

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

Contact Information

Clergy: Fr. Bryan Kujawa
bkujawa@oggcatholic.org
soundcloud.com/frbryankujawa

Bookkeeper/Secretary:
 Deb Whalen
parishstaff@oggcatholic.org

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

Website: www.oggcatholic.org
facebook.com/oggcatholic
catholicbiblestudies.org

Telephone: (218) 796-5844

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

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).

Catholic Mortality & and the Bomb

By Joe Heschmeyer

Christopher Nolan's new film *Oppenheimer*, on physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer's role in the creation of the atomic bomb, has proven to be a hit, massively outperforming expectations. In the process, it's revived an important perennial question: was the United States morally justified in dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Morally speaking, this is an easy question. Targeting civilian populations for mass incineration is intentionally killing innocent men, women, and children. And as the British moral philosopher G.E.M. Anscombe points out in her 1958 essay "Mr. Truman's Degree," "to choose to kill the innocent as a means to one's ends is murder." There's no question that Truman (and those who executed his orders) were guilty of murder on a mass scale. And as Anscombe points out,

with Hiroshima and Nagasaki we are not confronted with a borderline case. In the bombing of these cities it was certainly decided to kill the innocent as a means to an end. And a very large number of them, all at once, without warning, without the interstices of escape or the chance to take shelter, which existed even in the "area bombings" of the German cities.

According to the principle of *double effect*, Catholic moral theology sometimes permits you to do a good action that has some bad side effects. For instance, the FDA might approve a drug that helps most people but hurts a few. An army might fight a battle knowing that innocent bystanders will likely be killed.

Continued on page 2

Oklee	Sunday	08/20/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Grygla	Sunday	08/20/23	10:15 a.m.	†Irene Kiesow
Goodridge	Sunday	08/20/23	12:00 p.m.	For the People
Oklee	Monday	08/21/23	8:00 a.m.	Brooklyn Blickenstaff
Goodridge	Tuesday	08/22/23	5:30 p.m.	Cade Blickenstaff
Oklee	Wednesday	08/23/23	8:00 a.m.	Adam Blickenstaff
Oklee	Thursday	08/24/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Oklee	Sunday	08/27/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Grygla	Sunday	08/27/23	10:15 a.m.	†Dean Kiesow
Goodridge	Sunday	08/27/23	12:00 p.m.	For the People

CLERGY COLUMN

Brothers and sisters,

I hope you enjoyed the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday this past week. It was great to have many people at Mass. Unfortunately, I think a lot of pastors have neglected keeping the “obligation” in their reminding of people about the day. I heard of one priest a while back say something to the effect of, “Well, if we don’t tell them that they have to come to Mass, then it won’t be a mortal sin if they miss.” His approach was basically that people are not trustworthy and will ultimately do whatever they want to do, regardless of their religious obligations. As you can tell, I take a different approach. I trust that people with faith will make a faithful decision. Those who lack faith will still choose to do whatever they would like to do, regardless of their religious obligations, and they will be held accountable by the Lord. As the pastor, I also will be held accountable to whether I am faithful in my preaching and teaching of the faith. An additional part about Holy Days of Obligation is that they are to be treated as Sundays, which means they are also days of rest. I realize I should have told you this prior to Tuesday, but I didn’t think of it until it was too late. Now you can plan for the next days coming up - come to Mass and take the day off from work.

I know these expectations might seem too robust for some of us - Why do we have to go to Mass an extra day, especially when it’s so inconvenient? I know that can be a difficult thing, because we live in a culture that is not really Christian anymore. There was a time when entire cities and countries would celebrate religious feast days and take time for a holy day (holiday), but now so many people don’t even slow down for the Lord’s Day on Sundays. It’s a sad reality, and unfortunately some of us have even gotten wrapped up in it and find ourselves not even knowing how to rest and rejuvenate.

In many ways, it is the task of the Christian to be leaven for society, showing society the joys of living life with Jesus. One of those natural joys ought to be pushing against society’s drive to be constantly accomplishing something, to show that everything that is truly necessary has been accomplished - the death and resurrection of Jesus is all that is truly necessary. Yes, we have a part to play in spreading the Gospel, but so much of society’s drive to accomplish is focused on passing things that will eventually have to be repaired or replaced. The one eternal thing has been accomplished, and it’s our task to let the primary focus of our lives be on the recreation God wants to bring about in our souls, which naturally includes looking at passing, temporal things in the proper perspective. This might be a foreign concept for some of us, I understand. But rather than just yielding to the broken culture around us, it’s much better to bring light and truth into the discussion.

On a much simpler note, there are only five extra Holy Days of Obligation during the year, so it’s not as though the Church is asking you to take an entire month of vacation in order to offer extra time for worship. It’s inconvenient, yes, but it will all be worth it in the end. I’ll be sure to remind you, but the next Holy Day of Obligation is Wednesday, November 1st - All Saints Day. We might even have a party to celebrate.

May the Lord give you his peace!

Fr. Bryan

But this principle doesn’t apply when the action is *itself* evil—like if the FDA approved a drug *intended* to hurt people, or if the army started aiming at the bystanders. In such cases, John Paul II explained, those “choices cannot be redeemed by the goodness of any intention or of any consequence; they are irrevocably opposed to the bond between persons.” Intentionally murdering 200,000 men, women, and children is *inherently immoral*, even if you are doing so to try to end a world war.

