be done in our hearts here on earth. The "Good News" is that we have a savior coming to us, and that salvation is possible. We have to understand the "good news" in perspective. Before the coming of Christ, most people were not sure there was any hope whatsoever, that they would experience anything after their deaths. In comparison to this, the news that salvation and eternal happiness is possible is incredibly good news.

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.

Memorials for Christmas Flowers

Which Parish?

☐ Oklee

☐ Grygla

☐ Goodridge

Offered by?

In loving memory of? *(suggested offering \$5.00 per name)*



Please return with your offering via the collection basket.

Some Advent and Christmas Traditions



Advent wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. There are many available prayers and hymns found in the reading list that can accompany your personal Advent

wreath ceremony.

The empty manger: Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.

The Jesse tree: The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree. For further information read, *Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home*.

St. Nicholas Day: The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. The current Santa Claus is modeled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saints book.

The Christ candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.

The Mary candle: Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast, others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose yes to God enabled our Lords coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Mary's eager expectation of the Light of the World. It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christ's coming.

St. Lucy cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.

The Nativity scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children's efforts to give God glory.

Christmas baking: There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. (See recommended reading below.) The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas approaches, the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lighted on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.

Blessing of the tree: More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).

Mass Intentions

Oklee	Sunday	12-17-17	8:00 a.m.	†Dan Smith
Goodridge	Sunday	12-17-17	10:00 a.m.	†Bobby Love
Grygla	Sunday	12-17-17	11:45 a.m.	†Janet Pearson

Oklee	Tuesday	12-19-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Oklee	Wednesday	12-20-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Oklee	Thursday	12-21-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Oklee	Friday	12-22-17	8:00 a.m.	NO MASS

Oklee	Saturday	12-23-17	5:00 p.m.	Cindy Stoneouse
Grygla	Saturday	12-23-17	7:00 p.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>

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>



On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I

bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11, NIV) "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

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.

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

Tithing

December 10, 2017

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Adults	\$1011.00
Loose Plate	\$88.00
Centennial	\$20.00
Retired Religious	<u>\$335.00</u>
Total:	\$1454.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

NO REPORT

St. Clement's in Grygla

Adults	\$545.00
Loose Plate	\$75.00
Retired Religious	\$276.00
Christmas Flowers	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total:	\$906.00

ST. ANN'S MINISTRY

Sunday December 24, 2017

Commentator:	Carol
Lector:	Gerri
EMHC:	Tony & Marie
Ushers:	Russ & Darwin
Counter:	Audrey & Marie

ST. CLEMENT'S MINISTRY

Saturday December 23, 2017

Commentator:	Angie
Lector:	Jody M.
EMHC:	Jean & Justin
Usher:	Bill Z. & Jim C.

A n n o u n c e m e n t

The Yearly Calendars and Sunday Stewardship Envelopes for 2018 are now located in the back of the Church.

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 LaCourse	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

Sunday December 17, 2017

Sacristan: Rick Dulka
 Lector: Mary Lynn Bachand
 EMHC: David Bachand & Phyllis Melby
 Usher: Mitch Bernstein & John Melby
 Greeter: Don & Annette LaCourse
 Counter: Pat Asselin & Jo Lambert

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

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.