

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Ascension – *what is the big deal??*

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]

This mystery of faith has a number of wonderful insights for our spiritual lives:

(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.

"Hats off to you" –

This past Wednesday we celebrated our closing Liturgy for this year's religious education classes. Once again we had a very good year. All of this can happen because of our dedicated teachers.

So – first off – A sincere 'tip our hats' to this year's RE teachers at St. Leo's: Mary Richard and Missy Poulso [Kindergarten]; Melanie Parisien and Amanda Gunkel [1st grade]; LeeAnn Monilaws [2nd grade]; Michelle Kappes and Mallory Poulson [3rd grade]; Alecia Killoran {from St. Thomas parish} and Trista Ziegelmann [4th grade]; Susan Kempel [5th grade]; Lori Howqrd [6th grade]; Paul Olsen [7th grade]; Virjean Cramer [8th grade]; Karren Bartholomay [9th grade]; Jake and Kelsey Lako [10th grade] and Fr. Ermer and Shari Kensok [11th and 12th grade]. Also a sincere 'tip of our hats' to our RE teachers at St. Thomas: Keith Biggers [Kindergarten] and Kristi Hovelson with help from Joni Biggers [3rd grade].

Secondly — hats off to our 16 students from St. Leo's, who celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this school year, and to the 18 students from St. Leo's and 4 students from St. Thomas parish, who received the sacrament of Confirmation and received the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. These are great steps in your spiritual life. **Keep up your good work!!**

Thirdly — St. Leo's Religious Education (RE) program had 32 students with perfect attendance this year {which means they did not miss any classes this school year for any reason} and after attending the Closing RE liturgy they received a Dairy Queen certificate from our local KC Council for their efforts. **Speaking of overall attendance** — St. Leo's students had an overall attendance record of 91.6% attendance for all class periods by our registered students. Congratulations to students and parents for making Religious Education classes a priority in your families.

Diocesan Capital Campaign

This week you should receive a letter from Bishop Folda seeking your financial support. Questions can be directed to our parish's leadership teams: **Mark Weber, Mona Franck, Luke Steckler, Dave Glennon & Kelsy Lako** for St. Leo's; **Gary Milbrandt, Joe Killoran and Alecia Killoran** for St. Thomas.



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 12, 2024

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 12:

Mon - May 13 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues - May 14 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – NO MASS

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – May 15 – 9:00 am – +Jim Schmitt by Stan & Angeline Mathias

Thurs – May 16 – 9:00 am – +Elizabeth Mack by Kris Mack

Fri – May 17 – 9:00 am – +Rosetta Olson by Lori Blauwet

Saturday – May 18 – 5:00 pm - Jane Sinner

Sunday - May 19 – St. Thomas- 8:30 am - +Pat Neary by Keith & Joni 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

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain:

Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo's Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay

St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

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.

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues., May 14 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., May 15- 6:30 pm- RE Teacher Appreciation Barbeque- Spirit of Life Center
 Sun., May 19- 11:30 am- Graduation Breakfast after 10:30 am Mass honoring St. Leo's 2024 graduates
 Wed., May 22 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting at the church
 Wed., May 22 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory


Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Lowen Jo Johnson, daughter of Klayton and Sara.
We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Kris Mack and his family on the death of his mother, Betty Mack.

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

Please keep our RE Coordinator, Patty Roth, and her family in your thoughts and prayers. She is in Kansas with her sister, Pam, who is currently under Hospice care.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday May 18 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday May 19 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday May 19 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Jackie Vavra	Steve Carvell
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Hayden Faleide Burchill Family	Rudi Wendel Hannah Besette	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Mike & Lisa Zahnow	Volunteers needed
Gift Bearers	Volunteers needed	Jim Biggers Family	Volunteers needed
Lead Rosary	Mona Franck		Jessica Enge

NEWS AND NOTES



All are invited to a
100th Birthday
 Open House Celebration
 Honoring
Jane Sinner
Sunday, May 19th
2 to 4 pm
 in
 St. Leo's Spirit of Life Center

2024 Summer Camps and Events: There are a number of summer camps and events available for youths to participate in this summer. Please see the display in the entrance of the church for information and to pick up a brochure.

St. Leo's Vacation Bible School (VBS): July 22 - 25, 2024. Registration forms and information are available in the church entry. Watch future bulletins for more information.

Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, May 14th at St. Anthony's Church, 710 10th St S, Fargo beginning with Mass at 5:15 pm; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food item donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to regentctstann@gmail.com.

Catholic Man Night: Thursday, May 16th, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 218 10th St S, Moorhead, MN. 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Adoration & Confession; 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Meal with talk and discussion by Brad Gray, Director of Marriage & Family Life with the Fargo Diocese. Free will offering. **All men are invited, bring a friend!**

Real Presence Radio's Spring Live Drive is May 14-16. Tune in as we broadcast from throughout our five-state listening area and bring you inspiring stories of faith and hope. Call 877-795-0122 to donate and you will be entered into a drawing for one of the many great prizes awarded throughout the drive. Phone lines will be open from 7 am to 7 pm. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information or to donate using the QR code.

Redeemed Eucharistic Congress: September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). The event will include Mass with Bishop Folda, Eucharistic procession from St. James Basilica, Eucharistic healing with Fr. Jeff Eppler, Praise and Worship with Aly Aleigha and Adoration. Guest speakers will include Scott Hahn, Julianne Stanz and Msgr. Thomas Richter. Cost for the event is \$35 before Aug 1, after Aug 1 \$50. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board. To register please visit - www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed or call (701)356-7900



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 questions 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.