

PASTOR’S NOTES

Eucharist — *radicalized Passover*

This is the second of 5 weeks that our Sunday Gospel reading comes from the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel rather than from this year’s usual reading of Mark’s Gospel. The sixth chapter of John’s Gospel [John 6] is often referred to as the Bread of Life Discourse because Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Life {as he does in today’s Gospel reading}. He will go on to say – ‘that this bread is his body and blood – that whoever eats of his flesh and drinks of his blood will have eternal life – that whoever does not eat of his body and drink his blood has no life in them.’

John 6 is a deep spiritual reflection and interpretation of what Jesus declares at the Last Supper accounts [Mt. 26:26-30, Mk. 14:22-26, and Lk. 22:14-20] **when he speaks of the bread as His Body and the wine as His Blood.**

Jesus’ Last Supper occurred in the context of the most highly celebrated feast of the Jewish people even to this day – **the Passover**. The original Passover occurred 1200 years before Christ when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. Passover celebrates God freeing the Israelites from slavery, leading them through a 40-year Exodus in the desert and finally bestowing upon them the Promised Land of Israel. During each annual celebration of Passover Jewish people, even to this day, recall how the ‘angel of death’ passed over every Jewish home that had the blood of a lamb smeared upon their doorposts. Those homes without the lamb’s blood, like Pharaoh’s, suffered the death of the first born of both human and animal stock [Ex. 11:5]. This convinced Pharaoh to free the Israelites.

At each annual celebration of Passover Jewish people, even to this day, recall how their ancestors in faith fled Egypt only with unleavened bread, called *matzoh*, because they could not wait for the bread dough to raise. Besides that, throughout their 40-year sojourn in the desert God fed them daily with manna (*bread from heaven*).

At Christ’s Last Supper, which was celebrated during that year’s Passover festivities, Jesus takes these two Passover images - the lamb’s blood and the bread (matzah) – and declares the wine to be His Blood and the bread to be His Body. In doing this, **Christ radicalizes the Passover!!** He changes its inner meaning. There is a new Passover ritual at hand.

After leaving the Last Supper Christ goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane where he is arrested and later judged to be a criminal in the late hours of that night and early hours of the next morning. Later that day he is crucified. When his disciples saw his broken body and blood pouring from his pierced side, they remembered what he had said the night before on the Passover – this is my body as he gave them the bread (matzoh) of Passover to eat; this is my blood as he passed the cup representing the freedom that came from the Passover lamb.

With Christ’s resurrection disciples began to see God’s revelation that the ‘angel of death’ of the original Passover has been taken up into Christ’s life-giving Death and Resurrection in a **new Passover from earth to heaven**, not from the slave land of Egypt to the freedom land of Israel. This ‘new’ Passover is open to the human race who put themselves in communion with Jesus who radicalized the Jewish Passover.

From the earliest days of the Church, believers gathered on the first day of week (*Sunday – the day of the Lord’s resurrection*) for the ‘breaking of bread’ as Christ did at the Last Supper. Over the centuries this has become known as the **Eucharist**. What began 3200 years ago in the first Passover has been radicalized by Jesus. He ‘*who lived and died for us*’ comes to the altars of his Church and gives us His Body and Blood as the food of eternal life. We now eat ‘*the new matzoh/manna*’ and drink ‘*the blood of the new lamb of God*’ – the Passover food for entry into new life in heaven.

Such is the meaning of going to Mass!!



St. Leo’s Catholic Church
211 Langer Ave North
PO Box 340
Casselton ND
347-4609

St. Thomas Catholic Church
401 Third St. North
PO Box 22
Buffalo ND
633-5150



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 4, 2024

Weekend Mass Schedule for St. Leo’s and St. Thomas

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Thomas, 10:30 am St. Leo’s
2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Leo’s, 10:30 am St. Thomas
Every Saturday: 5:00 pm at St. Leo’s

Mass Intentions for the week of Aug 4:

Mon - Aug 5 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**
Tues - Aug 6 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**
NO MASS at St. Leo’s
Wed – Aug 7 – 9:00 am – **+JoAnn Lillis** by Gary & Delores Grommesh
Thurs – Aug 8 – 9:00 am – **Justin Gullekson Family**
Fri – Aug 9 – 9:00 am – **Adam Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman
Saturday – Aug 10 – 5:00 pm - Andy Garman by Casey & Anna Garman
Sunday - Aug 11 – St. Leo’s- 8:30 am - +Mary Ann Waxler by Richard Muscha
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org
Secretary: Delores Grommesh
Phone: 701-347-4609
E-mail: stleo@casselton.net
RE Coordinator: Patty Roth
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Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain:
Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088
Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher
Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo’s Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay
St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

Sacrament of Reconciliation
at St. Leo’s
4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday

at St. Thomas
8:00 - 8:15 am
before all 8:30 am Masses

~ Anytime by appointment
~ Communal Services during
Advent and Lent

New Members: If you are new to the area, we would love to have you as a registered member. To register as a new member of the parish, please visit with Fr. Ermer after Mass.


