

PASTOR’S NOTES

Two Solemnities this week ...

A Solemnity is the highest ranking feast day in the life of the Church. Each day in the church calendar is marked with one of five rankings — *{from highest to lowest rank}* — solemnity, feast, obligatory memorial, optional memorial or a ferial day *{which has no saint or sacred event being celebrated}*.

There are 16 total solemnities in the annual church calendar. Six (6) solemnities fall on Sundays: [Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Body & Blood of Christ Sunday and Christ the King Sunday]. Five (5) solemnities are the five Holy Days: [Mary, Mother of God {Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>}; Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven {August 15<sup>th</sup>}; All Saints Day {Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>}; Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary {Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>} and Christmas {Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>} ].

The remaining five (5) solemnities do not fall on a Sunday or a Holy Days: [St. Joseph {March 19}; Annunciation {March 25}; Sacred Heart of Jesus {Friday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday following Pentecost}; Birth of John the Baptist {June 24} and Sts. Peter & Paul {June 29}.

This year both the Birth of John the Baptist and Sts. Peter & Paul fall during this coming week. Since solemnities are rankings of the highest order, they must celebrate people and events of the greatest significance. **What is the significance of John the Baptist and Saints Peter and Paul?** What does the Church see in these saints to demand our highest attention?

John the Baptist was the one who announced Christ among us when he pointed out to his own disciples – ‘Look – the Lamb of God’! He was the voice in the desert telling us to prepare the way of the Lord by repenting of our sins and being baptized for the forgiveness of our sins. In so many ways John reminds us that we are incapable of saving ourselves. The gift of salvation lies beyond us. Despite being a first-world nation with the greatest of access to technology and wealth our lives are not whole nor complete by any stretch of the imagination. We suffer the ravages of disease and sickness, war and terrorism, human trafficking, drug/alcohol addictions, mental health crises, the cesspool of pornography, and the list goes. We are a broken people and in need of a savior. **Therefore, repent and make straight the way of the Lord.** Such a voice and message is desperately needed in our world today. Therefore, the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist. Let us give thanks and praise to God.

Saints Peter and Paul were appointed messengers and shepherds by Christ himself to bring salvation to the whole world. **St. Paul** took the Gospel beyond the bounds of Judaism to the non-Jewish world of the Gentiles. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is meant for all people and the redemption brought in Jesus Christ is for everyone who has ears to hear and minds and hearts to believe. In Matthew’s Gospel **St. Peter** gets a ‘new name upon which Christ will build his Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it’. He was given the ‘powers of the keys’ to bind and to loose things of the spiritual life. As one spiritual writer notes – Peter and Paul represent the centrifugal and centripetal forces of the Church. Centrifugal forces are always **moving out from** the center — *seeking new horizons and being pioneer in new adventures*. Centripetal forces are always **moving towards** the center — *bringing stability and giving structure to the work at hand*. In that image St. Paul represents the centrifugal forces within the Church; while St. Peter represents the centripetal forces within the Church. Both forces make up the life and work of the Church from age to age. Both are necessary and essential features of life in general and the Church in particular. In such case the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul remind us to give thanks to God for his wonderful and providential love.

Still on the move . . .

In 24 more days the Northern route of the Eucharistic pilgrimage/procession (*aka – the Marian route*) should arrive in Indianapolis, Indiana for the National Eucharistic Congress being held there from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>. **Please keep the Congress, the pilgrims and pilgrimages in your prayers!!!**



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



TWELVETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
June 23, 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 June 23:

Mon - June 24 – 9:00 am – **Peggy Schmidt** by Richard Muscha  
Tues - June 25 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**  
*NO MASS at St. Leo’s*  
Wed – June 26 – 9:00 am – **Justin Gullekson Family**  
Thurs – June 27 – 9:00 am – **Safe travels for St. Anthnoy’s Mission Trip** by Sandie Nystrom  
Fri – June 28 – 9:00 am – **+Eileen Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh  
**Saturday – June 29 – 5:00 pm - +Kathryn Holm by Ron & Thuy Kaufman**  
**Sunday - June 30 – St. Thomas- 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes**  
**St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - +Karol Utt by Mike Utt**

