

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

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

Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday: Noon

CLERGY COLUMN

Last week’s Gospel mentions Jesus casting out demons, and again, this week, we have a Gospel wherein Jesus drives demons away. I am convinced that we are not mindful enough of the power angels and demons have in our life. We constantly have our guardian angel with us, who subconsciously influences us to lead a life of holiness and prays that God will give us the grace to persevere and make good decisions. In a similar way, the world is full of evil spirits too, demons, who attempt to subconsciously influence us to fall from grace and choose evil. When Jesus is driving out demons in the Gospels, it was probably not the case that every single time was an instance where the person was fully possessed by a demon, like in “The Exorcist” or something. In many of the cases, I imagine, he was sending away evil spirits that were hounding someone, but who had not yet taken over his body. This is a reminder for us! We need to pray, as Jesus often did, that the evil influences, evil spirits, demons that hound us and tempt us to sin would be cast far away from us by the power of Jesus. This is a real and true battle, but too many of us don’t give these things enough thought, and we certainly don’t pray about them enough.

Those who know the spiritual life well have, over the centuries, suggested that there are certain categories of evil spirits that are recognizable because they use the same methods to achieve similar ends. Some of these are even mentioned in the Scriptures. Some include: the spirit of lust, the spirit of wrath, spirit of pride, spirit of vengeance, spirit of fear, spirit of sloth/laziness, spirit of despair, etc. The goal of all of these spirits is to get you to engage in their favorite activity and so draw you away from God. A man hounded and pestered by a spirit of anger will perpetually have a short fuse. A man hounded by a spirit of lust will more easily be tempted to entertain unclean thoughts and engage in impure acts. A woman pestered by a spirit of despair will fight against depression, and so on and so forth. These real problems we face in our lives likely have

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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:	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.

Living The Worthy Life: Now More Than Ever We Need Jesus Christ

By Michael Cunningham

In 1948, Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote: "It is a characteristic of any decaying civilization that the great masses of the people are unconscious of the tragedy. Only those who live by faith know what is happening in the world... the great masses without faith are unconscious of the destructive process going on because they have lost the vision of the heights from which they fell."

Could he possibly be talking about the America of today some seventy-three years later? Look at the divide in our nation. Many people are so clueless or fed up with everything that they are falling into the condition that Bishop Sheen predicted would happen. How could have developed these two groups? For this answer, I will offer three main reasons.

First, just as Bishop Sheen predicted, Americans have turned away from the Church. Any visible statistic would show that Church attendance as a percentage reached its peak in the United States with Post-War Baby Boom Generation in the late 1950s. Today no less than a 300% decrease has been experienced by the Church since those days in the late 1950s and one of the best-kept secrets in the Church today is, if it were not for the immigrants who have been coming to the US for economic or political reasons- the Church attendance would not be as high as it is even today.

Second, the materialism of the 1950s turned in greed in the 1980s and a real sense of self-entitlement or self-power in the 2000s. The mantra is that we do not need God-he needs us. We do not have to wait for the Kingdom of Heaven; we will obtain our Kingdom here on earth- right here- right now. In effect, we created a long term mortgage on a mobile home. We have a debt that lasts longer than our life. Then the other problem here is that the people are so wrapped up in their life that they can not see what they traded away was much more precious than what they got. On May 24th, 1626, Peter Minuit purchased the island of Manhattan for the equivalent of \$24 worth of beads and trinkets. Both sides were very satisfied. Minuit thought he had a great deal because he bought all of this land for practically no money. The Native Americans thought that they had gotten a great deal of money from Minuit. How come such a great difference you might ask? The answer is simple. The Native Americans believed that only God owned the land. We did not own anything. We are here on borrowed time. We can use the land but after we are gone- we leave the land. Only the land and God stay past us. Therefore, to get money for something they did not own- was a very good deal. This story is an excellent example of what is going on in the world today. We have people who are so short-sighted that they are giving up on God just to seek the treasures of this earth. They will find out that this bargain was not in their favor soon enough.

Third, in 1948 Bishop Sheen wrote, "As Western civilization loses its Christianity it loses its superiority." Superiority here is not a physical superiority but a spiritual one. We have protection from the wages of sin with the help of God. However, when society turned its back on God, what happened? According to Bishop Sheen, "It is a characteristic of any decaying civilization that the great masses of the people are unconscious of the tragedy. . . Only those who live by faith know what is happening in the world... The great masses without faith are unconscious of the destructive process going on, because they have lost the vision of the heights from which they fell."

He could so many people be fooled by this? Bishop Sheen answered that when he explained this, "The Antichrist will not be so-called; otherwise, he would have no followers...he will come disguised as the Great Humanitarian; he will talk peace, prosperity and plenty not as means to lead us to God, but as ends in themselves...He will tempt Christian(s) with the same three temptations with which he tempted Christ... He will have one great secret which he will tell no one: he will not believe in God. Because his religion will be brotherhood without the fatherhood of God, he will deceive even the elect. He will set up a counter church ... It will have all the notes and characteristics of the Church, but in reverse and emptied of its divine content. It will be a mystical body of Antichrist that will in all externals resemble the mystical body of Christ."

