

PASTOR’S NOTES

Encouraged to attend ...

This past Tuesday I attended the **January 17th Listening Session** at Holy Spirit Church in Fargo in preparation for our diocesan synod in April of 2024. *It was a very good experience!* Over 80 people attended – first spending an hour in prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, which was interspersed with two Scripture readings meant to focus our prayer of seeking the Holy Spirit’s direction for the Diocese of Fargo in the upcoming years. For the next hour and a half we went to Holy Spirit’s social hall and broke into 13 groups around tables discussing three topics: (1) what is going well in parish and diocesan life? (2) what are three challenges facing parish and diocesan life? (3) what can I do in meeting the needs of the parish and diocesan church? The meeting concluded with each group sharing a summary of their group’s discussion.

In terms of *what is going well* – availability of the sacraments and prayer opportunities, respect and reverence for the sacraments and their celebration, lots of learning opportunities for learning in this digital age (e.g. - blogs, etc.); in terms of *challenges* – lack of well-equipped lay leaders both in catechesis and relationships, lack of authentic communities where we accompany people and not just get them in the doors, lack of basic understandings of Church teachings, practices and devotions, gaps in church life between urban and rural parishes; in terms of *what I can do* – become a prayer warrior for the many needs within the church and the world, give joyful witness, attend education events, volunteer and ‘step up to the plate’, build relationships with others.

It was a wonderful time of attentive listening and sharing. **I would highly encourage parishioners to join in one of the two remaining Listening Sessions in Fargo/West Fargo –**

- > *this Sunday, January 22nd at Holy Cross Catholic Church in West Fargo from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*
- > *this coming Tuesday, January 24th at Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church in south Fargo from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

[Or]

- > *Tuesday, February 7th at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Valley City from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

Monday, January 23rd —

Over the last number of years the United States Catholic Bishops marked January 22nd as a **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. Since January 22nd falls on a Sunday this year, they moved this day of prayer for 2023 to Monday, January 23rd. January 22nd had been the infamous day in 1973 when the Supreme Court had legalized abortion in America.

Since the Supreme Court overturned the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision this past June, a political firestorm has erupted in this country. Now each of the 50 states are enacting laws regarding the issue of abortion. Some states are outlawing the practice of abortion while others are writing ‘*the right to abortion*’ into their state laws. It is obvious the pro-life movement has a long ways to go in cultivating a respect for the life of unborn children in the hearts and minds of millions of Americans. Prayer is a good place to start and it is that spirit that drove the United States Catholic Bishops to set aside a day for such prayer. *Perhaps you could attend daily Mass, pray a Rosary, pray the Stations of the Cross, make a Holy Hour, pray the Divine Mercy chaplet, make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament* – all in the spirit of converting hearts and minds to the gift of unborn life that is threatened by the barbarism of pro abortion policies and misguided politicians.



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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 22, 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 22:

Mon - Jan 23 – 9:00 am – +**Frank Farrell** by Paul Nelson
Tues - Jan 24 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass
Wed – Jan 25 - 9:00 am - **Special Intention** by Sandie Nystrom
Thurs – Jan 26 – 9:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Fri – Jan 27 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**
Sat - Jan 28 - 5:00 pm - +Fr. Richard LaCorte
Sun - Jan 29 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Scott Friestad by Larry & Penny Zaun
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: 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


Sun., Jan 22 - 6:30 pm - Reconciliation Parent Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Tues., Jan 24 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory
Wed., Jan 25 - RE classes - see below
Wed., Jan 25 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
Thurs., Jan 26 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith
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)- Spirit of Life Center
Sun., Feb 5 - 6:30 pm - Confirmation Parent Meeting

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 25th

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

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

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 28 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i> 4th Sat of January	Sunday Jan 29 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Jan 29 10:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i> 5th Sun of January
<i>Lector</i>	<div>KC Memorial Mass</div>	Larry Zaun	Darcee Rehovsky
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>		Linda Milbrandt Jurgen Suhr	Virjean Cramer Susan Kempel Mark Rehovsky Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>		Gavin Besette Meyer Wendel	Paris Mack Parker Mack
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>		Jurgen & Barb Suhr	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Make & Lisa Zahnow	John Marshall Family
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Lucy Wagner		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

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

Bob & Anne Pyle - 51 years on January 29

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Patty Roth and her family on the death of her mother, Yvonne Schuler.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4

St. Williams Catholic Church (107 Drake Ave, Argusville, ND) invite all to their *Soupapalooza & Silent Auction* Sunday, January 29th, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Free will offering.

Pinochle Party: All are invited to play pinochle in the Holy Spirit Church Social Hall, 1420 7th St N, Fargo, Sunday afternoon, February 12th at 1:30 pm. Bring a friend! You are welcome to bring a snack to share if you wish. You do not need a card partner. For more information please call the parish office at 232-5900.

SEARCH Retreat: Youth and Young Adults... Want to spend time on a retreat that is put on by your peers? Do you want to grow closer to God? Do you need a “retreat” from the world around you? Experience God in a personal and REAL way. Youth and young adults, 16 and older are invited to attend a SEARCH for Christian Maturity retreat coming up February 24-26th at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City, ND. Details and application at <https://www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm> or call Dori at 952-210-2219. More information is also available on the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry. Applications are due no later than Monday, February 6th.

This week's Stewardship moment:

“He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.” ~ Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave his or her business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

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.



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.