

PASTOR’S NOTES

Ordinary Time & *the Gospel of Luke*

Ordinary Time is one of five seasons in a church year along with Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Ordinary Time comprises 33 or 34 Sundays of a calendar year *{depending upon the date of Easter}* with the remaining Sundays belonging the other four seasons. Also, Ordinary Time is broken up into two time periods – *a few Sundays after the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday and the remaining Sundays after Easter Sunday until the First Sunday of Advent of the new church year.* During Ordinary Time the Sunday Gospel readings are taken from a 3-year rotating cycle from either Matthew, Mark or Luke. The Gospel of John is read predominately during major seasons and feast days of a church year.

During Ordinary Time, the typical color of Sunday vestments will be green. Green symbolizes that things are alive and growing. We are to be alive and growing now that the Holy Spirit has fully entered into human history, which is what we celebrate every Pentecost. At the Last Supper Christ told his disciples that he would send the his Spirit and that Spirit, “*will instruct you in everything and remind you of all I told you*” [Jn. 14:26]. It is obvious that the person of Christ is a mystery of profound depth and must be studied frequently to understand its deepest meaning in our lives. So each year we revisit the Gospel story of Christ to probe its life-giving message of salvation. We seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance into the mind and heart of the one who saved us so that we may grow more deeply in our communion with Him and enter into the intimate life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

During this year’s Ordinary Time we will be led by the ‘Spirit of Truth’ and largely take our Sunday readings from the Gospel of Luke. **Who is Luke?**

As with all four Gospels, the Gospel writer is not specifically mentioned in any Gospel text attributed to that writer. This leads to a couple of questions — **how do we know Luke wrote the Gospel attributed to him?** A number of ancient writers/writings dating back to the mid 100s attribute this Gospel to Luke (e.g. - Irenaeus [130-200], Tertullian [160-220], etc.).

In addition, Luke is also considered the author of the Acts of the Apostles. Both books (*the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles*) begin with a reference to Theophilus as being the person to whom these writings are addressed. Theophilus may be an individual’s name or be a reference to any one “*who loves God*” because **theo** is Greek for God and **philus** comes from the Greek word -philia - which is translated as love. Therefore, Theophilus could be a generic name for anyone who loves God.

The person of Luke is specifically mentioned three time in the New Testament [Philemon 24, Colossians 4:14, and 2 Timothy 4:11]. In each of these references Luke is a companion of the Apostle Paul and his three mission journeys in the Middle East. In addition the Acts of the Apostles has a number of ‘*We-sections*’ implying that Paul and Luke have an ongoing relationship in spreading the Gospel throughout the Middle East. The Colossians reference notes Luke as a physician.

From Luke’s Gospel text many scholars believe Luke is of Gentile origin, i.e., he is not a Jew who has converted to Christianity. He has many less Jewish references to the Pharisees and their many controversies with Jesus. He seems very adept with the Greek language and often substitutes Greek names for Hebrew ones (e.g. - *the place of the Skull rather than Golgotha; teacher rather than Rabbi; lawyer for scribe; etc.*). Luke seems to be a Gospel written for a Gentile audience. In that sense Luke’s deepest understanding of Christ is that he is the “universal savior” of the human race and not just the Messiah that the Jewish world was anticipating.



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347-4609

St. Thomas Catholic Church
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PO Box 22
Buffalo ND
633-5150



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 6, 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 Feb 6:

Mon - Feb 7 – 11:00 am - **+Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Tues - Feb 8 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO MASS
Wed - Feb 9 – 9:00 am - **+Linus Kensok** by Bea Bachmeier
Thurs - Feb 10 – 9:00 am - **+Jerry Volk**
Fri., Feb 11 – 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**
Sat - Feb 12 - 5:00 pm - +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman
Sun - Feb 13 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - Eva Garman by Casey & Anna Garman
St. Thomas - 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:
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.

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Feb 6- 11:30 am- St. Leo's Annual Parish & 'synod' meeting after 10:30 am Mass

Tues., Feb 8 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory

Wed., Feb 9 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas

6:30 pm - St. Leo's RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm

K/1st grade - Group A meets

6:15 pm - Senior class meets

Thurs., Feb 10 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Sun., Feb 13 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass

Tues., Feb 15 - 7:00 pm - Confirmation Parent meeting

Sun., Feb 20 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life center

Wed., Feb 23 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory

Sun., Feb 27 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass

Tues., Mar 1 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory


Wed., Mar 2 - Ash Wednesday- 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo

7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's in Casselton



Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission: Valentine's Day Cards along with an assortment of cards for all occasions are available for purchase in church entry. 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

	Saturday Feb 12 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 13 8:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 13 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
Lector	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Jackie Vavra
Eucharistic Ministers	Nicole Scherweit	Ann Faught	
Altar Servers	Addison/Noah Hushka Sophie/Emma Scherweit	Sarah Kempel Melody Kempel Lucas Miller	Gavin Besette Meyer Wendel
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun

NEWS AND NOTES

GIVING HEARTS DAY - What is Giving Hearts Day?

Giving Hearts Day was started in 2008 by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation as the region's first one-day 'virtual' fundraising event to create awareness for many charities in ND and western Minnesota and for individuals to make donations. This year's Giving Hearts Day is **Thursday, February 10th**. Five Casselton organizations participate in Giving Hearts Day. They are: Casselton Community Medical Foundation, Central Cass Dollars for Scholars, Community of Care, Rural Cass County Emergency Food Pantry and Sinner Bresnahan Healthy Kids Initiative. Your gifts to these organizations will impact the quality of life for residents in Casselton. You can schedule your gift NOW or donate on Feb. 10th at **www.GivingHeartsDay.org** You can also drop off a check dated Feb. 10th, 2022 to any of the local organizations.

Catholic Man Night: Thursday, February 17th, 6 – 8 pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 210 5th Ave W, West Fargo. 6 pm - Adoration & Confessions. 7 pm - Meal with talk presented by Fr. Bill Gerlach, Pastor at Nativity Church. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

SEARCH Retreat for Youth and Young Adults... Do you want to grow closer to God in this New Year? Experience God in a personal and real way. **SEARCH** for Christian Maturity has a retreat coming up March 4-6, 2022 at Maryvale Convent in Valley City, ND. Youth and young adults, 16 and older are invited to attend. Details and application can be found at: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm> or call Dori at (952)210-2219. Applications are due no later than Monday, February 14th.



Knights of Columbus Breakfast:

Serving French toast and sausage Sunday, Feb 20th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering, Proceeds to benefit Special Olympics.

The Rural Cass County Food Pantry (in Casselton) is in need of the following items:

canned chicken, Manwich, egg noodles, Rotel, boxed hashbrowns, au gratin potatoes, hot chocolate, juice, pancake syrup, complete pancake mix, saltine crackers, vegetable spray (Pam), cream of chicken soup, cream of celery soup, pudding cups, ketchup, mustard, diced tomatoes, coffee, Spam, laundry soap, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, cleaning supplies such as: spic and span, toilet bowl cleaner and bathroom cleaner. Items can be dropped off at TruCore Fitness in Casselton and Mary's Market in Arthur. The food pantry is located at 602 1st Street N, Casselton, and is open the first and third Wednesdays of the month. For question you can contact Bonnie at (701)740-3398 or Shelle at (701)866-7440. Monetary donations can be mailed directly to: RCCEFP, PO Box 392, Casselton, ND 58012 Thank You.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Then I heard a voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am, 'I said, 'send me!'" ~ Isaiah 6:8

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, *"Whom shall I send?"* Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say "Here I am, Lord."