

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

Contact Information

Clergy: Fr. Bryan Kujawa
 bkujawa@oggcatholic.org
 soundcloud.com/frbryankujawa

Bookkeeper/Secretary:
 Deb Whalen
 parishstaff@oggcatholic.org

Address Post Office Box 126
 301 Governor Street
 Oklee, MN 56742

Website: www.oggcatholic.org
 facebook.com/oggcatholic
 catholicbiblestudies.org

Telephone: (218) 796-5844

Confessions: 15 minutes before Mass
 Tuesday Confessions: 1 hr. post Mass

“I Am With You Always”

Today is the beginning of the 2024 Diocesan Annual Appeal (DAA). Our theme is **“I Am With You Always”**, which is an invitation to encounter God’s love and Real Presence today. Our DAA goal this year is \$950,000. This goal is shared and pro-rated among our 66 parishes. Our parish goal for 2024 is \$8,123.00. Your gifts to the DAA provide essential funding for Formation in Discipleship, Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Campus Ministries, Safe Environment, The Office of the Bishop, Vocations and Seminarians, Catholic Schools, Communications, Marriage Tribunal, Administration of the Pastoral & Retreat Center; ministries that affect everyone in our Catholic communities!

Please, prayerfully review the mailing you have received at home. Visit www.crookston.org/DAA or scan the QR code to watch Bishop’s video and

then make your gift online, or to view additional information about all the good you do when you support the DAA! Thank you for your generosity!



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	Sunday	02/11/24	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	02/11/24	10:00 a.m.	†Austin Kalsnes
Grygla	Sunday	02/11/24	11:45 a.m.	Taylor Mercil
Oklee	Monday	02/12/24	8:00 a.m.	Cyndi Podner
Grygla	Tuesday	02/13/24	5:30 p.m.	†James Haire
Grygla	Wednesday	02/14/24	5:15 p.m.	ASH WEDNESDAY
Goodridge	Wednesday	02/14/24	6:15 p.m.	ASH WEDNESDAY
Oklee	Wednesday	02/14/24	7:30 p.m.	†John Laniel
Oklee	Thursday	02/15/24	8:00 a.m.	Ambrose Altstadt
Oklee	Sunday	02/18/24	8:00 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	02/18/24	10:00 a.m.	Kennedi Mercil
Grygla	Sunday	02/18/24	11:45 a.m.	Clayton Blickenstaff
Oklee	Monday	02/19/24	8:00 a.m.	Mack Hilleren
Goodridge	Tuesday	02/20/24	5:30 p.m.	†Vernon Rogalla
Oklee	Wednesday	02/21/24	8:00 a.m.	Roy Rystad
Oklee	Thursday	02/22/24	8:00 a.m.	†Charles Bachand

CLERGY COLUMN

Happy Lord's Day!

Here comes Lent. I have some mixed feelings about Lent - on the one hand, it's obviously a great opportunity to focus on growing closer to God for an intentional period of time (40 days, or 47 if you count the Sundays); on the other hand, it's not pleasant to sacrifice comfort and pleasure for an extended period of time. My love/hate relationship with Lent usually reveals itself during the season, with something of a reluctant commitment to engage the season, but regularly having to remind myself that this is a good thing. I'm sure this year will be no different, although typing these words is helpful for my resolve to strive toward being better.

As Catholic-Christians, we have laws regarding Lent, but not as many laws as people typically think. Here they are:

1. **Attend Mass on each and every Sunday during Lent** (as is usual for every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation during the year).
2. **Abstain from meat each Friday, including Good Friday, and on Ash Wednesday.**
This law applies to everyone 14 years of age and older. Those who are younger than 14 may still abstain from meat, but are not required by law.
3. **Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.**
 - a. "Fasting" means one normal-sized meal. If necessary, a person may also have two snack-sized meals, which together do not equal the normal-sized meal. It's meant to be difficult.
 - b. This law applies to those who are 18 years of age through those who are 59 years of age. Those who fall outside of this age range may still choose to fast, but are not required by law.
 - c. Pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt from this law.

That's it. Some of us may be under the impression that Ash Wednesday is a Holy Day of Obligation, but it isn't. Obviously, we still highly recommend coming to the Liturgy that day (which will only be Mass in Oklee; the two mission parishes will have a Liturgy with the readings and distribution of ashes). Others may be under the impression that it's required to "give something up" during the season of Lent, but it isn't. Again, it is highly recommended that a person willingly take on some "extra" spiritual practices during the season of Lent, such as fasting in some way, abstaining from something you normally have, avoiding sin, praying extra, giving an extra donation to some Catholic-Christian organization or parish, going to Confession, performing some corporal work of mercy (visiting someone in need of care, for example), going through your stuff and donating what you don't use (or even some of what you do use), etc.

