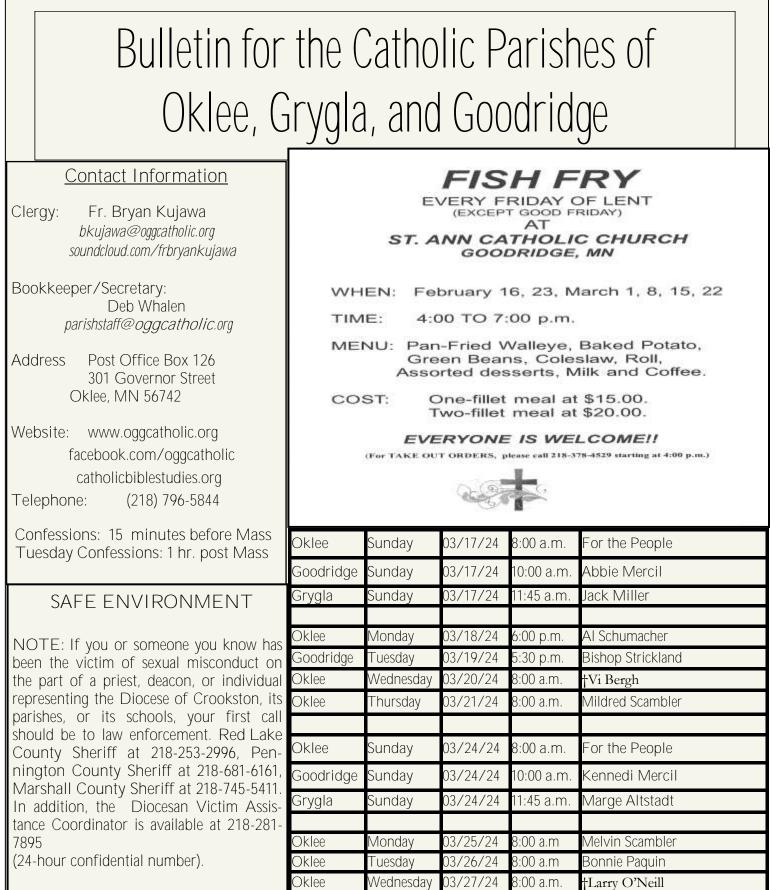
5th SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024



Thursdav

Goodridae

03/28/24

7:00 p.m

Hendrickx Familv

CLERGY COLUMN

Brothers and sisters,

As I type this, I'm not yet sure what I'm going to preach about on this 5th Sunday of Lent, but I am especially drawn toward the Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Two parts, in particular, are striking to me. First, "he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, *and he was heard because of his reverence.*" The divinely inspired author found it necessary to speak of Jesus' reverence as being the reason that the Father heard him. This, to me, seems worth pondering.

We know from the Gospels that one of the things Jesus critiqued quite strongly was the merely external practices on the part of the scribes and Pharisees - they were following the laws of the Torah, but their hearts weren't in it. Two points about this: first, Jesus was not critiquing them for their fidelity to the law; second, we shouldn't assume that it's ok to be unfaithful to the law for the sake of having our hearts in it. Both points ultimately boil down to the same thing: Jesus wants us to both follow the laws and do so with love for God in our hearts. It's not one or the other, but instead both together. This is going to be helpful for us as we consider what it means to be reverent. Reverence ultimately has its roots in respect of another, another who either is superior or/and who has authority. It is a characteristic that will begin in my mind and heart - an interior recognition that Jesus is greater than I am - but will then move to my behavior - yielding to him, attentive to his needs and commands.

