

PASTOR'S NOTES

Year of St. Joseph

On December 8th of this past year Pope Francis asked Catholics throughout the world to dedicate this coming year (**December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021**) to St. Joseph. This year will be the 150th anniversary of St. Pius IX's proclamation of Joseph as Patron of the Catholic Church.

With this declaration Pope Francis wrote an apostolic letter entitled *Patris Corde* which is translated **'With A Father's Love'**. As stated in this letter Pope Francis wants to *"share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure (Joseph) so close to our own human experience"*.

In that light Pope Francis sees Joseph as a person like many of us in these pandemic days whose *"lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked"*. In a similar vein Joseph is *"the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."* For Pope Francis Joseph embodies and gives witness to many virtuous and zealous ways of Christian living.

With this understanding Pope Francis presents the fatherhood of Joseph under seven(7) titles:

1) **a beloved father**

Being the spouse of Mary and father of Jesus he places himself at 'the service of the entire plan of salvation'. He devotes himself completely to them in his life and work, especially to the Messiah who grows to maturity in his house. **Such is a beloved father.**

2) **a tender and loving father**

Beyond teaching Jesus to walk and bending down and feeding him as any tender and loving father does, salvation is worked through our weaknesses. Knowing his weaknesses, Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing He can work through fears, frailties and weaknesses all the while letting God steer the course. **Such is a tender and loving father.**

3) **an obedient father**

Four (4) times God reveals his plans to Joseph through dreams and Joseph always obeys. Just as Mary and Joseph obeyed all the prescriptions of Jewish law (e.g. - circumcision, Passover, etc.), Jesus comes to learn obedience, even 'obedience to death on the Cross'. **Such is an obedient father.**

4) **an accepting father**

Joseph exposes a spiritual path that is not one of explanation; rather one of acceptance. Joseph puts aside his own ideas and confronts reality with open eyes. Through such acceptance he catches a glimpse of a bigger picture, a broader history and life with a deeper meaning. **Such is an accepting father.**

5) **a creatively courageous father**

In accepting and embracing his personal history Joseph does not remain passive nor becomes 'a door mat'. When finding no room at the inn, Joseph finds a manger. When learning Herod seeks his son's life Joseph rises in the middle of the night and sets out on his flight to Egypt. Joseph believes that violence and force will not defeat God's saving plan. **Such is a creatively courageous father.**

6) **a working father**

Often known as Joseph the Worker, Joseph exemplifies and witnesses to Jesus the dignity of work. All dignified work participates in 'the work of salvation'. Work exists to serve humanity and build up the human community all the while hastening the coming of God's Kingdom. **Such is a working father.**

7) **a father in the shadows**

In all the many attributes of Joseph as a father, he *"was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father"*. As earthly father he introduces Jesus to life and reality, not to possess and control, but to bestow happiness that comes when one offers their life as self-gift. With this a father realizes *"that he is most father and educator at the point he becomes 'useless' and sees his son become independent and knows his child is not his own, but merely one entrusted to his care"*. **Such is a father in the shadows.**



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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 24, 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 24:

Mon - Jan 25 - 9:00 am - +Ed Mergner by Marian Watson

Tues - Jan 26 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Souls in purgatory

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Jan 27 - 9:00 am - +Dona Weber by Hank Weber

Thurs., Jan 28 - 9:00 am - ++John & Clara Weber by Renee Anderson

Fri - Jan 29 - 9:00 am - +George Erickson by Sandi Nystrom

Sat - Jan 30 - 5:00 pm - ++Clem & Irene Pollock by Missy Poulson

Sun - Jan 31 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Marian Kasowski 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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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., 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 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group A  
     6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group A, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 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  
 Sun., Jan 31 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass  
 Tues., Feb 2 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns Committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Thurs., Feb 4 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church  
 Sun., Feb 7 - 4:00 pm - RE 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Feb 9 - 7:00 pm - Religious Education Committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Patty Roth and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Cheryl Schuler.

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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 30</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 31</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 31</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                    | Larry Zaun                                                  | Darcee Rehovsky                                             |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Richard Muscha                                               |                                                             | Jerry Volk                                                  |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | Gavin Besette                                               | Paris Mack<br>Parker Mack                                   |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                |                                                              |                                                             |                                                             |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Samantha Faye Kieffer, daughter of Justin and Michelle.

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

**Hard Sayings: How to Answer Bible Difficulties:** 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo. Trent Horn, author of *Hard Sayings: How to Answer Bible Difficulties* and Catholic Answers apologist, offers clear, reasonable, and Catholic keys to unlocking scripture's true meaning. After the presentation, you'll be equipped to answer the toughest questions skeptics ask about the Bible. The event is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Sponsored by the Diocese of Fargo. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit: [fargodiocese.org](http://fargodiocese.org)

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

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.