

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Assumption — some notes of distinction

On August 15th of each year the Catholic Church celebrates the Holy Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. This dogma of faith was declared by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 in an Apostolic Constitution titled *Munificentissimus Deus* [The Most Bountiful God]. In part that Constitution says, "... *Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up body and soul to heavenly glory.*"

The first note of distinction is that this reality of an assumption is also found in Scripture. Genesis 5:24 speaks of Enoch, father of Methusaleh (the Bible's oldest living person of 969 years) who "... *walked with God, and he was no longer here, for God took him.*" In 2 Kings 2:11 the Scripture writer says "... *a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them (Elijah and Elisha), and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.*" Scholars speak of these assumptions as ways of "expressing a faith or hope concerning the end of a human life that is pleasing to God".

A second note of distinction is that the words ascension and assumption are different. The Church teaches that Christ ascended to heaven; whereas Mary was assumed into heaven. The word 'ascension' means an active role on the part of the person ascending; whereas the word 'assumption' (being taken up) means the person being taken up plays a passive role. It is an action being done to that person. In such a distinction Jesus is the only person to ascend to the Father. This fulfills John 3:13 – "*No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from there – the Son of Man...*". In the case of Mary's assumption it was an action of God taking place in her life.

A third note of distinction is a verification of paragraph 487 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which says, "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ". In this light *Munificentissimus Deus* says, "It seems impossible that the one who conceived Christ, bore him, fed him with her milk, held him in her arms and pressed him to her bosom should after this earthly life be separated from him in either body or soul". The Assumption seems to fulfill John 14:3 where Jesus says at the Last Supper '*that where I am you also may be*'. In the spirit of solidarity Mary is inseparable from Christ. Mary's assumption follows Christ's ascension.

A fourth note of distinction is that Vatican II applies the title of 'Mother of the Church' to Mary. Mary as Mother of the Church is the Church's type — its model and pre-eminent member. If Mary is inseparable from Christ, she is inseparable from the Church. Thus Christ and the Church [*with Mary being the type*] are inseparable. If Christ's ascension implies Mary's assumption, the assumption of Mary is more than a personal dogma about Mary. It is about the Church's assumption. Mary's assumption is the first moment in the glorious assumption of the Church – the reward of faithful discipleship. This seems to fulfill what Christ prays to the Father in John 17:22 before he is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane when he says, "*I have given them the glory that you gave me that they may be one, as we are one*". When all is said and done, the Assumption is the "celebration of redeemed humanity". It is the celebration of all faithful adherents who belong to Christ.

A fifth note of distinction is that Mary was assumed body and soul. All other saints in heaven possess their souls, but are awaiting their glorified bodies at the end of time. Mary already possesses her glorified body. She is not just one saint among many. She is the pre-eminent saint. What we now see in Mary will be ours in the last of days.

With this understanding in mind, Holy Day Masses for the Assumption are as follows:

Monday, August 14th at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas in Buffalo

Tuesday, August 15th at 7 p.m. at St. Leo's in Casselton



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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME August 13, 2023

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 Aug 13:

Mon - Aug 14 – 9:00 am – St. Leo's –

Mon - Aug 14 – Holy Day/Assumption– St. Thomas– 7:00 pm - +Roy Jager

Tues - Aug 15 – Holy Day/Assumption– St. Leo's– 7:00 pm– +John 'Jack' Ermer

NO 9 am MASS at St. Thomas

Wed – Aug 16 – 9:00 am – +Paul Grommesh by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Thurs – Aug 17 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – Aug 18 – 9:00 am – **Veronica Gill** by Sandie Nystrom

Sat - Aug 19 – 5:00 pm - +Warren Arndt by Keith & Barb Marschke

Sun - Aug 20 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - +Russel Muscha by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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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

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

Mon. Aug 14 - 7:00 pm - Assumption of the Blessed Mary /Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas  
 Tues. Aug 15 - 7:00 pm - Assumption of the Blessed Mary / Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's  
 Tues. Aug 15 - 8:00 pm - RE registration meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Mon. Aug 21 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council Meeting  
 Tues. Aug 22 - 5:30- 7:30 pm- KC Corn and Brat Picnic  
 Wed. Aug 23 - 7:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs. Aug 24 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Mon. Aug 28 - 6:30 pm - RE registration meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed. Aug 30 - 6:30 pm - RE Teacher Orientation meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues. Sept 5 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory

**This week's Eucharistic Reflection Question:** *What is the name of the food given by God during Israel's exodus in the desert that prefigures the Eucharist? ~ CCC 1334*

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                   | Saturday Aug 19<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Aug 20<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Aug 20<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                         |                                        |                                                                             |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Lee Ann Monilaws<br>Mallory Poulson     | Alecia Killoran                        | Steve Carvell<br>Elise Wisnewski                                            |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh       | Joe Killoran<br>Linda Milbrandt        | Micah Bartholomay<br>Joan Carvell<br>Jake Lako<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Burchill Family       | Jami Vavra<br>Hannah Besette           | Elise Bartholomay<br>Brynne Bartholomay<br>Lucas Miller                     |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                | Dennis & Cristie Killoran              | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                    |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                | Mark & Carmen Gubrud                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                    |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Mona Franck                             |                                        | Alexia Kieffer                                                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Mass Schedule for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mon. Aug 14<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm Mass at St. Thomas  
 Tues. Aug 15<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm Mass at St. Leo's

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

**Ralph & Barb Nelson - 69 years on August 12**  
**Robert & Judith Von Bank - 61 years on August 25**

**Catechist Retreats:** Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Both retreats will be held at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City. Fr. Andrew Jasinski will direct a retreat with a series of talks reflecting on the Eucharistic Saints. Cost is \$25 per person. Deadline to register is August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please register on-line at: [www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat](http://www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat) Questions please contact [mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org](mailto:mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org) or (701)356-7909.

**Attention NDSU Students and Parents:** St. Paul's Newman Center and bisonCatholic invites all students, parents and families to come and celebrate the Mass with us at the Newman Center on welcome weekend (August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>). Our Mass schedule for the school year is: Saturday (vigil) 4:30 pm, Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am (followed by coffee and rolls) and 5 pm (followed by Buckluck meal). See our weekly Mass schedule and register online at: [www.bisoncatholic.org](http://www.bisoncatholic.org) and click register! We look forward to seeing you on campus!

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"He said, "Come". Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus." ~ Matthew 14:29*

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He's doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say "yes" to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has in mind for you.



Council 9477

St. Leo's  
 Knights of Columbus  
**Corn & Brat Picnic**  
 Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
 Free will offering  
 Proceeds will support  
 Community of Care and the  
 Rural Cass Food Pantry.

**Women's Eucharistic Retreat with Bishop Folda:** Bishop Folda will be presenting a 3-day directed women's retreat on the Eucharist at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City on October 6-8, 2023. This will be a smaller retreat with limited spaces available, register at: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/bishop-retreat> or email: [jennie.korsmo@fargodiocese.org](mailto:jennie.korsmo@fargodiocese.org)

**Made for Greatness Men's Retreat:** This retreat will be focused on being a leader in your family and will feature renowned Catholic speaker and author Devin Schadt. Registration opens on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The July Men's Retreat filled up well in advance, so plan to register early to secure your spot. For more information and to register see the flyer on the bulletin board or go to: [www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-winter](http://www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-winter)