We can see Jesus' reverence toward the Father fairly clearly in the Agony in the Garden. Jesus prays, asking the Father to let "this cup" pass him by: he acknowledges that the Father has authority to direct the next sequence of events. Yet he finishes by saying, "not my will, but your will be done." He ultimately yields to the authority of the Father. He expresses what he desires, but ultimately commits to the will of the Father. Notice how this might be different from our own tendencies in prayer, when we demand that God fix "this problem, or else." Many times our faith and trust in God depends on whether or not he is going to yield to our wishes and desires, rather than making our requests known in a spirit of reverential trust that he will provide what is truly best for us. We can move forward in fidelity to the laws of God even when they aren't what we prefer, because we recognize that He has the ultimate authority and his will is the best thing for us and for the world.

The second thing that catches my attention in the Second Reading is the phrase, "being made perfect." Isn't Jesus always perfect? There is something mysterious about this phrase from Scripture. Briefly, there is a connection between the Greek word used here and the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament: the way a man was "made perfect" was through his ordination/consecration as a priest in the worship in the Tabernacle/Temple. So, this passage from Hebrews is not suggesting that Jesus was ever imperfect in the sense of not being God, but instead the author is pointing to the crucifixion as being the moment of Jesus' self-offering as the Eternal High Priest. His perfection is revealed in his self-offering incredible!

May the Lord give you his peace! Fr. Bryan

| Memorials for Easter Flowers | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Which Parish? Oklee | 🗆 Grygla | □ Goodridge | | | | | |
| Offered by? In loving memory of? (sugges | | Please return with your offering via the collection basket. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |



Sunday, March 31, 2024 Sacristan: Margaret Lector:: Paul Cyr Counters: Anne & Delores Lector:: Counters: Audrey & Marie Sunday, April 7, 2024 Lector:: Jim C Sunday, April 14, 2024 Lector:: Laurie

| We've got a few plans for Lent in Here are some updates: •House blessings and visits blessed, you can still sign up to | TITHING <u>St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee</u> | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| cern. You can also invite some | March 10 2024 | | | | |
| Monday, March 18th: Even of Adoration and Confessions Wednesday, March 20th: E at 5:15, followed by a meal, fo | Adult Envelopes Endowment for Pries Flowers for Altar Easter Flowers Catholic Relief Loose Plate | \$975.00 ts \$10.00 \$10.00 \$0 \$217.00 \$39.00 | | | |
| All are welcome. (We still have mo | rning Mass in Oklee.) | | Total | \$1251.00 | |
| •Monday, March 25th: Chris All are welcome. (no morning | <u>St. Ann's in Goodridge</u> | | | | |
| •Thursday, March 28th: Ho | Thursday, March 28th: Holy Thursday Mass in Goodridge at 7:00 p.m. | | | | |
| Friday, March 29th: Good couraged to take the day off fring and penance. Saturday, March 30th: East | March 10 Adult Envelopes Catholic Relief Loose Plate Total | \$566.00 \$100.00 <u>\$54.35</u> \$711.35 | | | |
| •Sunday, March 31st: Easter 10:30 a.m. | <u>St. Clement's in Grygla</u> | | | | |
| •Sunday, March 31st: Fr. Brya | March 10, 2024 | | | | |
| Well, that turned into quite a list! N conversion for all of us! Recentl y Deceased Loved Ones †Harold Cyr †Judie Hendrickson †Alden Morinville | Pray For Those Wł Are Sick Delton Sebenaler Donnie Tougas Kenneth LaCoursiere | Rick Dulka Jude Syvertson Mary Radniecki Dave Zavoral Bernadette Lambert- | Adult Envelopes Easter flowers Catholic Relief Loose Plate Total | \$390.00 \$30.00 \$115.00 <u>\$59.00</u> \$594.00 | |
| †Kathleen Erickson †Joseph Cullen †Laura Nadeau †Lucy Christianson †Vernon Rogalla †Donovan Stoneouse †Adelore Plante †Richard Perreault †Cecelia Christianson †Corlan Magnell Kleinschmidt †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 | 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 Richard Bourque | 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 Julie Paquin Adam Cwikla Tyler Larson (deployed) Theresa Sorenson Bonnie Paquin | St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen. | | |

Richard Rolfson +Gary LaCoursiere