

PASTOR'S NOTES

'Mass' — a highly ritualized meal (part two)

For four of the last 5 Sundays our Gospel readings have come from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel [Jn. 6]. In those readings Christ declares himself to be 'the bread of life' and that he gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. John 6 is seemingly Christ's own commentary on the Last Supper accounts in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke where Jesus takes the bread and wine of the Passover meal and declares it to be his body and blood and asks us to do this in remembrance of him. **True disciples must be a people of the Eucharist, i.e. go to Mass.**

Christ left us himself in the context of a meal. At any good meal friends gather – they tell stories – they eat food. **In a most profound sense the Eucharist is a highly ritualized meal.** In the first part of the Mass, called the Liturgy of the Word, we tell stories of faith. In the second part, called the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we eat sacred food – Christ's Body and Blood! Two weeks ago I offered some reflections of the Liturgy of the Word. Today I would like to offer some spiritual understanding of this second part -- the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It has three distinct parts: the **Offertory** followed by the **Eucharistic prayer** and ending with the **Communion rite.**

During the Offertory the Offertory collection is a highly spiritual event. Having heard the wonder of God's love in the Liturgy of the Word even to the point of Christ pouring out his entire life on the cross, the Offertory collections offers us the opportunity to give generously of ourselves as the Lord did/does for us. In the Offertory procession the bread and wine that will become the Lord's Body and Blood is accompanied by our Offertory collection [*a beginning sign of our communion with God*]. At the altar the bread and wine are prepared and finally in prayer we are told that this offering is a sacrifice [*a reference to Christ's sacrificial death on the cross*].

The second part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist – **the Eucharistic prayer** – begins with the Preface prayer that ends with the Holy, Holy. These are the words proclaimed by the heavenly hosts around the throne of God in heaven [Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8]. At Mass when we sing the Holy, Holy we are reminded that heaven and earth are meeting on our altar. During the Eucharistic prayer the priest prays the very words Christ spoke over the bread and wine of the Last Supper. This is called the prayer of consecration, which transforms the bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood. After the prayer of consecration every Eucharistic prayer reminds that the entire 3-fold Church is here with us – those already in heaven (*Mary and the saints*) {often called the Church Triumphant}; the Church on earth led by the Pope and each local bishop {often called the Church Militant}; and those who have died in faith but still in need of our purifying prayers {often called the Church Suffering}. We end the Eucharistic prayer by elevating Christ's Body and Blood remembering Christ's elevation on the Cross of Calvary.

As we enter the third and last part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist – **the Communion rite** – we pray the Lord's prayer as Christ taught and acknowledge the Father, who once again sends his Son into our midst as Lord and Savior! Then we are invited to share a sign of peace with those around us reminding us there can be no true love of God or communion with God without a loving communion with our brothers and sisters. Once that gesture of peace is offered we proclaim Christ is the Lamb of God whose broken body and spilled blood brought true peace to the world. On our part we acknowledge we are unworthy to partake of this ultimate gift of peace. Yet God desires us to live in communion with us, and so we come with crowned hands to do as he asked of us – *eat my Body! – drink my Blood!* After purifying the sacred vessels that held the Body and Blood of Christ we pray a final prayer and are blessed to go on our way glorifying God by living a life worthy of what we have just received. **Such is the glory of the Mass!!!**

Hopefully we come to Mass because like Peter in today's Gospel we can say,

"You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe and are convinced you are the Holy One of God."



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



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME August 22, 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 22:

Mon - Aug 23 - 9:00 am - ++**Luvern & Genevieve Tamerius** by Cecilia Gonzalez

Tues - Aug 24 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Aug 25 - 9:00 am - **Elizabeth Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman

Thurs - Aug 26 - 9:00 am - +**Stephen Levitsky** by Marian Watson

Fri - Aug 27 - 9:00 am - +**Msgr Jeffrey Wald**

Sat - Aug 28 - 5:00 pm - +Lois Sinner by Bea Bachmeier

Sun - Aug 29 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Marian Kasowski by Becky Elbert

St. Leo's - 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 22 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Aug 24 - 6:30 pm - **3<sup>rd</sup> and last RE Parent meeting & registration** (*parents - -mark your calendars*)  
 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  
 Wed., Sept 15 - 6:30 pm - RE classes begin; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
 Tues., Sept 14 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory  
 Sun., Sept 19 - 11:30 am - Farwell party for Sue Knoll after the 10:30 am Mass  
 Mon., Sept 20 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Sept 21 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory

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

**Robert & Judith Von Bank - 59 years on August 25**

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Aug 28</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sat of the Month | <b>Sunday Aug 29</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Aug 29</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of the Month |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                                                        | Alecia Killoran                                             | Darcee Rehovsky                                                                                 |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Paulette Schmitt                                                                                 |                                                             | Mark Rehovsky                                                                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Lillian Roth<br>Olivea Roth<br>Evelyn Roth                                                       | Hallie Besette<br>Claire Halland                            | Paris Mack<br>Parker Mack                                                                       |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | Dennis & Cristie Killoran                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | Larry & Penny Zaun                                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                        |

## 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 Patty Roth 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.

**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) Retrouvaille weekends are also held in St. Cloud and Minneapolis MN. For more information please see the brochures on the bulletin board.

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Ava Kay Grom-mesh, daughter of Paul and Kaylyn.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.*

**Beginning Experience "Coping with Life Alone":** A 10 week program offered for widowed, divorced or separated persons. Helping to understand the grieving process and the stages of grief. Led by teams of peers who have experienced similar losses in their own lives. Starts on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Liberty Brethren Lutheran Church, 1702 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Fargo. Registration at 6 pm and sessions starts at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$45. Information line, please call 701-277-8784 to leave a message.



### 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.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." ~ Joshua 24:15*

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something and not merely talk about it!