Please join in praying the Rosary
25 minutes before the Saturday evening
and Sunday morning Mass times.

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mon., Aug 5 - 11:00 am - 18th Annual Bishop’s Charity Golf Classic, Rose Creek Golf Course, Fargo
Tues., Aug 5 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory
Sat., Aug 10 - 6:00 pm - RE registration after 5 pm Mass
Sun., Aug 11 - 9:30 am - RE registration after 8:30 am Mass
Sun., Aug 11 - 2:00 pm - 68th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies, Whapeton
Wed., Aug 14 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas– Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day Vigil Mass
Thurs., Aug 15 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s– Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day Mass
Thurs., Aug 15 - 8:00 pm - RE registration after the 7 pm Holy Day Mass
Sat., Aug 17 - 6:00 pm - RE registration after the 5 pm Mass
Sun., Aug 18 - 11:30 am - RE registration after the 10:30 am Mass
Mon., Aug 19 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
Mon., Aug 19 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting
Wed., Aug 21 - 6:30 pm - All New Religious Education Families Parent Meeting
Thurs., Aug 22 - 5:00 pm - KC Corn and Brat picnic
Fri., Sat., Sept 6 & 7 - Redeemed Eucharistic Congress, Jamestown Civic Center

The Rosary is prayed before each weekend Mass at St. Leo’s. **We are in need of persons to lead the rosary** on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. This would be about 20 minutes before the 10:30am Masses on these days. Call the parish office if you can help.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Aug 10 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Aug 11 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Aug11 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Keith Biggers
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Lori Howard Bill Franck	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Mary Jendro Susan Kempel Paul Olsen	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Claire Halland Carly Hovelson
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Dennis & Cristie Killoran
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Roger & Marsha Kasowski
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES

Special prayers and blessings to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

Gary & Connie Bakken - 50 years on August 9
Ralph & Barb Nelson - 70 years on August 12

68th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies: Sunday, August 11th at the Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton, ND. Event starts at 2 pm. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit: carmelofmary.org

Catechist Retreats: One day retreat, your choice Friday, August 16th or Saturday, August 17th , 2024 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. The day will begin at 9 am and end at 4 pm. The theme this year will be on prayer in preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025. There will be time for silent reflection, Mass, lunch, sharing and a chance to enjoy the beautiful grounds. All participants are asked to bring their bible, paper and pen to journal. Registration deadline is Friday, August 9th. Registration fee is \$25 per person. Register on line at: www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat

Redeemed Eucharistic Congress: September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). **Early registration ends on August 1st. Cost before Aug 1 is \$35, after Aug 1 \$50.** *Registration forms and information are available on the tables behind the last pews in the church.* Or to register on line visit – www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed or call (701)356-7900

Diocese of Fargo: For events, upcoming retreats and more information about what is happening throughout the diocese, please visit: www.fargodiocese.org or see the flyers on the bulletin board in the church entry.

ST. LEO’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

- ◆ Letters were sent out to families this week regarding RE registration and other pertinent information.
- ◆ **All New RE Families** to our Religious Education program this year will be receiving a letter in the next week regarding an informational meeting for them to attend on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:30 pm.

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes: October 21-31, 2024

Bishop Folda personally invites you to join him on a pilgrimage where they will visit the holy sites of Fatima and Lourdes where Our Lady appeared to young people with her messages of conversion, peace and healing. In Fatima, we join thousands for the Rosary and candlelight procession. Lourdes, as you may know, is the place of the miraculous waters of healing that millions of people visit every year. We will visit the birthplace of St. Anthony of Portugal and see the burial place of St. Teresa of Avila along with many other saints and martyrs. There will also be a special stop to visit a church with a Eucharistic miracle. To visit and worship in these holy places can bring a renewal I our spiritual lives and greater understanding of the universal Church. Price of the trip is \$4900 based on double with flights out of Fargo. More information and registration is available at: www.fargodioces.org/pilgrimages

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see wheterh they follow my instructions or not.” ~ Exodus 16:4

When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, the surplus became wormy and rotten. In the same way today, self-reliance, pride and ego leads to hoarding and excessive surplus of goods and money. Living a stewardship lifestyle helps us discern our “wants” from our “needs”. Living a grateful and generous lifestyle reminds us that God will provide all that we need and that we have plenty to share.