

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 8 – 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at United Methodist church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm
 Wed., Mar 11 – 6:00 pm– St. Thomas – Stations of the Cross
 Wed., Mar 11 – RE Classes – see below
 Fri., Mar 13 – 6:30 pm – St. Leo’s – Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Mar 15 – 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at Goshen Moravian church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm
 Wed., Mar 18 – 6:00 pm – St. Thomas – Stations of the Cross
 Fri., Mar 20 – 5:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Holy Hour
 Fri., Mar 20 – 6:30 pm – St. Leo’s – Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich supper at 6 pm

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., March 11th

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
 Grades K- 5, 7, 8, 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Grades 6 & 9 – Class B — 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm
 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Easter Flowers: This year there is a special envelope in your packet of offertory envelopes to use to make a donation to Easter Flowers in memory or honor of your loved ones. **Please turn in your envelope either in the collection basket or the parish office by March 29th.** Thank you.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Mar 14 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i> 2nd Sat of March	Sunday Mar 15 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Sun Mar 15 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i> 3rd Sun of March
	Mark Voss	Judy Von Bank	Nick Voss
Lector			
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Howard Bill Franck	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Carly Hovelson Tucker Killoran	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow Natalie Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Carter Norrie Family	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES



Council 9477

St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:
 The Knight of the month is **Jesse Martinez**. Thank you Jesse for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

EASTER CANTATA ‘How Great Thou Art’ Sunday, March 29, 2026 4:00 pm

St. Leo’s Catholic Church
 All are Welcome – Free will donation admission.

A reception will be held in the Spirit of Life Center following the performance.

IMPORTANT: Practice will be held at **7:30 pm on Friday, March 13th**, instead of Sunday, March 15th. Other practices remain at 4:00 pm Sundays.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, March 15th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is to sing. **Gentlemen, we need you too!** We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30 -10 am that day to run through these songs: #519, #520, #427, #463, #426, #486. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com

Music for Holy Week and Easter: Everyone is invited to join with the choir to provide beautiful music for Holy, Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, April 5th. Practices will be on Sunday mornings either before of after the Sunday Mass. The practice schedule will be:

- March 8– 9:45 am
- March 15– 11:45 am
- March 22– 9:45 am
- March 29– 9:00 am

Music will be provided. All singers are welcome.

God’s Gift 2026: In the past couple of weeks you should have received your God’s Gift letter and pledge card in the mail. St. Leo’s 2026 goal is \$63,988 and St. Thomas’ goal is \$10,393. Completed pledge cards can be returned to the parish office or dropped in the Sunday collection basket. If you did not receive a pledge card, extra pledge cards are available on the tables in the church. Thank you for your support to our diocesan church.

Lenten Canisters – one recipient of our Lenten canisters is **St. Ann’s Indian Mission**, a national organization serving five parishes – St. Ann’s (Belcourt), St. Michael’s (Dunseith), St. Anthony’s (Rural Belcourt), St. Benedict’s (Rural Belcourt) and St. John the Baptist (St. John, ND) of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation. Since 1885 their mission is to use the love of family and a sense of belonging to encourage and inspire the Turtle Mountain Community to worship, receive and share the love of the Lord. **Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. Lenten canisters will be returned during Holy Week.**

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” ~ John 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus – when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

Good Friday Stations with Bishop Folda:
 Everyone is invited to join Bishop Folda on Friday, April 3rd, at 10 am at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Fargo for Stations of the Cross. The meditations for the stations will be taken from Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *The Gospel of Life*.

PASTOR'S NOTES

Lent, a woman and a well —

With this Sunday's Gospel and the ones over the next two weeks, we will encounter a woman at a well, a man born blind and a man buried in a tomb. All of these stories represent very human events. At the same time these are highly symbolic stories about the spiritual life and its call for conversion – *to see more richly God's movements in history and our lives.*

Today's Gospel story tells of a Samaritan woman who comes to a well to fetch some water. She encounters Christ who speaks about *'living water'*. He boldly declares that if people drink of this *'living water'* they will never thirst again.

On a natural level this kind of talk seems absurd, but the woman does not 'write Jesus off'; rather she is intrigued. She gets pulled deeper and deeper into an understanding of life and living that far surpasses the routine, natural and material world that dominates our daily lives.

Many spiritual writers see much symbolism in this story of a Samaritan woman at a well. The *'living water'* of which Christ speaks could infer the waters of baptism and/or the precious blood that flows from Christ's crucified and lanced body that hangs upon the Cross. That very gift of the Lord's saving blood now comes to us in the chalices of our Eucharistic celebrations.

God is always about caring for His People, especially their deepest needs and thirsts. Lent recalls our deepest needs and our deepest thirsts. We first encountered the *'living waters'* of which Christ spoke to the Samaritan woman in waters of baptism. Lent is living out the expectations of this *'living water'*.

Like the Samaritan woman these waters were meant to call us into deeper and deeper moments of the spiritual life. Like the woman at the well Christ queries her about her personal life. Lent queries us about our inner lives. This provokes her to ask questions about proper worship and from where does salvation come. For a woman, who had come just to retrieve some water, she will leave forever changed. She leaves her bucket at the well and goes off to tell others what Christ has done for her. In contemporary parlance, she has become a missionary disciple. **Now that is a true Lenten journey for all of us!!**

Lenten Reconciliation – *a time to come clean*

Coming clean and starting anew is good psychological medicine. Those involved in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) know the *gift of the 5th step* of their 12-step program. The 5th step is a moral review of one's life and sitting down and sharing that review with another person. It is in the very honest telling of the lies, the deceptions, the duplicity and the moral failings of one's life that a spirit of renewal begins to bud forth in that person's life

Christ knows the human spirit. He shared our human nature in all ways but sin. Christ knows how humanity can be seduced into lies, deception and duplicity. He knows deficit moral living has a cancerous effect on conscience and moral living. People convince ourselves they are not 'big time' sinners like Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin. But slowly and surely consciences become deaf and blind to what is truly good and right. Spiritual lives become lethargic and compromised. What they do and how they live gives scandal to family and friends. What was thought to be private and personal has now become public and 'out there'. Family life stumbles from lack of nobility and integrity. Young ones see hypocrisy and duplicity and the downward cycle continues.

'Going to Confession' seems to be a very appropriate Lenten practice. There are a number of area Lenten Reconciliation Services *{take a purple hand-out from the table of Lenten material in the church entry}*.

St. Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at 7 p.m.



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT March 8, 2026

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 8:

Mon – Mar 9 – 9:00 am – **Dwight Martell** by Richard Muscha

Tues – Mar 10 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**

NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Mar 11 – 9:00 am – **+Theresa Dooley** by Sue Knoll

Thurs – Mar 12 – 9:00 am – **Anna Garman**

Fri – Mar 13 – 9:00 am – **+Ted Kaiser** by Bryce Radermacher

Saturday – Mar 14 – 5:00 pm – Terry & Luz Sullivan by Jill Moore

Sunday – Mar 15 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am – +Bunny Von Bank by Luke 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

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

Prayer Chain: Kelsey Lako

Please call or email the parish office.

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 or by appointment.

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