

## PASTOR'S NOTES

**A week like no other —**

**Holy Week [March 24-31]**

**~~ the premier week in the life of the Church ~~**

Holy Week is a tumultuous week. It begins with joy on Palm Sunday [March 24<sup>th</sup>] as Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem. It suffers an agonizing death on Good Friday only to burst forth in a spectacle of glory on EASTER Sunday as the resurrected Christ declares that death no longer has a hold on our lives. Holy Week is filled with the Church's greatest liturgies and ritual celebrations. It is a week rich in prayer — rousing our hearts and minds to enter the mystery of Christ's suffering and death, meet the resurrected Christ, and be raised to the glory of heaven.

**You are highly encouraged to attend Holy Week Services:**

On Tuesday [March 26<sup>th</sup>] Bishop Folda celebrates the **Chrism Mass** at 11 a.m. at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church in south Fargo. The three oils of the Church {*Oil of the Catechumens, Oil of the Sick and Sacred Chrism*} will be blessed, consecrated and then brought to our diocesan churches to be used throughout the year in the sacramental life of the Church. Also, during the Chrism Mass the priests of the Diocese of Fargo will renew their priestly vows;

On Wednesday [March 27<sup>th</sup>] we celebrate the ancient prayer service called **Tenebrae** at 7 p.m. at St. Leo's Church. Tenebrae is a Latin term meaning *shadows*. The service begins with a procession of lighted candles that are gradually extinguished representing the abandonment of Christ by his followers. In the midst of this deepening darkness the Christ candle on the altar remains burning though temporarily taken from our midst only to reappear on the altar representing Christ's burial and triumphant resurrection and victory over the darkness of death. This service of light moving into darkness anticipates the **Triduum** {*Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil*} and sets the tone for our meditation on the Paschal Mystery (*the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ*);

On Holy Thursday [March 28<sup>th</sup>] we gather at 7 p.m. at St. Leo's Church. St. Thomas and St. Leo's parishes receive their blessed oils from Tuesday's Chrism Mass; there is a footwashing ceremony; at the end of Mass the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the Spirit of Life Center for adoration until midnight. As people leave each person is given a loaf of bread to be their food for Good Friday's fast and abstinence;

On Good Friday [March 29<sup>th</sup>] we gather at 7 p.m. at St. Leo's Church. We hear the Passion story of Christ; venerate the Cross, which acknowledges both the crucifying power of sin and the exalted throne of God's unconquerable love for his people; we end with a simple Communion Service;

On Holy Saturday (the Easter Vigil) [March 30<sup>th</sup>] we gather at 8:30 p.m. at St. Leo's Church. Our night begins at the Easter fire and the lighting of our Easter Candle; this is followed by readings from salvation history; then the baptismal waters are blessed (*and this year we welcome Lee and Darin into full communion with the Catholic Church*), and we end celebrating Easter Mass. After Mass all people are invited to the Spirit of Life Center for a wonderful reception of food and drink.

Easter Sunday [March 31<sup>st</sup>] liturgies are at 8 a.m. at St. Thomas and 10 a.m. at St. Leo's.

Perhaps Psalm 122 could lead us this Holy Week. The psalmist writes,

**"I rejoiced when I heard them say - let us go to the house of the Lord."**



*~~ Please mark your calendars ~~*



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



 **PALM SUNDAY**   
**March 24, 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 Mar 25:

Mon - Mar 25 - 9:00 am - +Souls in purgatory

Tues - Mar 26 - 11:00 am - **Chrism Mass at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo**

