

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

**Contact Information**

**Clergy:** Fr. Adam Hamness  
*frhamness@oggcatholic.org*

**Bookkeeper/Secretary:** Deb Whalen  
*parishstaff@oggcatholic.org*

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

**Website:** [www.oggcatholic.org](http://www.oggcatholic.org)

**Telephone:** (218) 796-5844

**Emergency Line:** (218) 209-2686

**Office Hours**

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

**Bulletin Deadline**

**Wednesday:** Noon

## Clergy Column

Our 2020 Chrism Mass didn't happen in the Spring because of the statewide stay-at-home order. It has been rescheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Cathedral. Attendance has been restricted because of COVID-19 protocols, but it would be fitting to have at least some of the Faithful present. I am looking for one or two people from each of our parishes who would be willing to attend. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to represent your parish.

Here is a good quote from Pope St. John Paul II that Deb found and I liked it a lot, so I told her to put it in the bulletin:

**“Stupidity is also a gift of God, but one mustn't misuse it.”**

**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.



Gregory the Great was indisputably amongst the greatest popes to lead the Church (AD 590-604), and he did so as his world was crumbling around him. The Roman Empire in the West had fallen, the infrastructure of Rome lay in ruins, the Tiber was constantly flooding, and famine and the bubonic plague were decimating a population already in steep decline. And the plague had just taken the life of Pope Pelagius II in February of 590.

Evagrius Scholasticus, a church historian who died that year in Antioch, lost most of his family to the plague, which had spread throughout the empire. His account is eerily similar to the pandemic we now face:

The ways in which the disease was communicated, were various and unaccountable: for some perished by merely living with the infected, others by only touching them, others by having entered their chamber, others by frequenting public places. Some, having fled from the infected cities, escaped themselves, but imparted the disease to the healthy (Church History, IV.29).

Gregory was the obvious choice to succeed Pope Pelagius. He came from a distinguished family, had served as the prefect of the city of Rome, turned his family villa into a Benedictine monastery (from which came the mission to the English), and as a deacon served as apocrisiarius or papal legate to the imperial court in Constantinople. But for several months he resisted the call to the Chair of St Peter, preferring the life of a contemplative.

During those months, Gregory sought to help the people of Rome find their way back to God through prayer. We have a contemporary account of his efforts, preserved in Gregory of Tours' History of the Franks (Book X). Gregory devoted all of his family's assets to feeding and caring for the sick and poor. He led a procession of clergy and monastics and lay faithful through the city's streets, chanting "Kyrie eleison" as they called the people to repent and prayed for God to alleviate the plague. Some 80 actually died during that procession. (In later medieval tradition, a miracle had occurred then at Castel San Angelo, where the Archangel Michael appeared, halting the spread of the plague, as the

procession approached, bearing the famous icon of Mary the Mother of God, Salus Populi Romani, the salvation of the people of Rome.)

Gregory finally accepted the pontificate, and although he himself was very frail in health and often confined to his chamber, for those 14 years he held the Latin Church together and strengthened her foundations with his brilliant theological and ecclesiastical leadership. In his writings Gregory continually warned that this world was nearing its end. But this was not to be met with fear but with prayer, contrition, and joyful expectation.

"I do not know what is happening elsewhere, but in this land of ours the world is not merely announcing its end, it is pointing directly to it," Gregory said of Rome crumbling around him (Dialogues III.38). And so we must be more urgent in seeking after the things of heaven. We have a homily that he preached at St. Peter's on November 12, 590, about the fearful signs in the heavens and on earth that announce the end ((Homily 1 on the Gospels on Lk 21:25-33).

If we tell you this, dear brothers, it is to keep your minds in a careful prudence and vigilance, lest security numbs them, and ignorance keeps them languid; it is also so that fear continually stimulates your minds, and that such stimulant strengthens them in good works ... Notice, my brethren, that we are now seeing what we have just heard. Every day, new and growing ills overwhelm the world. See how few of you remain of the innumerable people that you once were; and yet, plagues do not cease to melt on us daily, sudden misfortunes strike us, new and unforeseen calamities afflict us.

Keeping these trials in context, Gregory exhorted his people to prepare for the coming day of the Lord. "Put the day of judgment before your eyes, dear brothers, and in comparison, everything that seems painful now will become light." This would be a theme he would emphasize throughout his pontificate.

A century later, the Venerable Bede (in his Ecclesiastical History, II.1) quoted from the inscription on Pope Gregory's original tomb in St. Peter's Basilica: "implebatque actu quidquid sermone docebat" (he fulfilled in his actions whatever he taught in his words). Gregory practiced what he preached. His humility (he is the first to take the title "Servant of the Servants of God") was demonstrated in his diligent care for the spiritual and temporal needs of his people.

