

PASTOR'S NOTES

Catholic Collage — *Savoring our Catholic Faith*

On the next three Sunday afternoons during the month of February (*February 9, 16 and 23*) Catholic Collage will offer six (6) classes on topics related to our Catholic Faith. Catholic Collage is a local deanery organization attempting to offer adult education classes for anyone interested in exploring the Catholic culture and the treasures of our faith. These classes will be held at Shanley High School in Fargo [5600 S. 25th St.].

Three of this year's six classes will be offered in **Session One**, which runs from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The other three classes will be offered in **Session Two**, which runs from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Class information and registration forms are on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

Attached to that display information is a testimony from one of our parishioners, Shari Kensok, about the Catholic Collage.

You are certainly encouraged to take advantage of these faith-education opportunities.

Blessing of Throats

Every February 3rd the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Blase to whom is attributed the Catholic sacramental of the *Blessing of Throats*.

The story goes that St. Blase was bishop of Sebaste, Armenia (present day Turkey) in the early 300s. This was an age of vicious persecution of Christians under the Roman emperor, Licinius. Blase was known for his ability to heal and cure. While imprisoned Blase miraculously cured a young boy who nearly died because of a fishbone caught in his throat. Supposedly he used two candles that had been brought to him in prison and placed them in the form of a cross around the boy's throat. Blase was later beheaded and is now known as a martyr in the life of the Church. Since the 8th century St. Blase has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

The Church's ***Book of Blessings*** acknowledges that –

“suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit ... Part of the plan laid out by God's providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health ... The blessing of the sick by ministers of the Church is a very ancient custom, rooted in imitation of Christ himself and his apostles. ... In the United States the annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of a Christian ... the blessing may be given by touching the throat of each person with two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd) and which are joined together in the form of the cross.”

The ***Book of Blessing*** speaks of candles that were blessed on the The feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd). This feast is always the 40th day after Christmas which is narrated in Luke's Gospel [Luke 2:22-35]. Jewish practice was that 40 days after the birth of a son the mother was to be purified and the first-born son was to be “*consecrated to the Lord*.” At this presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem Simeon acknowledges Jesus to be “*a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel*.” Out of this biblical narrative arose the practice of blessing candles for home use and the candles used in bestowing the blessing associated with St. Blase on February 3rd.

There will be the *Blessing of Throats* at St. Leo's on Monday, February 3rd at the conclusion of the 9:00 a.m. daily Mass. We invite all parishioners to come to receive this blessing.



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



The Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2020

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 2:

Mon - Feb 3 - 9:00 am - +Duane Mergner

Tues - Feb 4 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Souls in purgatory

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Feb 5 - 9:00 am - **Franck grandchildren** by Helen Franck

Thurs - Feb 6 - 9:00 am - ++**Paul & Eileen Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Fri - Feb 7 - 9:00 am - +**Mary Ermer** by Stan & Angeline Mathias

Sat - Feb 8 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - +Stephen Levitsky by Marian Watson

Sun - Feb 9 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - +Fr. Gerald McCarthy

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

Liturgy/RE: Sue Knoll

Phone: 701-347-4609

Cell: 701-261-2047

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 & Mark Wieland

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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sun., Feb 2 - 11:30 am - St. Leo's Annual meeting in the Spirit of Life Center</b><br>Tues., Feb 4 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns Committee meeting at the rectory<br>Wed., Feb 5 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas<br>Wed., Feb 5 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm<br>6:15 pm - Senior class meets<br>Sun., Feb 9 - 1:00– 4:30 pm - Catholic collage at Shanley High School, Fargo<br>Mon., Feb 10 - 7:00 pm - Reconciliation parent meeting in big classroom in lower level of church<br>Tues., Feb 11 - 7:00 pm - Education Committee meeting at the rectory<br>Thurs., Feb 13 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center<br>Sun., Feb 16 - 1:00– 4:30 pm - Catholic Collage at Shanley High School, Fargo<br>Sun., Feb 23 - 1:00– 4:30 pm - Catholic Collage at Shanley High School, Fargo<br><b>Wed., Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday - 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo</b><br><b>7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's</b> |  |

