

PASTOR'S NOTES

Fr. Al Bitz — faithful priest, mentor and very good friend

The funeral Mass for Fr. Al Bitz will be on Monday, November 27th at St. Philip Neri church in Napoleon, North Dakota. Fr. Bitz was pastor of both St. Leo's and St. Thomas from 1996 to 2003.

I first met Fr. Bitz in the summer of 1976 as a seminarian and he was the associate Pastor with Fr. Dick Rudd in Langdon. The following year (1977) he was associate Pastor with Fr. Bill Sherman at St. Michael's Church in Grand Forks. At that time I was assigned for my deacon internship at St. Michael's from August 1977 through January 1978. **It was a fantastic experience.** Fr. Bitz took me under his wings and 'taught me the ropes' of becoming a priest. Wherever he went, I went. I tagged along for funeral vigils, visiting the dying, doing hospital visits, teaching RE classes, leading high school groups, taking night calls for the hospital, etc. **I could not have had a better mentor!!**

It was the start of a remarkable friendship over the last 46 years. After my ordination in June of 1978 I replaced Fr. Bitz at St. Michael's while he began his first pastorate at St. Anthony's in Fargo. Nineteen (19) years later I would become pastor of St. Anthony's and twelve (12) years after that I became Pastor of St. Leo's and St. Thomas where Fr. Bitz had been Pastor from 1996 to 2003. We shared a number of common assignments. To follow where he had been was always an easy task. His understanding of Church and pastoral ministry was 'second to none', especially his understanding of the Vatican II Council. He was well aware and well read of major church documents. On more than one occasion he would draw attention to what the document actually said and not some superficial read.

He stayed overnight on a number of occasions at both St. Anthony's and St. Leo's and we would engage in spirited discussions on church matters. Those were good and engaging moments and reflections about pastoral life in the church.

Fr. Bitz will be deeply missed and his insightful voice in the Diocese of Fargo will be a true loss for the many who have been touched by his pastoral care of God's people. **Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord ... and let perpetual light shine upon him.**

Understanding Christ's Kingship

This Sunday's solemnity of *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe* is a recent addition to the liturgical calendar of the Church. It was declared a solemnity on December 11, 1925 by Pope Pius XI. He prayed this solemnity would be an antidote to the rise of secularism and atheism of his day. It is meant to foster recognition of Christ's kingly rights over the hearts and minds of all human beings. Originally it was celebrated on the last Sunday of October, but after the Vatican II Council [1962-65], it was moved to the last Sunday of the church year. Here it more properly signifies Christ's rule over all things as well as establishes the goal of our earthly pilgrimage and the goal of human history.

But, the Lord's kingship is very different from most understandings of kingship. The 3-year Sunday cycle of Gospel readings for Christ the King Sunday present powerful insights into the way Christ's kingship is recognized:

In **Matthew's Gospel [Mt. 25:31-46]** (*this year's Sunday reading*) Christ as King is found in the least of his brothers and seeks the service of our active love;

in **John's Gospel [Jn. 18:33b-37]** (*next year's Sunday reading*) Christ as King is a prisoner before Pilate telling him about Truth and that all power comes from God;

in **Luke's Gospel [Lk. 23:35-45]** (*two years from now*) Christ as King hangs on the Cross and assures the good thief of his entry into paradise.

Such is Christ's Kingship!!



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



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE November 26, 2022

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 Nov 26:

Mon - Nov 27 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

Tues - Nov 28 - St. Thomas - 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed - Nov 29 - 9:00 am - **+Doris Brandenburg** by Jim & Paulette Schmitt

Thurs - Nov 30 - 9:00 am - **+Lowell Hamre** by Darin & Judith Hamre

Fri - Dec 1 - 9:00 am - **++Mable & Peter Thomason** by Cathy Braxton

Sat - Dec 2 - 5:00 pm - **+Eddie Kaufman by Ron & Thuy Kaufman**

Sun - Dec 3 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - **For the people of our parishes**

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - **+Janice Muscha by Floy Carpenter Lamb**

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., Nov 28 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Nov 30 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting  
 Thurs., Nov 30 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Sun., Dec 3 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life center  
**Thurs., Dec 7 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas- Vigil Mass- Holy Day/Immaculate Conception**  
**Fri., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's- Mass- Holy Day/Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin**  
 Sun., Dec 10 - 6:30 pm - 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Parent meeting  
 Mon., Dec 18 - 7:00 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Leo's

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)

Grades 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 7 - Class B and 11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Dec 2</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Dec 3</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Dec 3</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i>                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Lector</i>                                                                     | Lois Titus                                                  | Keith Biggers                                              | Elise Wisnewski                                                              |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>                                                      | Lucy Wagner<br>Alex Richard                                 | Joni Biggers<br>Keith Biggers                              | Kristi Dutchuk<br>Lori Howard<br>Pam Spooner<br>Lucas Steckler<br>Mark Weber |
| <i>Altar Servers</i>                                                              | Tristan/Ignatius Lako<br>Ethan/Olivia Richard               | Rudi Wendel<br>Piper Koller                                | James Diemert<br>Garman Family                                               |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    | Travis & Darcie Besette                                    | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    | Mike & Lisa Zahnow                                         | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <i>Lead Rosary</i>                                                                | 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:

**Keith & Sharon Monilaws - 57 years on Nov 25**  
**George & Mary Ann Waxler-76 years on Nov 27**

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Irene Sinner and her family on the death of her husband, Dick Sinner.

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

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be on **Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10am that day to run through these songs: #71, #62, #702, #67, #70. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.



**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.

**Diocese of Fargo Events:** There are many events/retreats happening within the Fargo Diocese in the coming months. For more information on these events/retreats you can visit the Diocese website at: [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org). You can also follow them on Facebook or twitter at:  
[www.facebook.com/fargodiocese](http://www.facebook.com/fargodiocese)  
[www.twitter.com/fargodiocese](http://www.twitter.com/fargodiocese)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." ~ Matthew 25:40*

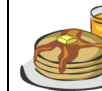
Most of us are generous when it is convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. However, real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.



Council 9477

### **St. Leo's Knight of the Month:**

The Knight for the month of **November** is **Paul Puhr**. Thank you Paul for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.



### **Knights of Columbus Breakfast:**

Serving pancakes toast and sausage Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Care Center.

**Tie Blankets for Veterans:** The Knights of Columbus will once again be providing tie blankets for veterans again this year for anyone who would like to complete a blanket for the veterans. Blanket kits are provided by the Knights and are available in the Spirit of Life Center and will need to be completed and returned to the church by the end of November. Any questions please call the church office at (701)347-4609. Thank you.

**Catholic Man Night:** Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Benedict's Church (11743 38<sup>th</sup> St S, Horace, ND). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk and short discussion with featured speaker Fr. Eric Seitz. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!