

PASTOR'S NOTES

Save the date(s) -

On **Saturday, June 3rd at 10 a.m.** Deacon Matt Kensok is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fargo at St. Mary's Cathedral parish in Fargo. He will be the only priest ordained this year for the Diocese of Fargo. Since he is a native son of St. Leo's parish in Casselton we are hoping St. Leo's and St. Thomas parishioners will fill the Cathedral for that celebration. Many people have never attended an ordination liturgy. This would be a great opportunity for both young and old to be part of that special event.

On **Sunday, June 4th at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass**, Father Matt Kensok will celebrate his first Mass as a priest here at St. Leo's parish. His first Mass will be followed by a nice meal in St. Leo's Spirit of Life Center served by St. Leo's Knights of Columbus Council. We are hoping you can join us for both Fr. Kensok's First Mass and the celebration that follows.

Further details will be forthcoming, but we wanted to make sure that you got these two events on your calendar. **Having a priest ordained from one's parish is a very big deal!** It should bring a lot of pride for us to have one of our own ordained to serve the many people of eastern North Dakota for (*hopefully*) many years to come. His priesthood will be a great blessing to the many who will be richly served by Fr. Matt's celebrations of baptismal life, of daily gifting people with the Lord's Body and Blood, of bestowing God's merciful love in the sacrament of Reconciliation, of preparing and witnessing the pledge of married love, of anointing and being present to those touched by disease, illness, or impending death. Beyond that, there will be the many teaching occasions about moral and spiritual matters, daily prayer for oneself and the people he serves, counseling and spiritual advising our call to holiness, etc. Such is the threshold that Deacon Matt will cross on June 3rd of this year.

Please plan on joining us in celebrating this important event!

Lent - taking stock

With this Sunday there are 11 days remaining in this year's Lenten season until we enter the Easter Triduum of **Holy Thursday, Good Friday** and the **Easter Vigil** on Holy Saturday. Lent began with the mark of ashes and a call for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Lent is a time to rise from ashes by a more intense turning to God {prayer}, a more intentional outreach to others {almsgiving}, a more willful discipline of vices and disordered passions {fasting}. Some thoughts to help us reach Easter on a high note:

In terms of prayer:

- (1) you are invited to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation here at St. Leo's on Friday, March 31st at 7 p.m.. There will be six priests to help celebrate this gracious gift of God's reconciling love and mercy;
- (2) plan on making Holy Week special by attending the many services of that week

In terms of fasting:

- (1) 'double down' on whatever personal sacrifice or thing you gave up for Lent;
- (2) remember this coming Friday [March 31st] is a day of abstaining from meat and next Friday (**Good Friday** - April 7th) is a day of both abstinence and fasting [eating only two small meals or simply the loaf of bread given out on Holy Thursday evening].

In terms of almsgiving:

- (1) be generous with your Lenten canisters or Lenten envelope;
- (2) continue to enter more fully into becoming a tithing household in terms of both Sunday Offertory giving and the diocesan God's Gift Appeal.



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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 26, 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 26:

Mon - Mar 27 - 9:00 am - +**Janice Muscha** by Verna Alverson

Tues - Mar 28 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's — NO 9 am Daily Mass

Wed - Mar 29 - 9:00 am - +**Dan Grabanski** by Sue Knoll

Thurs - Mar 30 - 9:00 am - **Special Intention**

Fri - Mar 31 - 10:00 am - **Funeral Mass for Shirley Marek**

Sat - April 1 - 5:00 pm - Helen Franck by Bill & Mona Franck

Sun - April 2 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Scott Jager 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

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

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E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain:

Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555

Kelsey Lako: 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., Mar 26- 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Martins Lutheran Church; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich
 Wed., Mar 29 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 Wed., Mar 29 - RE Classes — see below
Fri., Mar 31 - 7:00 pm - Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Leo's
 Sun., Apr 2 - 3:00 pm - Easter Cantata at St. Leo's; refreshments to follow
 Tue., Apr 4 - 11:00 am - Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo
 Wed., Apr 5 - 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service at St. Leo's presented by RE students
 Thurs., Apr 6 - 7:00 pm - Holy Thursday Mass at St. Leo's followed by adoration til Midnight
 Fri., Apr 7 - 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service at St. Leo's
 Sat., Apr 8 - 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass at St. Leo's followed by social in the Spirit of Life Center
 Sun., Apr 9 - 8:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 Sun., Apr 9 - 10:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Leo's in Casselton

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., March 29th


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



Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission: Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. There is a wonderful selection for all occasions available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Apr 1 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Apr 2 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Apr 2 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Tricia Gегelman Lois Titus		Anna Garman
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard		Kristi Dutchuk Lori Howard Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler Mark Weber
Altar Servers	Ethan/Olivia Richard Tristan Lako		Isabelle Dutchuk Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>		<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>		<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Jessica Enge		Anna Garman

NEWS AND NOTES

EASTER CANTATA

Sunday, April 2nd
3:00 pm
 St. Leo's Catholic Church
 All are Welcome
 Refreshments to follow.



Council 9477

St. Leo's Knight of the Month:

The Knight for the month of **March** is **Jake Werner**. Thank you Jake for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

St. Leo's Knights of Columbus will be praying a Perpetual Rosary for Vocations before Mass on Sunday, **April 9th at 9:30 am** and on Monday, **April 10th at 7:00 pm**. All parishioners are welcome to come and pray the rosary with the Knights.

Called & Gifted Workshop: Did you know Christ call you to stand in his place with your families, children, friends, and co-workers? Come and begin to discover how Christ calls and equips you for a unique work of love only you can do. A teaching team from the Catherine of Siena Institute of Colorado Springs will offer the *Called & Gifted* workshop on Saturday, April 22nd from 9 am to 3:30 pm at St. James Basilica in Jamestown. Everyone is invited to participate. The cost of the workshop is \$35 per person. A small breakfast & lunch is included. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry. To register or find out more, contact Katie at the Basilica office at 252-0119.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to the family and relatives of Shirley Marek on her death this past week and to Shannon White and her family on the death of her grandfather, Marlow Smith.

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

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be will be April 16th 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: #555, #572, #176, #473, #447. (Youtube is a great way to practice at home beforehand).

Attention Deer Hunters! We are looking for deer/homemade sausage donations for the Saturday, April 8th 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 the **Jeremiah Program**. The Jeremiah Program is a local organization established in Fargo in 2014. They have a 20 unit housing campus for single moms and their children experiencing poverty in addition to an on-site child development center. They are committed to addressing structural inequities, disrupting generational poverty, and the systemic barriers facing single-parent families.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" ~ John 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. However, when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things are not going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."