

PASTOR'S NOTES

Some Pentecost truth —

183 days ago we began this year's church year with the first Sunday of Advent, but by the time we had reached the last half of Lent and have gone through the entire season of Easter our lives have been dominated by the deleterious effects of COVID - 19.

Does today's solemnity of Pentecost have anything to say to our present state of affairs? On the original Pentecost, 50 days after Christ's resurrection, the risen Spirit of Christ dominates the upper room where the disciples are gathered. The room is filled with a mighty wind and tongues of fire descend upon the apostles. Inflamed by this Holy Spirit the disciples go out to people gathered in Jerusalem, tell the Gospel story of Christ, and on that day 3000 are baptized into the faith. **So where is this Spirit today?**

The often unrecognized context behind this original Pentecost — **these people were receptive to this outpouring of the Spirit.** These disciples had 'sheltered in place' for nine (9) days of prayer in Jerusalem, the very city that had crucified their Lord and Master. In this time of prayer their hearts and mind were moved to review the three years of public ministry they had shared with Jesus — *the parables, the miracles, the teachings, etc.* In that time of prayer the grand history of Israel began to be seen as God's master plan for the salvation of the human race. God always hears the cry of the poor. He invites us to join him and participate with him as He goes about '*creating a new heavens and a new earth*'. For such people Pentecost is not beyond belief.

For people of such faith pandemics can not kill the Gospel. Pandemics of all kinds come from a long history of humans making wrong choices, selling faith short, discounting the interior life and believing man is in charge of his/her destiny. **Nothing could be further from the truth!** God is in charge of history.

For people of faith Pentecost comes with a hosts of truths. In reading the Pentecost story we discover:

- 1) **Easter can not be understood without Pentecost.** Christ's resurrection is not an isolated, one-time event that happened in the distant past. The Resurrection is so stupendous that the fullness of Christ's Risen Spirit overflows into human history as the gift of salvation given to human race for all times;
- 2) when Christ announces peace he shows them his pierced hands and side. With that he reminds us that true peace flows from the wounds of his Passion and is not the result of political rhetoric nor economic agendas. Peace comes from the sacrificial gift of love;
- 3) as Christ breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, this is not meant to say that Holy Spirit has been absent up to this time. Rather, Pentecost highlights how extensive and generous is the life that now comes from the Holy Spirit. Mark's Gospel says Christ breathed his last on the cross of Calvary. **Now in the Resurrection he breathes God's life upon and into his apostles and the life and mission of the Church.** The Holy Spirit brings alive the sacraments of the Church, makes the Risen Christ present in our liturgies, our prayers, sustains every moment of our lives, and sends us on a mission of reconciling the world to God's love so that 'all may be one and he and the Father are one';

In a sense with Pentecost the Risen Christ has become lost in the mission of the Church to the world. He is now found in the sacraments, Scripture, prayer, the charisms and ministries of the church, the witness of the saints, etc.

Happy Pentecost!



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



Pentecost Sunday May 31, 2020

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 31:

Mon - June 1 - 9:00 am - +Vince Bachmeier by Bea Bachmeier

Tues - June 2 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Souls in purgatory

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - June 3 - 9:00 am - NO MASS

Thurs - June 4 - 9:00 am - ++John & Mary Ermer

Fri - June 5 - 9:00 am - +Kelly Briedenbach by Stan & Angeline Mathias

Sat - June 6 - 5:00 pm - +Bruce Dooley by Theresa Dooley

Sun - June 7 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - +Julia Volk by Gerry & DeLilah Volk

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 & Mark Wieland

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

Tues., Jun 2 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns meeting  
 Wed., Jun 3 - 11:00 am - Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral for priests only  
**Thurs. Jun 4 - 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Fr. Ermer's Ordination**  
 Mon., Jun 8 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy meeting  
 Tues., Jun 9 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting  
**Fri., Jun 12 - 6:30 pm - Confirmation/First Eucharist with Bishop Folda**

There will be **NO** Beverage and Bite for the month of May.

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

**Alan & Mary Lou Radermacher - 55 years on June 3**  
**Mike & Lil Eberhardt - 50 years on June 13**  
**Glenn & Diane Lemke - 51 years on June 14**  
**Jim & Arlene Kieffer- 57 years on June 15**  
**Gary & Linda Milbrandt - 52 years on June 15**  
**Arnold & Barb Buhr- 57 years on June 22**



**Help Support our Cameroun Card Mission: *Father's Day* cards are available.** Cards are located in the in the magazine rack in church entry. Cost of cards is .50 cents, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

|  | <b>Saturday June 6<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b>                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Sunday June 7<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday June 7<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tricia Geggelman/<br>Lois Titus                                                                                                                                                                                               | Gary Milbrandt                                  | Anna Garman/<br>Gavin Oberlander                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | <i>Due to concerns regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) St. Leo's and St. Thomas will temporarily suspend the distribution of the Precious Blood. At this time only Father Ermer will be distributing the Body of Christ.</i> |                                                 |                                                 |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | TBD                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Clay Hovelson                                   | TBD                                             |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Frank & Laura Biggers                           | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Procession of gifts is omitted until further notice.                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                 |                                                 |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Fr. Damien Schill Cookbook:** Fr. Damien Schill, who previously served St. Thomas in Buffalo, has published a third volume in his cookbook series entitled: *Cooking and Eating with Father Damien and Friends*. This volume is the desserts volume. They are available from Hurley's Religious Goods in Fargo. There are also still some copies of volume two, the entrees volume available.

**Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters** of the Americas will meet Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at St. Anthony's Church, Fargo. A meal will NOT be served at this meeting. At this time, St. Anthony's is requiring 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. Call Lupita at 520-840-2418 with any questions.

**3rd Annual Rural Life Celebration:** As of this time the Rural Life Celebration is still on. Please join the parishioners of St. Philip Neri in Napoleon, ND on Sunday, July 12th at Frank & Helen Braun Farm, north of Napoleon. Guests may begin to arrive at 1:30 pm. Blessing of land, animals, and farm machinery will begin at 1:45 pm followed by a 2:00 pm Mass on the farm. A meal and entertainment will follow. The farm is located 3 miles North of Napoleon on ND Hwy 3. For more information visit: [www.fargodiocese.org/rural-life](http://www.fargodiocese.org/rural-life). Please RSVP at: (701)754-2860 or [evangelize@bektel.com](mailto:evangelize@bektel.com) Remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. You may also bring a container of soil from your fields or garden to be blessed. This event is FREE. We will follow ND state guidelines for COVID-19 protections.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday's from 4:00 to 4:45 pm. For physical distancing, Fr. Ermer will hear confessions in the side sacristy (where the Mass servers get ready for Mass). It is located in the North-east corner of the sanctuary. Use the door by the entry to the Spirit of Life Center. He will light a candle by the doorway when he is there. The room is large enough to have the option to go face-to-face or behind the screen. You can still call Fr. Ermer to schedule a time for the sacrament of Reconciliation as well. 347-4609.



### God's Gift Appeal 2020

|            | Goal     | 5/22/2020 |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| St. Leo's  | \$48,052 | \$30,640  |
| St. Thomas | \$10,884 | \$ 7,383  |

Thank you to all parishioners who have made their gift to the 2020 God's Gift Appeal. Pledge cards and donations may be dropped off at the parish office and we will see they get to the Diocese.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." - 1 Corinthians 12:7*

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love and mercy.