

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### A COVID Thanksgiving

It seems to me the 2020 Thanksgiving finds us fearful, suspicious and unthankful. We do not know what the next day will bring. Over 250,000 lives have been lost in the United States alone. Hundreds of thousands of persons have caught the disease – *some have weathered it well; others have struggled mightily*. Jobs have been lost. Businesses have been shuttered. We are isolated from one another. Ordinary routines have changed dramatically or have become non-existent. Deaths, disruptions and dysfunction seem to define Thanksgiving 2020.

Perhaps, upon another reflection, there are some things for which to give thanks:

- (1) we had a good harvest and harvest season. Yields were good. Markets are operating. Field work is pretty much complete. **Thank you, Lord.**
- (2) the health care workers in this country and throughout the world have stood in the breach and have done a marvelous job of providing care and comfort in these most trying of times. **Thank you, Lord.**
- (3) scientist have 'stepped to the plate' and unleashed their skill sets in developing vaccines that are on the verge of being distributed and hopefully contain this virus over the course of these next few months. **Thank you, Lord.**
- (4) Again we have learned we are not in charge. Something we can not even see with the naked eye has taught us the fragility of life and the limits of being 'too big for our britches'. **Thank you, Lord.**
- (5) besides not being in charge we have learned not to take things for granted. All is gift and gifts need to be acknowledged and respected. We can not assume they will always be there at our beck and call. **Thank you, Lord.**
- (6) We have learned to be attentive to others and their needs, especially the most vulnerable, and so avoid thoughtless behaviors. **Thank you, Lord.**

**Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at St. Leo's at 9 a.m.**

### End ... Beginning!!

Each church year ends with the Solemnity of Christ the King with the following Sunday being the First Sunday of Advent, which begins a new church year.

During each church year we travel anew through the mysteries of Christ's life and God's love for His People. Each church year is marked by various season lasting varying lengths of time: *Advent* (4 weeks); *Christmas* (2/3 weeks); *Lent* (5 weeks); *Holy Week/Triduum*; *Easter* (7 weeks); *Ordinary Time* (33/34 weeks). The Solemnity of Christ the King ends the period of time or season known as Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time we are called to live out the life of the Holy Spirit that was bestowed on history and humanity at Pentecost.

The life of faith is so deep and rich that one can never probe its fullness and treasure. The best we can do is to continually revisit what God has revealed in the life of his son, Jesus Christ, and his desire to form us in being the Body of Christ. The seasons of the church year becomes the lens by which our minds are given insight and our hearts give themselves in faith to the triumph and glory of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

In *Advent* our hearts and minds are prepared for God's coming in flesh and blood (*Christmas*). The love of God enters death on our behalf (*Lent*) and rises gloriously to eternal life (*Easter*) calling us by communion with and through the Holy Spirit to the glory and majesty of *Life* without end, of *Truth* without blemish, of *Beauty* without equal, of *Love* without limit (*Ordinary Time*).

With this hope in heart and mind let us prepare ourselves to enter Advent praying 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.'



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



## OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE November 22, 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 Nov 22:

Mon - Nov 23 - 9:00 am - +**Bruce Dooley** by Theresa Dooley

Tues - Nov 24 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **Ron Browning** by Richard & Joanne Browning  
*St. Leo's - NO MASS*

Wed - Nov 25 - 9:00 am - +**Janice Miller** by Kathryn McGuire

Thurs - Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day - 9:00 am - St. Leo's - +**John 'Jack' Ermer**

Fri - Nov 27 - 9:00 am - **Jim & Allison Flynn** by Sandie Nystrom

**Sat - Nov 28 - 5:00 pm - +Paul Madsen by Stephen & LaRae Madsen**

**Sun - Nov 29 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +David Boyle 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

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**Liturgy/RE:** Sue Knoll

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**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

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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., Nov 22 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass  
 Mon., Nov 23 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Nov 25 - **NO** RE classes at St. Thomas and St. Leo's  
 Thurs., Nov 26 - 9:00 am - Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. Leo's  
 Sun., Nov 29 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass  
 Mon., Nov 30 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting  
 Tues., Dec 1 - 7:00 pm - First Eucharist Parent meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Dec 2 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group A  
     6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group A, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Thurs., Dec 3 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Vicki Houle and her family on the death of her father, Edward Wilkie and to Andrew Fraase and his family on the death of his grandmother, Vernice Lindquist.

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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Nov 28</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sat of the Month | <b>Sunday Nov 29</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Nov 29</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sun of the Month |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                                                        | Keith Biggers                                               | Darcee Rehovsky                                                                                 |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Paulette Schmitt                                                                                 |                                                             | Jerry Volk                                                                                      |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Lillian Roth<br>Olivea Roth<br>Evelyn Roth                                                       | Gavin Besette                                               | Paris Mack<br>Parker Mack                                                                       |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         | Gary & Linda<br>Milbrandt                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                         |                                                             | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                        |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Retreat Opportunities:** Are you looking for an opportunity for spiritual growth and a deepening of your relationship with God, yourself and others? There are many different retreat opportunities available at Maryvale Spiritual Center, just outside of Valley City, ND. Visit [sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org](http://sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org) for more details or call Sr. Dorothy Bunce at 701-845-2864.

**REDEEMED *Trusted Sisters Women's Conference:*** The REDEEMED Women's Conference has been rescheduled for February 19-20, 2021 at the Delta Hotel in Fargo. Featured speakers will include Dr. Helen Alvaré, Dr James Link, Marcie Stockman (foundress of Well Read Mom), and Andrea Thomas of the Vigil Project. The event will also include performances and worship led by the Vigil Project. This conference will be available to attend both in person as well as via livestream. More information is available at [fargodiocese.org/redeemedwomen](http://fargodiocese.org/redeemedwomen).

**Medicare Part D** open enrollment is coming to a close on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Call Community of Care (701)347-0032 to schedule your appointment.



### God's Gift Appeal 2020

|            | Goal     | 11/13/2020 |
|------------|----------|------------|
| St. Leo's  | \$48,052 | \$45,152   |
| St. Thomas | \$10,884 | \$ 9,453   |

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.

**Book of Remembrance:** All are invited to write down the names of your deceased loved ones and we will pray for them at the Daily and Weekend Masses during the month of November. The Book of Remembrance is located in the church entry.

**Hospice of the Red River Valley** is offering several different virtual classes on dealing with grief. Classes are intended for those who have experienced a loss. All programs are free and open to the public but registration is required prior to each class date. If you are interested, please call 800-237-4629 and ask to speak to a member of the grief support department.



### Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:

Cards are available for purchase 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.



### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40*

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.