

PASTOR'S NOTES

“Hats off to you” – *our RE teachers*

This past Wednesday we celebrated our closing Religious Education liturgy for this school year. The heart and soul of every Religious Education (RE) program are those who step forward and volunteer their time and talent as teachers.

In some respects, **they are an elite group of volunteers!** They give on a weekly basis of their time not only for the hour in the classroom but also the time that goes into preparation. They have a heartfelt conviction of desiring to pass on the treasure of the Catholic faith. Over the years numerous parishioners have told me they could never see themselves as RE teachers. **So the ones that do step forward and give of themselves deserve our deepest appreciation.** As St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “*How beautiful are the feet of those who announce good news!*” And what is more beautiful good news than that Christ died for our sins, rose from the dead, opened the gates of heaven and lives forever for us in the life of the Church!

We sincerely ‘tip our hats’ to this year’s RE teachers from St. Leo’s: Mary Richard [Kindergarten]; Melanie Parisien and Amanda Gunkel [1st grade]; Nicole Scherweit and LeeAnn Monilaws [2nd grade]; Michelle Kappes [3rd grade]; Trista Ziegelmann [4th grade]; Susan Kempel [5th grade]; Denise Bartholomay [6th grade]; Mona Franck [7th grade]; Virjean Cramer [8th grade]; Karren Bartholomay [9th grade]; Jake and Kelsey Lako [10th grade] and Fr. Ermer and Shari Kensok [11th and 12th grade].

And a sincere ‘tip of our hats’ to our RE teachers from St. Thomas: Kristi Hovelson with Fall help from Joni Biggers [2nd grade]; Alecia Killoran [4th grade]; and Darci Besette [5th and 6th grades]

St. Leo’s RE attendance

Besides a great group of teachers another measure of our RE program is overall attendance. 179 out of a potential 211 students or 85% of our potential parish students were registered in our RE program [cf. column 1 and column 2].

Of the 179 registered students, 45 (or 25%) had **perfect attendance** [cf. column 3], which means they did not miss a single class for whatever reason. These are great numbers!! *Next week I will have St. Thomas numbers.*

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Column 1</u> | <u>Column 2</u> | <u>Column 3</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kindergarten | 16/16 | 100% | 1 |
| First grade | 16/17 | 94% | 1 |
| Second grade | 18/19 | 95% | 9 |
| Third grade | 19/19 | 100% | 4 |
| Fourth grade | 14/14 | 100% | 5 |
| Fifth grade | 10/12 | 83% | 4 |
| Sixth grade | 16/19 | 84% | 4 |
| Seventh grade | 12/15 | 80% | 1 |
| Eighth grade | 8/9 | 89% | 3 |
| Ninth grade | 14/18 | 78% | 4 |
| Tenth grade | 5/9 | 56% | 2 |
| Eleventh grade | 12/13 | 93% | 4 |
| Twelfth grade | 19/21 | 90% | 3 |
| TOTAL | 179/211 | 85% | 45 |



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



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 14, 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 May 14:

Mon - May 15 – 9:00 am – +**Janice Muscha** by Daryl & Kathy Flagen

Tues - May 16 - 10:30 am - **Funeral Mass for Bob Volk**

NO MASS at St. Thomas

Wed – May 17 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Thurs – May 18 – 9:00 am - +**Madeline Marschke** by Keith & Barb Marschke

Fri – May 19 – 9:00 am – **Special Intention** by Sandie Nystrom

Sat - May 20 – 5:00 pm - Caroline Franck by Bill & Mona Franck

Sun - May 21 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - For the 2023 graduates

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

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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

Sun. May 14 - 11:30 am - **St. Thomas** Graduation brunch after 10:30 am Mass honoring 2023 graduates  
 Thurs. May 18 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Sun. May 21 - 11:30 am - **St. Leo's** Graduation brunch after 10:30 am Mass honoring 2023 graduates  
 Wed. May 24 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs. May 27 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues. Jun 6 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory



**Cemetery Clean Up Day:** Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. All parishioners young and old are invited to join the Cemetery Committee and the KC's for a clean up day at St. Leo's cemetery. Please bring your own rakes and/or broom. Thank you.



**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. All proceeds go to the mission.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday May 20<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday May 21<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday May 21<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Lee Ann Monilaws<br>Mallory Poulson              | Keith Biggers                                   | Cassie Bartholomay<br>Hanna Schneider<br>Delaney Cotton                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh                | Joe Killoran<br>Linda Milbrandt                 | Micah Bartholomay<br>Joan Carvell<br>Jake Lako<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Burchill Family                | Jami Vavra<br>Hannah Besette                    | Elise Bartholomay<br>Brynne Bartholomay<br>Lucas Miller                     |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | JoEllen Killoran<br>Lisa Zahnow                 | Parker Mack<br>Miki Prochnow<br>Klaire Cotton<br>Ben Metzger                |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | JoEllen Killoran<br>Betty Lou Stallman          | Paris Mack<br>Olivea Roth<br>Sarah Kempel                                   |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Mona Franck                                      |                                                 | Alexia Kieffer                                                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Marge Volk and her family on the death of her husband, Bob; to Tonya Holzer-Voss and her family on the death of her father, Tim Kelly and to Theresa Dooley on the death of her sister, Agnes Goldade.

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

**Celebrate Baptism -** We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Josephine Anne Steckler, daughter of Lucas and Bailey.

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

**Summer Camps for Youth:** There are many wonderful summer faith-based camp opportunities for youths entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up. St. Leo's Education Committee has put together a brochure available for you to pick up at the church with information on the various camps and how to register. **One of the camps listed in the brochure is Red Willow Bible Camp at Binford, ND for grades 7-9 beginning the first week of June.** Students will enjoy hiking, swimming, boating, crafting while encountering both the Bible and worship each day.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Life Celebration:** Please join the parishioners of St. Joseph's in Devils Lake on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](http://www.fargodiocese.org/rural-life). Please RSVP by June 26<sup>th</sup> at: (701) 662-7558 or [stjosephschurch@gondtc.com](mailto:stjosephschurch@gondtc.com). Remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. You may also bring a container of soil from your fields or garden to be blessed. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for a list of the days events and time. The event is FREE.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil." ~1 Peter 3:17*

The old line says, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we do not get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here is the thing —adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone (adult/middle school/high school) is welcome to join us. We will meet in the choir loft from 9-10am to run through these songs for that day's Mass: #732, #383, #693, #583, #582. (Youtube is a great way to practice at home beforehand).

*This will be our last one until September, so try it out!*

**Suicide Survivors Support Group:** St. Anthony's Church (710 10th St S, Fargo) is hosting an introductory session for those who have lost loved ones through suicide. If you, or some you know, has suffered the loss of a loved one who died by suicide, you are welcome to attend a support group gathering on **Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** The support group will meet in room #206. Please call Fr. Braun at (701) 237-6063 with any questions.

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group starting in June:** Do you have someone in your life who is living with the challenges of Alzheimer's? These meetings are open to caregivers, family and friends who are looking for support and information. We will meet **Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** from 10-11 am at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Casselton. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or call Cindi at Community of Care at 347-0032.