

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Ecumenism – *God's will and our prayer*

Each year in January [between January 18<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup>] the Church celebrates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Two great splits have happened in the history of Christianity. One took place in the 1000s when Christian churches split between the East and the West. Those Eastern churches are today collectively known as the Orthodox churches. In the 1500s Western Christianity suffered a rupture that is commonly known as the Reformation. Out of that age has come a number of denominations that are collectively known as Protestant churches.

Both of these divisions within Christianity go against the very will of Christ, who at the Last Supper on the night before he died, prayed *'that all may be one as he and the Father are one'*. [Jn. 17:21]

In the early 1900s an Episcopalian priest, Fr. Paul Wattson, who later became Catholic, began what has come to be known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He chose the dates between January 18<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup> as eight (8) days (*an octave*) of prayer for Christians unity. At that time January 18<sup>th</sup> celebrated the Chair of St. Peter (the primacy of the Pope) and January 25<sup>th</sup> celebrates the conversion of St. Paul and his mission to convert the Gentile world to Christianity.

The Vatican II (1962-65) document - The Decree on Ecumenism - begins with this statement, **"The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council."**

In 1995 the late Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical letter on ecumenism - Ut Unum Sint (That All May be One) - and states within it, **"At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to following the path of the ecumenical venture ..."** {3}, and exhorts, **"all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to participate actively in the work of ecumenism."** {8} He goes on to say, **"... ecumenism, the movement promoting Christian unity, is not some sort of "appendix" (to church life). Rather ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work ..."** {20} — **"Along the ecumenical path to unity, pride of place certainly belongs to common prayer ..."** {22} — **"It is a source of joy to see that many ecumenical meetings almost always include and indeed culminate in prayer. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated in January ... has become a widespread and well established tradition."** {24}

It is in this spirit that the Casselton Area Ministerium Association hosts an ecumenical service of prayer and song during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to foster prayer for the restoration of Christian unity.

This year's celebration will be held on **Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. at St. Leo's Catholic Church**. The prayer service will be followed by a coffee and dessert social in the Spirit of Life Center. Please join us in prayer as we do our part in the restoration of Christian unity.

### Parents — *Your Children's Envelopes*

As part of our parish stewardship strategy every year we provide each RE student with a packet of Sunday Offertory envelopes to help them get into the habit of regularly supporting their church. All the money raised through the student's Offertory envelopes is given to the charity known as Friends of Chimbote. This charity in Chimbote, Peru began out the missionary work of Fr. Jack Davis, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fargo in 1969.

In 2016 children's envelopes gave \$1542 to Chimbote. This past year (2023) we only raised \$886. **I believe we can do better. Parents — Please encourage your child(ren) to use their Sunday Offertory envelopes in support of this very worthy charity.**

In the off chance your students forgets his/her Sunday envelope at home, there are supplemental student envelopes at the rear of the church for their use. Just have your student write their name on that supplemental envelope before putting it into the Offertory collection. Thank you for your support in this matter.



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



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 14, 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 Jan 14:

Mon - Jan 15 – 9:00 am – **Anna Garman**

Tues - Jan 16 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – **In thanksgiving** by Cynthia Comprendio  
*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – Jan 17 – 9:00 am – **+Eugene Dooley** by Don & Janie Dooley

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

Fri – Jan 19 – 9:00 am – **+JoAnne Lillis** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Sat - Jan 20 – 5:00 pm - **+Zachary Kaufman** by Ron Thuy Dung Kaufman

Sun - Jan 21 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - **+George Comprendio** by Keith & Joni 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: 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., Jan 14 - 11:30 am - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting  
 Sun., Jan 14 - 2:00 pm - KC Free Throw Contest at Central Cass West Gym  
 Thurs., Jan 18 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., Jan 21 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Jan 23 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 24 - 6:45 pm - Week of Christian Unity Ecumencial Prayer Service  
 Wed., Jan 24 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Mon., Jan 29 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
**Sun., Feb 4 - 11:30 am - St. Leo's Annual Parish meeting**


### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 17<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm  
 Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)  
 Grades K & 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Grade 7 - Class B and 11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

**Christmas Poinsettias:** The **red** poinsettias that were used for our Christmas decorations in the church are available for any one to take home. **The poinsettias are located on tables in the Spirit of Life Center.**

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Jan 20<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Jan 21<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday Jan 21<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Lee Ann Monilaws<br>Mallory Poulson              | Keith Biggers                                   | Steve Carvell                                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh                | Penny Zaun<br>Joni Biggers                      | Micah Bartholomay<br>Jake Lako<br>Collin Miller<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Burchill Family                | Damien Norrie<br>Layla Norrie                   | Elise Bartholomay<br>Brynne Bartholomay<br>Kayleigh Prochnow                 |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                              | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | Kelly Rexine Family                              | Darren Halland Family                           | Marty Henderson Family                                                       |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Mona Franck                                      |                                                 | Jessica Enge                                                                 |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Shari Kensok and her family on death of her mother, Deon Wilcox and to Rickie & Sandra Keller on the death of their sister-in-law, Kathey Keller.

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

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #494, #761, #393, #387, #599, #559. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available—ask Wanda Mangin.

**Theology of the Body Adult Formation Series:** Wednesdays January 17 & 24 and February 7 & 21 at St. Mary's Cathedral Social Hall from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. This is a four-part series for adults on John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Sessions will include video instruction by Christopher West of the Theology of Body Institute followed by group discussion. Brad Gray, Director of Marriage and Family with the Fargo Diocese will be facilitating the evening. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry or contact Brad at: [brad.gray@fargodiocese.org](mailto:brad.gray@fargodiocese.org) with any questions.

**Catholic Man Night:** Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (210 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W, West Fargo). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk by Bishop John T. Folda and short discussion to follow. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" ~ John 1:38*

When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Serving French toast and sausage **Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

**Women's Retreat:** On February 2-4 at Franciscan Retreat Center in Hankinson, ND, women are invited to a retreat called Handmaid of the Lord: My Heart for My Son. There will be Rosary, engaging large group talks, small group discussions, Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, private priest/deacon spiritual direction, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Liturgy of the Hours, and more. Room & all meals provided, cost \$300 (students \$200). Register at [222.ecclesiadomestica.net/](http://222.ecclesiadomestica.net/) registration or call St. Boniface, Lidgerwood ND (701)538-4604.

**University of Mary** is taking auditions for their University of Mary Chapel Choir *Cappella*. This choral ensemble has a particular ministry and mission of providing music for campus liturgies and other special events. Students can audition to receive generous scholarships to sing sacred music with *Cappella*. Audition deadline is February 19, 2024. Students can learn more about audition requirements at: [www.cappellaumary.com](http://www.cappellaumary.com) For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry.