

PASTOR'S NOTES

Different, but deeply connected, days

On November 1st and November 2nd the Church celebrates two different, but very deeply connected, realities in our lives of faith.

Both of these days remind us that death will come to all of us. **What happens at death is not the same for everyone.** At the very moment of death a particular judgement will be rendered on each person's life:

- (1) "Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ" in **heaven** (CCC 1023);
- (2) "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030) undergo purification in **Purgatory** so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven (Rev. 21:27);
- (3) For those who "die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love ... remaining separated from him forever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called **hell** ." (CCC 1033)

November 1st celebrates All Saints Day, which is one of the five Holy Days in the United States (**the other 4 being: January 1st – Mary, Mother of God; August 15th – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven; December 8th – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; December 25th – Christmas**). On the church calendar many days are designated as days of particular saints (e.g. - *October 4th – St. Francis of Assisi; November 10th – St. Leo the Great; July 5th – St. Thomas the Apostle, etc.*). But All Saints Day acknowledges there are many more saints than those officially recognized or listed on the church calendar. On November 1st we celebrate and seek the intercession of all holy men and women who live in heaven and the blessedness of God.

On the other hand, **November 2nd (All Souls Day)** is a day set aside for us to pray for deceased loved ones undergoing the purification of Purgatory. It is our offering of Masses, prayers and almsgiving that assist them in being purified from their vestiges of sin and help them attain their final glory of heavenly life and the beatific vision of God. These offerings of Masses, prayers and almsgiving are often called – 'suffrages'.

Both of these days (Nov. 1st and 2nd) acknowledge what the Apostles' Creed calls the 'communion of saints', which is another name for the Church. **The Church is comprised of three states of being: (1) we, living on earth; (2) the saints in heaven; (3) the souls in purgatory.** Because the Church is One there is a sharing of spiritual goods among these three states of the Church. We seek the intercession of those already in heaven (the saints) while they are always praying for us, and we offer prayers and alms for loved ones in purgatory who are constantly seeking/desiring our spiritual help. The Church as the 'communion of saints' is both a communion and a sharing in holy things and among holy persons.

Masses for All Saints Day, which is a Holy Day, will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas in Buffalo on Thursday, October 31st and at St. Leo's in Casselton on Friday, November 1st at 7 pm.

On **All Souls Day {November 2nd}** St. Leo's will host an Evening Prayer Remembrance Service in conjunction with our 5 p.m. Saturday evening Mass. All who have lost a loved one – *this year or in years gone by* – are invited to attend this Mass/Remembrance Service. Praying for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. The service will be followed by a simple reception at the rectory.



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



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME October 27, 2019

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 Oct 27:

Mon - Oct 28 - 9:00 am - +**Mary Ermer**

Tues - Oct 29 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Stephen Levitsky**

St. Leo's - **NO MASS**

Wed - Oct 30 - 9:00 am - +**Ernest Watson** by Marian Watson

Thurs - Oct 31 - 9:00 am - **Kym Alex** by Patti Alex

Thurs - Oct 31 - 5:30 pm - All Saints Day Mass at St. Thomas

Fri - Nov 1 - 7:00 pm - All Saints Day Mass at St. Leo's, NO 9 AM MASS - +Don Mergner

Sat - Nov 2 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - Neil Larson by Michelle Kieffer

Sun - Nov 3 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am Mass - +Kenny Habiger by Theresa Dooley

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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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

Wed., Oct 30 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Oct 30 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
 Thurs., Oct 31 - 5:30 pm - **All Saints Day/Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas**  
 Thurs., Oct 31 - 6:30 to 7:30 pm - Holy House at St. Leo's  
 Fri., Nov 1 - 7:00 pm - **All Saints Day Holy/Day Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Sat., Nov 2 - 5:00 pm - All Souls Day Remembrance combined with Saturday Evening Mass  
**Sun., Nov 3 - 11:00 am- 1:30 pm - St. Leo's Fall Dinner & Raffle**  
 Tues., Nov 5 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Mon., Nov 11 - 7:00 pm - Confirmation Parent meeting in big class room lower level of church  
 Tues., Nov 12 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory

**Prizes for the Fall Dinner KID'S GAMES** - Don't forget to drop off any items you might have that we can use for prizes for the kids games- balls, bracelets, mini flashlights, stampers, pens/pencils, key chains, candy, etc. Put them in the box marked "FALL DINNER GAME PRIZES" in the hallway by the Fall Dinner sign-up sheets.

