

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

## Clergy Column

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### Office Hours

**Tuesday & Wednesday** 8:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.  
**Thursday** 8:30 a.m. — 11:30a.m.

### Bulletin Deadline

**Wednesday:** Noon

### **A Case from Reason for Catholicism as the One True Faith**

by Jim Partlow  
*March 6, 2020*

Not too long ago, I was driving and came upon a car going very slowly in the fast lane. I moved closer and closer to give this guy the hint that other people would like to go quite a bit faster than he was apparently accustomed to, but after a couple of minutes of me getting worked up about this self-righteous menace to society, I noticed that there was an unmarked police car to his right. Ah...I backed off. Sometimes additional information can completely change our understanding of a matter.

Whether it be with regard to everyday situations, science, math, religion, or any other discipline or practice, there is always the possibility of this game-changing information being out there, just waiting to be discovered and turn everything we think we know on its head. But if this is true, then how can we trust anything we think we know? As our knowledge of science increases, it changes our understanding, so is it the same with God?

When it comes to science, we are always making discoveries, and our understanding is continually evolving and improving, but when it comes to God, we, as Catholics, declare that what we know are eternal, unchanging truths. Is the Church mistaken to declare them such, knowing that new information could change our understanding of God at any time?

*(continued on next page)*

#### 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:	5:45 p.m.	5:30 p.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:	11:45 a.m.	11:30 a.m.

#### St. Ann Parish in Goodridge

	<u>Mass Times</u>	<u>Confessions</u>
Sun:	10:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.

*(continued from front)*

In fact, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church is not mistaken in declaring absolute, eternal, unchanging truths of God, upon which we can rely on with utter certainty. Let me explain why.

Every bit of human understanding, apart from the teaching of Catholic Church, is based in human reason and is prone to error. Catholicism is unique among the religions and ideologies of the world in this respect: it is built upon a perfect system of transmitting divine truth from God to us, and God's truth will never change. If the Church were ever to teach untruth (in a matter of faith and morals), doubt would be cast upon the entire deposit of doctrine in the Church, and none of it could be trusted any longer, for if it erred in one case, what else may it have proclaimed in error? For this reason, it is impossible. The Church cannot proclaim error as truth, lest it cease to exist as the Church.

This is not only an assurance that the Catholic Church propagates pure, infallible truth, but that it is the only institution on Earth to do so. In fact, it is the only institution on Earth that even makes that claim. This is what makes the Catholic Church the only true Church. Every other major religion is based on human understanding and interpretation of a holy book, but Catholicism is a system of perfect interpretation of God's word through a divine institution instituted by Christ. That is unique.

To illustrate this, let's look back at Kurt Gödel, the Austrian logician, mathematician, and friend of Albert Einstein. In 1930, Gödel threw the world of mathematics into a tizzy when he presented his incompleteness theorems at a conference in the city of Königsberg. Jim Holt writes in his book, *When Einstein Walked with Gödel*:

No logical system can capture all the truths of mathematics — [this] is known as the first incompleteness theorem. Gödel also proved that no logical system for mathematics could, by its own devices, be shown to be free from inconsistency, a result known as the second incompleteness theorem[.] ... [I]t had been an article of faith that that armed with logic, mathematicians could in principle resolve any conundrum at all — that in mathematics, as it had famously been declared, there was no *ignorabimus*. Gödel's theorems seemed to have shattered this ideal of complete knowledge.

Dennis Prager, in his excellent PragerU video on the Ten Commandments, asserts that even though people can figure out that murder is wrong on their own, they need God to tell them so in order to know that murder is wrong. Because all human reason is fallible, only divine revelation can be trusted absolutely; our human brains simply cannot distinguish truth from fallacy, apart from the very simplest and most mundane things. God is indispensable to the Ten Commandments for this reason, and the same is true for all other truths as well. Even in mathematics, that purest of disciplines, a declaration of certain truth must come from outside the system. While an equation (or belief) may be true, we can't know that it's true without revelation, without confirmation from outside (or above). Gödel's theorems were certainly new, and they certainly changed everything; no longer was mathematics seen as the unshakable bedrock it had been assumed to be. Before Gödel, there was an old maxim that "there can never be surprises in logic," but this came as a surprise, for sure. The fact that there is no system of reason, thought, or logic that can stand on its own and make absolutely true declarations is, according to Fields medalist

Vladimir Voevodsky, "extremely unsettling for any rational mind."

