

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Ecumenism – a disciple's task

The Vatican II *Decree on Ecumenism* [21 November 1964] opens with the following statement: “The restoration of unity among Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council”. This statement certainly seeks to fulfill the unity for which Jesus so earnestly prayed for at the Last Supper.

In the 1500s Christianity suffered tumultuous times, which resulted in the splintering of western Christianity. These divisions are an egregious affront to Christ who prayed at the Last Supper that ‘all be one as he and the Father are one’ [Jn 17<sup>th</sup> 20-21]. **Ecumenism is the work of restoring Christian unity.** It is not just the work of theologians and church leaders, but belong at the heart of all disciples of Christ.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) is a specific time period for special prayer and efforts of ecumenism. To that effect we invite you to join the Casselton area churches' prayer and songfest on **Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. at St. Leo's church** as we do our part in the restoration of Christian unity. This prayer service will be followed with refreshments in the Spirit of Life Center at 7:30 p.m.

Since the parents of our RE students will be picking up their students at that time, **I highly encourage their attendance and all parishioners** for this time in which we offer prayers for the restoration of Christian unity!

### The unborn need our prayers

22 January 1973 v. 22 June 2022

On June 22, 2022 the United States Supreme Court decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned its previous *Roe v. Wade* decision of January 22, 1973, which had made abortion a federal constitutional right. The 2022 Supreme Court decision said the reasoning used in 1973 was faulty and there was no constitutional right to an abortion. The issue of abortion was returned to the states for their deliberation and adjudication. Since that time a number of state legislatures have passed state laws guaranteeing a right to abortion in their states.

**The right to life for the unborn is still deeply in need of our prayers!** The fight about abortion is far from over. For me – *beyond the principle of double effect* – to knowingly and willingly take the innocent life of the most defenseless of all human beings is a most egregious crime and sin against God. It cries out to God for his grace to convert the hearts and minds of those who advocate, promote and perpetuate such wrongful thinking.

It is out of this concern that a number of years ago the United States Catholic Bishops designated January 22<sup>nd</sup> as a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. As individuals we are asked to observe this day through penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms. This year January 22<sup>nd</sup> lands on Monday. *Your Mass attendance, prayers, fasting and almsgiving for the legal protection of unborn children are deeply appreciated.*

### Upcoming – St. Leo's Annual Parish meeting

On Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> St. Leo's parish will have its annual parish meeting after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. **This meeting is open to all parishioners of St. Leo's parish.** It will begin with a free and very delicious meal. Younger children will be fed downstairs along with some entertainment so parents can participate in the meeting upstairs.

Following the meal there will be a short presentation on the **state of parish life** here at St. Leo's. **Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!!**



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



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 21, 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 21:

Mon - Jan 22 – 9:00 am – +Virginia Pedeliski by Ted Pedeliski

Tues - Jan 23 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – Jan 24 – 9:00 am – +Jim Kieffer by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles

Thurs – Jan 25 – 9:00 am – +Fr. Gerald Myers

Fri – Jan 26 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

**Sat - Jan 27 – 5:00 pm - +Russel Muscha by Lydia Muscha**

**Sun - Jan 28 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Brent Siverson by Donna Siverson**  
**St. Thomas - 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 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 Ecumenical Prayer Service followed by refreshments  
 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 24<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

*All classes will attend Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service at 6:45 pm*

**NOTE: All 5:15 pm classes will meet at 6:30 pm** with their classmates in their respective classrooms.

**NOTE:** All sessions of 7<sup>th</sup> grade (A & B) will meet at 6:15 pm

**NOTE:** 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade will have a combined class at 6:15 pm

**NOTE:** All other classes start at regular times.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Jan 27<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Jan 28<br>8:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                               | Sunday Jan 28<br>10:30 am<br>St. Thomas |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | <b>KC<br/>Memorial<br/>Mass</b>         | Fred Eldridge                                                                       | Judy Von Bank                           |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      |                                         | Virjean Cramer<br>Dave Glennon<br>Patty Glennon<br>Terri Monilaws<br>Richard Muscha | Keith Biggers<br>Kristi Hovelson        |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              |                                         | Glennon Family<br>Nolan Ziegelmann                                                  | Rudi Wendel<br>Piper Koller             |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       |                                         | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                            | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                      |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               |                                         | Alex Richard Family                                                                 | Corey Hovelson Family                   |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Michelle Kappes                         |                                                                                     | Sandra Keller                           |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Jerry Christiansen and his family on death of his nephew, Matthew Neishem and to Veronica Gill and her family on the death of her brother, Alvin Schwegel. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* —Matthew 5:4

**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!

**Theology of the Body Adult Formation Series:** Wednesdays January 24 and February 7 & 21 at St. Mary's Cathedral Social Hall from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Sessions will include video instruction by Christopher West of the Theology of Body Institute followed by group discussion. 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.

**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.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." ~ Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to *"follow me"* is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.



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



St. Leo's Knights of Columbus  
**Memorial Mass**  
 for deceased members  
**January 27, 2024**  
 5:00pm

**PETER'S PENCE:** Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> has been designated as *Peter's Pence* Sunday. Envelopes for this collection are found with your regular collection envelopes. This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father and provides emergency assistance to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and persecution. Please consider giving generously. Thank you.

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, Feb 18<sup>th</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: #441, #761, #505, #663, #658, #739. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available—ask Wanda Mangin.