

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

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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

CLERGY COLUMN

After the events of this past Wednesday, we know cooler heads must prevail in this nation, and this makes me think of a particular verse from the Pentecost Sequence, Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit). The verse is as follows:

*Thou in toil art comfort sweet,
 Pleasant coolness in the heat,
 Solace in the midst of woe.*

I am thinking especially of the second line. We need to make this prayer to the Holy Spirit and ask him to descend upon us and take the boiling kettle off the stove, to be the pleasant coolness in the heat. We all need to take a step back and pray for peace.

Today is the Octave Day of Epiphany, which we celebrate by pausing to meditate on the Baptism of the Lord, which we hear of in the Gospel. On Christmas we celebrate the Birth of Christ into the world, but that was all in secret. The World (represented by the Wise Men) was only made aware of his birth on Epiphany. Since Epiphany, the daily Gospels have been about how Jesus revealed who he was to the world, either by the working of some miracle or by his compelling preaching, and today as we dwell upon his Baptism, we hear the voice of God the Father booming out from Heaven declaring to the world exactly who Jesus is.

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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Why did Jesus ask to be baptized by John? The **Baptism of the Lord** didn't make a lot of sense to the early followers of Jesus who worried about the fact that it seemed to suggest that Jesus was somehow subordinate to John the Baptist. Two thousand years later, the Church has developed a very substantial theology of the sacrament of baptism, but that theology is not very helpful for the task of understanding the Baptism of the Lord either. Catholics believe that baptism imparts the grace of forgiveness of sins, and marks our initiation into the Church. **But Jesus didn't need to be forgiven nor can we really say that by his baptism Jesus became part of the church. The gospel itself doesn't give us very much to go on.** The only explanation offered by Jesus regarding why he should be baptized by John is: "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." But that explanation doesn't get us very far.

The final line of this Sunday's reading from Matthew's gospel offers perhaps a better clue about the meaning of Jesus's baptism. That line reads: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." There we hear an unmistakable echo from the first reading: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased" (Isaiah 42:7). By making this connection, the author of Matthew is testifying to the fact that Christians had come to believe that the "Suffering Servant" in Isaiah ultimately refers to Jesus Christ. It is Jesus who will be the definitive "covenant of the people" and "light for all nations." He will "open the eyes of the blind" and "bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon those who live in darkness." I have always been moved by those images of the mercy of Christ. They can be taken quite literally of course – Jesus Christ as liberator, freeing those unjustly bound or confined in darkness. But they can also speak to Jesus rescuing those of us held in the bondage of sin or trapped in lives marked by an existential darkness. As another Christmas fades into the past and we prepare to move on next week to ordinary time,

these readings help us to understand more fully the meaning of the incarnation – of why Christ has come. As Pope Francis noted in a recent general audience, the good news of the incarnation is not merely that God has taken on human flesh, but that God has done so in a world "marked by so many things, good and bad, marked by divisions, wickedness, poverty, arrogance and wars." **Jesus has come to bring God's mercy to the world.**

What can these readings tell us about the meaning of our own baptism? The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that "Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons [and daughters] of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission" (CCC #1213). Just as Matthew's gospel makes a connection between the Baptism of the Lord and the mission of the suffering servant, we too should make a connection between our own baptism and that same mission. Having been baptized into the Body of Christ, we too are called to his ministry of mercy.

Finally, these readings also point to the importance of humility. Indeed it seems that humility plays a part in the "righteousness" that Jesus refers to when he asks John to baptize him. The reading from Acts also points to the importance of humility when Peter states that "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality." The meaning of Peter's discourse in the house of Cornelius can only be understood by reading what comes before the passage proclaimed for this Sunday. Peter had been an advocate of the view that Christianity was only for Jews (i.e., to become a Christian one must also become a Jew). He had come to change his mind and to recognize that Jesus Christ came for Gentiles too. We might conclude that we should not dwell on the fact that baptism makes us part of a holy people. Instead, our baptism might be understood primarily as a calling to embrace the mission of Christ and the suffering servant to go out into the world and "heal all those oppressed by the devil."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher Vogt is Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, and a Senior Fellow of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's University in New York City. He received his PhD in Theological Ethics from Boston College in 2001. His most sustained area of research and publication has dealt with the Christian Ars Moriendi tradition, attempting to articulate what dying well might look like from a contemporary Christian point of view as well as how Christians should endeavor to accompany the dying and face death themselves. He is the author of *Patience, Compassion, Hope*, and *The Christian Art of Dying Well*.

