

PASTOR'S NOTES

With Sue's decision to leave parish ministry and spend more time with family and grandchildren, St. Leo's is looking for help 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.

FREEDOM — a true understanding

As the Fourth of July rolls around, Americans will celebrate almost 250 years of freedom from the rule of King George III. The American colonists saw themselves enslaved to having a British standing army on its soil, laws regulating shipping and having to pay taxes on things like tea all without any representation. Of course all of this led to the Revolutionary War. We Americans see and understand this war as our fight for political freedom. Beyond political freedom there are all sorts of other freedoms: religious, speech, press, bear arms, peaceful assembly, etc.

What is a true understanding of freedom? When young people are asked to define or explain freedom they often respond that it is about *'doing what they want'*. **Is that freedom or slavery?**

'To do what one wants' would suggest freedom and free choice are the same thing! Freedom would simply be the exercise of free choice. But, are not there such things as bad choices or wrong choices? What makes for a good choice or a right choice? There must be a set of norms for what is true, good and right. Therefore good choices would flow from these norms.

In the 8th chapter of John's Gospel Christ declares he has come to set people free. The people protest by saying they have never been slaves to anyone because they are descendants of Abraham. Christ speaks of slavery to sin and that their real father is the devil. These powerful words remind us that sin is very deceptive. It hides truth and makes evil appear as good. In a sense history is a story of evil worming its ways into cultures and personal lives distorting what is right, true and good. St. Paul understands the essence of this struggle when he writes to the Galatians, *"It was for freedom that Christ freed us. So stand firm and do not take on yourselves the yoke of slavery a second time"* [Gal. 5:1]. For St. Paul Christ is the only true measure of what is right, true and good. In John's Gospel Christ declares the he is *"the way, the truth and the life"* [Jn. 14:6]

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, *"... freedom is the power rooted in the intellect and the will ... a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed towards God..."* [CCC 1731]. This would mean **truth precedes any true exercise of freedom**. Freedom flows from truth. True freedom exists only in the choosing of that what is true.

Freedom is not about a person 'doing what they want'. That kind of freedom is slavery. The very wisdom of God is inscribed in all that God has created and over which he has given us stewardship. Our dominion over the 'birds of the air and the fish of the sea' arises out of us discovering that wisdom. In our present culture we have created false claims to dominion over our bodies, the rule of money, and relationships between the sexes that simply fly in the face of what God has revealed as the way, the truth and the life.

Free people live to give honor and glory to God. **Happy Fourth of July weekend!**



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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 4, 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 4:

Mon - July 5 - 9:00 am - **+Stephen Levitsky** by Marian Watson

Tues - July 6 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Mary Castellano**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - July 7 - 9:00 am - **+John 'Jack' Ermer** by Tony & Patty Roth

Thurs - July 8 - 9:00 am - **+Paul Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Fri - July 9 - 9:00 am - **+Lois Sinner** by Bea Bachmeier

Sat - July 10 - 5:00 pm - Toni Watt by Shirley Marek

Sun - July 11 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Harold Kasowski by Becky Elbert

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

Liturgy/RE: Sue Knoll

Phone: 701-347-4609

Cell: 701-261-2047

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.


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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 4 - There will be **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass  
 Tues., July 6 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Wed., July 7 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Sun., July 11 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., July 13 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Wed., July 14 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Sun., July 18 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Mon.,- Thurs., July 19- 22 - 1:00 to 4:00 pm - VBS at St. Leo's  
 Tues., July 20 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Wed., July 21 - 7:00 pm - Mom's Bible Study in the lower level of the Rectory  
 Sun., July 25 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass

**Real Presence Radio-Honor Our Fathers:** This past Wednesday after 9 am daily Mass Janelle Schanilec from Real Presence Radio was here to honor Father Ermer and present him with a dozen doughnuts after being nominated by parishioner Melanie Pairsien. Melanie wrote: *I would like to nominate Father Ermer from St. Leo's in Casselton, ND to win a dozen doughnuts. I know he has a sweet tooth! Fr. Ermer is a great priest. He interacts well with the youth. Everybody in our church community loves Fr. Ermer! His homilies hit home with what's going on in the world!* Thank you Fr. Ermer for all that you do for the parishes of St. Leo's and St. Thomas. A picture of Fr. Ermer receiving his dozen doughnuts along with those who attended 9 am daily Mass is posted on the bulletin board and on St. Leo's Facebook page.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday July 10<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday July 11<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday July 11<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Mark Voss                                         | Shari Kensok                                    | Keith Biggers                                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Virjean Cramer                                    | Ann Faight                                      |                                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Theo Metzger<br>Ben Metzger                       | Sarah Kempel<br>Melody Kempel                   | Jami Vavra<br>Claire Halland                      |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                                |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        | Brad & Mary Kliniske                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**Harlan & Sandra Volk - 56 years on July 10**



### St. Leo's Catholic Church

*presents*

*Vacation Bible School 2021*

**Monday thru Thursday**

**July 19-22<sup>nd</sup>**

**from 1 - 4 pm each day**

**concluding Thursday with Mass at 3:00 pm  
and an Ice Cream Social following.**

VBS is open to children who are entering  
**Kindergarten thru 5th grades this fall.**  
 The cost is **\$30 per child with a \$60 family max  
and scholarship assistance is available.**

**Registration forms are in the church entry.**

**Contact Sue Knoll at 347-4609 if you have any questions.**

**Thank You:** We have received a number of thank yous from our Lenten canister recipients. They are posted on the bulletin board for all to read.

**Made for Greatness Men's Retreat:** July 16-18, 2021 at Stiklestad Lodge, near Fort Ransom, ND. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or to register visit: [www.fargodiocese.org/mfg](http://www.fargodiocese.org/mfg)

**Trinity Youth Camp:** Register now for a great Catholic camping experience at locations throughout the state of ND. More information and registration can be found on their website: [trinityyouthcampnd.com](http://trinityyouthcampnd.com)

Dates and locations for 2021:

July 14-18 and July 28 - August 1 at Pelican Lake in Bottineau, ND



### 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.

**Jesus Approaches: A Women's Retreat:** August 13-15, 2021 at the Franciscan Retreat Center, 102 6th St SE, Hankinson, ND and the cost is \$250. The retreat will be led by author and speaker Liz Kelly. The retreat is a chance to step out of the routine and stress of daily life in order to encounter the Lord Jesus through prayer and inspiring talks. To register visit: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/evangelization-retreats-workshops>. Contact Ashley Njaa for more information at: [Ashley.njaa@fargodiocese.org](mailto:Ashley.njaa@fargodiocese.org) or at 701-356-7908.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" - Ezekiel 2:2-3*

God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. However, He does not leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called. Answer His call.