These are excellent ways to embrace the season and seek spiritual growth. I often try to pick one thing in each category of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, but I also want to be intentional about choosing something that will actually be helpful for me. Example: Sometimes I notice that I look forward more to enjoying dessert than I look forward to being at Mass, so I might fast from dessert as a reminder that my love for Mass needs to be more prominent in my life. Or I notice that sometimes I try to rush through my prayers, so I might decide to commit to five extra minutes of prayer each day during Lent. Things like this can be the most helpful, instead of just "doing what I've always done". So, I'd encourage you to spend these few days really thinking and praying about how the Lord might be inviting you to grow in an intentional way this Lent.

May the Lord give you his peace!
Fr. Bryan

Look at the State of the Church

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.**

We can try to imagine the misery that would come with contracting leprosy. Even outside of the context of this law that God gives in the First Reading, the suffering associated with leprosy (called Hansen's Disease now) would have been brutal. They obviously didn't have access to our modern medicine, so there was no real treatment or cure for it. All that was left for a person was to wait for their fingers, toes, hands, and feet to fall off. What a miserable plight.

Then add to it this law that those who contracted leprosy had to announce their uncleanness and live apart from the community. When we try to read the reading through our modern eyes, this law can seem incredibly brutal and even unfair. Why would God establish such a cruel law? It's very important for us to remember that the understanding back then was that leprosy is highly contagious and incurable. (Modern medicine tells us that it is not as highly contagious as was previously thought, though it is still contagious.) For even one person to contract the disease, then, that person became a risk for the entire community of God. At the time this law was given the people were still living in the desert and in very close proximity to everyone else. A highly contagious and deadly disease could easily spread through and wipe out the entire community. Many of us can remember the incredible fear experienced over COVID, which was much, much less likely to lead to death than leprosy. How much more fear would be caused by the spread of leprosy?

A person who had the disease, then, was seen to be a threat to the community and had to live apart in community with others who had the disease - a leper colony. There are actually still some leper colonies in existence in today's world. We can imagine how lonely and depressing this must have been. So, then, to hear about someone who could heal you with just a touch of his hand or a word from his mouth? That would have been incredible news! This is what the leper in today's Gospel passage saw in Jesus, and he was not disappointed.

Normally, touching a leper made a person unclean. Jesus, on the other hand, flips the script completely - his touch made the leper clean, restored to perfect health. Amazing! How could this healed man not publicize the whole matter??

This is what our encounter with Jesus is meant to be. Has it been that? It's meant to lead us to give glory to God in all things, for he has given us new life in the Person of his Son Jesus. How could we not publicize the whole matter and tell everyone we know about this new life given by Jesus in our place of poverty and misery?

St Francis Xavier's

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

Sunday, February 18, 2024
Sacristan: Emily
Lector:: Gerri
Counters: Deb & Jo

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Sacristan: Brady
Lector:: Brady
Counters: MaryAnn & Gerri

St Ann's

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

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Marie & Audrey

St Clement's

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, February 18, 2024
Lector:: Robbie

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, March 3, 2024
Lector:: Jim C

Sunday, March 10, 2024
Lector:: Laurie

FISH FRY

EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT
(EXCEPT GOOD FRIDAY)

AT

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
GOODRIDGE, MN

WHEN: February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22

TIME: 4:00 TO 7:00 p.m.

MENU: Pan-Fried Walleye, Baked Potato,
Green Beans, Coleslaw, Roll,
Assorted desserts, Milk and Coffee.

COST: One-fillet meal at \$13.00.
Two-fillet meal at \$15.00.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

(For TAKE OUT ORDERS, please call 218-378-4529 starting at 4:00 p.m.)



DIAPER DRIVE

The Life Care Center is having a diaper drive. If you care to donate please drop off the diaper packages in the play pen in the entry of St. Francis Xavier Church. Cash donations are welcome too—those can be placed in the offertory on Sunday and designate it for the diaper drive. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Feb 4, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$3143.00
Church of Europe	\$10.00
Endowment for Priests	\$20.00
Home Missions	\$10.00
Flowers for Altar	\$35.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$30.50</u>
Total	\$3248.50

RLCC backpack \$212.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Feb 4, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$1261.00
Church in Africa	\$20.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$28.00</u>
Total	\$1309.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Feb 4, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$660.00
Easter Flowers	\$50.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$50.77</u>
Total	\$760.77

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 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

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.

