

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 **boldly** 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
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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 29, 2022

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 29:

Mon - May 30 – 9:00 am - **Kevin Dorton** by Hanna Schneider
Tues - May 31 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO MASS
Wed – June 1 – 9:00 am - **+Bruce Dooley** by Theresa Dooley
Thurs – June 2 – 9:00 am - **+Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Fri – June 3 – 9:00 am - **Special intention**
Sat - June 4 - 5:00 pm - Lincoln Kading by Bill & Mona Franck
Sun - June 5 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Nadine Cote by Keith & Joni Biggers
St. Leo’s - 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.

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS


Sun., May 29 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass
Sat. June 4 - 10:00 am - Priestly ordination at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo
Sat. June 4 - Fr. Ermer’s 44th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination
Sun., June 5 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass
Tues., June 7 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns meeting at the rectory
Sun., June 12 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass
Tues., June 14 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
Tues., June 21 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory
Tues., June 28 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” ~ Revelations 22:13

This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday June 4 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i> | Sunday June 5 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i> | Sunday June 5 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Lector</i> | Tricia Gegelman Lois Titus | Gary Milbrandt | Anna Garman |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i> | Lucy Wagner | | Micah Bartholomay |
| <i>Altar Servers</i> | Tristian Lako Ethan Richard Olivia Richard | Jami Vavra Abigail Killoran | Isabelle Dutchuk Garman Family |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i> | <i>Volunteers needed</i> | Frank & Laura Biggers | <i>Volunteers needed</i> |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i> | <i>Volunteers needed</i> | Joe & Lora Killoran | <i>Volunteers needed</i> |

NEWS AND NOTES

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 - 57 years on June 3
David & Susan Schmidt - 50 years on June 3
Mike & Lil Eberhardt - 52 years on June 13
Glenn & Diane Lemke - 53 years on June 14
Jim & Arlene Kieffer- 59 years on June 15
Gary & Linda Milbrandt - 54 years on June 15
Arnold & Barb Buhr- 59 years on June 22

Men’s Leadership Summit: The Diocese of Fargo “Made for Greatness” Ministry will hold a Men’s Leadership Summit July 22-24 at the Stiklestad Lodge, Fort Ransom, ND. This summit is for men 18 years and older. Cost is \$250. To register and for more information go to: www.fargodiocese.org/mfg or see the flyer on the bulletin board. “Made for Greatness” is a ministry of Diocese of Fargo which seeks to fulfill the Great Commission by discipling men, forming them in their identity as sons of God, and equipping them to become missionary disciples through conferences, retreats and leadership events.

Women’s Care Center (103 University Dr N, Fargo) has an opening for a full-time or part-time nurse or sonographer. Seeking special people committed to our mission, who are personable with excellent communication skills. Will train. Please forward your resume to angela@wccnd.com or call 701-532-1928 for further details or questions.

Thank You
so much!

On behalf of the St. Leo’s Cemetery Committee, we want to express our gratitude for the recent response to the appeal letter that was sent to all parishioners. Your generosity to date has raised over \$5000. We continue to accept donations to help with ongoing maintenance costs and for future improvements.

**Happy 44th Anniversary
of Priestly Ordination to
Father Ermer**
Saturday, June 4th

Please join us for refreshments after 5 pm Mass to honor Father Ermer.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Lucille Sherman and her family on the death of her son, Eugene and to Mary Jendro and her family on the death of her sister, Marlys Steinman. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* — Matthew 5:4



Council 9477

St. Leo’s Knight of the Month: The Knight for the month of **May** is **Mike Faught**. Thank you Mike for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

*There will be **NO** KC meeting in June. Next meeting will be July 27th at 7 pm.*

Trinity Youth Camp: for youth entering grades 3rd - 8th fall of 2022. Summer camp dates are:
June 22– 26 Red Willow, Binford, ND
July 13– 17 Pelican Lake, Bottineau, ND
July 20– 24 Camp of the Cross, Garrison, ND
July 26– 31 Pelican Lake, Bottineau, ND
This year’s theme is **Call on His Name**. Learn how to hear God’s voice through the sacraments. Together we’ll encounter God’s grace through his healing, sacrifice and calling. God is calling YOU to join us this summer and to live a life filled with the Spirit.
For more information and to register go to: trinityyouthcampnd.com
Information is also available in the brochure in the entry of church.