

PASTOR'S NOTES

vaLENTine

This coming Wednesday [February 14th] is both the beginning of Lent and Valentine's Day. It seems to me the best valentine gift is to become a person characterized by Lent.

On the surface Lent can seem like a lot of doom and gloom. It begins with smudge of ashes on Ash Wednesday and the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." It ends 40 days later with us looking into an empty tomb. In between there are days of fast and abstinence and the 'giving up of something' – all with the conviction that doing so will make us better persons. Not denying any of this, there is a deeper three-fold dynamic to Lent that must not be overlooked.

In Lent we need to revisit 3 (three) essential markers in our lives:

1) Genesis 2:18 says, "It is not good for man to be alone."

Lent is about others.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our spirit of almsgiving, of reaching out of self and connecting with others in their deepest needs. There are countless good ways in which we can develop a habit of almsgiving: the corporal works of mercy [feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, bury the dead, visit the imprisoned]; the spiritual works of mercy [instruct the ignorant, forgive sins readily, admonish the sinner, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead]; tithing, using our Lenten canisters, etc.

A good Lent will find us giving alms by our care and concern of others.

2) The Vatican II document on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*, 36) declares, "Creation without the Creator fades into nothingness."

Lent is about God.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our spirit of prayer and communion with God. Tertullian [160-230] is quoted as saying, "prayer is the one thing that can conquer God ... even the Lord himself prayed." In Lent there are countless good habits of prayer in which we could engage: Daily Mass; Stations of the Cross on Friday nights at St. Leo's and Wednesday nights at St. Thomas; Ecumenical prayer services on the Sunday evenings of Lent sponsored by the Casselton Ministerium; etc.

A good Lent will find us praying.

3) The pagan philosopher, Socrates [469-399 B.C.], is once quoted as saying, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

Lent is about us.

Lent will ask us to fast. We do that by examining more clearly and looking more deeply into the patterns and choices that make up our lives. In our examination of conscience we seek to root out {fast from} the capital sins [pride, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, anger and sloth] and any social injustice which has found a home in our lives. This turn from sin and vice [aversion] and the giving of ourselves to God and his mercy [conversion] can be celebrated in the many opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation [Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. at St. Leo's, area Lenten Reconciliation Services, St Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service on Friday, March 22nd, or anytime by appointment].

A good Lent will find us fasting.

Such is the season of Lent. It is a opportune time to revitalize our lives of faith in the rich medicine of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day!!



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



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 11, 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 Feb 11:

Mon - Feb 12 – 9:00 am – **Anna Garman**

Tues - Feb 13 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday - 5:30 pm – **St. Thomas**

7:00 pm – **St. Leo's - Eva Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman

Thurs – Feb 15 – 9:00 am – **Special intention** by Larry Geffre

Fri – Feb 16 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Feb 17 – 5:00 pm - **+Dam Chi Dung** by Ron & Thuy Dung Kaufman

Sun - Feb 18 – **St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Larry Zaun** 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

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

Tues., Feb 13 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Feb 14 - **NO** RE Classes at St. Leo's and St. Thomas
**Wed., Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday- 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's**
 Fri., Feb 16 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, 6 pm Soup/Sandwich Supper
 Sun., Feb 18 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
 Sun., Feb 18- 6:30 pm-Ecumenical Prayer Service- CrossRoads Evangelical Church- 6 pm- Soup/Sandwich
 Thurs., Feb 22 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Thurs., Feb 22 - 6:30 pm - Parent Confirmation Meeting
Fri., Mar 8 - 5:30- 7:00 pm - KC Lenten Fish Fry

Ash Wednesday, February 14th Mass Schedule:


5:30 pm at St. Thomas
 7:00 pm at St. Leo's

Palms: *If you have old palms at home, please bring them to the church. We will use them for ashes on Ash Wednesday.*



Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission: Cards are available for purchase in the church entry. A wonderful selection of **Valentines Day cards** are now available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 17 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Feb 18 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Feb 18 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Keith Biggers	Steve Carvell
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Hayden Faleide Burchill Family	Abigail Killoran Piper Koller	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Gary & Linda Milbrandt	Volunteers needed
Gift Bearers	Volunteers needed	Joe & Lora Killoran	Volunteers needed
Lead Rosary	Mona Franck		Jessica Enge

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Tom Nowak and family on the death of his sister, Joanita Johnson.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 —Matthew 5:4



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving pancakes and sausage **Sunday, February 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, Feb 18th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #441, #761, #505, #663, #658, #739. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Music for Holy Week and Easter: Lent begins in a few days and that means it's time get our music ready for the Holy Week liturgies. Every one is invited to join us in the choir loft to lead the music for **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, March 28-31**. Practices will be on Sunday mornings either before or after the Sunday Mass. The first practice will be on **Sunday, Feb. 25th, 9:30-10:30am**. Music will be provided. Please come and help make these days special with some beautiful music!

Souper Supper: Saturday, February 24th, 4-7 pm at Cathedral of St. Mary, (619 7th St N, Fargo). Delicious homemade soups, breads and desserts will be served by the Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann. Free will offering.

Real Presence Radio invites you to attend the annual fundraising banquet in Fargo, ND on **Monday, February 26th** at the Delta Hotels by Marriott. This year's keynote speaker is Cy Kellett from "Catholic Answers". For more information about the event please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry or to register as a guest visit the website [Real PresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com). To become a table host or event sponsor call Blake Ritteman or Lori Kalgard at 701-795-0122 or email them at blake@realpresencerradio.com or lori@realpresencerradio.com.

SEARCH for Christian Maturity is a peer-to-peer ministry, allowing youth (ages 16 and 17) along with young adults (ages 18 and older) to minister to youth and young adults. SEARCH is a way to help you on your journey to discover God, yourself, and a Christian community. This is a time to experience a loving, supportive community of young people who want to learn and experience a closer relationship with God and with others. We have a retreat coming up March 1-3 at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City. More details and the application are at www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm or call Dori at 952-210-2219 with questions. Applications are due no later than **Monday, February 12th**.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." ~ 1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"