

PASTOR'S NOTES

A Lenten spiritual note —

On Ash Wednesday our Gospel reading from Matthew's Gospel had Jesus telling us about the three (3) spiritual practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. If done well, these three practices go a long way in perfecting our spiritual lives and put us in communion with God. **Prayer** puts us in conversation with God; **Almsgiving** leads us to care of others and **Fasting** disciplines harmful bodily desires and curtails the deleterious effects of vices, especially the capital sins. In that sense Lent could be a great season to fast from the capital sins.

Fasting from pride — some notes

First off, what is the difference between rightful self-esteem and sinful pride? The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of pride as the excessive esteem of self, or an exaggerated estimate of one's abilities, or the refusal to be satisfied with one's limitations. Of course the opposite of this would be humility or rightful self-esteem.

In essence pride is a lie because it causes us to overestimate our abilities, exaggerate our achievements, or inflate our importance. Pride allows us to live in a world of fantasy where we overlook blind spots and obstacles, ignore the obvious and focus only on what we want to see or hear.

More subtly pride does not listen to what others are saying because we want to express our ideas, or we 'fish' for compliments on our dress or our youthfulness, seek praise and first place, attribute achievements to personal powers, blame moral lapses on things beyond one's control, ignore or embellish humble backgrounds, take credit for more than what is fair, dress well or arrive late so as to be noticed or become the center of attention, neglect to say 'thanks' by not acknowledging the love and kindness behind the gift, etc.

Ultimately pride leads to alienation much like the consequence of the pride that went into building the Tower of Babel [Gen. 11:1-9]. People were scattered and ended up not being able to speak to one another. 'Blocking out' or 'walling off other people' is often another tell tale sign of pride – much like the older son in the Prodigal Son story [Lk. 15:11-31]. This, in turn, can take the joy out of living and generate an unhealthy attitude of independence – ultimately denying our dependence upon God!

Perhaps some ways of conquering pride: practice humility by a realistic appraisal of one's talents and flaws; accepting and valuing the talents and accomplishments of others; looking for and acknowledging the good qualities in others; asking advice of others; doing jobs others do not want; etc.

A saintly Lenten thought –

"Recognize to whom you owe the fact that you exist, that you breathe, that you understand, that you are wise ... What benefactor has enabled you to look upon the beauty of the sky, the sun in its course, the circle of the moon ... Who has blessed you with rain, with different kinds of food, with the arts ... Who has given you dominion over animals ... Who has made you lord and master of everything on earth? ... Is it not God who asks you now in turn to show yourself generous ... Because we have received from him so many wonderful gifts, will we not be ashamed to refuse him this one thing only, our generosity?"

St. Gregory Nazianzen {330-389 — bishop of Constantinople who wrote significantly about the role of the Holy Spirit in history}

RCIA prayers

Please keep Lee Anderson and Darin Hamre in your prayers as they enter into the final stages of their Entry into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at our Easter Vigil.



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT February 18, 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 18:

Mon - Feb 19 – 9:00 am – +**Bob Volk** by Richard Muscha

Tues - Feb 20 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 21 – 9:00 am – +**Shirley Marek** by Monica Qvale

Thurs – Feb 22 – 9:00 am – +**Fr. Gerald L. Myers**

Fri – Feb 23 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Feb 24 – 5:00 pm - +Russel Muscha by Daren & Jamie Muscha

Sun - Feb 25 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Gary Siverson by Donna Siverson
St. Thomas - 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

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  
 Wed., Feb 21 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas  
 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., Feb 23 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's; 6 pm- Soup/Sandwich supper  
 Sun., Feb 25 - 6:30 pm- Ecumenical Prayer Service- Goshen Moravian Church- 6 pm- Soup/Sandwich  
 Wed., Feb 28 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Feb 28 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
**Fri., Mar 8 - 5:30- 7:00 pm - KC Lenten Fish Fry**

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm


St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm  
 Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)  
 Grades K & 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Grade 7 - Class A and 12<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



### Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:

Cards are available for purchase in the church entry. A selection of different occasions is available. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Feb 24</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Feb 25</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><b>St. Leo's</b>                          | <b>Sunday Feb 25</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><b>St. Thomas</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tony Roth                                                    | Fred Eldridge                                                                       | Judy Von Bank                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Paulette Schmitt<br>Mona Franck                              | Virjean Cramer<br>Dave Glennon<br>Patty Glennon<br>Terri Monilaws<br>Richard Muscha | Linda Milbrandt<br>Jurgen Suhr                               |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Evelyn Roth<br>Beau Parisien<br>Joe/Jensen Kappes            | Nolan Ziegelmann<br>Glennon Family                                                  | Damien Norrie<br>Layla Norrie                                |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                            | Gary & Linda Milbrandt                                       |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                            | Roger & Marsha Kasowski                                      |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Michelle Kappes                                              | Sandra Keller                                                                       |                                                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Richard Muscha and family on the death of his sister, Virginia Muscha.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*  
 —Matthew 5:4



Council 9477

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

**Music for Holy Week and Easter:** 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. 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:30am.** Music will be provided. Please come and help make these days special with some beautiful music!

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #504, #781, #453, #330, #478. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's beginning with Mass at 5:15 PM; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food items. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to [regentctstann@gmail.com](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com).

**Women's Care Center** is looking for special people committed to our mission, who are personable with excellent communication skills. A part-time or full-time counselor position is available. Degreed and non-degreed candidates are encouraged to apply. Degreed in counseling, social work, nursing, teaching, or other service-related background is preferred, but not necessary. Please forward your resume to Ashley at [acapuyan.wccindy@gmail.com](mailto:acapuyan.wccindy@gmail.com). For further details or questions, call Angela at 701-237-6530.

**Lenten Canisters** - One recipient of our Lenten canisters **Lend A Hand Up.** Lend A Hand Up is a local organization started in February 2008 as a way to raise financial help and hope for local families and individuals facing tough medical or other traumatic medical crisis. Now in its 15th year, Lend A Hand Up, along with caring community members have raised over \$20 million, helping more than 600 local families. *Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.*

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God." ~ Mark 1:14*

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.