Now what? With society in a place that we have never seen before in the US what will happen? These are serious problems plaguing our society today and a question that is on the minds of many people today. What will happen? Now is the time now is the place, and now we will see what will come next for our society and country.

In conclusion, what does Bishop Sheen predict will happen to us during these times? Carefully consider these words he wrote back in 1948, "Thus does a society which lost its faith in the authority of a Church sneak authority back into society through the door of the counter church... Once inner faith is lost, a dictatorship becomes imperative to reestablish some kind of order by force."

Bishop Fulton Sheen was born in the 19th century, he wrote in the 20th century, yet his writings are as fresh today as they were in 1948. Why? Maybe because he was much more turned into the Lord at that time than we are today, could that be the case? If it is the case, I ask you right now, what if anything are you going to do to correct that today?

Oklee	Sunday	2/07/21	8:00 a.m.	† Dorothy Plante
Goodridge	Sunday	2/07/21	10:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Grygla	Sunday	2/07/21	11:45 a.m.	† Greg Grahn
Oklee	Tuesday	2/09/21	8:00 a.m.	Tony Radniecki
Oklee	Wednesday	2/10/21	8:00 a.m.	Andre Spence
Oklee	Thursday	2/11/21	8:00 a.m.	Joan Brien
Oklee	Friday	2/12/21	8:00 a.m.	† Kenneth Nybo
Oklee	Sunday	2/14/21	8:00 a.m.	† Kevin Beck
Goodridge	Sunday	2/14/21	10:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Grygla	Sunday	2/14/21	11:45 a.m.	† Floyd Neuschwander



St. Josephine Bakhita

Feastday: February 8

Patron: of Sudan

Birth: 1869

Death: February 8, 1947

Beatified: May 17, 1992 by Pope John Paul II

Canonized: October 1, 2000

by Pope John Paul II

Weekly Reflections

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed... He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'"

- Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

Tithing

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee January 31, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$2035.00
Endowmt Priests	\$10.00
Flowers for Altar	\$10.00
Total	\$2055.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge January 31, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$556.00
Loose Plate	\$40.00
Total	\$596.00

N/A

St. Clement's in Grygla January 31, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$330.00
Loose Plate	\$20.00
Total	\$350.00

"You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people." - Fulton Sheen

St Francis Xavier's Oklee, MN

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Lector: Jacob

Sunday, February 14, 2021
Lector: Jan Dulka

Sunday, February 21, 2021
Lector: Mary Ann Lambert

St Ann's Goodridge, MN

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Lector: Eliza

Sunday, February 14, 2021
Lector: Carol

Sunday, February 21, 2021
Lector: Eliza

St Clement's Grygla, MN

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Lector: Jody

Sunday, February 14, 2021
Lector: Laurie

Sunday, February 21, 2021
Lector: Daniel

Diocesan Annual Appeal

Today we are happy to announce the commencement of the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Overall goal this year is \$900,000.00 (as it has been over the past three years) and our parish's individual goals are as follows: St. Francis Xavier, Oklee—\$7,553, St. Clement, Grygla—\$3427, and St. Ann, Goodridge—\$2319.00. Pledges are for over 10 months beginning March 1 and ending December 31, 2021. Please pick up an in-pew envelope today and make a pledge or a gift, no matter how great or how modest so that we can continue to support diocesan ministries that touch all of us. Where there is faith, there is hope! Donate online at www.crookston.org/DAA

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a physical and worldly cause, but they also likely have a spiritual cause, and we need to be aware of that so that we might fight against it.

There is one last spirit I would like to mention because, through others, it has affected me in my priestly ministry, but that is nothing unusual because this spirit of evil stalks every priest. It is the Jezebel spirit. It is a spirit that seeks to sow discord in any group or organization. It is a prideful spirit that hates authority, and so it is always seeking to influence people to lash out at those with authority. It is a vain spirit; it makes the one affected by it have a burning need for recognition and makes him or her want to seize authority and want to dominate and control others. It is the same spirit that invites a woman to rebel against the authority of her husband, a man to ignore and neglect the counsel of his wife, and a child to disrespect the authority of his or her parents. This spirit destroys parishes, breaks up marriages, and separates families; and it can even be so enraged that it will induce people to kill. It is nasty all around. We need to be aware of it so that we may cast it out of our parishes and out of our homes. Ultimately, we have nothing to fear if we rely on God, the Son He sent, and the Holy Spirit. We just need to start asking the Triune Godhead to deliver us from this evil in our lives. In fact, every time you say the "Our Father" you should probably be thinking of what you've just read in particular.

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!!

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
 †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
 †Irene Kiesow
 †Msgr. Michael Patnode
 †Donnie Knutson
 †Jerry Johnson
 †Ron Rustan
 †Joan Carpenter
 †Leroy Irlbeck
 †Lowell Smeby
 †Dorothy Plante
 †Jim Lussier
 †Tim Whalen

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler
 Donnie Tougas
 Kenneth LaCoursiere
 Shirley Dessellier
 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
 Richard Perreault
 Tony Radniecki
 Darren Tougas
 Elaine Radniecki
 Gary Polansky
 Bob Radniecki
 Rick Dulka

