

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

Contact Information

Clergy: Fr. Adam Hamness
frhamness@oggcatholic.org

Bookkeeper/Secretary: Deb Whalen
parishstaff@oggcatholic.org

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

Website: www.oggcatholic.org

Telephone: (218) 796-5844

Emergency Line: (218) 209-2686

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

We have a late start to Lent this year, which means we have a lengthy season of Ordinary Time in this season after Christmas and Epiphany. This suits me just fine as I recover from COVID, because it means that there is plenty of restful time to be had without the rigors of Lent or the busyness of the Christmas season.

I am getting better day by day. I no longer require supplemental oxygen when I am just sitting around at rest, though I do still require it when I am active. Physical therapy is going well, and I have no doubt I will recover my strength in time. I can sympathize better now with the older folks who find it difficult to genuflect because I am currently finding it one of the most challenging things to relearn how to do. It takes a lot of muscle! I am thinking I might be able to resume living in the rectory in Oklee in February, but I will have to see how things are when the time comes. When I do get back to the rectory I won't be fit to resume full duties right away; I will have to take time learn how to live alone again without the help my family have been giving me. It has been a slow process but I am motivated to get back to living my normal life again and seeing to parish ministry.

Thank you to Mary Ann and Jo Lambert who have been feeding Cuthbert, my cat. He is sure to like them much better than me by this point, because they take better care of him than I ever did!

-Fr. Hamness

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.

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

Mass Times Confessions

Sun: 10:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m.

The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

January 25—Feast

Liturgical Color: White

Patron Saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers and public workers

One man can change the world

In the long history of the Church no conversion has been more consequential than St. Paul's. Paul had not been ambivalent toward the Church before he converted. He had actively persecuted it, even throwing rocks at the head of St. Stephen, in all likelihood. But he changed, or God changed him, on one particular night. And on that night Christianity changed too. And when the course of Christianity changed, the world changed. It is difficult to overemphasize the impact of today's feast.

One way to think about the significance of an event, whether big small, is to consider what things would be like if the event had never occurred. This is the premise behind the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." You compare actual life with a hypothetical "what if" alternative scenario. What if St. Paul had remained a zealous Jew? What if he had never converted? Never wrote one letter? Never travelled the seas on missionary voyages? It can safely be assumed that the world itself, not just the Church, would look different than it does today. Perhaps Christianity would have remained confined to Palestine for many more centuries before breaking out into wider Europe. Maybe Christianity would have taken a right turn instead of a left, and all of China and India would be as culturally Catholic as Europe is today. It's impossible to say. But the global scale of the effects of Paul's conversion speak to the significance of his conversion.

Some conversions are dramatic,

some are boring. Some are instantaneous, some are gradual. Augustine heard a boy in a garden repeating "Take and Read" and knew the time had come. Saint Francis of Assisi heard Christ say from the cross "Rebuild My Church" and responded with his life. Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the father of abortion in the United States, renounced, repudiated, and repented of his life's work and searched for a real Church to forgive his real sins. He ultimately bowed his head to receive the waters of baptism.

The details of Paul's conversion are well known. He was thrown from his horse on the road to Damascus (except that Acts makes no mention of a horse). Maybe he just fell down while walking. While stunned on the ground Paul heard the voice of Jesus: "Why are you persecuting me?" Not "Why are you persecuting my followers." Jesus and the Church are clearly one. To persecute the Church is to persecute Christ. Jesus is the head and the Church is his body. Paul did not convert to loving Jesus and say that the Church was just an accidental human construct that blocked him from the Lord. No, of course not. He believed what right minded Catholics have believed for centuries and still believe today. To love Jesus is to love the Church and vice versa. It is impossible to love the Lord while disregarding the historical reality of how the Lord is communicated to us. The Church is not just a vehicle to carry God's revelation. The Church is actually part of God's revelation.

Paul's conversion teaches us that when Jesus come to us, He doesn't come alone. He comes with His angels, saints, priests, and bishops. He comes with Mary, the sacraments, doctrine, and devotions. He comes with the Church because he and the Church are one. And when we go to the Lord we don't go alone either. We go as members of a Church into whose mystical body we were baptized. Thus St. Paul heard from God Himself, and thus we believe today.

St. Paul, we ask your openness to conversion when we hear the Lord speak to us as He spoke to you. Assist us in responding with great faith to every invitation we receive to love the Lord more fully, to know Him more deeply, and to spread his word more broadly to those who need it.