It ought to be. There is, in fact, only one Truth, Jesus Christ, and there is only one rational understanding of the world, and that is Catholicism, because it is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:17: "[Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Outside Him, guess what: they don't hold together. Just as God refused to allow the builders of the Tower of Babel to reach Heaven by laying brick upon brick, we cannot lay brick upon brick of human reason and come to a full understanding of God; for reason to be rational, it requires a leap of Faith. God, the creator of reason, is ultimately rational, and He wants to be approached not through pure cognition and understanding, but through faith, in a relationship; He won't allow it any other way. He demands — and has indeed laid in the foundations of the universe — a faith-reason balance. Reason alone is irrational and requires faith, just as faith without reason is irrational; they must exist in a balance. As can be seen with evolution and other secular dogmas, when reason and science try to take the place of faith, they cease to be rational, and rather become articles of faith. The balance will always exist. Faith is not irrational, as atheists say; reason isolated from faith is.

The Catholic Church is the only religion and the only institution on Earth that recognizes and keeps these forces in balance, and that is why it is the only rational faith and the only truth. Likewise, not only does the need for this balance make the Catholic Church the city on a hill, the secure fortress in a foaming sea of insecurity, but the Church is also the perfect environment in which to incubate saints and grow them from infancy to maturity. We are called to come to Christ as little children, and this requires a complete trust in what we are being fed. If we had to — as the Protestants do — reinvent the wheel over and over again, and discover for ourselves and understand and define every dogma, we would inevitably fall into error, and we certainly wouldn't be able to stand on the shoulders of giants like Augustine and Aquinas and so many others and be able to accept as truth even what we cannot understand (and that with which we may not even agree).

God instituted a covenant (an exchange of persons — "I will be your God, and you will be my people"), not a contract ("I will do this for you, if you do that for me"). This covenant, perfectly formed in that faith-reason balance, is what allows us to be the sheep and allows us to trust the Good Shepherd. It paves the way for us to come to Him as Proverbs 3:5 calls for: humbly and meekly, trusting not in our own understanding, but in His love. It also makes our faith so much more sure, for when someone challenges our Faith, we need not worry if we cannot give them all the right answers, and give them a reason for every article of Faith. Catholicism is true, whether we can personally prove it or not, and the proof of this is in the necessity of this faith-reason balance, which only the Catholic Church teaches and only the Catholic Church claims.

<https://onepeterfive.com/case-reason-true-faith/>

Oklee	Sunday	03/08/20	8:00 a.m.	†Gerald Cote
Goodridge	Sunday	03/08/20	10:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Grygla	Sunday	03/08/20	11:45 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Oklee	Tuesday	03/10/20	8:00 a.m.	† Larry O'Neill
Pioneer	Wednesday	03/11/20	10:00 a.m.	† Ernest Dessellier
Oklee	Wednesday	03/11/20	5:45 p.m.	† Ernest Dessellier
Oklee	Thursday	03/12/20	8:00 a.m.	† Jim Dulka
Oklee	Friday	03/13/20	8:00 a.m.	†Gerald Cote
Oklee	Sunday	03/15/20	8:00 a.m.	†Pokie Martell
Goodridge	Sunday	03/15/20	10:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Grygla	Sunday	03/15/20	11:45 a.m.	†Gene Janisch

### Tithing

#### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

March 1, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$1569.00
Loose Plate	\$24.00
Flowers for altar	\$39.00
Home Missions	<u>\$135.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1767.00</b>

#### St. Ann's in Goodridge

February 23, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$665.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$36.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$701.00</b>

March 1, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$444.00
Loose Plate	\$42.00
Black & Native	
Missions	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$586.00</b>

#### St. Clement's in Grygla

March 1, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$720.00
Church Central &	
Eastern Europe	\$20.00
Black & Native	
Missions	\$70.00
Easter Flowers	\$255.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$49.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1114.00</b>



The 2020 Minnesota Food Share March Campaign for Hunger Awareness is here. The Grygla-Gatzke Food Shelf and the ICCC Food Shelf in Oklee will again participate by requesting food and monetary donation during the month of March. The program runs from March 1 through April 12th. The Minnesota Food Share based on the funding raised and the amount for food items donated (number of pounds). Please drop off non perishable food items at St. Clements and St. Francis Xavier Churches. Monetary donations can be sent to Grygla Gatzke Food Shelf, Lori Thompson; 222 Evelyn Ave; P.O. Box 105 Grygla, Mn 56727 or ICCC; 207 Main St.; P.O. Box 189; Oklee, MN 56742.