Gregory's voluminous correspondence bears witness to his own sufferings, but there is one letter from about midway in his pontificate that is a delightful reminder about keeping one's spirits during a time of plague and crisis. Gregory writes to Eulogius, the patriarch of Alexandria, with whom he has been exchanging gifts commemorating the apostolic founders of their respective churches, St. Peter and St. Mark. Gregory adds this request: "Since I do not drink colatum and virtheum with pleasure, I venture to ask for cognidium, which last year, after a long interval, your Holiness caused to be known in this city. For we here get from the traders the name of cognidium, but not the thing itself" (Letters VII.40).

Cognidium is the Latin for what was a white wine infused with pine resin. This has been a Greek specialty for millennia, similar to what we know today as retsina. As its medicinal qualities were praised in the ancient world, perhaps we can imagine that Gregory had found some temporal consolation in an otherwise strict ascetical discipline. It was a wine he doubtless first tasted in Constantinople, and a visit to the wine store (in Eastertide) may be one way to raise a glass in tribute to this great Doctor of the Church.

Oklee	Sunday	08/30/20	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Robert Peterson</b>
Grygla	Sunday	08/30/20	10:15 a.m.	For the Homebound
Goodridge	Sunday	08/30/20	12:00 p.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Oklee	Tuesday	09/01/20	8:00 a.m.	Daniel O'Connor
Oklee	Wednesday	09/02/20	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Dennis Bakke</b>
Oklee	Thursday	09/03/20	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Therese Maxson</b>
Oklee	Friday	09/04/20	11:00 a.m.	Fr. Bryan Kujawa
Latin Mass	Saturday	09/05/20	4:00 p.m.	Emmet LaCoursiere
Oklee	Sunday	09/06/20	8:00 a.m.	† <b>Lois Jahnke</b>
Grygla	Sunday	09/06/20	10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	09/06/20	12:00 p.m.	Joe Warmus

## Tithing

### St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee August 23, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$797.00
Loose Plate	\$20.00
<b>Priest's Training</b>	<u>\$5.00</u>
Total	\$822.00

### St. Ann's in Goodridge August 23, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$ .00
<b>Ladies' Aid</b>	\$ .00
<b>Men's Club</b>	\$ .00
<b>Priest's Training</b>	\$ .00
Loose Plate	<u>\$ .00</u>
Total	\$ .00

NA

### St. Clement's in Grygla August 23, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$155.00
<b>Priest's Training</b>	\$ .00
Loose Plate	<u>\$55.00</u>
Total	\$210.00

The Virgin Mary is known by many names, such as the Blessed Virgin, Mother Mary, Our Lady, Mother of God, Queen of Angels, Mary of Sorrows, and Queen of the Universe. Mary serves as the patron saint of all human beings, watching over them with motherly care due to her role as the mother of Jesus Christ, whom is the world's savior. Mary's mission is to lead you to her son.

### Weekly Reflections

*"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)*



St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

### **St Francis Xavier's** Oklee, MN

Sunday, August 30, 2020  
Lector: Virginia Weber

Sunday, September 6, 2020  
Lector: Jan Dulka

Sunday, September 13, 2020  
Lector: David Bachand

### **St Ann's** Goodridge, MN

Sunday, August 30, 2020  
Lector: Eliza

Sunday, September 6, 2020  
Lector: Carol

Sunday, September 13, 2020  
Lector: Carol

### **St Clement's** Grygla, MN

Sunday, August 30, 2020  
Lector: Jim C

Sunday, September 6, 2020  
Lector: Coleen

Sunday, September 13, 2020  
Lector: Jody

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

- Have Masses offered for friends or relatives, deceased or still living. Just drop a note in the collection basket, along with your donation; the usual amount is \$5.00/Mass. If this would be a financial hardship, please let me know, and I will be happy to offer one without a stipend.
- Offer Memorials in honor of your deceased loved ones to your parish's building and maintenance fund, or to your parish cemetery.
- Leave a legacy gift to the parish in your will, or name the parish as the beneficiary of your retirement policy or life insurance plan.

### St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Prayer Blankets

#### You Matter. We care. You are not alone.

There are prayer blankets in the back of the church for those whom are sick, suffering or dying. Please sign the book to whom it is given to so we know who the prayers are for.

Thank you!!

### *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" and a smile goes a long way.

#### 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

#### 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  
 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