Oklee	Sunday	1/10/21	8:00 a.m.	Hankinson Franciscans
Goodridge	Sunday	1/10/21	10:00 a.m.	†Norman Adams
Grygla	Sunday	1/10/21	11:45 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Oklee	Tuesday	1/12/21	8:00 a.m.	Kim Johs
Oklee	Wednesday	1/13/21	8:00 a.m.	Intentions of P.C.
Oklee	Thursday	1/14/21	8:00 a.m.	Bachand Grandsons
Oklee	Friday	1/15/21	8:00 a.m.	Lois & Earl Vraa Family
Oklee	Sunday	1/17/21	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Goodridge	Sunday	1/17/21	10:00 a.m.	†Norman Adams
Grygla	Sunday	1/17/21	11:45 a.m.	†Clifford & †Marie Klammer

HELP WANTED

Job Notice: we are looking for some custodial help in Oklee. Pam Asselin has been doing a fine job, but she needs to step away now. We are looking for someone to come in once a week for half an hour to tidy up the bathrooms, plus coming in one other day each month for 3 or 4 hours to do more thorough cleaning. We are willing to pay a competitive rate, and you are free to come in to work when it suits your schedule. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested. This could be a good job for a teenager in need of some spending money.



Weekly Reflections

“And a voice came from the heavens, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’” - Mark 1:11

Through our baptism, we too, are daughters and sons of God. We are disciples of Jesus. As true disciples we are called to actively participate in our Catholic faith, not just be mere bystanders. This means working in collaboration with the Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being asked to use our gifts. Using our gifts for the benefit of others and not just for our own interests and comfort.

Tithing

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

CHRISTMAS

Adults Envelopes	\$2196.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$190.00</u>
Total	\$2433.00

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

December 27, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$3753.00
Loose Plate	\$470.00
St Mary's Mission	\$400.00
Flowers for Altar	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total	\$4673.00

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

January 3, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$2215.00
Flowers for Altar	<u>\$5.00</u>
Total	\$2220.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

CHRISTMAS

Adults Envelopes	<u>\$480.00</u>
Total	\$480.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

December 27, 2020

Adults Envelopes	\$526.00
Christmas	\$25.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$64.00</u>
Total	\$615.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

January 3, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$840.00
Ladies' Aid	\$300.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$60.00</u>
Total	\$1200.00

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St Francis Xavier's Oklee, MN

Sunday, January 10, 2021
Lector: Mary Lynn Bachand

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Lector: Mary Ann Lambert

Sunday, January 24, 2021
Lector: Jacob Melby

St Ann's Goodridge, MN

Sunday, January 10, 2021
Lector: Karyl

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Lector: Carol

Sunday, January 24, 2021
Lector: Carol

St Clement's Grygla, MN

Sunday, January 10, 2021
Lector: Laurie

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Lector: Daniel

Sunday, January 24, 2021
Lector: Dawn

RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE HELP:

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? Hurting? Angry? Feel helpless?

Retrouvaille is a lifeline for troubled marriages.

Since 1977, over 40,000 marriages saved worldwide.

Couples learn the tools to rediscover each other and heal their marriage. 100% confidential.

When: **February 5-7, 2021, April 9-11, 2021**

Where: Dakota Ridge Best Western Hotel, Eagan, MN

Contact: TCRRegistration@tcr-mn.org

More Information: <http://www.helpourmarriage.org>



St. Clement's in Grygla CHRISTMAS

Adults Envelopes	\$1535.00
Loose Plate	\$640.00
Total	\$2175.00

St. Clement's in Grygla December 27, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$175.00
Loose Plate	\$39.00
Total	\$214.00

St. Clement's in Grygla January 3, 2021

Adults Envelopes	\$595.00
Church of Africa	\$20.00
Retired Religious	\$20.00
Loose Plate	\$130.00
Total	\$765.00

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

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

