

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Starting the New Year 'on the right foot'

I would suspect everyone hopes that 2021 will be a better year than the one that has just passed.

### Getting back to 'normal' would be great!

Perhaps one of the best ways we can do that is to review past promises/vows we have made (**especially to God**). In fact keeping such promises is one of the ways we fulfill the First Commandment. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, *"Baptism and Confirmation, Matrimony and Holy Orders always entail promises ... Fidelity to promises made to God is a sign of the respect owed to the divine majesty and of love for a faithful God."* [2101]

Here is a summary of those promises:

#### > Parents as they have their children baptized

"accept the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith";

"bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor";

"See that the divine life which God gives (this child) is kept safe from the power of sin..."

**in addition and in the name of their child** – the parents renounce Satan, all his works and empty show and make a three-fold profession of faith in the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

#### > For those confirmed

Confirmands renew for themselves what their parents declared for them at their baptism by renouncing Satan, all his works and empty show and make a 4-fold profession of faith in which belief in the Holy Spirit is divided into 2 parts of which the first part asks — *"Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?"*. Desiring to be empowered by the seven (7) gifts of the Holy Spirit [knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, piety, fortitude and fear of the Lord] we are called to be saints.

#### > For those married

"have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?"

"will you love and honor each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?"

"will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them according according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

Then the vows state that they take each other as husband or wife by declaring:

*"I promise to be true to you in good times and bad, in sickness and in health. I will love and honor you all the days of my life."*

#### > For those ordained to the priesthood

"(be) a conscientious fellow worker with the bishops in caring for the Lord's flock";

"celebrate the mysteries of Christ faithfully ... for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people";

"exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and explaining the Catholic faith";

"consecrate your life to God ... unite yourself more closely every day to Christ ..."

***May 2021 be blessed by the fulfillment of our promises!!***



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**December 27, 2020**

### 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 Dec 27:

Mon - Dec 28 - 9:00 am - +**Ernest Watson** by Marian Watson

Tues - Dec 29 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**

*St. Leo's - NO MASS*

Wed - Dec 30 - 9:00 am - +**Don Gill** by Sandie Nystrom

Thurs., Dec 31 - 9:00 am - **NO Daily Mass at St. Leo's**

**Thurs- Dec 31- Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day- St. Thomas- 5:00 pm- +Harold Kasowski**

**Fri - Jan 1 - Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day- St. Leo's 10:00 am - +Greg Dimmer**

**Sat - Jan 2 - 5:00 pm - +Janice Miller by Don & Audrey Cramer**

**Sun - Jan 3 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Owen Steckler by Keith & Joni Biggers**

**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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**Liturgy/RE:** Sue Knoll

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**Website:** www.stleosnd.org

**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

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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., Dec 27 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass

Wed., Dec 30 - NO RE Classes at St. Leo's and St. Thomas

**Thurs., Dec 31- 5:00 pm- Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day- Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**

**Fri., Jan 1 - 10:00 am - Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day - Mass at St. Leo's**

Tues., Jan 5 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Wed., Jan 6 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group B

6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group B, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm

6:15 pm - Junior class meets

Thurs., Jan 7 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church

Sun., Jan 10 - 4:00 pm - RE 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Spirit of Life Center

Mon., Jan 11 - 7:00 pm - Reconciliation parent meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Tues., Jan 12 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Thurs., Jan 14 - 12:00 noon - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Thurs., Jan 14 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas environment:

#### St. Leo's:

Bea Bachmeier

Don & Audrey Cramer

Theresa Dooley

Skip & Audrey Doyle

Chris & Emily Eisenbeisz

Bill & Mona Franck

in memory of Vince Bachmeier & Ernest Fritel

in honor and memory of all living & deceased family & friends

in memory of all deceased Dooley & Muscha family members

in honor of all St. Leo's parishioners

in memory of Tom Newcomb

in memory of Joe & Helen Krumm, Joe Franck, Cathy & Gerald Hulm,

Andrew & Hilda Hulm, Dee & Gillis Hageman and

in honor of Helen Franck

in memory of Michael & James Georgeson

in honor of all living family members

in memory of Kathryn Kent

in memory of Margaret & Joe Muscha and Evelyn & Jake Schlenker

in honor of living members of Nicolai & Nystrom Family

in memory of Ray & Clarice Schmitt and

Leonard & Doris Brandenburg

in honor and memory of all living & deceased family members

in memory of Al & Sally Artz and Neil Artz

in memory of Dona Weber

Betty Georgeson Heyerman

Ron & Lorraine Kensok

Bill, Karen, Scott, Sheryl & Rich Kent

Richard & Janice Muscha

Sandra Nicolai Nystrom


Jim & Paulette Schmitt

Jane Sinner

Lois Titus

Hank Weber

### *Upcoming Ministry Schedule*

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 2<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Jan 3<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday Jan 3<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tricia Gegelman<br>Lois Titus                   | Larry Zaun                                     | Anna Garman<br>Gavin Oberlander                          |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Mona Franck                                     |                                                | Jerry Volk                                               |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Nikita Howard<br>Ethan Richard                  |                                                | Addison Hushka<br>Lucas Miller<br>Andy or Anthony Garman |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        |                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                 |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        |                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                 |

**A Christmas Season "Thank You":** As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season, we extend a special thanks to all the people who helped make our Christmas so special - the environment decorators, the Mass coordinators, Lectors, EMHCs, Mass servers, ushers, and musicians. We thank those who took time out of busy schedules to plan, prepare, and practice so that everything we did gave glory to God. Have a blessed New Year!

**2020 Contributors:** We ask that you please try and have your 2020 contributions in before December 31<sup>st</sup>. IRS regulations say that if a donor wants to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for 2020 for income tax purposes, it must be received or post-marked by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Checks dated for December 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to your 2020 offertory statement and check dated January 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited to your 2021 statements. Thank you.

### **This week's Stewardship moment:**

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, give the gift of forgiveness with someone — a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.