### Weekly Reflections

*“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)*

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful.”

Proverbs 11:24  
One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

### St Francis Xavier's

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Sacristan:	Margaret Buer
Lector:	Paul Cyr
EMHC:	Krista & Mitch Bernstein
Usher:	Ken & Shirley Boucher
Greeter:	Karen F. & Sue C.
Counter:	Pat A. & Jo L.

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Sacristan:	Rick Dulka
Lector:	Mary Ann Lambert
EMHC:	Bonnie C. & Anne H.
Usher:	Don L. & Frank B.
Greeter:	Shirley & Ken Boucher
Counter:	Lora J. & Margaret B.

### St. Ann's

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Commentator :	Carol
Lector: :	Gerri
EMHC	Tony & Marie
Usher:	Russell & Charlie
Counter:	Deb & Maggie

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Commentator:	Carol
Lector:	Karyl
EMHC:	Marie & Darwin
Usher:	Joe & Russell
Counter:	Louann & Marie

### St. Clement's

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Commentator:	Angie
Lector:	Daniel
EMHC:	Bruce & Gary
Usher:	Bill N & Aaron

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Commentator:	Angie
Lector:	Dawn
EMHC:	Jean & Justin
Usher:	Jason D. Bryan D.



# Memorials for Easter Flowers



Which Parish?  Oklee  Grygla  Goodridge

Offered by ? \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of? (*suggested offering \$5.00 per name*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 8 St. Francis Xavier -Oklee Sunday School w/Fellowship Coffee & Roll
- March 10 **St Clement's Grygla Lenten Devotions**
- March 12 St. Francis Xavier Oklee Lenten Devotions
- March 13 **St. Ann's Goodridge Lenten Fish Fry**
- March 20 **St. Ann's Goodridge Lenten Fish Fry**
- March 22 St. Francis Xavier -Oklee Sunday School w/Fellowship Coffee & Roll
- March 24 **St Clement's Grygla Lenten Devotions**
- March 26 St. Francis Xavier Oklee Lenten Devotions
- March 27 **St. Ann's Goodridge Lenten Fish Fry**
- March 31 **St Clement's Grygla Lenten Devotions**
- April 2 St. Francis Xavier Oklee Lenten Devotions
- April 3 **St. Ann's Goodridge Lenten Fish Fry**
- April 12 St. Francis Xavier -Oklee Sunday School w/Fellowship Coffee & Roll
- April 23 It Can Be An *Enchanted Life*  
Lifecare Pregnancy Center of TRF  
Annual Fundraising Banquet 6:00pm  
Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room
- April 26 St. Francis Xavier -Oklee Sunday School w/Fellowship Coffee & Roll

## Recently Deceased Loved Ones

- †Alice Bluemke
- †Mary Peterson
- †Donna Horachek
- †Joey Johnson
- †Allen Paquin
- †Kathleen Amiot
- †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

## Pray For Those Who Are Sick

- Delton Sebenaler
- Donnie Tougas
- Kenneth LaCoursiere
- Shirley Dessellier
- Irene Kiesow
- Michael Bachand
- Annette LaCoursiere
- Debra Olson
- Jack Miller
- Kimberly Johs
- Ambrose Beaudoin
- Steve Sebenaler
- Don LaCoursiere
- Cindy Deterrman
- David Longtin
- Richard Bronken
- Marie Adams
- Grace Rundell
- MaryAnn Lambert
- Bailey Herried Drotts
- Cliff Melby
- George Pittman
- Hunter Pinke
- Bambi Lambert
- Lucille Christianson



If you would like any parish activity listed in the Calendar Of events please, email parishstaff@oggcatholic.org