

PASTOR’S NOTES

Luke’s Passion — a most compassionate Jesus —

Every year on Palm Sunday we read the Passion story of Christ. Every Good Friday we read the Passion story of Christ. They are both the same and different. Every Good Friday we read the Gospel of John’s version of Christ’s passion, but the Palm Sunday narration of Christ’s passion rotates every three years between the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

This year’s Palm Sunday Passion story comes from Luke’s Gospel. The basic structure of each passion narrative is the same [the Last Supper, prayer and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, trial before Jewish and Roman authorities, Peter’s denial, Christ’s death sentence, his walk to Calvary and his crucifixion and burial], but details vary from gospel to gospel. Each Gospel writer presents Christ’s saving mission to the world from a different angle and perspective. **Luke sees the person of Christ deeply through the lens of mercy and compassion.** His gospel, alone, tells the merciful stories of the Prodigal son, the Good Samaritan and the Good Thief on the Cross.

This trait of Christ’s mercy is seen throughout Luke’s passion narrative and is directed to all parties concerned – from disciples to enemies.

Christ’s disciples are treated with a much more merciful touch than the other gospels. As Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest he, like the other gospels, finds his disciples asleep. **Only Luke’s version** says they sleep out of grief/sorrow and not because of tiredness and lack of awareness as in other gospel presentations [Lk. 22:45]. **Only Luke’s gospel** does not have the disciples fleeing as Christ is arrested. Also, **only in Luke’s Gospel**, does Christ heal the servant’s ear that had been cut off by one of Christ’s disciples [Lk. 22:51].

**Only in Luke’s gospel** do we have Jesus turn and look at Peter after his third denial of knowing Christ as Jesus stands trial before the Sanhedrin. No cock crows. Christ’s look alone has Peter remember what Christ had said at the Last Supper. Peter goes out and weeps bitterly [Lk. 22:61].

**Only Luke’s gospel** has Jesus being sent by Pilate to trial by Herod. Herod is the ‘king of Galilee’ and place from which Jesus originates. Herod happens to be in Jerusalem for this Jewish feast. Pilate and Herod are political enemies, but both believe Christ is innocent. Luke’s gospel declares that both became friends on that day [Lk. 23:12]. Even in the last moments of Christ’s life, he is at work reconciling people to one another.

On his way to Calvary, **only Luke** has a multitude of people following Christ and lamenting his agony and state in life. To them Jesus offers prophetic words of consolation to the ‘daughters of Jerusalem’ [Lk. 23:28].

At the scene of the crucifixion and **only in Luke’s gospel** do we hear Christ’s merciful prayer: “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*” [Lk. 23:34] But Christ’s mercy is most evident in his dealing with one of the two thieves that had been crucified with him. One thief mocks and reviles Christ, while the other (*the Good thief*) acknowledges his guilt and condemnation and yet asks Jesus ‘to remember him when Christ comes in his kingly power’. Christ goes well beyond this request when he declares, “*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*” [Lk. 23:39ff.] What an extravagant gift of mercy in the midst of agony and pain!!!

For Luke such is the Savior who died for us — *rich in mercy, slow to anger, abounding in kindness!*



St. Leo’s Catholic Church  
211 Langer Ave North  
PO Box 340  
Casselton ND  
347-4609



PALM SUNDAY  
April 10, 2022



St. Thomas Catholic Church  
401 Third St. North  
PO Box 22  
Buffalo ND  
633-5150



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 Apr 10:

Mon - Apr 11 – 9:00 am - +Lee Wall by Joel Sullivan  
Tues - Apr 12 – 11:00 am - Chrism Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo  
NO MASS at St. Thomas and St. Leo’s  
Wed – Apr 13 – 9:00 am - +Vince Bachmeier by Bea Bachmeier  
Holy Thursday – Apr 14 – 7:00 pm - +Ann Marschke by Bill & Mona Franck  
Good Friday – Apr 15 – 7:00 pm Service  
Holy Saturday - Apr 16 - 8:30 pm - +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman  
Easter Sunday - Apr 17 – St. Thomas - 8:00 am - For the people of our parishes  
Easter Sunday - Apr 17 - St. Leo’s - 10:00 am - +Arnie Schafer by Stu & Kim Romsdal

Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer  
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**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh  
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E-mail: stleo@casselton.net  
**RE Coordinator:** Patty Roth/Nicole Scherweit  
Phone: 701-347-4609  
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:** Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon  
**St. Thomas Directors:** Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

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.

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


PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Apr 10 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Sun., Apr 10 - 3:00 pm - Easter Cantata at St. Leo’s; refreshments to follow  
Mon., Apr 11 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery meeting at the rectory  
Tues., Apr 12 - 11:00 am - **Chrism Mass** at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo  
Wed., Apr 13 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
6:30 pm - St. Leo’s RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
K/1st grade - Group A meets  
6:30 pm - 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade meets for Tenebra practice  
**Wed., Apr 13 - 7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service at St. Leo’s presented by RE students**  
**Thurs., Apr 14 - 7:00 pm - Holy Thursday Mass at St. Leo’s followed by adoration til Midnight**  
**Fri., Apr 15 - 7:00 pm - Good Friday service at St. Leo’s**  
**Sat., Apr 16 - 8:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass followed by social in the Spirit of Life Center**  
**Sun., Apr 17 - 8:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**Sun., Apr 17 - 10:00 am - Easter Sunday Mass at St. Leo’s in Casselton**

**Church decorating:** All parishioners are invited to help decorate the church on **Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 am** for our Easter liturgies.

*Please remember to bring your nails to the Good Friday service and to return your Lenten canisters during Holy Week.*

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Sunday April 17</b> <b>8:00 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday</b> Sat. Apr 16-8:30pm/Sun. Apr 17-10 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Alecia Killoran	<div>Please see Holy Week Sign-Up Sheet in the back of the Church.</div>
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>		
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Carly Hovelson Hannah Besette	
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran	
<i>Greeters</i>		
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Darren Halland Family	

NEWS AND NOTES

**Easter Cantata:** United Singers Casselton will present ***“Portraits of Grace”*** a cantata for Holy Week on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at St. Leo’s Church. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments to follow performance.



Everyone is invited to attend the Tenebrae service on Wednesday night, April 13<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.

**Holy Land/Good Friday:** Each year St. Leo’s/St. Thomas, along with the Diocese of Fargo, participate in six national collections. ***Good Friday’s*** collection helps fund maintenance of the holy sites under Catholic care in the Holy Land. *The envelope for this collection can be found with your regular offertory envelopes.*

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**Jerry & Jean Fletschock - 56 years on Apr 15**

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Nolan John Schultz, son of Cody & 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 John and Lori Grommesh on the death of Lori’s father, Dennis Larson. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4*

**HELP NEEDED!** There are sign-up sheets located on a table in the hallway by the church offices for the liturgies during Holy Week. Lots of extra help is needed for these awesome celebrations! Please check them out to see where you can help.

**Attention Deer Hunters!** We are looking for deer/homemade sausage donations for the Saturday, April 16<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 the Churches United.** Churches United is a local charity that provides shelter, housing, and nutritious food to the homeless in our area in a spiritual setting. They act on the values to serve with heart, engage authentically, and act with courage to our neighbors in need by offering them a chance to reflect on the direction they wish for their lives, and the opportunity to utilize our community’s many resources in achieving their goals. **Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.**

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**  
*“...I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.” ~ Luke 22:34*  
How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about God or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet not to cause a disturbance? Or, because you don’t want people to think negatively about you? Or, because you don’t think you know enough about the Catholic faith? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful dialogue when the opportunity arises. Joyfully share your faith with others.