

PASTOR’S NOTES

Another Successful VBS

38 young students from Kindergarten to fifth grade had a great time of fun and learning at this year’s Vacation Bible School (VBS). This all came to pass because of Mallory Poulson and her merry band of adult helpers — Mary Richard, Karren Bartholomay, Patty Roth, Sherry Radermacher, Den Bolda, Leah Lindseth, Laura Rupp and Erin Prochnow and middle school crew leaders — Aubrey White, Olivia Richard, Emma Scherweit, Elise Bartholomay, Evelyn Roth, Grady Poulson, Eli Rexine, Joe Kappes and Brynne Bartholomay.

Thanks for your wonderful spirit of service and passing on of the faith!!!

A five-week hiatus into Eucharistic love —

For five consecutive weeks our Sunday Gospel readings will be taken from the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel rather than the Gospel of Mark. The sixth chapter of John’s Gospel is known as the **Bread of Life Discourse**. John 6 begins with Jesus feeding 5000 with five barley loaves and a couple of dried fish. This miraculous feeding is followed by Christ declaring himself to be the Bread of Life. By the end of this sixth chapter some people reject this teaching while others accept.

In the life of the Church the Bread of Life Discourse [John 6] has been understood to be a discourse on the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. In that light I thought I would offer a weekly reflection on the Eucharist during this time when our Gospel readings take us through the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel and Christ’s Discourse of the Bread of Life.

An opening thought – over my 46+ years as a priest a lot of printer’s ink has been spilled over the topic of the Eucharist – *falling Mass attendance; whether pro-abortion Catholic politicians should be denied Communion; celebrating Confirmation before Eucharist; retranslating the words and prayers of the Mass; proper way to receive Communion; receiving Communion while living in the state of mortal sin; lack of reverence at Mass; etc.* The list could go on and on!

One often hears that *Mass is boring!!* Is Mass boring? Of all the seven sacraments Christ left the Church to guide us on our spiritual journey to heaven only the Eucharist is called “The Blessed Sacrament”. **How can it be that something called ‘Blessed’ could be boring?** Perhaps from another angle – the last Church Council (Vatican II -1962-65) taught us that the Eucharist is the ‘source and summit’ of Christian life and living. **How is something that should be the pinnacle of one’s spiritual life be sought by fewer and fewer people?**

On a couple of occasions Christ said some remarkable things about humanity: (1) He found himself unable to work miracles in his hometown because “*he was amazed at their lack of faith.*” [Mk 6:6]; (2) As Christ approaches the city of Jerusalem he speaks about a number of themes in life {corruption in the world; lack of gratitude on the part of nine healed lepers; indifference to the poor on our door steps; etc.} and then muses – “*when the Son of Man comes will he find any faith on the earth?*” [Lk. 18:8]

More than a critique of humanity, Christ is challenging us to more deeply probe the many lessons and mysteries he left us to unwrap and engage. Certainly the glorious gift of the Eucharist (*going to Mass*) is a mystery of faith. As St. Paul says, “Faith comes through hearing.” [Rom 10:17]

Over the course of the next few weeks we will hear a number of amazing claims about this mighty gift of the Lord – *The Eucharist of His Body and Blood*. The more one knows, the more insight one can possibly gain in probing this mystery that goes by many names in the Catechism – **the Lord’s Supper; the Breaking of the Bread; Holy Sacrifice; Holy and Divine Liturgy; Holy Communion; the Mass.** As the song goes – ‘*To know, know, know you is to love, love, love you*’.

To fall in love with the Eucharist would be ecstasy!!



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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
July 28, 2024

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 July 28:

Mon - July 29 – 9:00 am – +**Michelle Kulasingham** by Margaret Kensok  
Tues - July 30 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – +**Souls in purgatory**  
*NO MASS at St. Leo’s*  
Wed – July 31 – 9:00 am – +**Diane Duff** by Theresa Dooley  
Thurs – Aug 1 – 9:00 am – **For our Country**  
Fri – Aug 2 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**  
**Saturday – Aug 3 – 5:00 pm - Casey Garman by Anna Garman**  
**Sunday - Aug 4 – St. Thomas- 8:30 am - +Irene Pollock by Penny Zaun**  
**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  
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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth  
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Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain:  
Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher  
Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo’s Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay  
St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

