

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

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

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived **without original sin or its stain**. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people mistakenly think that the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

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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	12/03/23	8:00 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Francis
Grygla	Sunday	12/03/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	12/03/23	12:00 p.m.	†Isadore Rolczynski
Oklee	Monday	12/04/23	8:00 a.m.	Bishop Strickland
Goodridge	Tuesday	12/05/23	5:30 p.m.	†Vernon Rogalla
Oklee	Wednesday	12/06/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Oklee	Thursday	12/07/23	8:00 a.m.	Leigha Hammers
Oklee	Friday	12/08/23	7:30 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Friday	12/08/23	5:00 p.m.	+Monica Perkerwicz
Grygla	Friday	12/08/23	6:30 p.m.	+Louis & Nancy Cournia
Oklee	Sunday	12/10/23	8:00 a.m.	Noah Mercil
Grygla	Sunday	12/10/23	10:15 a.m.	For the People
Goodridge	Sunday	12/10/23	12:00 p.m.	+Monica Perkerwicz

CLERGY COLUMN

Happy Lord's Day!

Today is, of course, the 1st Sunday of Advent, but it's also December 3rd, which is the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, one of the all-time great members of the Society of Jesus (aka the Jesuits) and the patron of our church in Oklee! What a gift!

It's also the first Sunday of December, which means I'll be writing about the monthly dedication, which for December is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on December 8th, this upcoming Friday, and is always a Holy Day of Obligation. I'll post the local Mass times below.

The most common misconception (no pun intended!) about the Immaculate Conception is that it is a celebration of the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This is false and biologically impossible. If Jesus was conceived on December 8th and then born on December 25th, that would have been an incredibly short pregnancy. We celebrate the conception of Jesus, called the Annunciation, on March 25th - 9 months before Christmas. The Immaculate Conception is a celebration of the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It's a celebration of God's preparation for the Annunciation, which is the Incarnation, paving the way for the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus (was that enough -tion words for you? ☐). We celebrate that God has a plan for the world - he's not just "winging" it!

In the Immaculate Conception we believe that Mary's soul was prevented from receiving the "stain" of Original Sin, which we all inherit from Adam and Eve. We call this prevenient grace. The Lord God is able to work outside of time, so he could take the graces of the Redemption of Jesus and apply them ahead of time to the soul of Mary at the moment of her conception. This is a very important point to remember: Jesus is still Mary's savior. It is the grace that comes from his Paschal Mystery that prevents her from inheriting the stain of Original Sin. Without the Paschal Mystery - the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus - there could not be, there would not be an Immaculate Conception. It is Jesus who makes Mary so important, and he does make her important.

Why is she important? Jesus comes into the world through her. He, God made man, dwells inside of her, being nourished by her and resting in her womb. Hers was the first voice he heard in each and every stage of his development. He could hear her praying and worshiping the Father. He chose to prevent her from inheriting the stain of sin because he wanted to dwell in a place that was entirely free from sin before he entered into a world hellbent on sin. If you could choose your own mother, wouldn't you do the same thing? We honor her this month by reflecting with her and preparing for the coming of the Lord with her. Yes, we reflect on the incredible gift of the Incarnation and we will take time in our prayer to enter into the cave of the Nativity, but we also take time to reflect with Mary on our preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus, when he will judge the living and the dead.

May the Lord give you his peace!
Fr. Bryan

LOCAL MASS TIMES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Oklee: 7:30 a.m. on the 8th
Thief River Falls: 5:30 (7th) & 7:00 a.m. (8th)
Brooks: 5:30 p.m. (7th)
Fosston: 8:30 a.m. on the 8th

Goodridge: 5:00 p.m. on the 8th
Grygla: 6:30 p.m. on the 8th
Red Lake Falls: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (8th)
Middle River: 7:30 p.m. on the 8th

From page 1 What is the Assumption?

The Assumption is the doctrine that says that at the end of her life on earth Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven, just as Enoch, Elijah, and perhaps others had been before her. Some people think Catholics believe Mary “ascended” into heaven. That’s not correct. Christ, by his own power, ascended into heaven. Mary was assumed or taken up into heaven by God. She didn’t do it under her own power.

The Church has never formally defined whether she died or not, and the integrity of the doctrine of the Assumption would not be impaired if she did not in fact die, but the almost universal consensus is that she did die. Pope Pius XII, in *Munificentissimus Deus* (1950), defined that Mary, “after the completion of her earthly life” (note the silence regarding her death), “was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven.”

