

PASTOR’S NOTES

Confirmation – completion of baptismal grace ...

Eucharist completes Christian initiation.

This past Saturday (April 27th) a monumental event took place here at St. Leo’s parish. Forty (40) young adults were confirmed in their Catholic faith and received the sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood for the first time.

An occasion of such magnificence deserves our attention and reflection. From the moment of our conception in the wombs of our mothers, we bear the gift of life within us. It starts very small and in the course of nine months an embryo becomes a fetus, a fetus becomes a baby and suddenly an infant lives in our midst needing all the love and care a mother and father can give.

As believers and followers of Christ Jesus, mothers and fathers recall the words of Christ who said that one must be ‘born again’ to inherit the Kingdom of God. So the infant child is brought to the baptismal font and the name of God (*Father, Son and Holy Spirit*) is poured over the infant child. Such is the beginnings of one’s life-long membership in God’s church, which Christ empowered to be his continual presence in human history until the end of the ages. **As St. Leo the Great so aptly said – ‘All that Christ accomplished in history has now passed into the sacraments’.**

In baptism we were ‘born again’, but birth is just the beginning. It needs the nurture of faith and virtue. Such was the coming of Christ’s risen Spirit at Pentecost when the 7-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit settled upon his closest friends (apostles) in that upper room in Jerusalem. They became emboldened to tell others the Gospel of God’s enduring love as was made known in the coming of His Son, born of a virgin in Bethlehem, died an agonizing death at the hands of religious and civil leaders, is risen from the dead and alive among us. The Spirit’s gifts of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord are the bedrock of Christian life and living. **These same gifts and life are what is celebrated in the sacrament of Confirmation.**

Christian life is sustained by the last public act Christ did when he was surrounded by his closest friends at his Last Supper in Jerusalem. He took the Jewish Passover bread and declared it to be his body and the Passover wine to be his blood. Whoever eats His Body and drinks His Blood has eternal life. He commanded us to do this in memory of Him. This divine food constantly feeds people on their journey to life with God in heaven. For those with ears of faith and who believe – this food fulfills God’s promise to be with us until the end of time. **This divine food is what is celebrated in the sacrament of the Eucharist.**

Seen in this way Confirmation equips us to complete what began in the baptismal waters and the Eucharist becomes the necessary food that sustains and nurtures our initiation into Christian life and living, which ends in heaven and our communion with God and his saints. Such is what happened on Saturday afternoon, April 27, 2024, at St. Leo’s church in Casselton, North Dakota as God’s love was on full display for his beloved young ones.

Congratulations to our 18 students from St. Leo’s of Casselton: Isaac Bartholomay; Lane Enge; Reagan Faught; Elizabeth Garman; Kaiden Henderson; Ian Hushka; Grace Kieffer; Hazel Klatt; Ruth Lipp; Payton Newmann; Ireland Rexine; Oaklen Rexine; Alaina Richard; Chase Scherweit; Jackson Waslien; Case Weber; Katelyn Weber; Paxton Ziegelmann.

Congratulations to our 4 students from St. Thomas of Buffalo: Liam Biggers; Jett Haseleu; Cole Hovelson; Spencer Killoran.



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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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 28, 2024

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 28:

Mon - Apr 29 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Tues - Apr 30 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – +Ronnie Smallarz
NO MASS at St. Leo’s
Wed – May 1 – 9:00 am – +Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Thurs – May 2 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Fri – May 3 – 9:00 am – +Dick Sinner by Stan & Angeline Mathias
Saturday – May 4 – 5:00 pm - ++Keith & Kenneth Mack by Kris & Christi Mack
Sunday - May 5 – St. Thomas- 8:30 am - +Rose Wolsky by Keith & Joni Biggers
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Secretary: Delores Grommesh
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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.


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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Apr 28 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo’s Capital Campaign Reception in the Spirit of Life Center
Mon., Apr 29 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo’s Capital Campaign Reception in the Spirit of Life Center
Wed. May 1 - 6:30 pm - St. Thomas Capital Campaign Reception in the Church Social Hall
Sun., May 5 - 7:00 pm - KC Gardening Seminar featuring Don Kinzler in the Spirit of Life Center
Tues., May 7 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory
Tues., May 14 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory
Sun., May 19- 11:30 am- Graduation Breakfast after 10:30 am Mass honoring St. Leo’s 2024 graduates
Wed., May 22 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting at the church

REMINDER: Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.

Religious Education Class Times — May 1st
St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm
St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)
Grades K & 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Grade 7 - Class A and 11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

 **Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** Cards are available for purchase in the church entry. A selection of different occasions is available. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday May 4 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday May 5 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday May 5 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Judy Von Bank	Elise Wisnewski
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt	Kristi Dutchuk Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler Mark Weber
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Ethan/Olivia Richard Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Abigail Killoran Piper Kohler	James Diemert Garman Family
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Mike & Lisa Zahnow	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	David Biggers Terri Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Lucy Wagner		<i>Volunteer needed</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

St. Thomas parish will be honoring their 2024 Confirmation students and the 2024 High School graduate following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, May 5th.

Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Alyssa Mary Kieffer, daughter of Justin & Michelle.
We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.

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

Bob & Diane Weber - 51 years on May 5
Dennis & Elaine Volk - 50 years on May 11

Teams of Our Lady for Your Marriage: Are you interested in enriching your couple/marriage spirituality on a journey with other Catholic like-minded couples? The F-M Sector of Teams of Our Lady now has 12 TEAMS comprised of 72 area couples, 11 chaplains, and has been going strong for 19 years! Join us to learn more at our Spring Information Sessions!

- Info Session #2 - Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 pm at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo

All couples (BOTH husband and wife) wishing to join TEAMS are *required to attend one* of these two sessions. Mark your calendar as these will be the only information sessions this year. For more information, e-mail fargosectorinformation@gmail.com More information can also be found on the TEAMS website at www.teamsofourlady.org



Council 9477

St. Leo’s Knight of the Month: The Knight for the month of **April** is **Don Nilles**. Thank you Don for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Don Kinzler’s
“50 Top Tips to make us all Better Gardeners”
Sunday, May 5th at 7:00 pm.
Doors open at 6:30 pm.
Refreshments will be served.
Sponsored by St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus
All are welcome.

Redeemed Eucharistic Congress: September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). The event will include Mass with Bishop Folda, Eucharistic procession from St. James Basilica, Eucharistic healing with Fr. Jeff Eppler, Praise and Worship with Aly Aleigha and Adoration. Guest speakers will include Scott Hahn, Julianne Stanz and Msgr. Thomas Richter. Cost for the event is \$35 before Aug 1, after Aug 1 \$50. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board. To register please visit – www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed or call (701)356-7900

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” ~ 1 John 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!