

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Freedom — *not as simple as it looks*

Two years ago [24 June 2022] the U.S. Supreme issued a 6-3 decision called *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* declaring there is no right to abortion in the Constitution of the United States. The Dobbs decision effectively overturned the January 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision which had legalized abortion in the United States for the past 49+ years. The question of abortion has now been given to each of the 50 states to determine its legality and its place in society.

In the wake of this Dobbs decision the rhetoric from pro-abortionists is that a women's right to choose has been taken away, that freedom of choice is under attack, that we are moving into a dark age where a whole litany of basic rights are going to be rolled back.

First, a little light needs to be focused on the notions of freedom, free will and free choice. **Choice is fundamental to human existence.** The book of Sirach in the Old Testament says,

*"When God, in the beginning, created man, he made him subject to his own free choice. If you choose you can keep the commandments; it is loyalty to do his will. There are set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, whichever he chooses shall be given him."* [Sirach 15:14-17]

**In this sense everyone is pro-choice.** But in this age the term - *pro-choice* - has been preempted and coopted to simply define a person as being in favor of abortion. Choice by its very nature can be either right or wrong, good or bad, mature or immature, selfish or selfless, etc. It is very reasonable to conclude that abortion is a wrong choice, even sinful.

**A truly free choice must be rooted in what is True and Good.** Freedom detached from Truth and Goodness has created our divisive and polarized world of today. In today's world Truth has been denigrated and translated as either being 'my truth' or 'your truth'. People choose the conspiracy theory that most closely aligns with the life narrative they have adopted for themselves. Truth, other than theirs, is often called 'fake news' and simply dismissed out of hand. **This is not just a 'left or right' or 'red or blue' issue.** It is a disease eating at the soul of America and the modern world in general. Language and words get changed to mean whatever a person wants them to mean.

To some degree this comes from a people who have lost their grounding in God as Creator of all things, and the author of right and wrong, good or bad. When that foundation is rocked and made insecure people gravitate to something or someone else to be 'their savior'. In this scenario freedom becomes corrupt because it is tied to someone or something no better than each person being 'their own savior'. **We call this reality - personal autonomy.** Everyone defines truth for themselves.

If a child in the womb can be labeled as just 'a blob of tissue' or 'product of conception' and not truthfully a pre-born human being (*having a heart beat, human DNA, human chromosomal structure*), then all sorts of actions can be directed against human life in the womb - *chemical warfare, dismemberment, etc.* Such is the working of personal autonomy.

On the Fourth of July when so much talk focuses on freedom, let us be aware that freedom unattached to the fullness of truth and goodness is nothing more than slavery to run-away passions, vacillating feelings, passing fads, cultural trends, etc., etc.

A true Fourth of July is a people who know from whence they come — **God**; to where they are going — **eternal life in heaven with God**; and how to live in the meantime — **as disciples of Jesus Christ, true God/true man, the way, the truth and the life.** Freedom belongs to a people of such meaning and purpose; anything else is slavery!

**Happy Fourth of July!!**



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



## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME June 30, 2024

### 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 30:

Mon - July 1 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues - July 2 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – +Lillian Von Bank by Luella Grieve  
*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – July 3 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Thurs – July 4 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – July 5 – 9:00 am – +Shirley Marek by Monica Qvale

**Saturday – July 6 – 5:00 pm - +Todd Holm by Ron & Thuy Kaufman**

**Sunday - July 7 – St. Thomas- 8:30 am - +Marvin Ries by Minnie Ries**  
**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: 701-793-7088

**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

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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., June 30 - Beverage and Bite after Mass

Sun., July 7 - Beverage and Bite after Mass

**Mon. - Thurs. - July 22-25 - 1 to 4 pm - Vacation Bible School**

Mon., Aug 5 - 11:00 am - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Classic, Rose Creek Golf Course, Fargo

Tues., Aug 5 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory


Fri., Sat., Sept 6 & 7 - Redeemed Eucharistic Congress, Jamestown Civic Center

**St. Leo's Cemetery Notice:** All artificial flowers and Memorial Day wreaths are to be removed from the cemetery by June 30. During the summer the decorations are often damaged by the mower and may be covered by dead grass.