### *Upcoming Ministry Schedule*

|  | <b>Saturday Nov 2</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Nov 3</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Nov 3</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i>                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tricia Gegelman<br>Lois Titus                               | Jackie Vavra                                               | Mark Voss                                                                       |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Lucy Wagner<br>Mona Franck                                  | Laura Biggers<br>Barb Buhr                                 | Micah Bartholomay<br>Kristi Dutchuk<br>Leo Kieffer<br>Pam Spooner<br>Jerry Volk |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Nikita Howard<br>Ethan Richard                              | Clay Hovelson<br>Meyer Wendel                              | Paris/Parker Mack<br>Addison Hushka<br>Lucas Miller                             |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                     | Gary & Linda Milbrandt                                     | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         |
| <b>Greeters</b>                                                                   | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                     |                                                            | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                     | Larry & Penny Zaun                                         | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         |

## NEWS AND NOTES

### **All Saints Day - Holy Day Mass Schedule:**

Thurs., Oct 31<sup>st</sup> - 5:30 pm - St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 Fri., Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's in Casselton  
No 9 am Mass at St. Leo's on Fri., Nov 1<sup>st</sup>



**Holy House:** Plan to come by St. Leo's on Halloween, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm to visit some of our Catholic saints and to receive a treat. Everyone is welcome!

**1st Annual Casselton Trunk or Treat** event is scheduled for Oct. 27th, from 5 to 8 pm. The events will take place at Martin's church, the St. Leo's parking lot and the Spirit of Life Center. The organizers would like to have the congregations in Casselton participate in the event for trick or treaters in our community. St. Leo's will host a cakewalk for the event. If you are interested in sharing a treat or helping with the cakewalk, please call or text Mary Richard at (701)799-6756. More details about the event from the organizers is on the "Casselton Trunk or Treat" Facebook page.

**All Souls Day:** Sat. Nov., 2<sup>nd</sup> during the 5 pm Mass we will be remembering and celebrate our deceased loved ones. After communion parishioners will be invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one. A reception of coffee and bars will follow Mass at the rectory. All are welcome.

**CHI Riverview Fall Open House:** On Wed., Oct. 30th from 2 to 4 pm Riverview in Fargo (5300 12th St S) will have an open house for tours, door prizes, music and their famous Apple Dumpplings. All are welcome.

**Bible Timeline Bible, Understanding the Entire Bible:** Mondays from 10 to 11 am at Riverview in Fargo. The Bible Study featuring Jeff Cavins takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. For more information, please contact Mary Jo at (701)237-4700.

**Catholic Collage Fall Session:** Join us Thurs., Nov. 14 & 21 for a Catholic Collage mini session at St. Anthony's Church, Fargo. The evening will begin with a free will offering simple supper at 6 pm. The presentations will be from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board with details on the topics and presenters.

### **Fall Dinners - Please see the flyers on bulletin board for more details on fall dinners:**

Sun., Oct 27 - Blessed Sacrament Church, West Fargo, Pork Loin Dinner, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**Sun., Nov 3 - St. Leo's Church, Roast Beef Dinner, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.**  
 Sun., Nov 10 - Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo, Pork Roast Dinner, 4:00 to 7:00 pm

### **This week's Stewardship moment:**

*"...for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." - Luke 18:14*

Pride and ego is the root cause of most of our sins. Thinking your time is so valuable, your talent is better than anyone else and your money gives you status is another way of making those things "gods" before God. Remember all those gifts were God-given. Instead we should be humbled by God's abundant generosity and our hearts should overflow with gratitude.