The possibility of a bodily assumption before the Second Coming is suggested by Matthew 27:52–53: “[T]he tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” Did all these Old Testament saints die and have to be buried all over again? There is no record of that, but it is recorded by early Church writers that they were assumed into heaven, or at least into that temporary state of rest and happiness often called “paradise,” where the righteous people from the Old Testament era waited until Christ’s resurrection (see Luke 16:22, 23:43; Heb. 11:1–40; 1 Pet. 4:6), after which they were brought into the eternal bliss of heaven.

No Remains

There is also what might be called the negative historical proof for Mary’s Assumption. It is easy to document that, from the first, Christians gave homage to saints, including many about whom we now know little or nothing. Cities vied for the title of the last resting place of the most famous saints. Rome, for example, houses the tombs of Peter and Paul, Peter’s tomb being under the high altar of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. In the early Christian centuries relics of saints were zealously guarded and highly prized. The bones of those martyred in the Coliseum, for instance, were quickly gathered up and preserved.

It is agreed upon that Mary ended her life in Jerusalem, or perhaps in Ephesus. However, neither of those cities nor any other claimed her remains, though there are claims about possessing her (temporary) tomb. And why did no city claim the bones of Mary? Apparently because there weren’t any bones to claim, and people knew it. Here was Mary, certainly the most privileged of all the saints, but we have no record of her bodily remains being venerated anywhere.

Complement to the Immaculate Conception

Over the centuries, the Fathers and the Doctors of the Church spoke often about the fittingness of the privilege of Mary’s Assumption. The grounds considered include Mary’s freedom from sin, her motherhood of God, her perpetual virginity, and—the key—her union with the salvific work of Christ.

The dogma is especially fitting when one examines the honor that was given to the ark of the covenant. It contained the manna (bread from heaven), stone tablets of the ten commandments (the word of God), and the staff of Aaron (a symbol of Israel’s high priesthood). Because of its contents, it was made of incorruptible wood, and Psalm 132:8 said, “Arise, O Lord, and go to thy resting place, thou and the ark of thy might.” If this vessel was given such honor, how much more should Mary be kept from corruption, since she is the new ark—who carried the real bread from heaven, the Word of God, and the high priest of the New Covenant, Jesus Christ.

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St Francis Xavier’s

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Sacristan: Mary Lynn
Lector:: Mary Lynn
Counters: Delores & Anne

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Sacristan: Brady
Lector:: Bob
Counters: Margaret & Linda

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Sacristan: Margaret
Lector:: Jacob
Counters: Jo & Deb

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Sacristan: Phyllis
Lector:: Brady
Counters: MaryAnne & Jan

St Ann’s

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Audrey & Marie

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Deb & Maggie

St Clement’s

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Lector:: Robbie

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Lector:: Dawn

But there is more than just fittingness. After all, if Mary is immaculately conceived, then it would follow that she would not suffer the corruption in the grave, which is a consequence of sin [Gen. 3:17, 19].

Mary's Cooperation

Mary freely and actively cooperated in a unique way with God's plan of salvation (Luke 1:38; Gal. 4:4). Like any mother, she was never separated from the suffering of her son (Luke 2:35), and Scripture promises that those who share in the sufferings of Christ will share in his glory (Rom. 8:17). Since she suffered a unique interior martyrdom, it is appropriate that Jesus would honor her with a unique glory. All Christians believe that one day we will all be raised in a glorious form and then caught up and rendered immaculate to be with Jesus forever (1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 21:27). As the first person to say "yes" to the good news of Jesus (Luke 1:38), Mary is the prototypical Christian and received early the blessings we will all one day be given.

From Catholic answers



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

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 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
 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)
 Richard Rolfson

Anyone wishing to have a MASS offered for a loved one you may leave name and the customary donation of \$10.00 in the offering basket in an envelope.

TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

Nov 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$968.00
Human Development	\$5.00
St Mary's Mission	\$200.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$67.00</u>
Total	\$ 1240.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

Nov 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$286.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$45.00</u>
Total	\$331.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

Nov 19, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$785.00
Endowment for Priests	\$77.00
Human Development	\$115.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$166.00</u>
Total	\$1143.00

Nov 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$515.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$61.00</u>
Total	\$576.00



Christmas Flowers Memorials

Parish _____

Donated by: _____

(\$5.00 suggested donation)

In Loving Memory of :
