

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fr. Ermer has asked me (Deacon Matt Kensok) to discuss the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Assumption of Mary is always celebrated on August 15th and is a holy day of obligation in the United States. This year, the solemnity falls on a Sunday, replacing the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a *dogma* of the Church. A dogma is a truth revealed by God, which the magisterium of the Church has declared as binding to the Christian people. Throughout her history, the Catholic Church has declared four Marian dogmas: Mary as the **Mother of God** (Council of Ephesus, 431), Mary's **Perpetual Virginity** (Lateran Council, 649), Mary's **Immaculate Conception** (*Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854), and finally Mary's **Assumption** (*Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950).

The dogma of the Assumption was defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. In that document, Pius XII answers the question: What is the Assumption? The Pope writes, "we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that **the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.**"

The dogma of the Assumption follows from the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. If Mary was preserved from all stain of sin, then she could also be preserved from the effects of sin, namely death and bodily corruption. Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox theologians have posited two views in answer to the question: Did Mary die before she was assumed into heaven? Some Catholics think that Mary did not die before being assumed into heaven, and the phrase, "having completed the course of her earthly life" leaves the question open. On the other hand, the Eastern Orthodox Church calls the feast the *Dormition of the Mother of God*. The term "dormition" refers to a "falling asleep" (death) of Mary—a temporary separation of her soul and body. Pius XII acknowledged this tradition without endorsing or rejecting it.

It might come as a surprise that this dogma was only defined about 70 years ago. But the tradition has been believed throughout the Church's history. Even in the Bible, in his heavenly vision, John sees "a woman, clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1). This "woman" has been interpreted as Israel or the Church, but also as Mary.

Several writers of the early Church acknowledged the Assumption of Mary, such as St. Germanus of Constantinople or St. John Damascene. As an example, Gregory of Tours, writing in the 6th century said, "[T]he Apostles took up her body on a bier and placed it in a tomb; and they guarded it, expecting the Lord to come. And behold, again the Lord stood by them; and the holy body having been received, He commanded that it be taken in a cloud into paradise: where now, rejoined to the soul, [Mary] rejoices with the Lord's chosen ones."

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a great reminder to us. Mary is now living with God in heaven with her body and soul. We too hope to be with God in heaven *with our resurrected bodies*, as we profess every Sunday in the Creed: "I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen."



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



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2021

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 15:

Mon - Aug 16 - 9:00 am - +**Paul Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Tues - Aug 17 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Randy Pfeifer** by Joe & Lora Killoran

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Aug 18 - 9:00 am - +**Christy Grommesh** by John & Lori Grommesh

Thurs - Aug 19 - 9:00 am - +**Lucille Matthey** by Marian Watson

Fri - Aug 20 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Aug 21 - 5:00 pm - +John 'Jack' Ermer by Dennis & Dora Elbert

Sun - Aug 22 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Julie Levos by Richard & Janice Muscha

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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Prayer Chain:

Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555

Kelsey Lako: 793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo's Directors: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon

St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

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.


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

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Aug 15 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Wed., Aug 18- 6:30 pm - 2<sup>nd</sup> RE Parent meeting & registration(*only need to attend one of the three meetings*)  
 Sun., Aug 22 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Aug 24- 6:30 pm- 3<sup>rd</sup> RE Parent meeting & registration(*only need to attend one of the three meetings*)  
 Wed., Aug 25 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting  
 Sun., Aug 29 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Wed., Sept 1 - 6:30 pm - RE Teacher Orientation meeting  
 Sun., Sept 5 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Sept 7 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Sept 8 - 6:30 pm - RE opening Mass  
 Thurs., Sept 9 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., Sept 12 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., Sept 19 - 11:30 am - Farwell party for Sue Knoll after the 10:30 am Mass

**Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages:** Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. Retrouvaille will be held locally in Fargo the weekends of October 22-24, 2021, March 11-13, 2022 and October 7-9, 2022. For more information visit: [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact them at (701)356-7962 or via email at: [RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org](mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org)

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Aug 21</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat of the Month | <b>Sunday Aug 22</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sun of the Month | <b>Sunday Aug 22</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Renee Anderson                                                                                   | Fred Eldridge                                                                                  | Keith Biggers                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Gary Grommesh                                                                                    | Dave Glennon                                                                                   |                                                              |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Ronnie Burchill<br>Samantha Burchill                                                             | Lauren Glennon<br>Sarah Monilaws                                                               | Clay Hovelson<br>Emercyn Killoran                            |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                       | Dennis & Cristie Killoran                                    |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                       | Bob & Judy Von Bank                                          |

## NEWS AND NOTES

This is the time of the year when we are looking for assistance in our Religious Education programs at St. Leo's and St. Thomas. If you would like to help, please call Fr. Ermer to see what needs doin'! 701-347-4609. Thanks!

And check out the retreat below- these happen every year and they are a great way to get the new school year off to a great start!

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**One- day Retreat: Friday, August 27, Maryvale, Valley City or Saturday, August 28, Lake Metigoshe Ministries, Bottineau:** Come away for a day of retreat at Maryvale, Valley City or Lake Metigoshe Ministries, Bottineau, where Fr. Andrew Jasinski will direct a retreat with a series of talks reflecting on the words, "Go to Joseph". These retreats are primarily for those involved in Religious Education, however, **all are welcome.** The day will begin at **9:00am** and end at **4:00pm.** Deadline to register for these retreats is Thursday, August 19. Please register on-line at :

[www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat](http://www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat) Any questions please contact [mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org](mailto:mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org). 701-356-7909.

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 at Carmel of Mary Monastery, 17765 78<sup>th</sup> St SE, Wahpeton, ND. The days events will include:

- 2 pm - Guest Speaker- Fr. Peter Anderl  
*Topic will be on the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and the lives of the Saints.*
- 3 pm - Rosary
- 5 pm - Holy Mass with Bishop John Folda
- 6 pm - Picnic

For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit their website at: [carmelofmary.org](http://carmelofmary.org)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." ~ Luke 1:46*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as our model of stewardship. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's will. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we too are called to reflect Christ to the world. We do this by living grateful and generous lives. We do this by putting other's needs before our wants.



**St. Leo's Knight of the Month:** The Knight for the month of **August** is **Adrian Kieffer.** Thank you Adrian for your dedication and the Council 9477 works you do for the KC's.

**The Knight of Columbus** would like to thank everyone that provided bars and donated their time to the KC Corn and Brat feed to help make it a huge success. Thanks to all of the people that came out and supported us this year, without the community support we couldn't make this happen.

*Thank you from the St. Leo's KC's*



### Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:

Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. There is a wonderful selection for all occasions available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

**Job Opportunities:** There are many job openings within the Fargo Diocese area. Check out the list on the bulletin board in the church entry.