

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Ascension — *NO* small mystery of faith!

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that after Christ's Resurrection from the tomb he appeared to his disciples "over the course of 40 days" and spoke to them about the reign of God. Then he ascended into heaven. **This 40th day become known as Ascension Thursday** and for centuries was a holy day of obligation in the Catholic Church. A number of years ago most diocesan bishops in the United States moved this solemnity and holy day from Thursday to the 7th Sunday of the Easter season. This was done to ensure that the mystery of the Ascension would be celebrated when a large number of the faithful gather in worship of God. Since the 7th Sunday of Easter (*which is actually the 43rd day of the Easter season*) was the closest to this 40th day after Easter, the 7th Sunday of Easter was replaced with the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. **So – today's celebration.**

What is the significance of the Lord's ascension into heaven??

First and foremost it celebrates the 're-opening' of access to God's life and happiness. Access to heaven had been closed since the sin of our first parents in the Garden of Eden. When God expelled them from the garden, God "*stationed the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword, to guard the way to the tree of life.*" (Gen. 5:24)

Furthermore with Christ's Ascension the old regime has passed away and a new one has come to pass. What is radically new is that in Christ's Ascension, he now sits **bodily** at the Father's right hand because the Son became incarnate (*took on human flesh*) and now the glorified flesh of his humanity is imbedded into the Godhead. When we rise and stand before the throne of God we shall see the human face of Christ.

Also with Christ's Ascension he sits exalted in heavenly power. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches "*There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood for he 'always lives to make intercession' for 'those who draw near to God through him'*" (Heb. 7:25). *As 'high priest of the good things yet to come' he is the center and principal actor of the liturgy that honors the Father in heaven"* (Heb. 9:11). [CCC 662]

Lastly, Christ's Ascension to the Father's right hand inaugurates the Kingdom of God in history and fulfills the vision given to the prophet Daniel where the Son of Man is given a dominion which will not pass away nor be destroyed (Dan. 7:14). As the Creed says, it is from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

With all of this being said, the Ascension of the Lord gives focus and direction to our spiritual lives. It teaches:

- (a) we are a pilgrim people, simply sojourners in this land. Our real home is heaven. Do not get too attached to the things of this world. They are passing realities. As St. Paul reminds us, "*We do not fix our gaze on what is seen but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts forever*" (2 Cor. 4:18), and "*Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 3:20).
- (b) at the end of time, if we find ourselves counted among the saved, like Christ we, too, will receive glorified bodies and find ourselves at the throne of the Father. What we do now in our earthly flesh is of great consequence. If our flesh is to be glorified, we must now live in the flesh in ways that are in keeping with what our glorified existence will someday be.
- (c) as our patron saint, St. Leo the Great, so richly said when speaking about the Ascension, "*And so our Redeemer's visible presence has passed into the sacraments.*" Christ has not abandoned us in the Ascension, but lives more fully in the sacraments of his Church.

Such is the glory of the Ascension!



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 Ascension of the Lord May 16, 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 May 16:

Mon - May 17 - 9:00 am - +**John 'Jack' Ermer**

Tues - May 18 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Mary Castellano**
St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - May 19 - 9:00 pm - +**Gene Rosholt** by Emily Eisenbeisz

Thurs - May 20 - 9:00 am - +**Lucille Matthey** by Marian Watson

Fri - May 21 - 9:00 am - +**Dawson Weiss** by Nichole Hushka

Sat - May 22 - 5:00 pm - +Cheryl Schuler by Sue Knoll

Sun - May 23 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Arnie Schaefer by Stu & Kim Romsdal
St. Thomas - 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., May 23 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Wed., May 26 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., May 30 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., June 1 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
**Fri., June 4 - 7:00 pm - Matthew Kensok transitional diaconate ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
 Sat., June 5 - 10:00 am - Priestly ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo  
**Sun., June 6 - 11:30 am** - Breakfast after 10:30 am Mass honoring Matthew Kensok diaconate ordination  
 Tues., June 8 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Thus., June 10 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., June 13 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., June 15 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., June 20 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., June 22 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., June 27 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., June 27 - 4:00 pm - 4th Annual Rural Life Celebration in Barney, ND

**REMINDER:** Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday May 22</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday May 23</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday May 23</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>St. Thomas</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                    | Fred Eldridge                                              | Jackie Vavra                                                 |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Paulette Schmitt                                             | Denise Bartholomay                                         |                                                              |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Lillian Roth<br>Olivea Roth<br>Evelyn Roth                   | Claire Glennon<br>Sarah Monilaws                           | Gavin Besette<br>Emercyn Killoran                            |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                   | JoEllen Killoran<br>Lisa Zahnow                              |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                   | David Killoran Family                                        |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**4th Annual Rural Life Celebration with Bishop Folda:** June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 4 pm. The celebration will be held on the Russ and Mary Mauch Farm, 16305 Hwy 13, Barney, ND (between Mooreton and Wyndmere). The day will include Mass, blessings of land and machinery, a meal, and entertainment. Bring a container of soil or seed from your field or garden to be blessed. If it rains, the event will be moved indoors. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit: [fargodiocese.org/rural-life](http://fargodiocese.org/rural-life)

**Made for Greatness Men's Retreat:** Diocese of Fargo Made for Greatness Men's Retreat will be held on July 16-18, 2021 to learn how to go deeper in friendship with God. This will be a time to explore Catholic spirituality specifically as men. There will be comradery, great food, and the chance for real spiritual growth. The retreat will be held at Stiklestad Lodge, a corporate hunting retreat center near Fort Ransom, ND, so there will also be opportunities for trap shooting, campfires, sports and more. To find out more please see the flyer on the bulletin board, or to register, visit [www.fargodiocese.org/mfg](http://www.fargodiocese.org/mfg).

**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.

**Women's Care Center** is looking for special people committed to our mission, who are personable with excellent communication skills. A part-time counselor position is available. A degree in counseling, social work, nursing, or other service-related background is preferred. Degree and non-degree candidates are encouraged to apply. Will train. Please forward your resume to [angela@wccnd.com](mailto:angela@wccnd.com) or call 701-532-1928 for further details or questions.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." - 1 John 4:15*

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

**St. Leo's Knight of the Month:** The Knight for the month of May is **Jesse Martinez**. Thank you Jesse for your dedication and the works you do for the KC's. It is greatly appreciated.



Council 9477



### 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. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

### POP UP Mobile Food Pantry Event

Rural Cass County Food Pantry  
 602 1<sup>st</sup> St N, Casselton  
 Tuesday, May 25, 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

The Mobile Food Pantry is made possible by the support of the Great Plains Food Bank.