

PASTOR’S NOTES

A Labor Day — a spiritual note —

As is often the case, we enter into holidays and many times give little heed to the meaning and purpose of the days ‘we get off from work’. The late Pope John Paul II (*now St. John Paul II*) issued an encyclical letter titled *Laborem Exercens* on September 14, 1981 and its purpose was to offer a reflection “On Human Work”. The overall theme of *Laborem Exercens* was the transcendent dignity of work. Work always must be evaluated through the meaning it has in the eyes of God and how it collaborates in the redemption of the human race and the development of the Kingdom of heaven.

We often think of work in terms of the things that work produces or the profits we make from our work. *Laborem Exercens* talks about these things, but more importantly directs us to look at work from the perspective of the worker and what work means for the worker.

When work is examined from the perspective of the worker a number of principles become clear. Because of the transcendent dignity of the human person: **(1) labor has priority over capital; (2) the right to private property is subordinate to the right of common use, due to the fact that goods are meant for everyone; (3) property should be of service to the person; (4) the rights of workers.**

As we take a “day off work”, we are really called to celebrate the dignity of work by which we earn our daily bread, but more importantly the ways by which we bring about greater justice, a wider brotherhood/sisterhood, and the more human ordering of social relationships. Every now and then it is important to take a break and meditate upon the fundamental dimensions/activities of our lives so as to gain a renewed perspective on things.

Have a blessed Labor Day!

Holy Land Collection

Usually the world-wide Good Friday collection supports the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land – **the very place Jesus lived and died.** Because of COVID-19 the 2020 collection was transferred to Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, which is the day nearest the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14<sup>th</sup>). On this feast the Church deeply reveres the Cross upon which hung the Savior of the world and who rose from the dead on the third day (Easter).

It is sites like these (*Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher*) plus over 50 other shrines connected to the life of Christ and the prophets that the Franciscans oversee, preserve and keep ‘alive’ for all who visit the Holy Land.

Besides overseeing the shrines of the Holy Land the Holy Land collections supports parishes, schools, orphanages, seminary formation for over 100 priests and brothers, etc. throughout the whole of the Holy Land.

The Christians who live there are the descendants of those who first believed in Christ and lived the Christian faith. Much of their livelihood depends on visitors. As you can well imagine COVID-19 has deeply disrupted their lives. In addition, these Christians suffer greatly from the vicissitudes of being in the Middle East with its constant warfare, never-ending violence, and the instability of the region.

**The Holy Land collection supports the Franciscans in their unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as for the ‘Living Stones’ (today’s Christians) living in the land trod by Jesus and the prophets.**

The Holy Land envelopes were in your regular April packet of envelopes for Good Friday. Perhaps that envelope got lost. There will be envelopes in the pews and the back of the church for your use. **Your support is deeply appreciated.**



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



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
September 6, 2020

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 Sept 6:

Mon - Sept 7 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**  
Tues - Sept 8 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**  
*St. Leo’s - NO MASS*  
Wed - Sept 9 - 9:00 am - **+Donald Mergner**  
Thurs - Sept 10 - 9:00 am - **+Lois Myers**  
Fri - Sept 11 - 9:00 am - **Helen Franck** by Bill & Mona Franck  
Sat - Sept 12 - 5:00 pm - **+Ann Marschke** by Don & Audrey Cramer  
Sun - Sept 13 - **St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes**  
**St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Helen Diemert** by Janice Diemert

Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer  
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**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh  
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**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 & Mark Wieland  
**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

Tues., Sept 8 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting  
Sun., Sept 13 – 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass following the current CDC COVID19 guidelines  
Mon., Sept 14 - 7:00 pm - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting at St. Thomas Church in Buffalo  
Tues., Sept 15 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting  
Wed., Sept 16 - 6:30 pm - RE classes begin  
Tues., Sept 22 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s Pastoral Council meeting  
Wed., Sept 23 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

**Church seating:** As we ease into the Fall season, we do anticipate an upswing in Mass attendance. To respect the physical distance, we are still using every other pew for seating. We believe it would help with church seating if —

- families sit together in one pew;
- up to 3 groups of 2 person groupings occupy one pew;
- individual persons occupy the middle of the pew allowing groups at either end.

It is good to have a full church and we do have overflow seating in the Spirit of Life Center.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Sept 12 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Sept 13 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Sept 13 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Gary Milbrandt
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bill Franck	Richard Muscha	
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Theo Metzger Ben Metzger	Sarah Kempel Melody Kempel	Gavin Besette
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Betty Lou Stallman Lisa Zahnow/Jennaca Killoran
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	

NEWS AND NOTES


**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**Frank & Laura Biggers-57 years on Sept 7**  
**Fred & Rose Mary Eldridge-57 years on Sept 7**

**Holy Land/Good Friday Collection:** As announced in May , because of the COVID-19 outbreak and the suspension of public Masses, Pope Francis authorized moving the **Good Friday collection for the Holy Land to Sunday, September 13th.** This collection supports the preservation of Holy Sites in the Holy Land, as well as the local communities, including Christians displaced from neighboring countries because of civil unrest. Please keep the Christians of the Holy Land in your prayers. *The envelope for this collection was in your March/April envelope packet which you received by mail in February.*

**National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children Prayer Service:** Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Fargo. This service is to honor the gravesites of our unborn brothers and sisters.

**St Vincent de Paul Orientation:** Do you feel a call to serve those in need? Are you looking for a way to answer that call? Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international organization of Catholic lay people dedicated to growing in holiness through fellowship and service to those in need. If you want to learn more about us, join us for an orientation on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 710 10<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo, from 8 am to 3 pm. You may be inspired to join a parish conference, or start a conference in your parish. To register (no cost) or for more information, contact Joan Schaefer at [jschaefer@ideaone.net](mailto:jschaefer@ideaone.net) or (701)200-0375

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**  
*“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel...” - Ezekiel 33:7*  
Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, especially the one that means the most to us.



Council 9477

**St. Leo’s Knight of the Month**

The Knight for the month of **September** is **Richard Muscha.**  
Thank you Richard for your dedication and the works you do for the KC’s. It is greatly appreciated.

**St. Mary’s Annual Rummage Sale:**  
604 N. Broadway, Fargo, in the Cathedral basement. Times: 9am–7pm on Thurs. Sept. 10; 9am-7pm on Fri. Sept 11; 9am-noon on Sat. Sept 12. For questions, call Theresa (701) 552-2927.

**Thank you to St. Thomas Parish!**  
With grateful hearts we thank our beloved parish family at St. Thomas for our years with you! We shall miss you! Thank you Fr. Ermer for the very personal tribute you gave in the blessing for Harold and me. Please know that your homilies were constantly appreciated as well! Such a generous and thoughtful gift of meals at Riverview as a gift from the parish. We enjoyed the meal following our last Mass. The food and decorations were wonderful. How difficult it is to say LAST MASS. God bless St. Thomas!!! ~ Harold and Marian Kasowski