

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

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Friday 8:30 a.m. — 11:30a.m.

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday: Noon

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CLERGY COLUMN

Just one week remains before the celebration of the birth of the Lord. How has your preparation been going? I simply offer you a sage reflection as we make this final journey this week:

Most people have been getting ready for Christmas for weeks, and smart shoppers have done their buying early to make sure they had the pick of the items they wanted.

God prepared for the first Christmas over a period, not of weeks or even years, but of centuries. He started a long time ago and was careful about choosing people who would be part of his gift giving.

The time of preparation, the history of our salvation, begins with Abraham. God made promises to Abraham which were without condition. The covenant with Abraham was unilateral; it all depended on God. The Messiah came in fulfillment of this covenant.

With Abraham, a narrowing down process began. Abraham had a son Isaac. Isaac had a son Jacob. And Jacob had twelve sons, the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. From among these tribes God chose the tribe of Judah, the Jews, as those people from whom the Messiah would be born. From among the Jews, he selected one family, the house of David, as the ancestors of the Messiah. God's final preparation is the beautiful story of how he brought together two of David's descendants: Joseph to be the foster father of Jesus, and Mary to be his virgin mother.

We usually take a lot of time in selecting a Christmas gift for someone we love, and we spare no expense. God's Christmas preparations were done just that way out of love for us.

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent!

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

St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

Mass Times Confessions

Sun: 12:00 p.m. 11:45 a.m.

Weekly Reflections

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

Advent Prayer of Gratitude for the Birth of Jesus

Father God, we thank You and praise You today for the miracle of Your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great JOY to the whole world! Thank You for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You. We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a merry Christmas. And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more. We know, Lord, that You bring the sun and the moon and set the stars in motion. You tell the ocean where to stop and the snow when to start. And we thank You for the mighty gift of Your creation. Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders and faith-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we are close to giving up. And although we have many reasons to rejoice today, Lord, we also know December 25th can be not-so-merry for a whole host of reasons. We pray for those who are experiencing loss during Advent: relational, financial, spiritual and physical. We pray for those who are coping with loving a prodigal and our friends and family members whose hearts are far from You. We pray for those dealing with unemployment and addictions and chronic sickness... and unending pain and frustrations of all kinds. Thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace, even in the midst of our not-so-merry circumstances. Finally, Lord, we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Help us to stay focused on You, this Advent season and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very merry Christmas. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

~Steph Raquel, from "A Christmas Prayer for the Merry... and Not-So-Merry", Prov. 31 Ministries

An Advent Prayer for The Lord to Come

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven. The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever. You came as a baby born in a manger. Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree, Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love

to me. Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth, When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night. And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light." "Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field. Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield. Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call. Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all. Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice. Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise. Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush. In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush. This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day. Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

~Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart" from Proverbs 31 Ministries

An Advent Prayer for Comparison During Advent

Lord, help us stop comparing our Advent season to any other family because we know you have ordained us for this family, at this table, and you have "good works prepared in advance for us to do" that are specific for us. We find meaning and joy in whatever life looks like because we trust Jesus for our lives. Even more, when we're seated with Christ, we worship you and take our eyes off ourselves. Because we're experiencing intimacy with Jesus, loneliness and disconnection fade and allow us to focus on blessing others. We can stop obsessing over ourselves and consider how we might serve and love best. When we're seated with Christ during Advent, we realize that you have sovereignly placed us right where we are for a reason this holiday season, and we can trust that you know what you're doing. Finally, when we're seated with Christ, we can reiterate to our heart that at all times, your peace, power, hope, and love are available to us in endless supply. As we take our seat with Jesus, we pray our holiday tables shimmer with your glory and that any joy and hope we've lost returns. May we overflow with spiritual gifts as we sit with you, Jesus.

~Edited from Heather Holleman's "The Greatest Seat at the Holiday Table"

Oklee	Sunday	12/19/21	8:00 a.m.	†Harold Cyr
Grygla	Sunday	12/19/21	10:15 a.m.	For the People of the Parishes
Goodridge	Sunday	12/19/21	12:00 p.m.	Wyatt Buer
Oklee	Monday	12/20/21	7:00 p.m.	Holy Rosary
Oklee	Christmas Eve	12/24/21	4:30 p.m.	†Harold Cyr
Goodridge	Christmas Eve	12/24/21	8:00 p.m.	Health of Fr. Adam Hamness
Grygla	Christmas Day	12/25/21	9:00 a.m.	For the People of the Parishes
Oklee	Sunday	12/26/21	8:00 a.m.	
Grygla	Sunday	12/26/21	10:15 a.m.	
Goodridge	Sunday	12/26/21	12:00 p.m.	

Remember: at the beginning of January, the Mass times will rotate for Grygla and Goodridge. On Sunday January 2, the Mass times will be 10:00 a.m. in Goodridge and 11:45 a.m. in Grygla, with confessions 15 minutes before Mass.

Reminder: St Francis Parishioners - If you are still considering a donation to the St Francis Ladies Guild to help support their projects please do so before the end of the month. Checks go to: Phyllis Melby; P.O. Box 275; Oklee, MN 56742. *Thank you!*

A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.
In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



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Tithing

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee December 12, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$2597.00
Endowment Priests	\$5.00
St Mary's Mission	\$100.00
Flowers for Altar	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$50.00
Retired Religious	\$235.00
Loose Plate	\$140.00
Total	\$ 3137.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge December 12, 2021

Adults Envelopes	0.00
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00

St. Clement's in Grygla December 12, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$910.00
Retirement for Religious	\$160.00
Christmas Flowers	\$130.00
Loose Plate	\$56.00
Total	\$1256.00



St Francis Xavier's
Oklee, MN

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Sacristan: Phyllis
Lector:: Bob Melby
Counters: Lora J & Margaret B.

Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m.
Sacristan: Rick Dulka
Lector: Jan Dulka

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Sacristan: Margie Buer
Lector:: Paul Cyr
Counters: Anne H & Dolores Grimm

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Sacristan: Mary Lynn
Lector:: Jacob Melby
Counters: MaryAnn L. & Jan D.

St Ann's
Goodridge, MN

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Lector:: Carol

Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m.
Lector: Carol

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Lector:: Karyl

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Lector:: Carol



St Clement's
Grygla, MN

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Lector:: Jody

Christmas Day
Lector: Daniel

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Lector:: Laurie



Update on Fr John Melkies

Father John had a smooth night. The good news is his heart is stable, blood pressure is good. He does however have a fever of 101 to 103. They are working to lower the fever. FR is under sedation at this time to allow his body to adjust and heal. It is hoped within the next day or two, he will be moved from ICU to a regular hospital room. Fr will be receiving continued care until all heart issues are resolved. At this time visitors are restricted. Please understand his need for rest and care. Cards can be sent to the parish at St Mary's 725 6th St. NE Fosston, MN 56542 and they will be delivered to him. Please continue your prayers. They are working along with the wonderful Bemidji Sanford staff who already appreciate Fr John. Please do not call the hospital for updates as they are not allowed to give out this information. Updates will be given to you when they are received here.

Faternally yours in Christ.

+Andrew Cozzens

**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 Heard
Fr. Adam Hamness
Fr. John Melkies

Prayer for the Sick

Father of goodness and love,
hear our prayers for the sick members of our community
and for all who are in need.
Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation
in your healing presence.
Show your mercy as you close wounds,
cure illness, make broken bodies whole
and free downcast spirits.
May these special people find lasting health and deliverance,
and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.
We ask this through the Lord Jesus
who healed those who believed.
Amen.