

PASTOR’S NOTES

RCIA — what is that??

RCIA is an acronym which stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Sometimes people may see the acronym OCIA which stands for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

No matter which acronym is used both acronyms are meant to describe the process by which a person enters into the fullness of life in the Catholic Church. First off, there are two (2) types of person who go through an RCIA program: catechumens or candidates. **Catechumens** are persons who are unbaptized or belong to a non-Christian religion (e.g. - Hindu, Judaism, Islam, etc.). **Candidates** are person who are either baptized and uncatechized or baptized but catechized in a non-Catholic religion (e.g. - Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, etc.).

Entering into the life of the Church has always involved a process of some sort. In the earliest days of the Church the Gospel of Jesus’ Death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven was preached to nonbelievers. Those who came to believe in Jesus and desired to belong to the community of believers were enrolled in a three-year process called the **catechumenate**. In the catechumenate they were taught about the person of Christ, learned the various prayers of the Church and engaged in works of charity. At the end of the three-year catechumenate and at the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday night) those adults were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time. **At that time they became known as Christians.** As the centuries unfolded most of western Europe was Christian and the catechumenate fell into disuse.

In the early years of this country if a person desired to join the Catholic Church the local priest usually did some one-on-one instruction with the interested person with that person being confirmed by the bishop when he did his regular Confirmation tour of parishes in the diocese.

In the early 20th century a lot of historical research unearthed how the early church initiated people into Church life. With the Second Vatican Council [1962-1965] some of this historical material became **the basis of what we now call the RCIA process**. Presently the RCIA process acknowledges four (4) major time periods in the life of a person desiring to become a member of the Catholic Church:

- (1) the first time period involves a person beginning to ponder the possibility of joining the Church and asking questions about what is all involved in joining the Church;
- (2) time period one is followed by a time period of being taught the basic teachings of the Catholic faith. At St. Leo’s/St. Thomas this period is known as the **Inquiry classes**, which are open to all people interested in learning more about the Catholic Church;
- (3) once the Inquiry classes are done and the person still desires to join the Church, the season of Lent is the third period of time when interested individuals more intensely witness to their desire and seek the prayers of the local church. During this time the persons are introduced to the local parish and are given presentations of the Faith along with prayers for their final days of journey into the Church.
This time period ends at the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday night) when either catechumens are baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time and/or candidates desiring to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church are confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time.
- (4) the fourth time period following a person’s joining the Church is known as mystagogy when newly initiated members of the Church receive further instruction about church life and the practice of the Catholic faith.

This year the parishes of St. Leo’s and St. Thomas have four (4) candidates desiring to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church: **Casey Enge** {sponsor: Jessica Enge}; **Shannon White** {sponsor: Karren Bartholomay}; **Luke Faleide** {sponsor: Alex Richard}; **Cardell Biggers** {sponsor: Connie Paintner}. **Please keep them in your prayers!!**



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Casselton ND
347-4609

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 21, 2021

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 21:

Mon - Feb 22 - 9:00 am - +**Myrtle Mergner** by Marian Watson
Tues - Feb 23 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Fr. Loudon Flisk**
St. Leo’s - NO MASS
Wed - Feb 24 - 9:00 am - **Gabe & Maria Gietzen** by Sandie Nystrom
Thurs - Feb 25 - 9:00 am - +**Janice Miller** by Kathryn McGuire
Fri - Feb 26 - 9:00 am - ++**Margaret & Role Clapis** by Theresa Tamerius
Sat - Feb 27 - 5:00 pm - Family of Brian Pollock by Missy Poulson
Sun - Feb 28 - St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - +Gary Siverson by Donna Siverson
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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

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 21 - 11:00 am - KC Grab & Go cinnamon and caramel rolls
 Mon., Feb 22 - 7:00 pm - Confirmation Parent Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Wed., Feb 24 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group B
 6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group B, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets
 Wed., Feb 24 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 Fri., Feb 26 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Feb 28 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass
 Sun., Feb 28 - 4:00 pm - RE 10th grade in Spirit of Life Center
 Tues., Mar 2 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Wed., Mar 3 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 Fri., Mar 5 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Mar 7 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass

Knights of Columbus Grab & Go Rolls: This Sunday, February 21st after the 10:30 am Mass the KC's will be doing a grab & go of cinnamon or caramel rolls. The rolls will be sold in packets of either one or 4 rolls. Free will offering.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 27 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 28 8:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 29 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
Lector	Tony Roth	Fred Eldridge	Jackie Vavra
Eucharistic Ministers	Paulette Schmitt	Denise Bartholomay	
Altar Servers	Lillian Roth Olivea Roth Evelyn Roth	Lauren Glennon Sarah Monilaws	Jami Vavra
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	

NEWS AND NOTES

Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Halle Rose Ziegelmann, daughter of Chris & Trista.

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

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Brad & Sue Braaten, Mallory Poulson and their families on the death of their mother/grandmother, Beverly Braaten.

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

Decora: Saturday March 6th, 8 am - 4 pm. Decora is a day retreat empowering high school and college-age women to live happy and healthy lives by embracing the gift of their femininity! This year Decora will be at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (710 10th St S, Fargo). The day includes inspiring speakers, fun breakouts, delicious food, a fashion show, and a guy panel – all to inspire young women to discover their feminine genius! High school women are encouraged, but not required, to share this special day with their mom or female mentor. This event is free for students and \$35 for non-students (inclusive of meals & materials). For more information and to register please visit bisoncatholic.org. The registration deadline is Feb 28. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages: Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. Retrouvaille will be held locally March 5-7, 2021 in Fargo. For more information visit: HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: Re-dRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org



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 a reasonable purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

Lenten Canisters - One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Cross International:** an international organization built on three foundational pillars of service helping those in deepest need around the world: orphans and vulnerable children, children with disabilities, and crisis care. In addition to supporting ministries that meet critical needs for food, water and shelter they also offer education, counseling and a supportive social environment to help children find hope through the love of God and discover their own potential. Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities.

This week's Stewardship moment:

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

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming? It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.