*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., July 28 - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Fri., Aug 2 - 9:00 am - KC Golf Tournament, Jamestown, ND  
Sun., Aug 4 - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Mon., Aug 5 - 11:00 am - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop’s Charity Golf Classic, Rose Creek Golf Course, Fargo  
Tues., Aug 5 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory  
Sun., Aug 11 - 2:00 pm - 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies, Whapeton  
Fri., Sat., Sept 6 & 7 - Redeemed Eucharistic Congress, Jamestown Civic Center

The Rosary is prayed before each week-end Mass at St. Leo’s. **We are in need of persons to lead the rosary** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month. This would be about 20 minutes before the 10:30am Masses on these days. Call the parish office if you can help.

**DID YOU KNOW...** Community of Care provides transportation to medical appointments for older adults **FREE** of charge. Our dedicated volunteers provide these important rides for older adults to receive their medical care. If you are 65+, living in Cass County and need a ride to your doctor appointment, give them a call at **(701)347-0032**. Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy Schempp, will do her best to arrange a ride. You must be able to independently transfer in and out of the vehicle. **They do request a one week notice to arrange for a ride.**

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Aug 3</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>	<b>Sunday Aug 4</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Sunday Aug 4</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Alecia Killoran	Elise Wisnewski
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Keith Biggers Kristi Hovelson	Kristi Dutchuk Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Ethan/Olivia Richard Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Hallie Besette Hannah Besette	James Diemert Garman Family
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Dennis & Cristie Killoran	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Lucy Wagner		<b>Volunteer needed</b>

NEWS AND NOTES

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ND Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament:** ND Knights of Columbus 4-person Scramble Golf Tournament at the Jamestown Country Club in Jamestown, ND is coming up on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Registration starts at 8 am with a shotgun start at 9 am. Entry fee is \$85/person, or \$340/team (includes green fees, golf cart, prizes and lunch). Register online at: [www.nd-kofc-foundation.com](http://www.nd-kofc-foundation.com) Any questions please call (701)730-2130 or email: [cory.badinger@outlook.com](mailto:cory.badinger@outlook.com)

**68<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies:** Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton, ND. Event starts at 2 pm. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit: [carmelofmary.org](http://carmelofmary.org)

**Catechist Retreats:** One day retreat, your choice Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. The day will begin at 9 am and end at 4 pm. The theme this year will be on prayer in preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025. There will be time for silent reflection, Mass, lunch, sharing and a chance to enjoy the beautiful grounds. All participants are asked to bring their bible, paper and pen to journal. Registration deadline is Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration fee is \$25 per person. Register on line at: [www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat](http://www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat)

**Redeemed Eucharistic Congress:** September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). **Early registration ends on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Cost before Aug 1 is \$35, after Aug 1 \$50.** *Registration forms and information are available on the tables behind the last pews in the church.* Or to register on line visit - [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed) or call (701)356-7900

**Diocese of Fargo:** For events, upcoming retreats and more information about what is happening throughout the diocese, please visit: [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org) or see the flyers on the bulletin board in the church entry.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” ~ John 6:9

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!



Council 9477

**St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:**  
The Knight for the month of **July** is **Jerry Christiansen**. Thank you Jerry for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes: October 21-31, 2024

Bishop Folda personally invites you to join him on a pilgrimage where they will visit the holy sites of Fatima and Lourdes where Our Lady appeared to young people with her messages of conversion, peace and healing. In Fatima, we join thousands for the Rosary and candlelight procession. Lourdes, as you may know, is the place of the miraculous waters of healing that millions of people visit every year. We will visit the birthplace of St. Anthony of Portugal and see the burial place of St. Teresa of Avila along with many other saints and martyrs. There will also be a special stop to visit a church with a Eucharistic miracle. To visit and worship in these holy places can bring a renewal I our spiritual lives and greater understanding of the universal Church. Price of the trip is \$4900 based on double with flights out of Fargo. More information and registration is available at: [www.fargodioces.org/pilgrimages](http://www.fargodioces.org/pilgrimages) For questions please contact Mary Hanbury at-(701)356-7909 or [mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org](mailto:mary.hanbury@fargodiocese.org)