

PASTOR'S NOTES

Some Financial Musings —

Since we are half way through the year, I thought I would offer some financial facts and commentary on life here at St. Leo's

(1) Through 6/30/2023 Sunday adult giving has amounted to \$147,000 —

commentary: this puts us on track to having a very good year. This giving comes from 149 households [HHs] out of a total of 265 registered households. 47 of these 149 HHs use some form of monthly auto pay which averages \$7905/monthly. We graciously thank those who give so faithfully and generously — you are the best!!!

(2) Through 6/30/2023 Children's envelopes have amounted to \$428 —

commentary: this is \$2 less than last year, but is a big slip from the \$620 we had received through 6/30/2018 when we had less RE students than now. Parents are reminded that each RE student received personalized Sunday Offertory envelopes to be used for their Sunday giving. Also, there are generic children's envelopes at the back of church that can be used for those who forgot their personalized ones. Just write your name on the generic envelopes. **Parents — thanks for your efforts in this matter!**

(3) Through 6/30/2023 loose/plate collection has amounted to \$7376 —

commentary: this is \$2440 less than last year — thanks much to those who give this way!

(4) Through 6/30/2023 Cemetery envelope offerings have amounted to \$900 —

commentary: this is down considerably from last year's \$2145 and \$250 less than the 5-year average. Maintaining a Catholic cemetery is a costly operation. It annually costs over \$7000+ to just spray for weeds and keep the grass mowed. Grave sales alone do not nearly cover these most basic costs. Your support is always welcome.

(5) Through 6/30/2023 the Annual Cemetery Memorial Day Appeal raised \$4315 —

commentary: this wonderful gift from 31 parishioners goes a long ways in helping to defray the ongoing costs of running a cemetery (e.g. - mowing grass, spraying for weeds, etc.). **Thanks so very much for your support!!**

(6) Through 6/30/2023 St. Leo's Endowment Fund stands at \$150,017 —

commentary: this fund grew over \$20,000 since last year. St. Leo's Endowment Fund began in 2015 with a \$5000 gift. Since 2018 \$111,590 of those funds came from the monthly giving of one parish household, who moved to another state this past Fall. That is 74% of the total Endowment funds! What a great blessings to St. Leo's!! Thank you!

(7) Through 7/14/2023 St. Leo's has pledged \$39,077 to the God's Gift Appeal —

commentary: At this time last year [2022] we had \$43,600 pledged and made our goal for the first time since 2014. In that year of 2014, 127 parish households made pledges, which is 49 more participants than present numbers. To date 78 parish households have pledged on average - \$500 - towards St. Leo's goal of \$56,112. *A most gracious thank-you to those donors.* If each remaining household (184) pledged \$93 St. Leo's would make their goal. With each of us doing our part our parish goal is very attainable. If you have not yet made your contribution there are God's Gift Appeal envelopes at the back of the church.



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



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME July 23, 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 23:

Mon - July 24 — 9:00 am — +Janice Muscha by Sue Knoll

Tues - July 25 — 9:00 am — St. Thomas — +Souls in purgatory

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed — July 26 — 9:00 am - NO MASS

Thurs — July 27 — 3:00 pm - VBS Closing Mass — VBS Students and Volunteers

Fri — July 28 — 9:00 am — +Souls in purgatory

Sat - July 29 — 5:00 pm - ++Clem & Irene Pollock by Missy Poulson

Sun - July 30 — St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Johanna Sprecher 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

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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

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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. - 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
 Tues. Aug 1 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee 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: *What term describes the changing of bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood in the Eucharist? ~ CCC 1376*



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.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday July 29 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday July 30 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday July 30 10:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>
			
Lector	Megan Bolda	Keith Biggers	Darcee Rehovsky
Eucharistic Ministers	Mona Franck Delores Grommesh	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Virjean Cramer Susan Kempel Mark Rehovsky Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Volunteers needed	Carly Hovelson Hannah Besette	Volunteers needed
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jim Biggers Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Barb Marschke and Gary Grommesh on death of their brother-in-law and uncle, Warren Arndt and to Patty Roth on the death of her cousin, Camille Story.

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

Students attending UND in the Fall: For all parents & students who are/will be attending the University of North Dakota. St Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at UND invites all students, parents and families to come and worship with us at the Newman Center during Welcome Weekend and Move-In. Move-In takes place on August 19th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Mass schedule at the Newman Center for that weekend is; Saturday August 19th @ 4:30 pm, Sunday August 20th @ 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. There will be coffee & donuts after the 10:00 am Mass and Rootbeer floats served following the 7:00 pm Mass on Sunday. We invite all students to come and register that weekend and become involved at the Newman Center. We look forward to seeing you on campus!"

Mass of Thanksgiving: On Saturday, August 19th, 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

Catechist Retreats: Friday, August 25th or Saturday, August 26th. 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 18th. Please register on-line at: www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat Questions please contact mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org or (701) 356-7909.

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 or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at rrretrouvaille@gmail.com

This week's Stewardship moment:

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." ~ Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds". We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!