

PASTOR'S NOTES

Who *assists, cares for, helps*??

the intellectually disabled?, ... vulnerable adults? ... children in foster care? when there is no family, or those unable to conceive? ... those with unplanned pregnancies? ... individuals, couples or families in need of faith-based counseling?

The answer to all of these questions is **Catholic Charities North Dakota!**

Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND) is the Catholic Church's pastoral arm of mercy reaching out across the state of North Dakota. As you well know there are many wonderful organizations doing charitable work in helping people in their times of need. In many ways the work of CCND is not as well known as more publicized groups like shelters and food pantries because of the long term nature of their work, especially relationship skills. **Presently the service work of Catholic Charities North Dakota is grouped under five (5) headings:**

- 1) Guardianship services** to over 500 vulnerable persons with *intellectual disabilities*. A guardian is a court-appointed person assigned to each of these persons who need support with decision-making to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation. These services includes visits and attending meetings and appointments to insure each client's well-being. In addition CCND operates a 24 hour emergency/assistance line. In the state of North Dakota there is a waiting list of over 100 persons needing and waiting for these guardianship services.
- 2) Guardianship services for vulnerable adults.** A more recent CCND service that provides the specialized service of being the decision maker for elderly persons with dementia/alzheimer's, individuals with mental health disorders, or persons with other vulnerabilities. These guardians navigate the complex world long-term care, financial assistance, Social Security, medical assistance, etc. Again these are court-appointed services. Presently there are over 100 persons being served by CCND with 20 waiting for services.
- 3) Adults Adopting Special Kids {AASK}** works with finding permanent and stable "forever" homes for children in foster care. Over 700 kids received AASK services of home assessments, finalization and adoption placements. As with the Guardianship program there are many on waiting lists to receive care. These services are provided through a contract with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. Since 2016 adoption services have included post-adopt services (*e.g. - support groups, family camps, parent retreats, mentorship, etc.*) for all families who have adopted in North Dakota.
- 4) Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Services {PPAS}** help people who are unprepared for pregnancy to learn about options for parenting and adoption. In addition to those unprepared for pregnancy, there are couples who desire the gift of a child and seek the services of an adoption agency. CCND's adoption services deal with North Dakota infant adoptions, relative adoptions as well as out-of-state and international adoptions, and help with adoption searches and disclosures.
- 5) Counseling services** are for individuals, couples and families who are coping with crisis, stress and change in their lives. Last year CCND had over 1300 counseling sessions.

The work of Catholic Charities North Dakota touches a lot of homes who are in need of help and the tender mercy of God. Their kind of service often flies under the radar because it involves long term relationships and skills that do not lend themselves to 'quick fix' solutions. CCND works at healing and reconciling the 'woundedness' of the human condition and deserves our deepest appreciation. **Your support is deeply appreciated.**



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



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME September 24, 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 Sept 24:

Mon - Sept 24 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

Tues - Sept 26 - St. Thomas - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed - Sept 27 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

Thurs - Sept 28 - **8:30 am** - *Please Note Time Change* - **+Souls in purgatory**

Fri - Sept 29 - 9:00 am - **Special intention** by Rick Voeller

Sat - Sept 30 - 5:00 pm - **+Gerry Huwe** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Sun - Oct 1 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - **+Mary McLean** 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

Phone: 701-347-4609

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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.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wed. Sept 27 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Sept 28 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting  
 Tues., Oct 10 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns meeting at the rectory  
 Sun., Oct 15 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Sept. 27<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

**PLEASE NOTE:** This month is one of those times where our Saturday Mass is the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and Sunday Mass is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (Sept. 30/Oct 1). Please be attentive to the Ministry Schedule in the weeks to follow. Thank you.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                   | Saturday Sept 30<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sat of Sept | Sunday Oct 1<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Oct 1<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of October      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Megan Bolda                                                             | Keith Biggers                         | Anna Garman                                                                  |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     |                                                                         |                                       |                                                                              |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Delores Grommesh<br>Mona Franck                                         | Keith Biggers<br>Kristi Hovelson      | Kristi Dutchuk<br>Lori Howard<br>Pam Spooner<br>Lucas Steckler<br>Mark Weber |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | <b>Volunteers needed</b>                                                | Rudi Wendel<br>Gavin Besette          | Garman Family<br>James Diemert                                               |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                | Arnie & Barb Buhr<br>Jackie Vavra     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                | Joe & Lora Killoran                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Richard Muscha                                                          |                                       | Anna Garman                                                                  |

## NEWS AND NOTES

### This week's Eucharistic Reflection Question:

*What two material signs are essential for the Eucharistic Sacrament? ~ CCC 1412*

**Blue Mass for Law Enforcement:** St. Anthony's Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> St N, Fargo) will be holding a Blue Mass for all law enforcement on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 Noon. A Blue Mass honors, in a special way, all those serving in public safety, both licensed and civilian. The color blue, predominantly worn by the men and women in service, provides the name for this Mass. The Mass and blessing is being held on the Feast of the Archangels, because St. Michael, one of the Archangels is the patron Saint of police officers. This Mass will also include prayers and blessings for police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, 911 operators EMS personnel and others serving in public safety. A light reception will follow Mass. All are welcome to attend!

**Respect Life Sunday Walk for Life:** Bishop Folda invites the faithful of the diocese to join him in the annual Eucharistic procession, Walk with Christ for Life, on Respect Life Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The day's events will begin with Holy Mass at Noon at St. Mary's Cathedral, 604 Broadway, Fargo. This will be followed by a prayerful, peaceful Eucharistic procession and Benediction at the Cathedral. A lunch will be served in the church social hall after Benediction. The Walk is sponsored by the Diocese of Fargo Respect Life Office. For more information, call Tim at (701) 356-7910.

**Senior Citizen Day:** The Casselton Business Association Senior Day is **Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10:00 am** at St. Leo's Catholic Church. Older adults from throughout rural Cass are invited to attend. The day includes displays from organizations serving older adults, a presentation by Susan Johnson-Drenth, the only certified elder attorney in North Dakota, flu shots, drug take back program, lunch and door prizes. There is no cost to attend, but people need to RSVP by Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to Davis Chiropractic at (701)347-4006.

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be will be **Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</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 9:30-10am to run through these songs for that day's Mass: #311 #461, #357, #337, #437. (YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand).



**Fall Dinners** - Please see the flyers on bulletin board for more details on all the area churches Fall Dinners.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." ~ Matthew 20:16*

You've heard the saying "It's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.