

PASTOR’S NOTES

The recent ‘roe v. wade’ debacle – some musings

This past week a draft copy of a possible Supreme Court ruling overturning the 1973 Supreme Court decision of *Roe vs. Wade* was leaked to the press. That 1973 decision essentially legalized abortion in the United States. As you can well imagine such a leaked ‘draft copy’ of a possible reversal sent shock waves throughout America. Since that 1973 Supreme Court decision the United States has been deeply divided into pro-life and pro-abortion camps. From the beginning lawyers from whatever camp either condemn or applaud the legal reasoning that went into *Roe vs. Wade*.

Beyond the scholarship of law – chants, posters, sound bites abound in the public arena. A person sees: ‘a woman’s right’; ‘it is my body’; ‘keep your hands off my body’; ‘freedom of choice’; ‘reproductive rights’; ‘my choice’; ‘it is between a doctor and the woman’; etc.

All of this rhetoric stirs some very fundamental questions. Presently *Roe vs. Wade* is the law of the land. It is legitimate to ask – **is it a good law? is it a bad law?** What makes for good law? It seems to me any good law embodies what is the common good for a society and a people. Good law teaches and directs us to what will contribute to the flourishing of a people and a culture and that includes banning what is damning and offensive. Does the direct taking of innocent human life from the womb of a mother make us a better people?

At the same time America says abortion is legal, we have other laws that say if a pregnant woman is killed in a violent crime scene and that case is litigated, the lawsuit can bring forth charges of two (2) murders (*both the mother and the child*). So, on one hand it is OK and legal to deliberately kill an unborn child; on the other hand, one can be charged with murder for killing an unborn child. **All of this seems very schizoid.** Is it simply a matter of choice – of being wanted or not wanted? What about the moral maxims that tell us – *two wrongs never make a right; the end does not justify the means; a person can not do a wrong for the sake of a good; might does not make right?*

It is true that the human condition is blessed with the freedom to make choices [Sir 15;14ff], but choices, like law, can be either good or bad, right or wrong, virtuous or vicious. **Freedom is not an absolute value.** True freedom only exists when it serves that which is true and that which is good. This is called ‘freedom for excellence’ versus a ‘freedom of indifference’ for whatever is the passing fad, ‘what feels good’ at the moment, etc. Such ‘freedom of indifference’ is really slavery! When the late Pope John Paul II made his first trip to the United States in 1979 he declared, “America, you can not insist on your right to choose and neglect your duty to choose correctly.” Our own Bill of Rights declares that the ‘right to life’ is the first in the listing of basic rights that make America great.

Some people point out that *Roe vs. Wade* has been ‘on the books’ for nearly 50 years and therefore has the right of precedence in its favor. Slavery and segregation had been written into laws for decades and centuries, but now are considered egregious violations of civil and human rights thanks to the human and civil rights movements throughout the years. **Protecting the defenseless, innocent and unborn life in the womb is a most fundamental human and civil right.**

It seems we need to get beyond ideological camps, ‘sound bites’ and political ‘spin rooms’ and examine in detail the deepest questions – *the beginning of life issues, the nature and purpose of law, the informing of conscience, the nature of freedom and free choice, etc.* I pray the Supreme Court will do what is true, right and good.



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 8, 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 8:

Mon - May 9 – 9:00 am - +**Richard Mills** by Arlene Kieffer

Tues - May 10 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **NO MASS**

St. Leo’s — NO MASS

Wed – May 11 – 6:30 pm - RE Closing Mass– NO 9 am Mass - RE Students

Thurs – May 12 – 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

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

Sat - May 14 - 5:00 pm - +Leroy Scherr by Bill & Mona Franck

Sun - May 15 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - 2022 Graduates

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/Nicole Scherweit

Phone: 701-347-4609

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

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

Wed., May 11 - 6:30 pm - RE Closing Mass– All parishioners are welcome to attend; NO 9 am Mass  
Thurs., May 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life center  
Sun., May 15 - 9:30 am - St. Thomas breakfast honoring 2022 Confirmation Students and Graduates  
Sun., May 15 - 11:30 am - St. Leo’s graduation breakfast honoring 2022 Graduates  
Thurs., May 19 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory  
Sun., May 22 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Wed., May 25 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
Sun., May 29 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass


REMINDER: Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.



**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.



Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday May 14<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo’s<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of May | Sunday May 15<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday May 15<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo’s<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun of May |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lector                                                                             | Mark Voss                                                             | Jackie Vavra                           | Steve Carvell                                                        |
| Eucharistic Ministers                                                              | Nicole Scherweit                                                      |                                        | Deb Werner                                                           |
| Altar Servers                                                                      | Sophie/Emma Scherweit<br>Addison/Noah Hushka                          | Hallie Besette<br>Claire Halland       | Cassie Bartholomay<br>Elise Bartholomay<br>Lucas Miller              |
| Offertory Collectors                                                               | Volunteers needed                                                     | JoEllen Killoran<br>Lisa Zahnow        | Volunteers needed                                                    |
| Gift Bearers                                                                       | Volunteers needed                                                     | Roger & Marsha Kasowski                | Volunteers needed                                                    |

NEWS AND NOTES

**Pilgrimage to the East Coast shrines with Bishop Folda, Sept 10-14, 2022:** Pilgrim spots are still available to join Bishop Folda on a Pilgrimage to Washington D.C, Emmitsburg and Philadelphia. Sites include the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, St. John Paul II National Shrine, Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine and the saints in Philadelphia along with many other historical sites. Visit [fargodiocese.org/events](http://fargodiocese.org/events) for details and registration link. Or call the Diocese of Fargo for registration form, (701)356-7900. Sponsored by the Diocese of Fargo and organized by Peter’s Way Tours.

**Mother-Daughter Days at St. Francis Covent in Han-kinson, ND.** There will be two sessions offered this summer: June 19-21 and July 21-23. Come spend time listening to Jesus, getting to know the Franciscan Sisters, praying with Sisters, and meeting others pursuing a closer relationship with Jesus. To register or have questions, call or text Sr. Jean Louise at (701)208-1245. Participation is limited.

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Jonah Brian and Scarlett Jane McDaniel, son and daughter of Tanner and Alison.  
*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide them to live as a child of God.*

**St. Thomas Parish** will honor their 2022 Confirmation students and High School gradates with a light breakfast following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in celebrating with them!

**Job Opportunities:** There are many job openings within the Fargo Diocese area. Check out the list on the bulletin board in the church entry.

Do you shop Amazon? Did you know there is another way to support St. Leo’s? Shop AmazonSmile!

Every time you make an AmazonSmile purchase, Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to *St. Leo’s parish*— at no cost to you! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you will find the exact same shopping experience as on Amazon.com.

Here is how it works:

- 1) Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and use your existing Amazon credentials to log in;
- 2) Type in **St Leos Church Casselton** as your charity;
- 3) Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com or add the page to you home screen to make it easy to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

If you should have any questions talk to Delores [347-4609] in the parish office. Thanks for your support.  
*This is not an endorsement of Amazon.com, but intended to give another option to support St. Leo’s if you shop on Amazon.*

This week’s Stewardship moment:

*“The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.” ~ Acts 13:52*

The disciples heard our Lord’s call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to.