

PASTOR'S NOTES

With Sue's decision to leave parish ministry so as to spend more time with family and grandchildren, St. Leo's is looking to hire someone to cover Sue's duties with music, liturgy and Religious Education. In terms of Religious Education —

Religious Education Coordinator/Director: St Leo's parish in Casselton is looking for a part-time coordinator of Religious Education for grades K-12. A suitable candidate would be a practicing Catholic who has a deep love and passion for passing on the gift of the Catholic faith to young men and women. For more information and to apply, please contact Fr. James Ermer at (701) 347-4609.

A five-week hiatus into Eucharistic love —

For the next four weeks our Sunday Gospel readings will be taken from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel rather than the Gospel of Mark. The sixth chapter of John's Gospel is known as the **Bread of Life Discourse**. John 6 begins with Jesus feeding 5000 with five barley loaves and a couple of dried fish. This miracle feeding is followed by Christ declaring himself to be the Bread of Life. By the end of this sixth chapter some people reject this teaching while others accept.

In the life of the Church the Bread of Life Discourse (John 6) has been understood to be a discourse on the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. In that light I thought I would offer a weekly reflection on the Eucharist during our four-week journey through the sixth chapter of John's Gospel and Christ's Discourse of the Bread of Life. *[On the fourth week (Sunday, August 15th) we celebrate the Holy Day of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Therefore, that week's reflection will be on the Blessed Virgin Mary].*

An opening thought — over my 43 years as a priest a lot of printer's ink has been spilled over the topic of the Eucharist — *lower Mass attendance; whether President Biden should be denied Communion; celebrating Confirmation before Eucharist; retranslating the words and prayers of the Mass; proper way to receive Communion; receiving Communion while living in the state of mortal sin; lack of reverence at Mass; etc. The list could go on and on!*

It has often been heard and said that *Mass is boring!!* Is Mass boring? Of all the 7 sacraments Christ left the Church to guide us on our spiritual journey to heaven only the Eucharist is called "The Blessed Sacrament".

How can it be that something called 'Blessed' could be boring? Perhaps from another angle — the last Church Council (Vatican II -1962-65) taught us that the Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of Christian life and living.

How is something that should be the pinnacle of one's spiritual life be sought by fewer and fewer people?

On a couple of occasions Christ said some remarkable things about humanity: (1) He found himself unable to work miracles in his hometown because "**he was amazed their lack of faith.**" [Mk 6:6]; (2) As Christ approaches the city of Jerusalem he speaks about a number of themes in life *{corruption in the world of justice; lack of gratitude on the part of 9 healed lepers; indifference to the poor on our door steps}* and then muses — "**when the Son of Man comes will he find any faith on the earth?**"

More than a critique of humanity Christ is challenging us to more deeply probe the many lessons and mysteries he left us to unwrap and engage. Certainly the glorious gift of the Eucharist (going to Mass) is a mystery of faith. As St. Paul says, "Faith comes through hearing." [Rom 10:17]

Over the course of the next few weeks I plan on preaching and writing about this mighty gift of the Lord — *The Eucharist of His Body and Blood*. The more one knows, the more insight one possibly has in probing this mystery that goes by many names in the Catechism — **the Lord's Supper; the Breaking of the Bread; Holy Sacrifice; Holy and Divine Liturgy; Holy Communion; the Mass;** As the old saying goes — To know, know you is to love, love you. To fall in love with the Eucharist would be ecstasy!!



