

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., July 6 – **NO Beverage and Bite after Mass**
Mon., - Thurs., July 21-24 – 1:00 to 4:00 pm – St. Leo’s Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Mon., July 28 – 6:45 pm – KC Meeting at the rectory
Tues., Aug 5 – 7:00 pm – Education Committee meeting at the rectory
Mon., Aug 11 – 7:00 pm – St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting

St. Leo’s Cemetery Notice: All artificial flowers and Memorial Day decorations are to be **removed from the cemetery by June 30.** During the summer the decorations are often damaged by the mower and may be covered by dead grass. Thank you.



There will be **NO Beverage and Bite on Sunday, July 6th** after Mass.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday July 12 5:00 pm St. Leo’s	Sunday July 13 8:30 am St. Leo’s	Sunday July 13 10:30 am St. Thomas
Lector	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Keith Biggers
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Howard Bill Franck	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Mary Jendro Susan Kempel Paul Olsen	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun
Altar Servers	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Hallie Besette Carly Hovelson
Offertory Collectors	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr
Gift Bearers	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Travis Besette Family
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES



Made for Greatness Men’s Retreat — Personal Prayer: The Way of Receiving the Father’s Love: July 18-20, 2025 at the Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. Led by Fr. Boniface Hicks, OSB. More details are available at www.fargodiocese.org/mfg-retreat or see the flyer on the bulletin board.

The Art of Spiritual Accompaniment: Father Boniface Hicks will also be leading a 5-Day training on the Art of Accompaniment for those who want to learn how they can assist others in growing in their spiritual lives. This training will take place on July 21-25, 2025, beginning the day after the Made for Greatness Men's Retreat. More information on that 5-day Art of Accompaniment training is available at: www.fargodiocese.org/aoa or see the flyer on the bulletin board.

69th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies: Sunday, August 17th starting at 2:00 pm at the Carmel of Mary Monastery, 17765 78th St SE, Wahpeton, ND. Guest speaker will be Fr. Luke Meyer followed by the Rosary and Mass with Bishop Folda at 5:00 pm. The event will conclude with a picnic after Mass. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit: Carmelofmary.org

Upcoming Diocesan Retreats: There are many retreats available in the coming months for anyone to attend. Please see the bulletin board in the church entry for information or visit the Fargo of Diocese website for more information at: www.fargodiocese.org

"Mysteries and Messengers: The Angels & The Rosary," a special itinerant Dominican preaching event on Wednesday, July 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Sts. Anne & Joachim Parish, 5202 25th St. S. ,Fargo. Renowned speakers from the Midwest province of the Order of Preachers, Fr. James Pierce Cavanaugh, OP from the Angelicum in Rome, and Fr. Adrian Patrick McCaffery, OP, will delve into the profound mysteries of the rosary and the mystery of the angels in scripture and tradition. Don't miss this opportunity for spiritual enrichment and deep reflection. All are welcome to attend this inspiring gathering. For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board or visit Sts. Anne & Joachim website: <https://stsaa.org/event-calendar/mysteries-and-messengers/>

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages – Sept. 26 – 28, 2025 Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and reclaim the love that initially brought them together. The Red River Retrouvaille program will be held locally on Sept. 26 – 28, 2025 in Fargo. For more information visit HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at rrretrouvaille@gmail.com.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“He said to them, “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few...” ~ Luke 10:2

As Catholics we are called to serve. Each of us has been given “charisms” otherwise known as gifts from the Holy Spirit to help build God’s Church. Our charisms can only be used for good. We know that we are using them in the right ministry when we are filled with joy and we want to share stories about our charitable works. Discern how God is calling you to use your charisms. Say “yes” to what God is calling you to do and then do it! Share your joy and invite others to do the same.

PASTOR’S NOTES

July 4th — *What’s freedom?*

Three years ago [24 June 2022] the U.S. Supreme overturned a previous Supreme Court decision, which had legalized abortion in this country for the previous 49+ years {from January 1973-2022}. The question of abortion has now been given back to each of the 50 states to determine its place in society. In the wake of this decision the rhetoric from pro-abortionists is that a women’s right to choose has been taken away, that freedom of choice is under attack, that we are moving into a dark age where a whole litany of basic rights/freedoms are going to be rolled back.

First, a little light needs to be focused on the notions of freedom, free will and free choice. Since July 4th is about freedom, this topic is worth a little reflection. **Choice is fundamental to human existence.** The book of Sirach in the Old Testament says,

“When God, in the beginning, created man, he made him subject to his own free choice. If you choose you can keep the commandments; it is loyalty to do his will. There are set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, whichever he chooses shall be given him.” [Sirach 15:14-17]

In this sense everyone is pro-choice. But in this age the term - *pro-choice* - has been preempted and coopted to simply define a person as being in favor of abortion. Choice by its very nature can be either right or wrong, good or bad, mature or immature, selfish or selfless, etc. It is very reasonable to conclude that abortion is a wrong choice, even sinful.

A truly free choice must be rooted in what is True and Good. Freedom detached from Truth and Goodness has created our divisive and polarized world of today. In today’s world Truth has been denigrated and translated as either being ‘*my truth*’ or ‘*your truth*’. People choose the conspiracy theory that most closely aligns with the life narrative they have adopted for themselves. Truth, other than theirs, is often called ‘fake news’ and simply dismissed out of hand. This is not just a ‘left or right’ or ‘red or blue’ issue. It is a disease eating at the soul of America and the modern world in general. Language and words get changed to mean whatever a person wants them to mean.

To some degree this comes from a people who have lost their grounding in God as Creator of all things, and the author of right and wrong, good or bad. When that foundation is rocked and made insecure people gravitate to something or someone else to be ‘their savior’. In this scenario freedom becomes corrupt because it is tied to someone or something no better than each person being ‘their own savior’. **We call this reality – personal autonomy.** Everyone defines truth for themselves.

If a child in the womb can be labeled ‘a blob of tissue’ or ‘product of conception’ and not a pre-born human being (*having a heart beat, human DNA, human chromosomal structure*), then all sorts of actions can be directed against it – *chemical warfare, dismemberment, etc.* Such is the working of personal autonomy.

On the Fourth of July when so much talk focuses on freedom, let us be aware that freedom unattached to the fullness of truth and goodness is nothing more than slavery to run-away passions, vacillating feelings, passing fads, cultural trends, etc., etc.

A true Fourth of July is a people who know from whence they come — **God**; to where they are going – **eternal life in heaven with God**; and how to live in the meantime – **as disciples of Jesus Christ, true God/true man – the Way, the Truth and the Life.** True freedom belongs to such a people; all else is slavery!

Happy Fourth of July!!



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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 6, 2025

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 6:

Mon – July 7 – 9:00 am – +Fr. Duaine Cote
Tues – July 8 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Souls in purgatory
NO Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – July 9 – 9:00 am – +Paul Grommesh by Gary & Delores Grommesh
Thurs – July 10 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Fri – July 11 – 9:00 am – Justin Gullekson Family
Saturday – July 12 – 5:00 pm – ++Greg & Harriet Dimmer by Rene Anderson
Sunday – July 13 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Thomas - 10:30 am – +Marcel Sluke by Joe & Lora Killoran

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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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 or by appointment.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.