

PASTOR’S NOTES

2 (two) Prayer items for January —

Not just in the cold month of January, but in every month, there are two items of particular human concern that need our prayer and solicitude:

1) 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 19th 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) 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 22nd 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.”*

Children’s Envelopes

As part of our parish stewardship strategy we provide each RE student with a packet of Sunday Offertory envelopes to help them get in the habit of supporting their church. All the money raised through the student’s Offertory envelopes is given to the charity known as *Friends of Chimbote*. This charity was born out of the mission work of Fr. Jack Davis, who spent most of his priesthood working with the poor of Chimbote, Peru. He was ordained in 1969 as a priest for the Diocese of Fargo and later released to do missionary work in South America. Over the years his mission work took form and emerged into today’s organization – *Friends of Chimbote* – which helps thousands of poverty-stricken people with the basic necessities of life and trains people in basic skills so as to care for themselves. This is the wonderful charity supported by our RE students Sunday Offertory envelopes.

Parents – please encourage your students to use their Sunday Offertory envelopes in support of such a worthy charity. Presently only about 10 students regularly use their envelopes and over the last 10 years total student envelope giving has fallen from a high of \$1542 {2016} to all time low of \$458 in 2021. This is in spite of the fact that student numbers have increased over this time period. **With parents’ support I believe we can do better.**

In the off chance your students forgets his Sunday envelope at home, there are supplemental student envelopes at the rear of the church for their use. Just have your student write their name on that supplemental envelope before putting it into the Offertory collection. Thank you!!



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



The Baptism of the Lord
January 9, 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 9:

Mon - Jan 10 – 9:00 am - **Madalyn Wiersma** by Casey & Anna Garman
Tues - Jan 11 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+John G. Hansen**
St. Leo’s — NO MASS
Wed - Jan 12 – 9:00 am - **Anthony Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman
Thurs - Jan 13 – 9:00 am - **+Fr. Vincent Tuchscherer**
Fri., Jan 14 – 9:00 am - **+Jerry Volk** by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles
Sat - Jan 15 - 5:00 pm - +Deceased family members of Ralph & Barb Nelson
Sun - Jan 16 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - +Leon Seefeld by DeLilah Volk

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.


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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 9 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Mon., Jan 10 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy committee meeting at the rectory - ***NOTE: Date change***  
Tues., Jan 11 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory  
Wed., Jan 12 - 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., Jan 13 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
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 - 6:45 pm - Week of Christian Unity Prayer Service, all are welcome to attend  
*RE Students will have a short class and be attending as a class*  
Sun., Jan 23 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Sun., Jan 23 - 11:30 am - St. Thomas Parish meeting  
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

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                    |                                                              |                                                             |                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Saturday Jan 15</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 16</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> | <b>Sunday Jan 16</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i> |
| <i>Lector</i>                                                                      | Renee Anderson                                               | Alecia Killoran                                             | Steve Carvell                                               |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>                                                       | Gary Grommesh                                                |                                                             | Micah Bartholomay                                           |
| <i>Altar Servers</i>                                                               | Burchill Family<br>Hayden Faleide                            | Hallie Besette<br>Claire Halland                            | Cassie/Elise Bartholomay<br>Mikaela Prochnow                |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | Bob and Mary Lynne Snyder                                   | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                    |

NEWS AND NOTES

**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 will be 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

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> St N, Fargo) beginning with Mass at 5:15 pm; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to non-perishable food pantry items. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to [regentctstann@gmail.com](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com).

**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.

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**

*“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” ~ Luke 3:16*  
The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift our selves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Serving pancakes and sausage Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering,

**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.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** On Monday, evening, **January 10<sup>th</sup>, after 6:30 pm** the **red** poinsettias that were used for our Christmas decoration in the altar area will be available for any one to take home. The poinsettias will be on a table in the Spirit of Life center for the taking.

**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.