*NO MASS at St. Thomas and St. Leo's*

Wed - Mar 27 - 9:00 am - +Melvin Miller by Richard Muscha

Holy Thursday - Mar 28 - 7:00 pm - +Fr. Al Bitz

Good Friday - Mar 29 - 7:00 pm Service

**Holy Saturday- Mar 30- 8:30 pm - +Charlie Radermacher by His family**

**Easter Sunday - Mar 31 - St. Thomas- 8:00 am - For the people of our parishes**

**Easter Sunday - Mar 31 - St. Leo's - 10:00 am - +Arnie Schafer by Stu & Kim Romsdal**

### 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

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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 24 - 6:00 pm - Easter Cantata at St. Leo's, refreshments to follow  
 Tues., Mar 26 - 11:00 am - Chrism Mass at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo  
 Wed., Mar 27 - 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service at St. Leo's  
 Wed., Mar 27 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Mar 28 - 7:00 pm - Holy Thursday Mass at St. Leo's  
 Fri., Mar 29 - 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service at St. Leo's  
 Sat., Mar 30 - 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass at St. Leo's; reception to follow  
**Sun., Mar 31 - 8:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Thomas** - NOTE: Time change.  
**Sun., Mar 31 - 10:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Leo's** - NOTE: Time change.

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Mar 27<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

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

***All classes will attend the Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm.***

**NOTE: All 5:15 pm classes will meet at 6:30 pm** with their classmates in their respective classrooms.


**NOTE:** All sessions of 7<sup>th</sup> grade (A & B) will meet at 6:15 pm

**NOTE:** All 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet at 6:30pm in the church for Tenebrae practice.

**NOTE:** All other classes start at regular times.

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

**Robert & Mary Lynne Snyder - 62 yrs on March 24**

|                                                                                     |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p align="center"><b>Sunday March 31</b><br/> <b>8:00 am</b><br/> <b>St. Thomas</b></p> | <p align="center"><b>Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday</b><br/>                 Sat. Mar 30<sup>th</sup> -8:30pm/Sun. Mar 31<sup>st</sup> -10 am<br/> <b>St. Leo's</b></p>                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Lector</b></p>                                                                | <p>Judy Von Bank</p>                                                                    | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Please see<br/>                     Holy Week<br/>                     Sign-Up Sheets<br/>                     in the back of<br/>                     the Church.</b></p> </div> |
| <p><b>Eucharistic Ministers</b></p>                                                 | <p>Joni Biggers<br/>                 Keith Biggers</p>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Altar Servers</b></p>                                                         | <p>Damien Norrie<br/>                 Layla Norrie</p>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Offertory Collectors</b></p>                                                  | <p>Keith &amp; Joni Biggers</p>                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Gift Bearers</b></p>                                                          | <p>Jacob Schultz Family</p>                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**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.



Everyone is invited to attend the **Tenebrae service** on Wednesday night, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Presented by the students in grades 9 - 12 from St. Leo's and St. Thomas.

Tenebrae (TEN-eh-bray) has a rich tradition in the church dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Through word and music, this service dramatizes the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus Christ.

**Special Collection Envelopes:** Included in your packet of Offertory envelopes are two special collection envelopes for Holy Week. The **Holy Thursday** collection along with our Ash Wednesday collection will be given to a charity picked by our Social Concerns committee when they meet in June. The **Holy Land/Good Friday** collection helps fund maintenance of the holy sites under Catholic care in the Holy Land. *Please consider being generous in supporting these collections.*

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Heifer International**. *Heifer International* is a global non-profit working with communities to increase income, improve nutrition, care for the Earth and end world hunger and poverty. Heifer distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. *Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.*

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" ~ Mark 15:12-13*

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented with opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

### HOLY WEEK HELP NEEDED:

Your help is needed with our Holy Week liturgies and the Easter Vigil Reception. Please see the sign up sheets located in the church entry to see where you can help out.

**Church decorating:** All parishioners are invited to help decorate the church for our Easter Liturgies on **Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** (*please note time change from last week's bulletin*).

**Please remember to bring you nails for Good Friday Service and to return you Lenten Canisters during Holy Week.**

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Judy Hamre and her family on the death of her son -in-law, Steve Lund, to Bill Von Bank and his family on the death of his mother, Lillian and to Mona Radermacher and her family on the death of her father, Dennis Kelly.

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

**Catholic Man Night at St. Leo's:** Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:45 pm—6:45 pm Quiet Prayer Time & Confession in the church. 6:45 pm—8:00 pm Meal with presentation by Judge Ralph Erickson. Judge Erickson's talk will be on *"There are no Half-Saints in Heaven— Aim Higher!"* Free will offering. **All men are invited, bring a friend!**