

PASTOR’S NOTES

Obligation? Privileged Opportunity!!

Last March 17, 2020 Bishop John Folda of the Diocese of Fargo issued a decree dispensing Catholics from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation due to the severity of the COVID -19 pandemic.

On May 1, 2021 Bishop Folda is lifting that dispensation and reinstating the general obligation for Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation because circumstances now allow us to attend Mass safely.

The upcoming May 1st decree has a typically few cases exempting persons from the obligation of attending Sunday/Holy Day Masses (e.g. - the ill, those confined to hospitals/nursing homes, recent exposure to COVID - 19 or other serious or contagious illness, etc.)

Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation has always stood at the heart of faithful living by believers in Jesus Christ. Scriptures narrate that the earliest Christians gathered on the first day of the week (Sunday) for the ‘breaking of the bread’. ‘Breaking of the Bread’ is one of the earliest names of what today is called ‘going to Mass’ or celebrating the Eucharist.

Calling it or making it an obligation diminishes its spiritual reality. **It is a privileged opportunity beyond all measure.** Vatican II declares the Eucharist to be the ‘source and summit’ of Christian life and living. The Eucharist defines Christianity. It is the People of God gathered together as a community of faith, singing together God’s praise, listening together to His word and together being fed as the Body of Christ with His Body and Blood. **There is no substitute for this reality of faith.** A live-streamed Mass only partially allows us to enter this mystery of faith. We can partially see and hear, but there is the total absence of the touch of the Eucharist, the taste of Lord’s Body and Blood in our mouths and the unique smells of church buildings and the company of fellow believers. **The Mass is the total human and sacramental encounter of Christ with his people.** It is the fullness and completeness of what Christ intended at the Last Supper when it says he “... *blessed ... broke ... gave*” and said, “*All must drink of it*” [Mt.26:27]; “*Do this in remembrance of me.*” [Lk. 22:19].

These are not ‘off stage’ comments by Christ. These are some of the very last words he spoke to us on the last evening of his earthly life. Entering into the fullness of the mystery of the Eucharist puts us into full communion with God’s divine life. To knowingly and willfully walk away from such an invitation literally puts us out of communion with God, who established this as the way in which he comes to us.

In reinstating the Sunday obligation Bishop Folda is inviting Catholics to once again recognize the absolute minimum of what it means to practice one’s faith in Christ. It seems quite unreasonable to use fear of going to Mass because of COVID and not fear going to school, going to work, going to sporting events, going to social outings, going shopping, etc. and to top that off by staying at home from Sunday Mass because the bishop has dispensed us of the obligation to attend. That dispensation is being lifted May 1st.

For the mature of faith and the prudent of mind now is the time reclaim our zeal for Christ, and our passion for the Eucharist and its fullness that comes with ‘going to Mass’ and gathering to celebrate and receive the gift that keeps on giving – **the body and blood of Christ!**



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 11, 2021

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 Apr 11:

Mon - Apr 12 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**
Tues - Apr 13 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s - NO MASS
Wed - Apr 14 - 9:00 am - **+Vince Bachmeier** by Bea Bachmeier
Thurs - Apr 15 - 9:00 am - **+Myrtle Mergner** by Marian Watson
Fri - Apr 16 - 9:00 am - **+Don Gill** by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles
Sat - Apr 17 - 5:00 pm - **+Hylari Marcuson** by Theresa Dooley
Sun - Apr 18 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - **+Harold Kasowski** by Sue Knoll
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - **For the people of our parishes**

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Prayer Chain:
Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555
Kelsey Lako: 793-7088
Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher
Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798
St. Leo’s Directors: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon
St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

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., Apr 11 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Sun., Apr 11 - 4:00 pm - RE 10th grade class meets in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Apr 13 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting in the Spirit of Life center  
 Wed., Apr 14 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group A  
     6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group A, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Sat., Apr 17 - 10:00 am - Confirmation/Eucharist retreat  
 Tues., Apr 20 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting in the Spirit of Life center  
 Fri., Apr 23 - 6:30 pm - Confirmation/Eucharist rehearsal  
 Sun., Apr 25 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
**Sun., Apr 25 - 5:00 pm - Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist with Bishop Folda**  
 Mon., Apr 26 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting  
 Tues., Apr 27 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

**REMINDER:** *Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.*

**Thank You:** Please see the thank you posted on the bulletin board in the church entry from the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation of Valley City, for our Parish mission donation to them for the people of Cameroon, Africa.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Apr 17<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Apr 18<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday Apr 18<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Renee Anderson                                   | Larry Zaun                                      | Steve Carvell                                   |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Delores Grommesh                                 |                                                 | Joan Carvell                                    |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Ronnie Burchill<br>Samantha Burchill             | Courtney Hovelson                               | Mikaela Prochnow<br>Katherine Sullivan          |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | Joe & Lora Killoran                             | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | Aaron Haseleu Family                            | <i>Volunteers 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:

**Jerry & Jean Fletschock - 55 years on Apr 15**

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's beginning with Mass at 5:15 PM; meal to follow (Unit 4 serving) and meeting at 6:30 pm. St. Anthony's requires attendees to wear a mask and to follow social distancing guidelines. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Members are invited to bring food pantry donations and/or new baby items/clothes for Birthright Baby Shower. Any questions, please send an email to [regentctstann@gmail.com](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com).

**Catholic Home Missions:** Special Diocesan collection **Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. This collection helps strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories by providing pastoral services including, evangelization, religious education, and the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups. The envelope for this collection can be found with your regular collection envelopes. Please consider giving generously.

**PT Administrative Assistant:** Diocese of Fargo is currently accepting applications for a part-time Administrative Assistant/Ecclesiastical Notary in the Tribunal Office. Duties will include reception, transcription of audio, correspondence, data entry, maintaining files and other general office support duties. Approximately 20 hours per week. Successful candidate will have understanding of the Catholic Church and terminology, ability to maintain confidentiality, excellent interpersonal communication skills, attention to detail and proficient computer skills. Submit cover letter, resume and three references to [barbara.augdahl@fargodiocese.org](mailto:barbara.augdahl@fargodiocese.org) Position open until filled.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...." - Acts 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your talents, your abilities and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with.



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Serving French toast and sausage Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Take out available. Free will offering,



### God's Gift Appeal 2021

Pledge cards and donations may be placed in the offertory collection basket or dropped off at the parish office and we will see they get to the Diocese.



### 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 a reasonable purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.