**2024 Summer Camps and Events:** There are a number of summer camps and events available for youths to participate in this summer. Please see the display in the entrance of the church for information and to pick up a brochure.

**St. Leo's Vacation Bible School (VBS):** July 22 - 25, 2024. 1-4pm each day for students entering K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration forms and information is available in the church entry. Registration deadline is July 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday July 6</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday July 7</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday July 7</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i>                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Megan Bolda<br>Lois Titus                                    | Keith Biggers                                               | Elise Wisnewski                                                                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Lucy Wagner<br>Alex Richard                                  | Joni Biggers<br>Keith Biggers                               | Kristi Dutchuk<br>Jared Nelson<br>Nicole Scherweit<br>Pam Spooner<br>Lucas Steckler |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Ethan/Olivia Richard<br>Tristan/Ignatius Lako                | Hannah Besette<br>Claire Halland                            | James Diemert<br>Garman Family                                                      |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                            |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | Corey Hovelson Family                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                            |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Lucy Wagner                                                  |                                                             | <b>Volunteer needed</b>                                                             |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**DID YOU KNOW...** Community of Care provides transportation to medical appointments for older adults **FREE** of charge. Our dedicated volunteers provide these important rides for older adults to receive their medical care. If you are 65+, living in Cass County and need a ride to your doctor appointment, give them a call at **(701)347-0032**. Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy Schempp, will do her best to arrange a ride. You must be able to independently transfer in and out of the vehicle. **They do request a one week notice to arrange for a ride.**



**Putt 4 a Purpose—Golf Event:** Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00 am at Rose Creek Golf Course in south Fargo. Bishop John Folda invites you to *Putt 4 a Purpose* at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Classic, benefiting Seminararian Education and Youth Programs. Join the fun and fellowship for a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Register three golfers and bring your Priest, Deacon or Seminararian as your 4<sup>th</sup> player for free! Register online at: [www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose](http://www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose) For further information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Steve Schons at the Diocese at (701)356-7926

**Redeemed Eucharistic Congress:** September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). The event will include Mass with Bishop Folda, Eucharistic procession from St. James Basilica, Eucharistic healing with Fr. Jeff Eppler, Praise and Worship with Aly Aleigha and Adoration. Guest speakers will include Scott Hahn, Julianne Stanz and Msgr. Thomas Richter. **Cost for the event is \$35 before Aug 1, after Aug 1 \$50.** For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board. To register please visit - [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed) or call (701)356-7900

The Rosary is prayed before each weekend Mass at St. Leo's. **We are in need of persons to lead the rosary** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month. This would be about 20 minutes before the 10:30am Masses on these days. Call the parish office if you can help.

**Diocese of Fargo Summer Youth Events:** The Diocese of Fargo is offering events throughout the summer for youth who are looking to grow more in their faith and get to know others throughout the diocese. All events are open to youth in the Diocese of Fargo who are going into grades 7-12 in the fall of 2024. Events are organized by the Cor Christi Missionary Team. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information or visit: [fargodiocese.org/sym](http://fargodiocese.org/sym)

**Retrouvaille:** Help for Hurting Marriages Have you and your spouse grown cold and distant from each other? Do you struggle to communicate or come together on common goals? Have past hurts built up walls of tension and distrust so big you question if they could ever come down? There is hope. Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Retrouvaille will be held locally September 27-29, 2024 in Fargo. For information visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at: [rrretrouvaille@gmail.com](mailto:rrretrouvaille@gmail.com)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"...as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality." ~ 2 Corinthians 8:14*

One of the tenants of living a grateful and generous lifestyle is giving without expecting anything in return. It is important that we not only grow, nurture, and share our gifts; but that we also teach our children and encourage others to do the same. This is the communal aspect of our Catholic faith. We are the "Body of Christ." We are called to be dependent on each other and not live in isolation.