

PASTOR'S NOTES

Doubting Thomas - a spiritual note

Today's Gospel story about Thomas has many thoughtful points of reflection. One that should not be overlooked is that Thomas was not present with his fellow disciples on the first day of the week (Sunday) when Christ appeared to his disciples. It was only on the next first day of the week (Sunday), when Thomas was present, that he came to believe in the Risen Lord.

Being gathered as disciples on Sunday (the first day of the week) is a time when Christ comes and shows us both his wounds of sacrifice (death) and his wounds of victory (resurrection), which enables us to declare – *My Lord and my God!* Christ calls those people blessed who have not physically seen his hands and his side but yet believe.

In essence Christ calls us blessed! Going to Sunday Mass (the first day of the week) is a blessed event, an encounter with the Risen Lord! As Vatican II teaches '*it is the source and summit of Christian life and living*'.

When one examines this text [John 20:24-29] Christ knows what Thomas declared when other disciples had told him that '*they had seen the Lord*' and Thomas' had been absent. For Christ there is more than doubt going on in Thomas. For Christ, Thomas seems to be verging on unbelief in that Thomas sets the criteria for believing or not believing.

When Christ encounters Thomas on that 'second Sunday', instead of Thomas probing Christ, Christ probes Thomas (*and us*) about not persisting in unbelief. The physical world of probing (*needing scientific verification*) is insufficient when it comes to the world of faith and belief. In the world of faith and belief one comes 'to know' through the testimony of others and the mystery of one's own dialogue, encounter and journey with the living God. Thomas has had a life with the Lord, which included those disciples who had testified to him. Thomas' response to Christ's 'spiritual probing' is to declare - *My Lord and my God*'. Thomas, who was on the cusp of unbelief, makes the deepest expression of faith uttered by any disciple in the gospels.

Hopefully we, like Thomas, make such a declaration when we encounter the Lord each Sunday at the Eucharist where he feeds us with his Body and Blood.

Divine Mercy Sunday

This Sunday (April 9th) is *Divine Mercy Sunday*. This particular devotion comes out of the life of a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina. On February 22, 1931 she had a vision of Jesus with two (2) rays of mercy streaming from around the area of his heart. He told her to have an image painted to represent this vision and to sign it, 'Jesus, I trust in you'. The pale ray stands for '*the water that makes souls righteous and the red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls*'. **Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to promote devotion to God's mercy so that all could find shelter in his merciful love.**

There are a number of aspects to this devotion particularly the daily prayer of the chaplet of divine mercy using the beads of the rosary to recite certain prayers associated with God's mercy in place of the regular 'Our Fathers' and 'Hail Marys'. It is encouraged to recite this chaplet around the 3 p.m. hour when Christ died on the Cross displaying God's infinite mercy to the world. Other aspects of this devotion include the regular celebration of the great sacraments of God's mercy – Reconciliation and Eucharist, doing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, etc.

More information about this devotion can be found at the back of the church.



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday) April 16, 2023

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 April 16:

Mon - Apr 17 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Tues - Apr 18 - 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

St. Leo's — NO MASS

Wed – Apr 19 – 9:00 am - +**Janice Muscha** by Lydia Muscha

Thurs – Apr 20 – 9:00 pm - +**Larry Spiekermeier** by Keith & Barb Marschke

Fri – Apr 21 – 9:00 am – **Special Intention** by Anna Garman

Sat - Apr 22 – 5:00 pm - Lincoln Kading by Bill & Mona Franck

Sun - Apr 23 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Jerry Bandy by Keith & Joni Biggers

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

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

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. Apr 16 - 9:00am- 12:00 pm - KC breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
 Tues. Apr 18 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed. Apr 19 - RE Classes — see below
Sat. Apr 22 - 10:00 am - Confirmation/1st Eucharist with Bishop Folda at St. Leo's
 Sun. Apr 23 - 11:30 am - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting at the church
 Mon. Apr 24 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory - **NOTE: Date Change**
 Wed. Apr 26 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
 Thurs. Apr 27 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Tues. May 2 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory

REMINDER: Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., April 19th

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

Grades K, 1, 2, 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)

Grades 4-8 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 9 - Class A and 11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Knights of Columbus

Breakfast: Serving Pancakes and sausage today, Sunday, April 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Apr 22 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Apr 23 8:30 am St. Leo's	Sunday Apr 23 10:30 am St. Thomas
Lector	Tony Roth	Fred Eldridge	Judy Von Bank
Eucharistic Ministers	Paulette Schmitt Mona Franck	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terri Monilaws Richard Muscha	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran
Altar Servers	Olivea/Evelyn Roth Joe Kappes Beau Parisien	Lauren Glennon Claire Glennon Jack Glennon	Clay Hovelson Piper Koller
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Roger & Marsha Kasowski
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner	Sandra Keller	

NEWS AND NOTES

Special prayers and blessings to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

Jerry & Jean Fletschock - 57 years on Apr 15

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be May 21st at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone (adult/middle school/high school) is welcome to join us. We will meet in the choir loft from 9 to 10 am to run through these songs for that day's Mass: #732, #383, #693, #583, #582. (Youtube is a great way to practice at home beforehand).

Catholic Man Night: Tuesday, April 20th at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (210 5th Ave W, West Fargo). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk and short discussion with featured speaker Blake Riteman, from Real Presence Radio. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!

Teams of Our Lady for Your Marriage: Are you interested in enriching your couple/marriage spirituality on a journey with other Catholic like-minded couples? The F-M Sector of Teams of Our Lady now has 13 TEAMS comprised of 72 area couples, 11 chaplains, and has been going strong for 18 years! Join us to learn more at our Spring Information Sessions!

- Info Session #1 - Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 PM at St. Anthony of Padua Church (upstairs)
- Info Session #2 - Sunday, May 7th at 4:00 PM at St. Anthony of Padua (upstairs).

All couples (BOTH husband and wife) wishing to join TEAMS are required to attend one of these two sessions. Mark your calendar as these will be the only Information Sessions this year! For more information, call Lorine Bernhardt at 701-781-2249 or e-mail fargosectorinformation@gmail.com. More information can also be found on the TEAMS website at www.teamsofourlady.org.

Arnetta Frueh Fundraiser: Saturday, April 22nd from 4 to 7 pm at the Buffalo Community Center, Buffalo, ND. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

St. Mary's Cathedral Spring Celebration weekend – Join us for another weekend of fun, great food and prizes at the Cathedral's Spring Celebration, themed "Country Fair" on Saturday, May 6th from 6 - 8 pm. KC Burger baskets (\$12). Live entertainment and a live auction where you can bid on a supper for 8 with Bishop Folda at the Bishop's residence and a dinner for 8 hosted by Monsignor Goering at the rectory. Also featuring a silent auction and bake sale all weekend. On Sunday, May 7th 11 am - 1:30 pm Swedish Meatball dinner; Adults \$12, Children ages 6-12 \$10, \$50 per family, kids 5 & under are free, a kids' carnival, dollar auction, raffle drawing with many great cash prizes to win, including a \$1500 top prize! We hope to see you there! 604 Broadway N, Fargo. Please call Jayme at 701-235-4289 with questions. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

Real Presence Radio's annual Spring Live Drive is coming your way **May 10-12th**. Phone lines will be open daily from **7:00 am - 7:00 pm**. Donate and you will be entered into a drawing for one of the many great prizes awarded throughout the drive. Call in with your support to **877-795-0122** or donate online at RealPresenceRadio.com/donate.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" ~ John 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships — with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too — just as God, Our Father, sees us.