The Church could hardly be clearer on this question. At the time of the bombings, Pius XII was pope, and he described the atomic bomb as “the most terrible weapon which the human mind has conceived up to date.” In one of his Christmas addresses, he envisioned the horror (already realized in Hiroshima and Nagasaki) of “entire cities, even the largest and richest in history and art, annihilated; a black blanket of death over the pulverized matter, covering countless victims with limbs burnt, twisted, scattered, while others groan in spasms of agony.”

his stance has been shared by every pope, and every relevant Church document, over the past three quarters of a century. Pope John XXIII wrote bluntly in *Pacem in Terris* that “nuclear weapons must be banned.” The Second Vatican Council warned that “any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities of extensive areas along with their population is a crime against God and man himself. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation.” More recently, Pope Francis has echoed this, calling the use of nuclear weapons “a crime not only against the dignity of human beings

Continued on page 3

Cursillos

Would you like to deepen your faith and let Jesus become more involved in your life? Let the Spirit lead you on a Cursillo. The Diocese of Crookston is offering a Women's Cursillo on the weekend of September 21-24 and a Men's Cursillo on the weekend of October 26-29, 2023 at Mount St. Benedict in Crookston. Applications are available at <https://crookstonscursillo.weebly.com/>.



St. Francis Altar Server Training



Saturday, September 9th
@ 9:00 a.m.

For current & new altar
servers 3rd grade and older.

From page 2

but against any possible future for our common home,” and describing it as “immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral. . . . We will be judged on this.” After visiting Hiroshima, Francis described the devastation as “a true human catechesis on cruelty.”

Given the clarity of the Church's stance on the matter, to say nothing of the clarity of Catholic moral theology, or natural law, or the teachings of Jesus, or the Ten Commandments, it's perhaps surprising that John Paul II's biographer George Weigel took to the pages of *First Things* to claim that the atomic bombings were in fact “the correct choice.”

Weigel's argument proceeds by first blurring the distinction between military targets and civilian ones, claiming that “the militarist-nationalist fanatics who dominated Japanese policy until Emperor Hirohito's decisive intervention in August 1945 planned to turn the entire Japanese population into combatants during an American invasion.” But the fact that a civilian might hypothetically become a combatant in the future doesn't make him a combatant under either international law or Catholic moral principles.

Weigel next insists that “President Harry Truman had three options for ending the Pacific War without the unprecedented bloodletting of an invasion.” He could (1) increase the fire-bombing of Japanese cities; (2) “strangle Japan by naval blockade and starve her into a submission her leaders might not concede until millions, and perhaps tens of millions, were dead”; or (3) “use the atomic weapons developed by the Manhattan Project.” Leave aside the historical question, ignored by Weigel, of whether we could have *negotiated* a peace agreement with the Japanese. All three of the options Weigel proposes are murder: they're simply different ways of killing lots of Japanese civilians to force the government to surrender.

In fact, let's grant (at least for the sake of discussion) Weigel's core argument: that in murdering roughly 200,000 civilians, Truman “saved millions, even tens of millions, of lives, American *and Japanese*.” Does that make it morally defensible, or “the correct choice”? I'll let St. Paul answer: “Why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just” (Rom. 3:8).

CATHOLIC ANSWERS

TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

August 13, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1700.00
Endowment for Priests	\$100.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$45.00</u>
Total	\$ 1845.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

August 13, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$376.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$5.00</u>
Total	\$ 381.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

August 13, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$.00</u>
Total	\$ NA.00

We are the Hands of Christ

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbor, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home?

Many of us probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded.

A simple “hello” goes a long way.

Say Hello!

St Francis Xavier's

Oklee, MN

Sunday, August 20, 2023
Sacristan: Mary Lynn
Lector:: Brady G.
Counters: Margaret & Linda W.

Sunday, August 27, 2023
Sacristan: Phyllis
Lector:: Jan
Counters: Deb & Jo

Sunday, September 3, 2023
Sacristan: Margaret
Lector:: Paul
Counters: MaryAnn & Jan

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Sacristan: Phyllis
Lector:: Mary Lynn
Counters: Anne & Delores



St Ann's

Goodridge, MN

Sunday, August 20, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Marie & Audrey

Sunday, August 27, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, September 3, 2023
Lector:: Paula
Counters: Marie & Audrey

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Lector:: Carol
Counters: Deb & Maggie



St Clement's

Grygla, MN

Sunday, August 20, 2023
Lector:: Laurie

Sunday, August 27, 2023
Lector:: Gary

Sunday, September 3, 2023
Lector:: Robbie

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Lector:: Jim C.



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
†Elaine Radniecki

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler	Bernadette Lambert-
Donnie Tougas	Daymunde
Kenneth LaCoursiere	Josie Rodriguez
Shirley Dessellier	Jake Martell
Michael Bachand	Roy Rystad
Annette LaCoursiere	Dave Longtin, Shorty
Debra Olson	Bonnie Cote
Ambrose Beaudoin	Joyce Tougas
Steve Sebenaler	Brad Gunderson
Don LaCoursiere	Brian Peterson
Cindy Deterrman	Jim Carriere
Marie Adams	Antoinette Holtusen
Grace Rundell	Roger Lambert
MaryAnn Lambert	Theresa Mutnansky
Bailey Herried Drotts	Carolyn Pittman
George Pittman	Shirley Cyr
Bambi Lambert	Cliff Melby
Doris Dessellier	Jack Miller
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	



Pray for our parishioners who have been away from the sacraments and Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.

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.

*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.*