

PASTOR’S NOTES

Ecumenism – *God’s will and our prayer*

Each year in January [*between January 18th and January 25th*] the Church celebrates the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*.

Two great splits have happened in the history of Christianity. One took place in the 1000s when Christian churches split between the East and the West. Those Eastern churches are today collectively known as the Orthodox churches. In the 1500s Western Christianity suffered a rupture that is commonly known as the Reformation. Out of that age has come a number of denominations that are collectively known as Protestant churches.

Both of these divisions within Christianity go against the very will of Christ, who at the Last Supper on the night before he died, prayed ‘*that all may be one as he and the Father are one*’. [Jn. 17:21]

In the early 1900s an Episcopalian priest, Fr. Paul Wattson, who later became Catholic, began what has come to be known as the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. He chose the dates between January 18th and January 25th as eight (8) days (*an octave*) of prayer for Christians unity. At that time January 18th celebrated the Chair of St. Peter (the primacy of Pope) and January 25th celebrates the conversion of St. Paul and his mission to convert the Gentile world to Christianity.

The Vatican II (1962-65) document - *The Decree on Ecumenism* - begins with this statement, “*The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council.*”

In 1995 the late Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical letter on ecumenism - *Ut Unum Sint (That All May be One)* - and states within it, “*At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to following the path of the ecumenical venture ...*” {3}, and exhorts, “*all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to participate actively in the work of ecumenism.*” {8} He goes on to say, “*... ecumenism, the movement promoting Christian unity, is not some sort of “appendix” (to church life). Rather ecumenism is an organic part of her life and work ...*” {20} — “*Along the ecumenical path to unity, pride of place certainly belongs to common prayer ...*” {22} — “*It is a source of joy to see that many ecumenical meetings almost always include and indeed culminate in prayer. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated in January ... has become a widespread and well established tradition.*” {24}

It is in this spirit that the Casselton Area Ministerium Association hosts an ecumenical service of prayer and song during the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* to foster prayer for the restoration of Christian unity.

This year’s celebration will be held on **Wednesday, January 18th at 6:45 p.m. at St. Leo’s Catholic Church**. The prayer service will be followed by a coffee and dessert social in the Spirit of Life Center. Please join us in prayer as we do our part in the restoration of Christian unity.

Bishop Folda’s invitation —

Attached to this week’s bulletin is an explanation of the upcoming diocesan synod for the Diocese of Fargo.

In preparation for this significant event, the Diocese of Fargo is hosting 16 listening sessions throughout the eastern 30 counties that comprise the Diocese of Fargo. Four of the 16 sessions will be held in Cass county making it easy for parishioners from Holy Spirit, the Cathedral, St. Anthony’s, Nativity, Sts. Anne & Joachim, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Cross, **St. Leo’s**, **St. Thomas**, St. Benedict’s and NDSU Newman to attend.

Your attendance at one of these listening sessions is sincerely requested and highly encouraged.



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 IN ORDINARY TIME
January 15, 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 Jan 15:

Mon - Jan 16 – 9:00 am – +**Mary Farrell** by Paul Nelson
Tues - Jan 17 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass
Wed – Jan 18 - 9:00 am - +**Fr. Micahel Parrotta**
Thurs – Jan 19 – 9:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Fri – Jan 20 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**
Sat - Jan 21 - 5:00 pm - +Henry Sherman by His family
Sun - Jan 22 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - +Brent Siverson by Donna Siverson
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay
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

Wed., Jan 18 - RE classes - see below
Wed., Jan 18 - 6:45 pm - Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service
Thurs., Jan 19 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith
Tues., Jan 24 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory
Mon., Jan 30 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral council meeting at the rectory
Sun., Feb 5 - 11:30 am - St. Leo’s Annual Parish Meeting (after 10:30 am Mass) in the Spirit of Life

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 18th
St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm
St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
All classes will attend Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service at 6:45 pm.
- **NO** 5:15 pm class sessions. Those classes will meet together with their fellow classmates at 6:30 pm in their regular class rooms.
- All other classes start at regular times.
- Both sessions of 9th grade (A & B) will meet at 6:15 pm
- 11th & 12th grade will have a combined class at 6:15 pm

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 21 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i> 3rd Sat of January	Sunday Jan 22 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i> 4th Sun of January	Sunday Jan 22 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Mark Voss	Fred Eldridge	Gary Milbrandt
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terri Monilaws Richard Muscha	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Burchill Family Hayden Faleide	Lauren Glennon Claire Glennon Jack Glennon	Jami Vavra Layla Norrie
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jurgen & Barb Suhr
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Adam Wald Family	Larry & Penny Zaun
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Mona Franck	Sandra Keller	

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Kent Marschke, Keith Marschke and Cole & Mary Jendro and their families on the death of their great nephew, Ethan Jendro and to Joan Kieffer and her family on the death of her brother, Ron Davis.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —

Holy Cross Church Hoedown: Holy Cross Church (2711 7th St S, West Fargo) will hold their 1st Annual Hoedown on Saturday, January 21st at 5:30 pm. Come and enjoy a family-friendly dance for young and old. Instructors will be on hand to show you the basic steps to the polka, waltz, swing dance, 2-step, line dancing and more. There is no admission fee, but donations for the Youth Mission Trip in the summer. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

The Awaken Women’s Retreat: March 24-26, 2023 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. Jen Settle, Director of Ongoing Formation at the Theology of the Body Institute and Fr. Sean Mulligan will lead you on a journey of wonder and mystery of being human. Cost will vary depending on accommodations. Space is limited, so reserve your spot not at: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/awaken-retreat> or contact Jennie Korsmo at 701-356-7901 for more information.

Lenten Sacred Art Retreat: March 27-31, 2023 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. The retreat is open to men and women (must be 18 or older). Participants will create a depiction of the Temptations of Christ in the style of medieval manuscript illuminations. Space is limited. The retreat will include Mass and individual prayer time each day. For more information, cost and to register visit: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/art-lent-retreat> or contact Mary Hanbury at (701)356-7909.

Prayer for Christian Unity 2023
Ecumenical Prayer Service of Song
Casselton Ministerium
Wed., Jan. 18, 2023 — 6:45 pm
St. Leo’s Catholic Church

Everyone is invited to join in an ecumenical celebration of prayer and song led by the Casselton Area Ministerium Association. This year’s theme and prayer for Christian Unity is “Do Good; Seek Justice.” (*Is 1:17*). Reception to follow in the Spirit of Life Center.

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages: Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. 2023 Retrouvaille weekends will be held locally in Fargo on February 3-5 and October 6-8. For more information or to register, visit: HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org

Christmas Poinsettias: The **red** poinsettias that were used for our Christmas decorations in the church are available for any one to take home. **The poinsettias are located on a table in the Spirit of Life Center.**

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb.” ~ Isaiah 49:5

God has given each of us different gifts. In order for God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Do not let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.