


PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Jun 14 – 4:30 pm – 9th Annual Rural Life Celebration, Kurt & Cheryl Elliott Farm, Blanchard, ND
 Sun., Jun 21 – 4:00 pm – Fr. Ermer's Retirement/Farewell celebration at St. Leo's
If you have not yet RSVPed, Please do so by Tuesday, June 16th.
 Sun., Jun 21 – 7:00 pm – Annual Collar Classic Softball game, Elmwood Park, West Fargo, ND



St. Leo's Vacation Bible School will be held on July 20-23, 2026 daily from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Children grade K-5th can attend. The cost is \$20 per child with a family max of \$50. Older kids and adults are welcome to volunteer. Registration forms are available on the table in the church entry. Contact Patty at dre@stleosnd.org for more information.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday June 20 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday June 21 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday June 21 10:30 am St. Leo's
			
Lector	Mallory Poulson Lee Ann Monilaws	Keith Biggers	Shari Kensok
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Ann Burchill Grant Burchill Beau Parisien Max Monilaws	Hallie Besette Skylar Norrie	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow Natalie Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Frank & Laura Biggers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Corey Hovelson Family	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Gary Milbrandt and his family on the death of his brother, Orville.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4

A Personal Witness to God's Love: St. Anthony's Church (710 10th St S, Fargo) invites everyone for a special two-part speaker series on Wednesdays, June 17 & 24 at 6:00 pm. Fariba Rogheed, Obl. S.B. will discuss her experiences growing up as Muslim and share her personal journey from Islam to the Catholic faith. She will highlight similarities of the Islam and Catholic faith and offer her perspective on the current situation in Iran. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

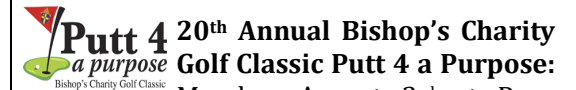
Annual Collar Classic Softball Game: Shepherds (2025 defending champions) vs. Seminarians will be held Sunday, June 21st at Elmwood Park, West Fargo. 5:30 pm picnic, 7:00 pm softball game. Bring a lawn chair. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Beginning Experience for Widowed, Separated & Divorced: June 26-28, 2026 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Hankinson, starting Friday at 6:30 pm and ending Sunday at 4:00 pm. "Let go of the pain and get ready to live again. Real results, real hope." For more information and an application, contact Bonnie (Fargo) at 701-318-0949 or visit: www.beginningexperience-easternnorthdakota.org

This week's Stewardship moment:

"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" ~ Matthew 10:7

Many of us take our lives for granted. We think we have plenty of time to "repent." Maybe we should live with a little more urgency in making things right with God. This is the difference in living our discipleship out of obligation versus out of love. Obligation implies we do the minimum required. Love implies we want a relationship. God wants us to be with Him in Heaven forever, but He also wants to be in a relationship with us right now, while we are on earth. Start this second – invite the Lord into your heart.



Putt 4 a Purpose: 20th Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Classic
Monday, August 3rd at Rose Creek Golf Course, Fargo, ND beginning at 10:00 am. Join the fun and fellowship for a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Register three golfers and bring your Priest, Deacon or Seminarian as your 4th player for free. Register online at: www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose If you're not a golfer, please consider sponsoring a priest or seminarian or a hole on the golf course. Your contribution will help support the event and defray costs. For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Steve Schons at the Diocese at (701)356-87925 or email steve.schons@fargodiocese.org

Couples Retreat: Faith, Marriage, and Parenting with Dr. Ray: July 24-26, 2026 at the Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. Married couples are invited to deepen their faith, enhance their spousal love, and be equipped with the practical wisdom they need to form the next generation of saints-in-the-making. Prominent and beloved psychologist, author, radio host and Catholic speaker Dr. Ray Guarendi will help couples navigate the complexities of living out marriages and family lives in a world often at odds with Christian commitments. Space is limited. More details about the retreat and how to register are at: www.fargodiocese.org/marriage-retreat

PASTOR'S NOTES

17 out of 48 years — 35%

I have spent over 35% of my priestly ministry being pastor of St. Leo's parish in Casselton and St. Thomas in Buffalo. That is a good number of years. It all began on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 and will come to a close on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.

It is hard to review all the many events that have transpired over these years. My tenure began with the sad announcement that Mike Utt's wife, Karol, had died on June 30th (*the day before I arrived*) and her funeral liturgy would be the first of many Vigil services and funeral liturgies that would follow.

From then until now the sacramental books of St. Leo's and St. Thomas will have my name ascribed to many baptismal liturgies, marriage celebrations, many lines in the death registry, Confirmation notations of those who have entered into full communion with the Catholic Church, etc. Those events comprise a large part of a pastor's life – *meeting, planning, preparing, organizing, coordinating and celebrating God's abiding presence and care in the midst of these life events.*

Over the years I have developed a great love for teaching and have done a considerable amount of teaching Scripture classes, the Catechism and fundamental elements of the Catholic faith, examining contemporary moral issues, probing ecumenical topics, etc. We have had a number of Inquiry classes into the Catholic faith out of which people have entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. Since my second year as pastor I have weekly taught juniors and seniors in our Religious Education classes on topics of *Church history to our juniors and the moral life & Ten Commandments to our seniors.* During the summer I usually had one or two Baptism classes for parents, who had had children baptized during the course of the years.

In the course of these 17 years there has been a very active ministerium in the Casselton area. Besides local pastors meeting monthly during a regular school year, our churches have come together and celebrated a number of ecumenical services – *an annual Thanksgiving Service in November; a Church unity song fest in January during the world-wide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; a five-week Lenten Sunday evening Services on a rotating basis at the local congregations/parishes.*

Beyond the Sunday and weekday liturgies, educational classes, spiritual gatherings and prayer services a pastor's life gets deeply involved in the maintenance of facilities and the upkeep of property. Both parishes have done major projects over these years: **At St. Thomas Church** there has been new church siding; new light and sound system; new interior painting and carpet; insulation; our new piano; our recent mold remediation and encapsulation project, etc. **At St. Leo's Church** there has been a new telephone system; an upgrade to our main steps and entrance area; platting of St. Leo's cemetery; new church lighting; upgrade of the Spirit of Life kitchen; re-pavement of a parking lot; interior church painting; upgrade of our elevator; sanctuary floor tile; upgrade rectory furnace and air conditioning; new roof membrane on north and south church sacristies, etc.

These are the events and occasions that live in public view. The heart of a pastor's life is a much more interior and spiritual journey with the many people who are met on the way of being the Body of Christ and the building of God's Kingdom.

Next week on the occasion of my last *Pastor's Notes* I would like to offer some reflections on that dimension of my 17 years serving the parishioners of St. Leo's and St. Thomas and the communities of Casselton and Buffalo.



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



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME June 14, 2026

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 June 14:

Mon – June 15 – 9:00 am – **+Don Nilles** by Barb Marschke

Tues – June 16 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Bob Killoran** by Joe & Lora Killoran

NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – June 17 – 9:00 am – **+Ken Waldorf** by Pam Spooner

Thurs – June 18 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Fri – June 19 – 9:00 am – **+Barb Nelson** by Lila Thoen

Saturday – June 20 – 5:00 pm – +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman

Sunday – June 21 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am – +Sandi Olund by Lily 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

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain: Kelsey Lako

Please call or email the parish office.

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo's Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay

St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

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 or by appointment.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.