

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### A Combo – Annual meeting & 'Parish synod'

On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> St. Leo's will be having their annual parish meeting in combination with their 'parish synod' for all parishioners following the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Spirit of Life Center. Such events seem to call forth a little reflection on parish life in general.

Years ago parish life played a central part in people's daily lives. Spiritual and social activities were a commonly part of a church's weekly life. There was the CYO for the youth, the Knights of Columbus for the men and altar societies/sodalities for women. Obviously life has changed: the explosion of social media, the ease of transportation, the all-encompassing place of sports, the rise of technology, etc. People find themselves going a thousand different directions. In all of this parish life has taken a hit!

Yet when one thinks about it -- **the essence of parish life remains the same.** For people of faith, parish life is structured around the essentials of the spiritual life.

**Lives of faith** need to be nurtured and lived in parish settings that offer camaraderie and fellowship with places to pray, and offer public praise and worship.

Beyond meeting Christ and others in prayer and sacraments **lives of faith** need to be formed in the depth and wisdom of God's call to virtue and holiness.

Certainly **lives of faith** are called beyond themselves to the care of others in the many needs of the human condition.

**Lives of faith** know the certainty of death but bask in the promise of the resurrection and celebrate this belief in our care for the dying and our respect for the dead.

In all of this **lives of faith** understand the need for facilities and the stewardship of finances to underwrite this enterprise of faith.

In summary this is the very way our parish life is structured – **committees on liturgy, education, social concerns, cemetery operations and finance and administration.**

A parish is not just a place where sacraments are celebrated and religion classes are taught. Hopefully **a parish is a community of people (a family)** who encounter one another as believers, disciples, and brothers and sisters in Christ. The vibrancy of parish life is a concerted effort of all parishioners who honor their heritage, give of themselves, affirm others, seek the best, live in thanksgiving, all the while firmly believing the best lies ahead when the Lord says to us, "*Well done good and faithful servant! Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.*"

This year we would like to combine our 'parish synod' with our annual meeting. After a short summary by the chairpersons of our 5 parish committees we would like to break up into groups of six to eight persons and conduct our 'parish synod'. A 'parish synod' is the parishioners coming together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reflect, discuss and discern together what the Holy Spirit is asking of us as parishioners of St. Leo's parish and in the Catholic Church at large – **What are our best practices?**

**What could be done better? What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Catholic Church as we enter the Third Millennium of our existence? Do we have shared goals as the Church?**

**What can be done to fix shortcomings? Etc.**

**Your participation and input is deeply sought and wanted!** To entice your attendance we will be serving a nice meal, have child care available with the hope of wrapping things up by 1 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!



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 23, 2022

### 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 23:

Mon - Jan 24 – 11:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran

Tues - Jan 25 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**

*St. Leo's — NO MASS*

Wed - Jan 26 – 9:00 am - +**Linus Kensok** by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles

Thurs - Jan 27 – 9:00 am - **Ted & Virginia Pedeliski**

Fri., Jan 28 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

**Sat - Jan 29 - 5:00 pm - +Jerry Volk by DeLilah Volk**

**Sun - Jan 30 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Steve Schmidt by Frank & Laura 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

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

**RE Coordinator:** Patty Roth/Nicole Scherweit

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

**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.

Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Jan 23 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Mon., Jan 24 - 7:00 pm - Reconciliation Parent meeting  
 Tues., Jan 25 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 26 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
     6:30 pm - St. Leo's RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
     K/1st grade - Group A meets  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Wed., Jan 26 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Sun., Jan 30 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Feb 1 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory  
**Sun., Feb 6- 11:30 am- St. Leo's Annual Parish & 'synod' meeting after 10:30 am Mass**  
 Tues., Feb 8 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Feb 10 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., Feb 13 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass



**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.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Jan 29</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo's</i>	<b>Sunday Jan 30</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Sunday Jan 30</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo's</i>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>KC</b> <b>Memorial</b> <b>Mass</b>	Gary Milbrandt	Darcee Rehovsky
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>			Mark Rehovsky
<b>Altar Servers</b>		Carly Hovelson Hannah Besette	Paris/Parker Mack Daniel Sullivan
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>		<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<b>Gift Bearers</b>		Jurgen & Barb Suhr	<i>Volunteers needed</i>

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Miles Thomas Schiltz, son of Chad and Melinda.

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

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Paul Spooner and his family on the death of his sister, Nancy Spooner.

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

**St. Peter Lutheran Church Supper for Men:** Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 4713 150<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Rural Leonard, ND. Men of all faiths are welcome to join us for an evening of entertainment and fellowship. Featured speaker will be Dr. Sean Roesler. A meal of soup and sandwiches will be served. Cost of event is \$15.

**Fargo VA Medical Foster Home Program** provides cost-effective, non-institutional care for Veterans who are unable to live independently and choose a private family setting. The VA Medical Foster Home program partners with people with caregiving experience who live within a 65 mile radius of Fargo-Moorhead and who have extra room in their homes and hearts to care for our nation's heroes. The cost for care in a Medical Foster Home is determined based on the Veteran's care needs. This is sometimes paid via private pay, potential VA Regional Office funding, and through county waiver funding if the Veteran is eligible for Medical Assistance. We currently have openings in our homes in West Fargo and Moorhead. If you know of a Veteran in need or are interested in becoming a caregiver, please contact Kristin Swenson, Medical Foster Home Program Coordinator at 1-800-410-9723, Ext 3940, or email: [Kristin.Swenson@va.gov](mailto:Kristin.Swenson@va.gov)

**Holy Spirit Valentine Wine & Dine:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1420 7<sup>th</sup> St N, Fargo, will host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Valentine Wine & Dine on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. The event will offer an elegant catered dinner with wine pairings and other beverage options, games throughout the evening, and silent and live auctions. For tickets or more information, contact the parish office at (701) 232-5900 or visit: [holyspiritfargo.com/wine-dine](http://holyspiritfargo.com/wine-dine)



**Redeemed Women's Conference 2022:** Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Delta by Marriot, 1635 42nd St S, Fargo. The event includes inspirational speakers Dr. Helen Alvare, Dr. Kenneth Flanagan, Marcie Stokman and Bishop John Folda along with music, adoration, confessions and Mass. Cost of the conference including meals and refreshments is \$50 before Feb 14, after Feb 14 cost is \$75. To register visit: [fargodiocese.org/RedeemedWoman](http://fargodiocese.org/RedeemedWoman) Please see the poster on the bulletin board for more information.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Go, eat rich food and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..." ~ Nehemiah 8:10*

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here's the hard part — to share all we have without expecting anything in return.