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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 25, 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 July 25:

Mon - July 26 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

Tues - July 27 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **NO MASS**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - July 28 - 9:00 am - **For rain**

Thurs - July 29 - 9:00 am - **+Duane Mergner** by Marian Watson

Fri - July 30 - 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**

Sat - July 31 - 5:00 pm - ++Clem & Irene Pollock by Missy Poulson

Sun - Aug 1 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - Helen Franck by Bill & Mona Franck

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

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E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

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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., July 25 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Wed., July 28 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting  
 Sun., Aug 1 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., Aug 8 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Aug 10 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Aug 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting  
 Sun./Holy Day- Aug 15- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 10:30 am Mass at St. Leo's in Casselton

Sun., Aug 15 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., Aug 22 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., Aug 29 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass

Another awesome **Vacation Bible School** is in the books! Our 34 attendees had tons of fun with tons of faith learning- ***Jesus' power pulls us through! Trust Jesus!*** Thanks to everyone who helped make it a great success: The Gunkel family and Virjean Cramer for the decorating, Karren Bartholomay with the Bible Adventures, Sherry Radermacher with the Crafts, Mary Richard with the Snacks, Fr. Ermer for the Cemetery Field Trip, Ronnie Burchill, his cousin Luke, Addison Hushka and Olivia Garman for the Games, and our Crew Leaders Eva Garman, Molly Rexine, and Claire Glennon.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday July 31</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sat of the Month | <b>Sunday Aug 1</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><b>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday Aug 1</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of the Month |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                                                         | Gary Milbrandt                                             | Anna Garman<br>Gavin Oberlander                                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Richard Muscha                                                                                    |                                                            | Kristi Dutchuk                                                                                 |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                          | Carly Hovelson<br>Meyer Wendel                             | Jacob Dutchuk<br>Isabelle Dutchuk<br>Eva or Olivia Garman                                      |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                          | Dennis & Cristie Killoran                                  | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                       |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                          | Bob & Mary Lynne Snyder                                    | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                       |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**YOUTH EVENT: Wed., Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>** -The Diocese of Fargo will be hosting an end of the summer event titled XLT (exalt) for all students in grade 7-12. XLT will begin with Ultimate Frisbee at 4:00 pm at soccer fields behind Shanley High School (5600 25th St. S, Fargo). After frisbee (5:00 pm) youth will be dismissed so they can shower and return to the Pastoral Center (5201 Bishops Blvd. S, Fargo)for dinner at 6:00 pm. At 7:00 pm, we will transition into the chapel for praise and worship, a keynote presentation by Mark Hollcraft, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Mark, the keynote speaker, is the Director of Real Presence Radio and will be unpacking our event theme titled Behold. Feel free to join us for any or all aspects of the event. If you have any questions, please contact Brady Borslien at the Diocese of Fargo. 701-356-7910.



**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Classic - Putt 4 a Purpose:** Bishop Folda invites you to *Putt 4 a Purpose* benefiting Seminarian Education and Youth Programs. Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rose Creek Golf Course in south Fargo. Day will include a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Register three golfers and bring your Priest, Deacon or Seminarian as your 4<sup>th</sup> player for free! Register on line at: [www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose](http://www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose) Please see flyer and brochures on the bulletin board for more information.

**Bishop's Folda's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** All are invited to join St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in celebrating Bishop Folda's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday on **Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**. A pulled pork and hot dog lunch will be served by the KCs after the 10:00 am Mass. The celebration will be held in the Sacred Heart Circle in front of St. Mary's Cathedral, 619 7th St N, Fargo.

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Callum James Ziemer, son of Zack and Hannah.  
*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.*

**POP UP Mobile Food Pantry Event**  
**Perishable Food Distribution**  
 Rural Cass County Food Pantry  
 602 1<sup>st</sup> St N, Casselton  
 Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

This event is FREE and open to the public. Food boxes will be available in the Pantry parking lot, anyone is welcome and no pre-registration is required. Questions, please call: (701)347-2566

**Cemetery clean up:** Thank you to the volunteers who helped clean up the cemetery after this past week's storm damage: *Steve Carvell, Casey Enge family, Jake & Kelsey Lako family and Kyle Scherweit.* Also thank you to those who came out on Saturday, July 17 to help with headstone straightening: *Harrison Weber, Micah Bartholomay, Steve Carvell Kyle Scherweit and Gary Grommesh family.* Your time and hard work are much appreciated.  
 ~ St. Leo's Cemetery Committee

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" ~ John 6:9*

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!