

PASTOR'S NOTES

World-wide Day of Grandparents & the Elderly –

On January 31, 2021 Pope Francis announced a new celebration for honoring all grandparents and the elderly — **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. It was to be celebrated every fourth Sunday of July. The fourth Sunday of July will always fall closest to July 26th, which is the memorial that honors Sts. Anne and Joachim – **grandparents of Jesus**. For us, this year's date falls on Sunday, July 23rd.

In our present times grandparents and the elderly can often get lost in the 'hustle and bustle' of life. But this year's theme comes from Luke 1:50 – *"His mercy is from age to age"*. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Old age is not a time easily understood ... no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise ... we are tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles, and pretending to be forever young ... recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties ... We can resonate with the heartfelt prayer of the Psalmist: 'Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent' [71:9]."

Pope Francis writes about the vocation of grandparents and elderly. When Christ ascended to heaven he commissioned all of us to 'teach them to observe all that he commanded us'. In particular the vocation of grandparents and the elderly is *"to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Never forget this."*

He goes on to speak about the fact that "no one is saved alone." We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters. We need to build fraternity and social friendships for the world tomorrow. Grandparents and the elderly are needed to build this edifice. Among the three pillars that grandparents and elderly bring to this enterprise are **dreams, memory and prayer**. Dreams of justice, of peace and solidarity make it possible for the young to have visions. Hard memories of war or immigration give birth to the hope of building a humane and welcoming world. The prayer of grandparents and the elderly is a precious resource and the deep breath of the Church that can protect the world. **Such is the gift of grandparents and the elderly!!!**

Vacation Bible School

Parents are reminded that **St. Leo's Vacation Bible School** is being held Monday through Thursday, July 24-27. This event is open to all who are entering Kindergarten through 5th grade this coming school year. Registration forms can be found on the stand in the church entry. This year's Vacation Bible School theme is — **STELLAR** where kids are rocketed to an out-of-this-world adventure that is years of faith building fun. Hope to see you there!!

Once again – Thank you to our KCs

Our local Knights of Columbus Council treated our Mass Servers to a night out at a Fargo-Moorhead Red Hawks baseball game this last Friday night (July 7th). It was a cool night but everyone enjoyed themselves despite the Red Hawks coming out on the losing end of their game with the Kansas City Monarchs. Special thanks to our Grand Knight, Micah Bartholomay, who did most of the organizing. As a side note our bus driver was a past faithful Mass Server at St. Leo's and 2016 graduate of Central Cass – **Dominic Spooner**. Thanks very much, Dominic!!

We truly appreciate the many charitable good works that are done by our Knights. This annual night-out event for our Mass Servers is just one of many service projects they do for both our church and local community.

The Knights are a great international organization of Catholic men committed to the work of the Church. **I certainly commend Knights membership to all Catholic men of St. Leo's.**



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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 16, 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 July 16:

Mon - July 17 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Tues - July 18 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **NO MASS**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – July 19 – 9:00 am - **+Lloyd Hamre** by Darin & Judy Hamre

Thurs – July 20 – 9:00 am - **+Doris Brandenburg** by Jim & Paulette Schmitt

Fri – July 21 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Sat - July 22 – 5:00 pm - +Franck Grandparents by Bill & Mona Franck

Sun - July 23 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Jim Floyd by Keith & Joni Biggers

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

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. - Thurs. July 24-27 - 1:00-4:00pm - **St. Leo's Vacation Bible School (VBS)**  
 Wed. July 26 - 7:00 pm - KC meeting at the Rectory  
 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  
 Mon. Aug 21 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council Meeting

**This week's Eucharistic Reflection Question:** *Besides Christ's presence in the consecrated bread and wine, where else is Christ's presence found during the celebration of the Eucharist? ~ CCC 1373*

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                   | Saturday July 22<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's   | Sunday July 23<br>8:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                              | Sunday July 23<br>10:30 am<br>St. Thomas |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|  |                                            |                                                                                     |                                          |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tony Roth                                  | Fred Eldridge                                                                       | Alecia Killoran                          |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Paulette Schmitt<br>Mona Franck            | Virjean Cramer<br>Dave Glennon<br>Patty Glennon<br>Terri Monilaws<br>Richard Muscha | Joni Biggers<br>Keith Biggers            |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Evelyn Roth<br>Joe Kappes<br>Beau Parisien | Lauren Glennon<br>Claire Glennon<br>Jack Glennon                                    | Hallie Besette<br>Emercyn Killoran       |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | Volunteers needed                          | Volunteers needed                                                                   | Jurgen & Barb Suhr                       |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | Volunteers needed                          | Volunteers needed                                                                   | Frank & Laura Biggers                    |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Jessica Enge                               | Sandra Keller                                                                       |                                          |


## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Andrew and Matthew Fraase and their families on the death of their grandmother, Ramona Fraase.

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

**Mass of Thanksgiving:** On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, a Mass of Thanksgiving will mark the beginning of the 20-year anniversary year of St. Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home. This will begin a year of gratitude, prayer, evangelization and celebration. **Mass will be at 11 am at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw, ND**, followed by a cookout and a special performance from the Polish National Alliance Dancers at about 1:45 pm. This will be the first of several events during this special anniversary. Check out their website for more information and details at: [sgpmollahome.com](http://sgpmollahome.com)

**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. These retreats are primarily for those involved in catechesis, however all are welcome. The day will begin at 9 am and end at 4 pm. 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.

 **Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. There is a wonderful selection for all occasions available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

**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. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. Retrouvaille will be held locally September 29 - October 1 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)

**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)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." ~ Matthew 13:22*

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away.