

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

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Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday: Noon

CLERGY COLUMN

The History of the Christmas Tree

In the Middle Ages, mystery plays were held on Christmas Eve which featured a Paradise Tree -- a tree representing both the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life from the Garden of Eden -- because Christmas Eve was an unofficial “feast day” of Adam and Eve (it’s their official Feast Day in many Eastern Churches). The tree was decorated with colorful apples representing the forbidden fruit, and with candies representing the Tree of Life. These Mystery plays were suppressed during the fifteenth century, but the faithful kept the “Paradise Tree” tradition.

At another level of symbolism, Saint Boniface (675-754) chopped down an oak tree sacred to pagans at Geismar in Germany. He did this to show them that nothing bad would happen, that Thor has no power. It is said that when he did this, he pointed out a small fir tree growing at its base and said “This humble tree’s wood is used to build your homes: let Christ be at the center of your households. Its leaves remain evergreen in the darkest days: let Christ be your constant light. Its boughs reach out to embrace and its top points to heaven: let Christ be your comfort and your guide.”

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:	10:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

	<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun:	12:00 p.m.	11:45 a.m.

Noël

Grim was the world and grey last night;
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.

The lord of snows upreared his head;
His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.

The ancient dome of heaven sheer
Was pricked with distant light;
A star came shining white and clear
Alone above the night.
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.

Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.

Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.
The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

Fantasy writer J.R.R. Tolkien, best known for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, has very few published works that explicitly reference his Catholic faith.

Tolkien commented on his popular series, "*The Lord of the Rings* is of course a fundamentally religious and Catholic work; unconsciously so at first, but consciously in the revision." However, the presence of his Catholic faith in his published stories was primarily subtle, something underneath the surface that acted as a firm foundation.

This is why it was surprising for Tolkien scholar Wayne Hammond to discover a poem that was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was originally published in the 1936 annual of *Our Lady's School in Oxfordshire* and simply entitled, "Noel."

According to *Our Lady's* headteacher Stephen Oliver in an interview for *The Guardian*, "Noel is a beautiful and unusual take on the Christmas story, set in a wintry landscape. The focus is on Mary, which may be why Tolkien wrote the poem for the school magazine, given that we are dedicated to *Our Lady*."

—by Philip Kosloski



Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of the penitential season of Advent -- like Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent -- is a day of rejoicing, a sort of break from the somberness of the season. Like Laetare Sunday, its color is rose, and the rose candle on our Advent wreath is lit today.

Gaudete Sunday takes its name from the Introit antiphon, "Gaudete in Domino" ("Rejoice in the Lord") and signals that the season of Advent is almost at an end: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men: for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous; but in everything by prayer let your requests be made known to God. Lord, thou hast blessed thy land; thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. Glory be to the Father."

The Gospel readings focus on the great St. John the Baptist, who tells all of the coming of Our Lord. In today's Gospel reading, the Jews confront John, demanding to know who he is. They poke and prod at him, but he responds with the utmost humility, pointing always toward Christ.



Oklee	Sunday	12/13/20	8:00 a.m.	† Ruby Rystad
Grygla	Sunday	12/13/20	10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	12/13/20	12:00 p.m.	Alyssa Partlow
Oklee	Tuesday	12/15/20	8:00 a.m.	†Ann Peterson
Oklee	Wednesday	12/16/20	8:00 a.m.	†Eunice Hamness
Oklee	Thursday	12/17/20	8:00 a.m.	Kim Johs
Oklee	Friday	12/18/20	8:00 a.m.	Marian Pickhinke
Oklee	Sunday	12/20/20	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Grygla	Sunday	12/20/20	10:15 a.m.	† Leroy Irlbeck
Goodridge	Sunday	12/20/20	12:00 p.m.	† Irene Kiesow

Tithing

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee December 6, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$1110.00
Loose Plate	\$63.00
Training Priests	\$10.00
St Mary's Mission	\$40.00
Christmas Flowers	<u>\$130.00</u>
Total	\$1353.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge December 6, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$576.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$60.00</u>
Total	\$636.00

St. Clement's in Grygla December 6, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$600.00
Loose Plate	\$86.00
Christmas Flowers	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total	\$761.00

Weekly Reflections **3rd Sunday of Advent**



“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 and shows our dependence on God.

St Francis Xavier's Oklee, MN

Sunday, December 13, 2020
Lector: MaryLynn Bachand

Sunday, December 20, 2020
Lector: Paul Cyr

Sunday, December 27, 2020
Lector: Mary Ann Lambert

St Ann's Goodridge, MN

Sunday, December 13, 2020
Lector: Eliza

Sunday, December 20, 2020
Lector: Carol

Sunday, December 27, 2020
Lector: Gerri

St Clement's Grygla, MN

Sunday, December 13, 2020
Lector: Gary

Sunday, December 20, 2020
Lector: Jim C

Sunday, December 27, 2020
Lector: Jody

Saturdays of Advent (11:00-12:00)

Goodridge
Oklee
Grygla

December 5
December 12
December 19



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Christmas Schedule

Normally the maximum number of Masses a priest is permitted to offer are two on the evening before a Solemnity and three on the day of the Solemnity itself. In light of the present pandemic, the Holy Father has given a one time permission to offer four Masses on Christmas Eve and four Masses on Christmas Day. I know that most people prefer to come on Christmas Eve, but please consider coming on Christmas Day to spread out the attendance more evenly.

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Grygla
6:00 p.m. Goodridge
7:30 p.m. Oklee



Christmas Day

Midnight Latin Mass in Oklee
8:00 a.m. Oklee
9:30 a.m. Goodridge
11:00 a.m. Grygla



Red Lake County Social Service has an Advent Giving Tree in the entry of the Church in Oklee. Please return wrapped gifts with their tag by December 20th. If you have any questions, please call Lori Melby at work at (218) 683-7966 or on her cellphone at (218) 686-5375.

Recently Deceased Loved Ones

†Joey Johnson
†Allen Paquin
†Chris Tougas
†Larry O'Neill
†Yvonne Boucher
†Bonnie Buchmeier
†Janet Pearson
†David Dessellier
†Rita Bonagura Vaughn
†Ann Peterson
†Irene Dessellier
†Floyd Neuschwander
†Annette Magnell
†Ted Lussier
†LaVonne Radniecki
†Brigitta Dobmeier
†Mary Jean Altendorf
†Mike Bourque
†Fr. Don Braukmann
†Florence Dunham
†Msgr. Donald Krebs
†Betty Barsness
†Floyd Charest
†Jim Dulka
†Avis Frazer
†Lauretta Stucy
†Tom Toulouse
†Marlyn Dessellier
†Gerald Cote
†Phyllis Martell
†Theresa "Bergeron" Lucken
†Jerome Hruby
†Irene Kiesow
†Msgr. Michael Patnode
†Donnie Knutson
†Jerry Johnson
†Ron Rustan
†Joan Carpenter
†Leroy Irlbeck

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler
Donnie Tougas
Kenneth LaCoursiere
Shirley Dessellier
Michael Bachand
Annette LaCoursiere
Debra Olson
Jack Miller
Kimberly Johs
Ambrose Beaudoin
Steve Sebenaler
Don LaCoursiere
Cindy Deterrman
David Longtin
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
Lowell Smeby
Darren Tougas
Elaine Radniecki

