

PASTOR'S NOTES

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – a reflection -

Today's solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ has a very deep history in the life of the Church.

Its present manifestation began with a vision to an Augustinian nun in 1209 in Liege, Belgium with the Lord desiring a feast celebrating the Eucharist within the Church's annual cycle of feasts. The bishop of Liege introduced such a feast in 1246 and by 1264 it was extended to the whole Church. It was originally titled Festum Ss. Corporis Christi [*Feast of the Most Holy Body of Christ*] and eventually became titled Ss.mi Corporis et Sanguinis Christi Solemnitas [**Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**].

But the Church's deep reverence of the Eucharist certainly predates the 1200s. Today's Gospel reading deeply grounds church teaching on Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist when Christ himself says – "*I will give my flesh for the life of the world... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you... For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink...*" [Jn 6:51, 53, 55]. St. Paul reaffirms this belief about Christ's Body and Blood in today's second reading [1 Cor. 10:16-17].

Such foundational teaching led St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, in the 300s to write a series of catechetical lessons about the Eucharist:

"In approaching the (Eucharist) make thy left hand a throne for the right as for that which is to receive a King. And having hollowed thy palm receive the Body of Christ, saying over it, Amen ... Then after thou hast partaken of the Body of Christ draw near also to the Cup of His Blood ... and saying with an air of worship and reverence, Amen ..."

St. Albert the Great [1206-1280], a German Dominican priest who taught St. Thomas Aquinas, once offered these words as he reflected on the Gospel account of Jesus' command --- '**do this in remembrance of me**' --- after he had blessed the bread and wine and declared it to be body and blood [Lk. 22:19-20] ---

"Certainly he would demand nothing more profitable, nothing more pleasant, nothing more beneficial, nothing more desirable, nothing more similar to eternal life ...

This sacrament is profitable because it grants remission of sins; it is most useful because it bestows the fullness of grace on us in this life...

Nor can we do anything more pleasant. For what is better than God manifesting his whole sweetness to us...

He could not have commanded anything more beneficial, for this sacrament is the fruit of the tree of life. Anyone who receives this sacrament with the devotion of sincere faith will never taste death...

Nor could he have commanded anything more loveable, for this sacrament produces love and union. It is characteristic of the greatest love to give itself as food... I have loved them and they have loved me so much that I desire to be within them, and they wish to receive me so they may become my members. There is no more intimate or more natural means for them to be united to me, and I to them.

Nor could he have commanded anything which is more like eternal life."

Such is the glory and splendor of this day!



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



The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ June 11, 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 June 11:

Mon - June 12 – 9:00 am – +**Craig Hocking**

Tues - June 13 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – June 14 – 9:00 am - +**Shirley Marek** by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles

Thurs – June 15 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Fri – June 16 – 9:00 am – **Special intention** by Bill & Mona Franck

Sat - June 17 – 5:00 pm - +Ken Waldorf by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Sun - June 18 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Larry Zaun by Don & Linda Schaack

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

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

Tues. June 13 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
 Tues. June 20 - 5:30- 8:30 - **Catholic Charities ND 100th Anniversary Celebration at Bonanzaville**
 Sun. July 2 - 2:00 pm - **6th Annual Rural Life Celebration in Crary, ND**
 Mon. - Thurs. July 24-27 - 1:00-4:00pm - **St. Leo's Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Darlene Wang and her family on the death of her husband, Allan.

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

Congratulations to
Macie Romsdal and Henry Tapp
 who entered into the sacrament of marriage at St. Leo's on Saturday, June 3rd. We pray to God to bless their love for each other and that they may support each other throughout the joys and sorrows of life.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday June 17 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday June 18 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday June 18 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Alecia Killoran	Steve Carvell Elise Wisnewski
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Linda Milbrandt Jurgen Suhr	Micah Bartholomay Joan Carvell Jake Lako Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Hayden Faleide Burchill Family	Carley Hovelson Ali Killoran	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Lucas Miller
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Frank & Laura Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Mona Franck		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

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

Mike & Lil Eberhardt - 53 years on June 13
Glenn & Diane Lemke - 54 years on June 14
Jim & Arlene Kieffer- 60 years on June 15
Gary & Linda Milbrandt - 55 years on June 15
Rob & Jenifer Punton - 50 years on June 20
Arnold & Barb Buhr- 60 years on June 22

Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Wednesday, June 14th at St. Anthony's Church in Fargo, (710 10th St. N) beginning Mass at 5:15 pm; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable or toiletry donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to regentctstann@gmail.com.

6th Annual Rural Life Celebration: Please join the parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake on Sunday, July 2nd, 2023 at Terry and Paulette Haman's Farm, 9361 46th St. NE, Crary, ND 58327. The farm is located .25 miles North and .5 miles east of Crary. For more information visit www.fargodiocese.org/rural-life. Please RSVP by June 26th at: (701) 662-7558 or stjosephschurch@gondtc.com. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for a list of the days events and time. The event is FREE.

St. Leo's Vacation Bible School: Monday - Thursday, July 24 - 27, 2023 for students in grades K-5th. More information and registration forms are located on the bulletin board in the church entry.

Putt 4 a Purpose — Golf Event: Bishop John Folda invites you to *Putt 4 a Purpose*, at the 17th Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Classic, benefiting Seminarian Education and Youth Programs. Join the fun and fellowship by heading to Rose Creek Golf Course in south Fargo on **Monday, August 7th** for a round of gold, dinner and prizes. Register three golfers and bring your Priest, Deacon or Seminarian as your 4th player for free! If you are not a golfer, please consider sponsoring a priest or seminarian or a hole on the golf course. Your contribution will help support the event and defray costs. Register on line at: www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose

For more information, please contact Steve Schons at the Fargo Diocese Stewardship and Development Office at: (701) 356-7926 or email: steve.schons@fargodiocese.org

God's Gift Appeal Update —

St. Leo's 2023 God's Gift Appeal goal is \$56,112

As of date:

78 of 262 St. Leo's parish households (30%) have pledged \$39,077 towards our goal of \$56,112, which is 70% of our goal. St. Leo's Finance Council established a goal of having 45% parish household participation for 2023. We last achieved that rate of participation in 2015 when our household participation rate was 46%.

By way of comparison, two parishes of St. Leo's size [**Harvey** {247 households} and **Napoleon** {267 households}] presently have a household participation rate of 44%. In order for St. Leo's to rise to that level of participation we would need 37 more households to contribute to this year's God's Gift Appeal. **Could you help???** There are God Gift's envelopes for your use on the ledges off the back set of church pews. **Thank you!!**