

PASTOR'S NOTES

Fasting from greed — *some notes*

Fasting is a lenten discipline that is meant to be an antidote from harmful bodily desires, but more importantly curtail the deleterious effects of sin/vices. Certainly the seven (7) capital sins would be vices to be avoided at all costs. In that sense Lent could be a great season to begin a life-long fast from the capital sins. In this fourth lenten reflection – let us examine the capital sin of greed.

In paragraph 2535 the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says this about greed ... *“(It) is the desire to amass earthly goods without limit.”* In describing avarice (another name for greed) it describes avarice to be a *“a passion for riches and their attendant power.”* More simply put – greed is the excessive desire for earthly goods. Both greed and avarice are violations of the tenth commandment.

Where is that line between that which is inordinate (excessive) and that which is reasonable? Is it just a matter of personal whim and/or choice? I remember my first class in economics where the teacher said there are unlimited wants in the life and the desire for them is the fuel that runs the world of economics. Like every thing else are there some right choices and wrong choices in desiring the goods of this world? We all have certain basic needs (e.g. - food, shelter, clothing, etc.) and there all sorts of wants (e.g. - owning a Porsche, having a million-dollar plus home, owning a \$15,000 Rolex watch, etc.).

Greed does not lie so much in the amount of stuff a person has, but as a spiritual writer says *“(greed lies) in the desire to accumulate more when one already has what is sufficient and reasonable. It flourishes when we constantly strive to acquire all that we want rather than being satisfied with what we need.”*

Greed (avarice) often gets justified by sayings like, **“You deserve it, you worked hard”**; **“if you can afford it, get it”**; **“if you have it, flaunt it”**; etc. Just because a person wants something does not mean a person needs it.

Like all capital sins greed drives out genuine love. Greed has a way of distorting the way we see others and can spawn a variety of other sins – *“cheating, lying, perjury, betrayal of friends, indifference to the plight of the poor, seeing/treating laborers as means to improve the bottom line, decimating spousal and family relationships, even blindness to the reality of an afterlife.”* Hardcore greed often cares little about the consequences of ravenous accumulations of things (e.g. - **depleting natural resources, garbaging the world, impoverishing others, caring less about future generations, etc.**) Greed can also be seen in our reluctance to share what we have.

A first step in taming greed is to acknowledge that it exists in both small and colossal ways. For example – in a religious community where all things are held in common ownership – to declare a pen as *‘my pen’* may reveal the first inklings of greed. Secondly, **another antidote to the vice of greed is to practice its virtue – liberality or generosity.** Obviously the Lenten practice of almsgiving works at this very virtue. It can mean becoming better at charitable giving, growing towards tithing in support of one’s parish, giving to the charities listed on our Lenten canisters, contributing to our diocesan God’s Gift Appeal, etc. Another step in conquering greed is to constantly examine our lives by asking questions like – *do I really need this? can my energies be put to better use like spending time with family rather than constantly be pursuing the ‘good deal’? is it necessary to ‘keep up with the Joneses’? do I freely or begrudgingly loan out my possessions? what is my thinking of moderation when buying a car, clothes, eating out, planning a vacation?*

Truly fasting from greed would be a worthy practice to begin this Lent and continue for a life time.



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 10, 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 Mar 10:

Mon - Mar 11 – 9:00 am – +**Virginia Muscha** by Richard Muscha

Tues - Mar 12 – St. Thomas – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Mar 13 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Thurs – Mar 14 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Fri – Mar 15 – 9:00 am – +**Bill Sinner, Sr.** by Jane Sinner

Sat - Mar 16 – 5:00 pm - +Gene Kaufman by Ron & Thuy Dung Kaufman

Sun - Mar 17 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Beatrice Peterson by Keith & Joni Biggers

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

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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

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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.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 10 - 6:30 pm- Ecumenical Prayer Service- Martins Lutheran Church- 6 pm- Soup/Sandwich  
 Wed., Mar 13 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas  
 Fri., Mar 15 - 5:00 pm - Holy Hour at St. Leo's  
 Fri., Mar 15 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's; 6 pm- Soup/Sandwich supper  
 Sun., Mar 17- 6:30 pm- Ecumenical Prayer Service- Westminister Presbyterian Church- 6 pm- Supper  
 Wed., Mar 20 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas  
**Fri., Mar 22 - 7:00 pm - Reconciliation Service at St. Leo's**

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Mar 13<sup>th</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, — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 7 - Class B and 11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

**PLEASE NOTE the following changes for Mar 13<sup>th</sup> only —**

Grade 8 — 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm

Grade 9 — **NO Class**


Grade 10 — 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm

**Diocese of Fargo Events:** There are many events happening within the Fargo Diocese in the next few weeks/months. Please see the bulletin board for more information on these events or visit the Diocese website at: [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org). You can also follow them on Facebook or twitter at:

[www.facebook.com/fargodiocese](https://www.facebook.com/fargodiocese)

[www.twitter.com/fargodiocese](https://www.twitter.com/fargodiocese)

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Mar 16<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday Mar 17<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> | <b>Sunday Mar 17<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Lee Ann Monilaws<br>Mallory Poulson              | Alecia Killoran                                 | Steve Carvell                                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh                | Joe Killoran<br>Linda Milbrandt                 | Micah Bartholomay<br>Jake Lako<br>Collin Miller<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Burchill Family                | Carly Hovelson<br>Claire Halland                | Elise Bartholomay<br>Brynne Bartholomay<br>Kayleigh Prochnow                 |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | Keith & Joni Biggers                            | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                         | Carter Norrie Family                            | William Lipp Family                                                          |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Mona Franck                                      |                                                 | Jessica Enge                                                                 |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Luka Ryan Schultz, son of Cody and Kendra.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide him to live as a child of God.*

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Doug & Lori Howard on the death of Lori's grandmother, Leatrice Kitchen and the death of Doug's uncle, Gary Howard. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* —Matthew 5:4

**EASTER CANTATA**  
*'Sanctuary...A Cantata of Hope & Peace'*  
 Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
**6:00 pm**  
 St. Leo's Catholic Church  
 All are Welcome  
 Refreshments to follow.

**Attention Deer Hunters!** We are looking for deer/homemade sausage donations for the Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil reception. If you have any you would be able to share, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the parish office at 347-4609 if you can help. Thank you.

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Home on the Range**. *Home on the Range* is a therapeutic, working ranch located in western North Dakota. The facility provides education, therapy, spiritual guidance, and recreational and work activities to boys and girls ages 12-19. All of the children have experienced trauma most people can't imagine. The goal is to teach appropriate coping skills, heal trauma and do it in a matter of months. Once the children have completed their program at Home on The Range, they return to their communities and families. *Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.*

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." ~ John 3:16*

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Serving pancakes and sausage **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center.

Free will offering. Proceeds will benefit the Nathan Ray family.

**Music for Holy Week and Easter:** We are hoping that you would consider being a part of the choir for the **Holy Triduum- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday- March 28-29-30-31, 2024**. Here is a schedule of our practice times. **First practice will be Sunday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 am in the choir loft.**

#### Practice schedule:

Sun., Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:30-10:30am

Sun., Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – **8:30-9:30am**

*(The choir for Mass practices at 9:30 am)*

Sun., Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – **NO Rehearsal**

We would love to have you join us for all (or some) of these great liturgies! Call if you have any questions!



Pledge cards/donations may be placed in the offertory collection basket or dropped off at the parish office and we will see they get to the Diocese.