

PASTOR'S NOTES

'Going to Mass' — a highly ritualized meal

In this third Eucharistic reflection and the subject of 'going to Mass', I would like to visit how the Mass is structured and explain some of the ritual actions that are found in the Mass. This reflection will take us up to the Offertory time.

Last week's reflection examined how at the Last Supper Christ radicalized the Jewish Passover meal when he took the bread and wine of the Passover meal and declared it to be his body and blood. He asked us to do this in remembrance of him. **In essence Jesus left us himself in the context of a meal.**

Meals are very important events in all of our lives. A meal is never a 'once -in-a-lifetime' occasion. We constantly need to sustain our lives. Jesus knew that rich understanding and left the Eucharist as a reminder of our constant need for spiritual nourishment. Secondly, a meal implies the gathering of people usually having something in common and therefore, telling of stories and eating food. **Such is the structure of a meal and such is the structure of the Eucharist.**

The Eucharist (the Mass) is structured in that two-fold way: there is the first part of the Mass through the Prayers of the Faithful, which is known as the Liturgy of the Word [telling the stories of God's interaction with the human family]. The second part of Mass begins with the Offertory and ends with receiving Communion and final prayer. This is known as the Liturgy of the Eucharist [eating a meal by feeding on the Lord's Body and Blood]. **In its deepest sense 'going to Mass' is a highly ritualized meal.**

All good meals have introductory parts (e.g. - preparing oneself like hand washing, greeting people, small talk, etc.). Then comes serious conversations and eating of the meal. **Likewise, the Mass has introductory rites.**

In preparing for the Eucharistic meal we sign ourselves with holy water acknowledging our entry into church life through the waters of baptism. We genuflect towards the tabernacle acknowledging God's presence in our midst. After spending a short time in personal prayer we rise and together sing with joy our being invited to table with the Lord. The priest kisses the altar signifying a place of great honor [from which the Lord's Body and Blood will be given at Communion]. Having made a private sign of the Cross upon entering the church we now make a communal sign of the Cross marking us as the Body of Christ (the Church).

Being invited to communion with God should humble us and make us aware of our unworthiness. We do this by calling to mind our sins and seeking God's mercy. We believe his mercy triumphs and so we sing the Gloria. Having properly prepared ourselves for Mass the priest prays the Opening Prayer [Collect], which looks forward to the spirit of the stories [Liturgy of the Word] we are about to hear.

The Old Testament readings reveal that God's love affair with humanity began long before the coming of Christ. The New Testament readings inform us that the fullness of God's love has come in the person of his beloved son – Jesus of Nazareth. For that reason the Gospel readings hold pride of place and is proclaimed by a deacon or priest. The actual Gospel words to be proclaimed are first traced with the sign of the Cross and then traced on the priest's/deacon's forehead, lips and heart. At the end of the Gospel these very words are kissed paralleling the earlier kissing of the altar signifying the union of word and sacrament.

In the homily the words of Scripture are broken open and made applicable to our daily lives. We summarize this eternal work of God by professing the Creed which acknowledges the Father sending his Son into history and the Holy Spirit keeping alive the memory of Christ by recalling his life, making him present to us and putting us in communion with our Lord and Savior and fellow believers. We end the first part of Mass [Liturgy of the Word] by offering God our prayers of need, thanks and praise for the wonder of love and splendor of truth.

In the next installment we will turn our attention to the structure and many ritual actions found in the second part of the Mass [Liturgy of the Eucharist].



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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME August 8, 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 8:

Mon - Aug 9 - 9:00 am - **Adam Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman

Tues - Aug 10 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's - **NO MASS**

Wed - Aug 11 - 9:00 am - **+Kenny Habiger** by Mary Kempel

Thurs - Aug 12 - 9:00 am - **Monica Qvale** by Shirley Marek

Fri - Aug 13 - 9:00 am - **+Lois Myers** by Marian Watson

Sat - Aug 14 - 5:00 pm - +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman

Sun - Aug 15 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +John 'Jack' Ermer by Larry & Penny Zaun

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 8 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Aug 10 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Aug 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting  
**Thurs., Aug 12 - 5:30- 7:30 pm - KC Corn and Brat feed**  
 Thurs. Aug 12- 6:30 pm- 1<sup>st</sup> RE Parent meeting & registration (*only need to attend one of the three meetings*)  
 Sun.,/Holy Day- Aug 15- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 10:30 am Mass at St. Leo's in Casselton  
 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  
 Sun., Sept 19 - 11:30 am - Farwell party for Sue Knoll after the 10:30 am Mass

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**Ralph & Barb Nelson - 67 years on August 12**  
**Robert & Judith Von Bank - 59 years on August 25**

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Aug 14</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of the Month | <b>Sunday Aug 15</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Aug 15</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of the Month |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Mark Voss                                                                                        | Jackie Vavra                                                | Steve Carvell                                                                                   |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Bill Franck                                                                                      |                                                             | Jeff Grommesh                                                                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Hayden Faleide<br>Sophie Scherweit                                                               | Gavin Besette<br>Abigail Killoran                           | Mikaela Prochnow<br>Katherine Sullivan                                                          |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | Dennis & Cristie Killoran                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                                          | <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 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:

*"Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!" ~ 1 Kings 19:7*

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we were not designed to do it on our own, we need His help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist, we join our sacrifice with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and receive the strength and courage to be His joyful disciples.



Council 9477

**St. Leo's  
Knights of Columbus  
Corn & Brat Feed  
Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Free will offering  
Proceeds will support  
local charities.**

### 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 works you do for the KC's. It is greatly appreciated.



### 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.