

PASTOR’S NOTES

Three (3) events of note —

- 1) *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* – Twice in the 2000+ years of Christian Church history the Church has suffered ruptures that remain unhealed to this day. **In the 1000s** there was a split between the East and the West. In the East this gave rise to what is now known as the Eastern Orthodox churches (e.g.– *Greek and Russian Orthodox*). **In the 1500s** there was the split in western Christianity into what is now popularly known as the Catholic and various Protestant churches. Such divisions certainly violate the very prayer of unity for which Christ prayed at the end of the Last Supper when he said, *“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you: I pray that they may be one in us that the world may believe that you sent me.”* [Jn 17:20b-21] The Second Vatican Council [1962-65] recognized that the restoration of Christian Unity was one of its principal concerns. Prayer is the soul of the ecumenical movement.
- With this in mind, on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> the Casselton Ministerium will be hosting an ecumenical Song and Word fest in honor of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** [January 18-25] at St. Leo’s Church starting at 6:45 p.m. followed by a little reception of coffee and bars at about 7:30 p.m. All are invited in doing our part of praying that “all may be one” as Christ asked of us.
- 2) *A Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children* – 49 years ago on January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court effectively legalized the killing of unborn children in a court decision known as *Roe v. Wade* and a companion case known as *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that day the Church has unceasingly worked to create a culture of life in this nation including the overturning of this horrific court decision. Killing of the unborn should never be conceived as legal in any fashion. Again prayer must constantly lead this effort. The bishops of the United States ask that Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> be observed as a “*day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.*”
- 3) *Parish ‘synods’ – January 23<sup>rd</sup> or February 6<sup>th</sup>*
- Last week’s and today’s bulletin contains an insert titled *A Listening Church: Synod on Synodality*. Hopefully that insert gives an adequate explanation of Pope Francis’ belief that the Holy Spirit is leading the Church of the third millennium to be more ‘synodal’ in its mission of taking the Gospel to the ends of the world. By ‘synodal’ he means gathering the various people of the church for their insights and input about ways of bettering being the Church, the People of God. Pope Francis has asked every bishop in the world to have each of their parishes and missions to host a gathering of their people (*in a sense - having a parish synod*) to address a series of questions about present-day church life. In turn, Bishop Folda has passed on this request to the various pastors of Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Fargo. Included in that request were 15 questions for our discussion and discernment (**these 15 questions are on the last page of the bulletin insert**).
- St. Thomas’ ‘synod’ meeting** is scheduled in conjunction with our Pastoral Council meeting on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- St. Leo’s ‘synod’ meeting** is scheduled in conjunction with our annual parish meeting on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- Sharing your insights and input are truly desired. I pray you will mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.



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 16, 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 Jan 16:

Mon - Jan 17 – 11:00 am - **Linus Kensok Funeral Mass**  
Tues - Jan 18 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**  
*St. Leo’s — NO MASS*  
Wed - Jan 19 – 9:00 am - **+Virginia Robertsdahl** by Ron & Lorraine Kensok  
Thurs - Jan 20 – 9:00 am - **Ted & Virginia Pedeliski**  
Fri., Jan 21 – 9:00 am - **+Leon Seefeld** by Richard & Janice Muscha  
**Sat - Jan 22 - 5:00 pm - +Donald Sando by Tom & Myra Nowak**  
**Sun - Jan 23 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - +Brent Siverson by Donna Siverson**  
**St. Thomas - 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  
E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth/Nicole Scherweit  
Phone: 701-347-4609  
E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

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  
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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., Jan 16 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
Tues., Jan 18 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
Wed., Jan 19 - 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 B meets  
6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
**RE Students will have a short class and be attending Ecumenical prayer service.**  
Wed., Jan 19 - 6:45 pm - Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service, all are welcome to attend  
Sun., Jan 23 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
**Sun., Jan 23 - 11:30 am - St. Thomas Parish ‘synod’ meeting (cf. bulletin insert)**  
Mon., Jan 24 - 7:00 pm - Reconciliation Parent meeting  
Tues., Jan 25 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
Wed., Jan 26 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
Sun., Jan 30 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Tues., Feb 1 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory  
**Sun., Feb 6- 11:30 am- St. Leo’s Annual Parish & ‘synod’ meeting after 10:30 am Mass (cf. bulletin insert)**

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                    |                                                              |                                                            |                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Saturday Jan 22</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 23</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 23</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tony Roth                                                    | Fred Eldridge                                              | Judy Von Bank                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Paulette Schmitt                                             | Denise Bartholomay                                         |                                                              |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Lilly Roth<br>Olivea Roth<br>Evelyn Roth                     | Glennon Family<br>Sarah Monilaws                           | Rudi Wendel<br>Ali Killoran                                  |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                   | Betty Lou Stallman<br>JoEllen Killoran                       |

NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Margaret, Jack and Terry Kensok and Ann Faught and their families on the death of their husband and father, Linus Kensok.  
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

**Religious Education - NET Ministries Retreat:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fargo will be hosting a NET ministries retreat on January 19<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 7 & 8 from 5 - 9 pm. Supper is included. The retreat theme will be *Strength in Numbers*. True friends walk together through their weakness. Betrayal, gossip, and scandal: these traits often characterize friendships portrayed in the media. What if our friendships were instead marked by support no matter the circumstances? This theme explores the role of authentic friendships and their ability to empower us to greatness. More information has been sent to 7 & 8 grades parents regarding the retreat. Any questions please call the parish office to talk to Patty about the retreat. 347-4609

**Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing** will be offered on **Saturday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Mary, 604 Broadway, Fargo. The prayer service is being held in observance of the liturgical **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**, marking the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of legalization of abortion in our nation. In addition to this time of prayer, the faithful are encouraged to do some form of fasting or self- denial for the healing of our nation from the affects of abortion on families, our culture and society.

**Peter’s Pence:** Sunday, **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** has been designated as *Peter’s Pence* Sunday. Envelopes for this collection are found with your regular collection envelopes. This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father and provides emergency assistance to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and persecution. Please consider giving generously. Thank you.

**Holy Spirit Valentine Wine & Dine:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1420 7<sup>th</sup> St N, Fargo, will host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Valentine Wine & Dine on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. The events will offer an elegant catered dinner with wine pairings and other beverage options, games throughout the evening, and silent and live auctions. For tickets or more information, contact the parish office at (701) 232-5900 or visit: [holyspiritfargo.com/wine-dine](http://holyspiritfargo.com/wine-dine)



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

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**  
*“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” ~ 1 Corinthians 12:7*  
St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God’s plan? How are you helping to build God’s kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don’t do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you. Take time to discern your charisms (gifts from the Holy Spirit). Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us.