

PASTOR'S NOTES

Why baptism for Jesus? – He is sinless!!

For most Christians baptism is associated with the removal of original sin from our souls. Today's feast celebrates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan river. **But Jesus is God and sin can have no part of God. So why did Jesus get baptized? He is sinless and has no need of baptism!**

If we read the story of Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist insists that Jesus should baptize him; yet Christ insists that John baptize him. In turn the Church notes a number of points in this feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

- 1) **Christ's baptism** reveals the fact of Christ's divine sonship when the Father's voice declares, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- 2) Beyond the Father's voice **Christ's baptism** includes the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. This suggests the appointment and anointing (commissioning) of Christ who, in turn, will now begin his public ministry in the land of Israel. *(In effect this feast concludes the Christmas season and is the transition feast into Christ's 3-year mission of redeeming the human race culminating in his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending forth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.*
- 3) **Christ's Baptism** professes his solidarity with the human race including the sin we bear because of our descent from our first parents and their Fall from grace. *(In essence, this becomes the overarching mission of Christ – the restoration of the likeness of God that was lost by the sin of Adam and Eve.)*

As St. Cyril of Alexandria writes, "In a plan of surpassing beauty the Creator of the universe decreed the renewal of all things in Christ. In his design for restoring human nature to its original goodness, he gave a promise that he would pour out on it the Holy Spirit along with his other gifts ... for the Father is to accept us in Christ as his adopted children ... He (Christ) receives it (the Spirit) to renew our nature in its entirety and to make it whole again."

- 4) **Christ's Baptism** in the waters of the Jordan river makes all the waters of baptism holy.

As St. Maximus of Turin declares, *"Christ is baptized not to be made holy by the water, but to make the waters holy... For when the Savior is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages."*

Upcoming events of note:

- > **January 18th to January 25th – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** On Wednesday of that week the Casselton Area Ministerial Association will celebrate with a prayer service on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:45 p.m. here at St. Leo's.
- > **Wednesday, January 22nd – Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.** January 22nd is the the 47th anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in the United States.
- > **Sunday, February 2nd – St. Leo's Annual Parish meeting** after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Come and see the color renditions for our proposed painting of the church's interior.



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 Baptism of the Lord January 12, 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 Jan 12:

Mon - Jan 13 - 10:30 am - **Funeral Mass for Ann Marschke**

Tues - Jan 14 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo's - **NO MASS**

Wed - Jan 15 - 9:00 am - **Madalyn Wiersma** by Casey & Anna Garman

Thurs - Jan 16 - 9:00 am - **+Don Mergner** by Marian Watson

Fri - Jan 17 - 9:00 am - **+Zachary Kaufman** by Ron & Dung Thuy Kaufman

Sat - Jan 18 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - +Mary Madsen by Stephen & LaRae Madsen

Sun - Jan 19 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am Mass - Special Intention for Family by Janice Diemert
St. Leo's - 10:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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., Jan 14 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 15 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Jan 15 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Tues., Jan 21 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 22 - 8:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Jan 28 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
**Sun., Feb 2 - 11:30 am - St. Leo's Annual meeting in the Spirit of Life Center**  
 Tues., Feb 4 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Feb 11 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Kent Marschke and family on the death of his wife, Ann; to Elaine Volk and family on the death of her mother, Vivian Wiest; to Inez Woell on the death of her daughter-in-law, Kim Buchholz and to Jerry Volk on the death of his aunt, Lena Voeller.

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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Jan 18<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Jan 19<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Jan 19<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Renee Anderson                          | Larry Zaun                             | Steve Carvell                                                           |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh       | Barb Buhr<br>Joe Killoran              | Joan Carvell<br>Jeff Grommesh<br>Tom Nowak<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Cassie Bartholomay                      | Carson Hovelson<br>Carly Hovelson      | Logan Prochnow<br>Alex Sullivan<br>Daniel Sullivan                      |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | Volunteer needed                        | Claudia Von Bank<br>John Hansen        | Volunteer needed                                                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Micah Bartholomay Family                | Flint & Dee Kasowski                   | Corey Rood Family                                                       |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Martin' Lutheran Church Dinner:** All are invited to Martin's Lutheran Church, Casselton for an old fashion Lutheran Church dinner today, Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 12:20 pm. The menu will include hotdishes with all the old time trimmings, including egg coffee. Free will offering.

**Valley's Largest Baby Shower!** You can make a difference in the life of a mom and her child during the month of January by donating to the Valley's Largest Baby Shower. The Women's Care Center (formerly First Choice Clinic) and Life 97.9 encourage you to purchase gift cards from Walmart, Target, or Amazon, then send them or drop them off at Women's Care Center at 103 University Dr. N, Fargo ND 58102! Women's Care Center also has an Amazon Wish list at: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/15OWNI4TFN05S?ref=wl\\_share!](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/15OWNI4TFN05S?ref=wl_share!) For further details go to Life979.com. Thank you for supporting moms and babies through the Valley's Largest Baby Shower.

**Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages** will be held locally February 7-9 in Fargo. Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program helping married couples with a hurting marriage find new hope and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. For more information visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or call (701)356-7962, or via email at: [RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org](mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org). More information about Retrouvaille is posted on the bulletin board in the church entrance.

**Catholic Collage:** February 9, 16 & 23, 2020 at Shanley High School. Please see the flyer and registration forms on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Visit: [www.catholiccollage.com](http://www.catholiccollage.com) for more information and to register online.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Matthew 3:17*

Two thoughts come to mind when reading this. First, God, Our Father, is so generous, that he gave his only son, whom he really loves, to us so that we can have eternal life with him in heaven. God, Our Creator, really loves us, too! Second, Jesus was obedient to his Father's will, even to the point of death. This is a reminder that our own lives are pure gifts from God and meant to serve God and others.

### St. Leo's Knight of the Month



Council 9477

The Knight for the month of **January** is **Chris Poulson**. Thank you Chris for your dedication and the works you do for the KC's. It is greatly appreciated.

### Redeemed Women's Conference

**2020:** March 27-28 at the Avalon Events Center, 2525 9th Ave S, Fargo, ND. Space is limited. Early registration before March 1 is \$50, after March 1 the cost is \$75. To register on line and for more information go to:

[FargoDiocese.org/RedeemedWomen](http://FargoDiocese.org/RedeemedWomen)

Registration forms are also available on the church bulletin board along with more information about the conference.

### Weekly Bulletins are now on line!

To view the weekly bulletin go to:

- [stleosnd.org](http://stleosnd.org)
- click on the **Weekly Bulletins** link
- click on bulletin you wish to view

*Don't forget to like us on Facebook.*