| NEWS AND NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Celebrate Baptism</b> - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Louise Darlene McDaniel, daughter of Tanner &amp; Alison.</p> <p><i>We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.</i></p> <p><b>Prayers and Sympathy:</b> Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Tim Masset and family on the death of his brother, Glen and to Tyler Waslien and family on the death of his grandfather, Alvin Orth.</p> <p><i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <div>  <p><b>St. Leo's Knights of Columbus will be praying a Perpetual Rosary for Respect of Life</b> on Tuesday, <b>February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm</b> and on Wednesday, <b>February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm</b>. All parishioners are welcome to come and pray the rosary with the Knights.</p> </div>                             |
| <p><b>GIVING HEARTS DAY - Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <p>What is Giving Hearts Day? Giving Hearts Day was started in 2008 by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation as the region's first one-day 'virtual' fundraising event to create awareness for many charities in ND and western Minnesota and for individuals to make donations. St. Leo's has received cards from Catholic Charities, Community of Care and Women's Care Center to please consider making a donation on Giving Hearts Day. For more information on Giving Hearts Day please see the poster on the bulletin board in the church entrance. Donations can be made by check directly to the organization, but must be received by February 13<sup>th</sup>. To make a donation electronically please visit: <a href="http://www.GivingHeartsDay.org">www.GivingHeartsDay.org</a>.</p> | <p><b>Catholic Daughters to meet:</b> Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's Church (710 10th St S, Fargo) beginning with Mass at 5:15 pm, with meeting to follow at 6:30 pm. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Members are invited to bring food pantry donations. Call Lupita at 520-840-2418 with any questions.</p> |
| <p><b>Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages</b> will be held locally February 7-9 in Fargo. Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program helping married couples with a hurting marriage find new hope and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. For more information visit <a href="http://HelpOurMarriage.com">HelpOurMarriage.com</a> or call (701)356-7962, or via email at: <a href="mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org">RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org</a>. More information about Retrouvaille is posted on the bulletin board in the church entrance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Missing baking dishes?</b> A number of baking dishes have accumulated during the last few weeks. They are available for pick up anytime on a table in the Spirit of Life Center.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>This week's Stewardship moment:</b></p> <p><i>"...they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord..." - Luke 2:22</i></p> <p>How seriously do you take being a Catholic? Is "being Catholic" something I just do when I attend Sunday Mass or attend one of my parish functions? It's easy to be Catholic then, it's harder to be Catholic when I am out in the world. Would someone recognize you as a Catholic by the way you act, dress and talk? How do you present yourself to the Lord and to others?</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. Cost of cards is .50 cents, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

| Upcoming Ministry Schedule                                                         |                                               |                                                                             |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|  | Saturday Feb 8<br>5:00 pm<br><i>St. Leo's</i> | Sunday Feb 9<br>8:30 am<br><i>St. Leo's</i>                                 | Sunday Feb 9<br>10:30 am<br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
| <i>Lector</i>                                                                      | Mark Voss                                     | Shari Kensok                                                                | Gary Milbrandt                                |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>                                                       | Bill Franck<br>Nicole Scherweit               | Ann Faight<br>Mary Jendro<br>Susan Kempel<br>Terry Kensok<br>Richard Muscha | Joni Biggers<br>Keith Biggers                 |
| <i>Altar Servers</i>                                                               | Hayden Faleide<br>Sophie Scherweit            | Katie Kempel<br>Melody Kempel                                               | Courtney Hovelson<br>Hallie Besette           |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i>                                                        | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                       | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                     | Larry & Penny Zaun                            |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>                                                                | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                       | Marshall Lynnes Family                                                      | David Killoran Family                         |