

PASTOR’S NOTES

Next Sunday (Feb. 6th) . . .

St. Leo’s parish will combine their annual parish meeting along with their ‘parish synod’ after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Spirit of Life Center. Their will be a free meal of pork chops and ‘the fixings’. Child care will be provided along with food for them. All parishioners are invited. We hope to wrap up activities by 1 p.m.

The parish meeting will provide a quick summary of parish life for the past year. Reports and hand-outs will be provided by the parish office and the chairs of the five (5) parish committees.

The parish meeting will be followed by the ‘parish synod’ at which parishioners are encouraged to share their insights and experiences about contemporary church life. All parishes in the Diocese of Fargo and throughout the world are being asked to host such ‘synods’. To facilitate such discussions Bishop Folda has sent a series of 15 questions for use by ‘synod’ participants. For those who can not make such meeting there is a diocesan web site by which people can share their reflections and experiences. Those 15 questions and the web site log-in are included as an insert in this week’s bulletin.

Mark your calendar! Looking forward to seeing you!

Blessing of Throats

Every February 3rd we celebrate the memorial of St. Blaise, who is often associated with the Catholic sacramental of the *Blessing of Throats*.

The story goes that St. Blaise was bishop of Sebaste, Armenia (present day Turkey) in the early 300s. This was an age of vicious persecution of Christians under the Roman emperor, Licinius. Blaise was known for his ability to heal and cure. While imprisoned Blaise miraculously cured a young boy who nearly died because of a fishbone caught in his throat. Supposedly he used two candles that had been brought to him in prison and placed them in the form of a cross around the boy’s throat. Blaise was later beheaded and is now known as a martyr in the life of the Church. Since the 8th century St. Blaise has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

The Church’s present *Book of Blessings* acknowledges that “*suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit ... Part of the plan laid out by God’s providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health ... The blessing of the sick by ministers of the Church is a very ancient custom, rooted in imitation of Christ himself and his apostles. ... In the United States the annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of a Christian ... the blessing may be given by touching the throat of each person with two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd) and which are joined together in the form of the cross.*”

The *Book of Blessings* speaks of candles that were blessed on the The feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2nd]. This feast of the Presentation is always the 40th day after Christmas which is narrated in Luke’s Gospel [Luke 2:22-35]. Jewish practice was that 40 days after the birth of a son the mother was to be purified and the first-born son was to be “*consecrated to the Lord.*” At this presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem Simeon acknowledges Jesus to be “*a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel.*” Out of this biblical narrative arose the practice of blessing candles for home use and the candles used in bestowing the blessing associated with St. Blaise on February 3rd.

In that spirit **there will be the *Blessing of Throats* at St. Leo’s on Thursday, February 3rd at the conclusion of the 9:00 a.m. daily Mass.** We invite parishioners, who can, to attend daily Mass and receive this blessing.



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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 30, 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 30:

Mon - Jan 31 – 11:00 am - **Special Intention**

Tues - Feb 1 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo’s — NO MASS

Wed - Feb 2 – 9:00 am - **+Jerry Volk**

Thurs - Feb 3 – 9:00 am - **+Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran

Fri., Feb 4 – 9:00 am - **++Paul & Eileen Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Sat - Feb 5 - 5:00 pm - +Nancy Dorton by Hannah Schneider

Sun - Feb 6 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Clarence ‘Bud’ Kilen by Keith & Joni Biggers
St. Leo’s - 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

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 30 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass
 Tues., Feb 1 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Feb 2 - 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

Thurs., Feb 3 - Blessing of throats after 9:00 am Mass at St. Leo's

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
 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



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.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 5 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Feb 6 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Feb 6 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Tricia Gegelmann Lois Titus	Larry Zaun	Anna Garman
Eucharistic Ministers	Mona Franck		Kristi Dutchuk
Altar Servers	Tristan Lako Ethan/Olivia Richard	Jami Vavra Abigail Killoran	Isabelle Dutchuk Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Bob & Judy Von Bank	<i>Volunteers needed</i>

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.

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.

Redeemed Women's Conference 2022: Friday, March 4th and Saturday March 5th at the Delta by Marriot, 1635 42nd St S, Fargo. Cost of the conference including meals and refreshments is \$50 before Feb 14, after Feb 14 cost is \$75. To register visit: fargodiocese.org/RedeemedWoman Please see the poster on the bulletin board for more info.



Council 9477

St. Leo's Knight of the Month: The Knight for the month of **January** is **Collin Miller**. Thank you Collin for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.



Perpetual Rosary for Respect of Life: The St. Leo's Knights of Columbus will be praying the Rosary for Respect of Life on **Fri., Feb. 4th at 7 pm and before Mass on Sat., Feb. 5th**. Everyone is welcome to come and pray the Rosary with the Knights.



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.

Diocese of Fargo Events: There are many events happening within the Fargo Diocese in the next few weeks. Please see the bulletin board for more information on these events or visit the Diocese website at: www.fargodiocese.org. You can also follow them on Facebook or twitter at:

www.facebook.com/fargodiocese
www.twitter.com/fargo diocese

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous..." ~ 1 Corinthians 13:4

Do you get jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gifts that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you acquire more possessions to impress other? At times, we are guilty of these things. Pray for more humility. Humility helps us become less "self-centered" and become more "God-centered" for the sake of others.