

PASTOR'S NOTES

Sin in our Church ... our culture ... our lives

The headline in Friday's *Fargo Forum* reads, "Confession of Sins". With that, the article goes on to relate that the Diocese of Fargo released the names of priests since 1950 who have had substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors leveled against them.

The list includes the name of 17 priests and 2 deacons who were ordained for the Diocese of Fargo. In addition there are the names of one religious brother, six religious order priests, and five priests from other dioceses, all of whom at one time or another had worked within the Diocese of Fargo. All of these names can be found on the diocesan website: www.fargodiocese.org

Truly these are remorseful days and a time of reckoning. Crimes of this nature are truly sinful and those found guilty of such abuse charges need to be fully prosecuted. Victims of such sinful behavior need to be fully helped in the rehabilitation of their lives.

With that being said and without fully knowing any of the details and the veracity of specific cases and charges, this crisis demands our fullest attention and procedures put in place to eliminate this cancer from our culture and our lives.

The news is full of accounts telling the pervasive nature of this crisis, which has enveloped politicians, ministers, teachers, business people, Hollywood moguls, Scout leaders, etc. No particular segment of society has been exempt from the tentacles of this disease and sickness.

We seem to be a culture living in a time when the whole world of sexuality is topsy-turvy! At one level almost anything short of full-blown pornography fills our airwaves and receives public acclaim (e.g. - *50 Shades of Gray*). On another level there are multi-layered discussions and lawsuits on gender identity and transsexual experiences all claiming equality and normalcy in terms of sexual expression. On top of that individual and family lives are filled with the viewing of pornography, promiscuous behaviors, living together situations, sexually transmitted diseases, marital affairs, etc., all of which seem to be on the rise.

Where do we go? How do we proceed in such a world?

Both the Vatican and the bishops of the United States are in the process of formulating processes and procedures to deal with bishops who themselves have abused others and/or have been truly negligent in their duties and responsibilities as 'shepherds' (e.g. - the Cardinal Theodore McCarrick case). Lay women and men will be more deeply involved from start to finish of judging allegations of abuse and the failure of church authorities to rightly 'shepherd' and care for the people under their pastoral watch. This will be a good step in the right direction.

This crisis will not be stemmed until we reclaim a true understanding of the sacredness of sexuality and its place in God's plan for men and women. Sexuality is not just another system within our bodies like the cardio-vascular system. It is not just something subject to technology, pills and medicine. Sexuality is a constitutive part of our identities. It defines us from the beginning of our existence. When this is wrongly understood and lived-out, we get in all sorts of trouble.

A good start would be parents taking the lead in living purely and chastely and passing on those virtues to their children. For our part, all of us can do our part by praying, offering prayers and seeking reconciliation for the times we have not lived our sexuality in ways intended by God. As the old saying goes, "A trip of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



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 Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 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 5:

Mon - Jan 6 - 9:00 am - +Ed Mergner by Marian Watson

Tues - Jan 7 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Fr. Larry Haas

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Jan 8 - 9:00 am - +Bernie Baumler by Linus & Margaret Kensok

Thurs - Jan 9 - 9:00 am - +Karol Utt by Mike Utt

Fri - Jan 10 - 9:00 am - Anthony Garman by Casey & Anna Garman

Sat - Jan 11 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - +Gene Cederberg by Theresa Dooley

Sun - Jan 12 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - +Dave Kasowski by Harold & Marian Kasowski

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 & 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


Sun., Jan 5 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Jan 7 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 8 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Jan 8 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
 Thurs., Jan 9 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Jan 14 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Jan 21 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Jan 28 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory

**Children's Envelopes:** Due to production issues, the company we receive our children's envelopes from are behind on orders. Until the regular envelopes arrive there are supplementary envelopes available at the back of the church for use. We ask that you please write your child's name on the envelope so they may be recorded correctly. Thank you.

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Bea Bachmeier on the death of her brother, Ernie Fritel.

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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 11<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Jan 12<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>                              | <b>Sunday Jan 12<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Mark Voss                                        | Shari Kensok                                                                | Judy Von Bank                                    |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Bill Franck<br>Nicole Scherweit                  | Ann Faught<br>Mary Jendro<br>Susan Kempel<br>Terry Kensok<br>Richard Muscha | Keith Biggers<br>Laura Biggers                   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Theo Metzger<br>Ben Metzger                      | Sarah Kempel<br>Melody Kempel                                               | Gavin Besette<br>Claire Halland                  |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                     | Claudia Von Bank<br>John Hansen                  |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                     | Bryce Kasowski Family                            |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Martin' Lutheran Church Dinner:** All are invited to Martin's Lutheran Church, Casselton for an old fashion Lutheran Church dinner on 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/150WNI4TFN05S?ref=wl\\_share!](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/150WNI4TFN05S?ref=wl_share!) For further details go to [Life979.com](http://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.

**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Today, Sun., Jan., 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Serving French toast and Sausage. Free will offering.



### 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.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.