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer  
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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., June 23 - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Sun., June 23 - 4:00 pm - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Life Celebration, Oakes, ND  
Sun., June 30 - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Mon. - Thurs. - July 22-25 - 1 to 4 pm - Vacation Bible School  
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  
Fri., Sat., Sept 6 & 7 - Redeemed Eucharistic Congress, Jamestown Civic Center  
*NO KC meeting in the month of June.*


**2024 Summer Camps and Events:** There are a number of summer camps and events available for youths to participate in this summer. Please see the display in the entrance of the church for information and to pick up a brochure.

**St. Leo’s Vacation Bible School (VBS):** July 22 - 25, 2024. 1-4pm each day for students entering K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration forms and information is available in the church entry. Registration deadline is July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday June 29</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>	<b>Sunday June 30</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Sunday June 30</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Megan Bolda	Alecia Killoran	Darcee Rehovsky
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Mona Franck Delores Grommesh	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun	Virjean Cramer Susan Kempel Mark Rehovsky Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	<b>Volunteers needed</b>	Gavin Besette Hallie Besette	Lucas Miller Isabelle Dutchuk
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Frank & Laura Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Darren Halland Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Richard Muscha		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

 **Putt 4 a Purpose—Golf Event:** Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00 am at Rose Creek Golf Course in south Fargo. Bishop John Folda invites you to *Putt 4 a Purpose* at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop’s Charity Golf Classic, benefiting Seminar-ian Education and Youth Programs. Join the fun and fellowship for a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Register three golfers and bring your Priest, Deacon or Semi-narian as your 4<sup>th</sup> player for free! Register online at: [www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose](http://www.fargodiocese.org/puttpurpose) For further infor-mation please see the flyer on the bulletin board or con-tact Steve Schons at the Diocese at (701)356-7926

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Joseph's (Moorhead) annual rummage sale:** Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's School gym in Moorhead, 9 am to 5pm. Door #8 is on east side of church, off parking lot across from Hornbacher's on 11<sup>th</sup> St. South. This is the major fundraiser for our confer-ence to be able to have funds needed to assist those with the greatest needs in our community. Furniture, house-hold items and decor, children's clothing, tools, small appliances, etc. will be sold.

**Redeemed Eucharistic Congress:** September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). The event will include Mass with Bishop Folda, Eucharistic procession from St. James Basilica, Eucharistic healing with Fr. Jeff Eppler, Praise and Worship with Aly Aleigha and Adoration. Guest speakers will include Scott Hahn, Julianne Stanz and Msgr. Thomas Richter. **Cost for the event is \$35 before Aug 1, after Aug 1 \$50.** For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board. To register please visit – [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed) or call (701)356-7900

The Rosary is prayed before each weekend Mass at St. Leo’s. **We are in need of per-sons 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.

**Diocese of Fargo Summer Youth Events:** The Diocese of Fargo is offering events throughout the summer for youth who are looking to grow more in their faith and get to know others throughout the diocese. All events are open to youth in the Diocese of Fargo who are going into grades 7-12 in the fall of 2024. Events are organized by the Cor Christi Missionary Team. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information or visit: [fargodiocese.org/sym](http://fargodiocese.org/sym)

**Retrouvaille:** Help for Hurting Marriages Have you and your spouse grown cold and distant from each other? Do you struggle to communicate or come together on common goals? Have past hurts built up walls of ten-sion and distrust so big you question if they could ever come down? There is hope. Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thou-sands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Retrou-vaille will be held locally September 27-29, 2024 in Fargo. For information visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at: [rrretrouvaille@gmail.com](mailto:rrretrouvaille@gmail.com)

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Then he asked them, ‘Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?.’” ~ Mark 4:40

Do you really trust God? Is God your first choice or last resort? Is your faith something you just do on Sunday or do you live the Gospel message every day of the week? Many of us know about God. How many of us have a personal relationship with Him? Start now, open your heart to receive our Lord. Talk and listen to Him every day. Move your discipleship from head knowledge to heart knowledge.