A Prayer to St. Paul the Apostle For Patience

O glorious St. Paul, who from a persecutor of Christianity, did become a most ardent apostle of zeal; and who to make known the Savior Jesus Christ to the ends of the world did suffer with joy imprisonment, scourging, stoning, shipwrecks and persecutions of every kind, and in the end did shed your blood to the last drop, obtain for us the grace to receive, as favors of the Divine Mercy, infirmities, tribulations, and misfortunes of the present life, so that the vicissitudes of this our exile will not render us cold in the service of God, but will render us always more faithful and fervent.

Amen.

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Oklee | Sunday | 01/23/22 8:00 a.m. | † Kim Johs |
| Goodridge | Sunday | 01/23/22 10:00 a.m. | Fr. Adam Hamness |
| Grygla | Sunday | 01/23/22 11:45 a.m. | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| Oklee | Monday | 01/24/22 7:00 p.m. | Holy Rosary |
| Oklee | Sunday | 01/30/22 8:00 a.m. | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| Goodridge | Sunday | 01/30/22 10:00 a.m. | † Betty Johnson |
| Grygla | Sunday | 01/30/22 11:45 a.m. | † Irene Kiesow |

Men of our Parishes:

Have you heard about Cursillo? It is a wonderful way to develop a closer relationship with God. It will change how you look at your family, work and friendships. The Diocese of Crookston is offering a Men's weekend February 24-27, 2022 at Sand Hill Lake Bible Camp south of Fosston. Applications are also available at your parish office or at www.crookstoncursillo.weebly.com.

Tithing

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

January 16, 2022

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$2085.00 |
| Flowers for Altar | \$17.00 |
| Endowment Priests | \$20.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$45.00 |
| Total | \$ 2217.00 |

St. Ann's in Goodridge

January 16, 2022

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Christmas Day | \$.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$.00 |
| Total | \$.00 |

St. Clement's in Grygla

January 16, 2022

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Adults Envelopes | \$.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$.00 |
| Total | \$.00 |

Weekly Reflections

"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..." (NEHEMIAH 8:10)

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

Thank you to the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Church for participating in the Advent Giving Tree Program. The Giving Trees provided Christmas gifts to 112 children from lower income families in Red Lake County, and 8 adults living in group homes in Red Lake Falls. Jesus cared deeply for the poor and impoverished, and you are Jesus in action! Thank you for your kindness and compassion, and for showing people in our community who don't necessarily have a wonderful holiday season....we care about you, we pray for you, and you are not forgotten. Kathie Johanneck, Red Lake Co. Salvation Army Coordinator

Power Of Prayer - How do I tap into it?

The power of prayer is not the result of the person praying. Rather, the power resides in the God who is being prayed to. 1 John 5:14-15 tells us, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him." No matter the person praying, the passion behind the prayer, or the purpose of the prayer - God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will. His answers are not always yes, but are always in our best interest. When our desires line up with His will, we will come to understand that in time. When we pray passionately and purposefully, according to God's will, God responds powerfully! We cannot access powerful prayer by using "magic formulas." Our prayers being answered is not based on the eloquence of our prayers. We don't have to use certain words or phrases to get God to answer our prayers. In fact, Jesus rebukes those who pray using repetitions, "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8). Prayer is communicating with God. All you have to do is ask God for His help. Psalm 107:28-30 reminds us, "Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven." There is power in prayer!

St Francis Xavier's
Oklee, MN

Sunday, January 23, 2022
Sacristan: Mary Lynn
Lector:: Mike Bachand
Counters: Anne H. & Dolores G

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Sacristan: Margie Buer
Lector:: Paul Cyr
Counters: Mary Anne L. & Jan D

Sunday, February 6, 2022
Sacristan: Rick Dulka
Lector:: Jacob Melby
Counters: Anne H. & Dolores G

St Ann's
Goodridge, MN

Sunday, January 23, 2022
Lector:: Carol

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Lector:: Karyl

Sunday, February 6, 2022
Lector:: Carol



St Clement's
Grygla, MN

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

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Lector:: Daniel

Sunday, February 6, 2022
Lector:: Jody



A Student's Prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance.

Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion.

This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever.

Amen.

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 Beard
Fr. Adam Hamness
Fr. John Melkies
Mary Radniecki