

PASTOR'S NOTES

Annual Parish Meeting – *Sunday, February 4th 2024*

~~ a reflection on parish life ~~

This coming Sunday – February 4th – 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 and 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. Our local Knights of Columbus and the five (5) parish committees – [*Liturgy, Finance, Education, Social Concerns and Cemetery*] will give brief overviews of their committee's work, pass along handouts for your review, note any upcoming projects, answer questions and listen to comments/concerns you may have. Fr. Ermer will conclude the meeting by giving a short pastoral review of parish life as well as sharing larger diocesan and church-wide happenings impacting parish life.

Parish life has changed dramatically over the last 50 years with the explosion of social media, the ease of transportation, the all-encompassing place of sports, the ever-changing world of technology, etc. **But people of faith and lives of faith still need to be nurtured in the love of God.** Christ left his Church to carry on this mission of celebrating his salvation of the world and the ongoing work of redeeming the lives of the human race.

Parish life carries on the bulk of this work and ministry –

- > **Lives of faith** need the fellowship of believers who are nurtured in prayer and the life of the sacraments. **Such is the work of our parish Liturgy Committee.**
- > **Lives of faith** need the fellowship of believers who are formed in the depth and wisdom of God's love and his Church's teachings on virtue and holiness. **Such is the work of our parish Education Committee.**
- > **Lives of faith** need the fellowship of believers who are called beyond their individual lives to build up the Kingdom of God by caring for fellow believers as well as the many needs of the human condition. **Such is the work of our parish Social Concerns Committee.**
- > **Lives of faith** need the fellowship of believers who understand the need for facilities and the stewardship of finances to underwrite this enterprise of faith. **Such is the work of our parish Finance Committee.**
- > **Lives of faith** need the fellowship of believers who know the certainty of death but bask in the promise of the resurrection and celebrate this belief in their care for the dying and our respect for the dead. **Such is the work of our parish Cemetery Committee.**

A parish is a community of people who encounter one another as believers and brothers and sisters in Christ. The vibrancy of parish life is the concerted effort of all parishioners engaging with one another in the ongoing work of Christ in our world, believing the best lies ahead when the Lord will say to us, "*Well done good and faithful servant! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.*"

This is the spirit of St. Leo's Annual Meeting.

All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend



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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 28, 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 28:

Mon - Jan 29 – 9:00 am – +**Shirley Marek** by Paulette Schmitt

Tues - Jan 30 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Jan 31 – 10:30 am – **Funeral Mass for Jim Schmitt**

Thurs – Feb 1 – 9:00 am – +**Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick**

Fri – Feb 2 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Sat - Feb 3 – 5:00 pm - **Family of Larry Zaun by Missy Poulson**

Sun - Feb 4 – **St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Bob Killoran by Janice Diemert**

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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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.

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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
 Tues., Feb 6 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy meeting at the rectory
 Thurs., Feb 8 - 6:30 pm - Parent reconciliation meeting
 Tues., Feb 13 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday- 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 31st

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 A and 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 3 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Feb 4 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Feb 4 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Gary Milbrandt	Elise Wisnewski
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt	Kristi Dutchuk Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler Mark Weber
Altar Servers	Ethan/Olivia Richard Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Gavin Besette Hallie Besette	James Diemert Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Gary & Linda Milbrandt	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Bryce Kasowski Family	Duane Klatt Family
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner		<i>Volunteer needed</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

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

Bob & Anne Pyle - 52 years on January 29

Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Boden Mark Bierscheid, son of Cooper and Sheyenne.

We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide him to live as a child of God.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Paulette Schmitt and her family on the death of her husband, Jim and to Don Nilles and his family on the death of his sister, Audrey Dauner.

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

GIVING HEARTS DAY - Thursday, February 8th.

What is Giving Hearts Day? Giving Hearts Day was started in 2008 by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation as the region's first one-day 'virtual' fundraising event to create awareness for many charities in ND and western Minnesota and for individuals to make donations to over 600 charities. There are five are Casselton organizations you can donate to. They are: *Casselton Community Medical Foundation, Central Cass Dollars for Scholars, Community of Care, Rural Cass Emergency Food Pantry and Sinner Bresnahan Healthy Kids Initiative* along with some other area charities such as - *Catholic Charities, Women's Care Center and The New Life Center*. For a complete list of charities and to make a donation please visit: www.GivingHeartsDay.org. If you prefer to donate with cash or check, please contact the organizations directly.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." ~ 1 Corinthians 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this — use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.



Council 9477

St. Leo's Knight of the Month:

The Knight for the month of **January** is **Collin Miller**. Thank you Collin for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, Feb 18th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is 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.

41st Annual Buffalo Pancake & Sausage

Breakfast: Sunday, February 18th, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Buffalo Area Emergency Service Center, 507 Main Street, Buffalo, ND. Free will offering.

Real Presence Radio invites you to attend the annual fundraising banquet in Fargo, ND on **Monday, February 26th** at the Delta Hotels by Marriott. This year's keynote speaker is Cy Kellett from "Catholic Answers". For more information about the event please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry or to register as a guest visit the website [Real PresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com) To become a table host or event sponsor call Blake Ritteman or Lori Kalgard at 701-795-0122 or email them at blake@realpresencerradio.com or lori@realpresencerradio.com.