

PASTOR'S NOTES

Two (2) Prayer requests this week —

Our personal and family lives are filled with many pressing needs seeking the power and gift of prayer. Not the least of which is the COVID pandemic affecting the whole world. On top of that two historical events have plagued the human family of which the Church earnestly seeks our prayers for healing and renewal of minds and hearts.

1) January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Two great splits have happened in the history of Christianity. One took place in the 1000s when Christian churches split between the East and the West. Those Eastern churches are today collectively known as the Orthodox churches. In the 1500s Western Christianity suffered a rupture that is commonly known as the Reformation. Out of that age has come a number of denominations that are collectively known as Protestant churches.

Both of these divisions within Christianity go against the very will of Christ, who on the night before he died prayed *'that all may be one as he and the Father are one'*. [Jn. 17:21]

In the early 1900s an Episcopalian priest, Fr. Paul Wattson, who later became Catholic, began what has come to be known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He chose the dates between January 18th and January 25th as an octave (8 days) of prayer. At that time January 18th celebrated the Chair of St. Peter (the primacy of Pope) and January 25th celebrates the Conversion of St. Paul and his mission to convert the Gentile world to Christianity.

The Vatican II [1962-65] document - The Decree on Ecumenism - begins with this statement, "**The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council.**" In 1995 the late Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical letter on ecumenism - Ut Unum Sint (That All May be One) - and states within it, "**At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to following the path of the ecumenical venture ...**" {3}, and exhorts, "**all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to participate actively in the work of ecumenism.**" {8}

Your prayers for the restoration of Christian unity are deeply appreciated.

2) January 22nd is the 48th anniversary of two Supreme Court decisions that effectively legalized abortion in the United States of America.

Those two Supreme Court decisions {**Roe v. Wade; Doe v. Bolton**} have resulted in the death of over 60 million babies all in the name of 'freedom of choice'. That is 9 times the number of deaths attributed to the concentration camps of Nazi Germany during World War II or more than the present size of Italy's population.

Those Supreme Court decisions has galvanized the *Pro-Life Movement* in its defense of the life of the most vulnerable, the unborn, and its work of building a culture of life within a culture that often seems more comfortable with death and being 'a throwaway' society.

The United States Catholic Bishops have designated January 22nd as a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. As individuals we are asked to observe this day through penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

Your prayers for the legal protection of unborn children are deeply appreciated.



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



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 17, 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 Jan 17:

Mon - Jan 18 - 9:00 am - +**John 'Jack' Ermer** by Scott & Patty Carew

Tues - Jan 19 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Mary Castellano**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Jan 20 - 9:00 am - +**Doris Brandenburg** by Ken & Marlene Schaan

Thurs., Jan 21 - 9:00 am - +**Lucille Matthey** by Marian Watson

Fri - Jan 22 - 9:00 am - **Jesse Ostrowski** by Rob & Jen Punton

Sat - Jan 23 - 5:00 pm - +Vincent Nicolai by Sandie Nystrom

Sun - Jan 24 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Brent Siverson by Donna Siverson
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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., Jan 17 - 11:30 am - KC Grab and Go Cinnamon and Caramel rolls after 10:30 am Mass  
 Tues., Jan 19 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Jan 20 - 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 21 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church  
 Sun., Jan 24 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass  
 Sun., Jan 24 - 4:00 pm - RE 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Jan 26 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Jan 27 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Thurs., Jan 28 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Linus and Margaret Kensok and family on the death of their son-in-law, Dale Cox.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4*

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 23</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 24</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 24</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                    | Fred Eldridge                                              | Gary Milbrandt                                               |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Paulette Schmitt                                             | Denise Bartholomay                                         |                                                              |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Lillian Roth<br>Olivea Roth<br>Evelyn Roth                   | Claire Glennon<br>Sarah Monilaws                           | Jami Vavra                                                   |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                |                                                              |                                                            |                                                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**PETER'S PENCE:** Sunday, **January 24<sup>th</sup>** has been designated as *Peter's Pence* Sunday. Envelopes for this collection are found with your regular collection envelopes. This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father and provides emergency assistance to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and persecution. Please consider giving generously. Thank you.

**Day of Prayer and Penance for Unborn Children:** 7:00 pm Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo. The prayer service is being held in observance of the liturgical Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, marking the 48th anniversary of legalization of abortion in our nation. In addition to this time of prayer, the faithful are encouraged to do some form of fasting or self-denial for the healing of our nation from the effects of abortion on families, our culture, and society.

**Nationwide Prayer Vigil for Life:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) encourages Catholics across the country to observe a nationwide prayer vigil from Thurs., Jan. 28 to Fri., Jan 29 marking the 48th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* legalizing abortion in the United States. The vigil will begin with a live broadcast at 7 pm on Thurs., Jan 28 from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC with a rosary, followed by Mass. Live broadcasts will be provided by EWTN Network and will also be available via live-stream on the Basilica's website at: [nationalshrine.org](http://nationalshrine.org). After the Mass and throughout the night, holy hours led by bishops from various dioceses around the country will be broadcast at the USCCB's website: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)



### 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 a reasonable purchase price including Valentines Day cards. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

**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 March 5-7, 2021 in Fargo. For more information visit: [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: [RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org](mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org)

**CANCELLED - REDEEMED Trused Sisters Women's Conference** scheduled for February 19-20, 2021 has been cancelled.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38*

What are you looking for? Are you wasting your time looking for the material comforts of the world? Or, is your heart longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God? Take time, each day, in silence and ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do.