

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Why baptism for Jesus? – *He is sinless!!*

For most Christians baptism is associated with the removal of original sin from our souls. Today's feast celebrates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan river. **But Jesus is God and sin can have no part of God. So why did Jesus get baptized? He is sinless and has no need of baptism!** Let us remember John preached a baptism of repentance, not the removal of original sin. The grace of removing the stain of original sin only comes after Christ's Death & Resurrection, his Ascension into heaven and the bestowal of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. A point to be made is that whenever there is God-ward movement of people, God will be present in their midst. Therefore, Jesus is at the Jordan river as John the Baptist calls people to repent of their sins. The Church notes a number of points to be found in this feat of the Baptism of the Lord:

- > **Christ's Baptism** professes his solidarity with the human race including the sin we bear because of our descent from our first parents and their Fall from grace. *(In essence, this becomes the overarching mission of Christ – the restoration of the likeness of God that was lost by the sin of Adam and Eve.)*

As St. Cyril of Alexandria writes, "In a plan of surpassing beauty the Creator of the universe decreed the renewal of all things in Christ. In his design for restoring human nature to its original goodness, he gave a promise that he would pour out on it the Holy Spirit along with his other gifts ... for the Father is to accept us in Christ as his adopted children ... He (Christ) receives it (the Spirit) to renew our nature in its entirety and to make it whole again."

- > **Christ's baptism** reveals the fact of Christ's divine sonship when the Father's voice declares, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"

- > **Christ's Baptism** in the waters of the Jordan river makes all the waters of baptism holy.

As St. Maximus of Turin declares, "*Christ is baptized not to be made holy by the water, but to make the waters holy... For when the Savior is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages.*"

- > Beyond the Father's voice **Christ's baptism** includes the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. This suggests the appointment and anointing (commissioning) of Christ who, in turn, will now begin his public ministry in the land of Israel. *(In effect this feast concludes the Christmas season and is the transition feast into Christ's 3-year public ministry and mission of redeeming the human race culminating in his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending forth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.*

### Thank you, Matthew

Our seminarian, Matthew Kensok, will be returning to Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland this week for the second semester of his third year of theological formation. If all goes well, Matthew will be ordained a transitional deacon this coming June and ordained a priest in June of 2022.

During his time here from Thanksgiving to mid-January, Matthew was involved in a number of pastoral works (e.g. - training Mass servers, teach RE classes, cantoring for Mass, reading, held an Advent Bible Study, helping clean and prepare a house for sale of an elderly widow, doing liturgical decorations, attended parish meetings, worked on Baptismal Anniversary cards, recorded names in a marriage book from 1908-1965, etc.). We certainly hope this has been a good experience in his pastoral formation. Please keep Matthew in your prayers and once again, Matthew – **thank you for your presence and help. It has been great!**

### Vaccinations for COVID

Please see the bulletin insert for answers to questions about COVID vaccinations.



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 Baptism of the Lord* January 10, 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 10:

Mon - Jan 11 - 9:00 am - **Anthony Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman

Tues - Jan 12 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Msgr. Jeff Wald**

*St. Leo's - NO MASS*

Wed - Jan 13 - 9:00 am - **Harriet Dimmer** by Renee Anderson

Thurs., Jan 14 - 9:00 am - **Larry Zaun** by Missy Poulson

Fri - Jan 15 - 9:00 am - **+Janice Miller** by Keith & Barb Marschke

**Sat - Jan 16 - 5:00 pm - +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman**

**Sun - Jan 17 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Jim Floyd by Keith & Joni Biggers**

**St. Leo's - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes**

### Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer

**E-mail:** james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

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**Liturgy/RE:** Sue Knoll

Phone: 701-347-4609

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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., Jan 10 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass  
 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  
 Wed., Jan 13 - 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  
 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  
 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  
 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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 16</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 17</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 17</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Renee Anderson                                               | Keith Biggers                                               | Steve Carvell                                               |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Delores Grommesh                                             |                                                             | Joan Carvell                                                |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Cassie Bartholomay                                           | Rudi Wendel                                                 | Logan Prochnow<br>Daniel Sullivan<br>Alex Sullivan          |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     |                                                             | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    |

## 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.

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's beginning with Mass at 5:15 pm; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. St. Anthony's requires attendees to wear a mask and to follow social distancing guidelines. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Members are invited to bring food pantry donations. Any

**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.

**Hard Sayings: How to Answer Bible Difficulties:** 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Sts. Anne and 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 visit: [fargodiocese.org](http://fargodiocese.org).

**Knights of Columbus Grab & Go Rolls:** Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. after the 10:30 am Mass the KC's will be doing a grab & go of cinnamon or caramel rolls. The rolls will be sold in packets of either one or 4 rolls. Free will offering.

**Catholic Man Night: Men Meeting Jesus:** Pray and socialize with the guys. Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Anthony's of Padua Church, Fargo. 6:00 to 7:00 pm - Adoration and confessions. 7:00 to 8:00 pm - talk and discussion. All area men are invited!

**CANCELLED - REDEEMED Trusted Sisters Women's Conference :** Due to ongoing concerns regarding the current pandemic, the Redeemed Women's Conference that was scheduled for February 19-20, 2021 has been cancelled.

**Follow the Diocese of Fargo** for more information on events and happenings throughout the Diocese at:

[www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org)  
[www.facebook.com/fargodiocese](https://www.facebook.com/fargodiocese)  
[www.twitter.com/fargodiocese](https://www.twitter.com/fargodiocese)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" - Mark 1:11*

Through our baptism, we too, are daughters and sons of God. We are disciples of Jesus. As true disciples we are called to actively participate in our Catholic faith, not just be mere bystanders. This means working in collaboration with Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being asked to use our gifts. Using our gifts for the benefit of others and not just for our own interests and comfort.