

PASTOR’S NOTES

The gift of Lent

On the surface Lent can seem like a lot of doom and gloom. It begins with smudge of ashes on Ash Wednesday with the words, “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.”. It ends 40 days later with us looking into an empty tomb.

In between there are days of fast and abstinence and the ‘giving up of something’ – all with the conviction that doing so will make us better persons. Not denying any of this, there is a deeper three-fold dynamic to Lent that must not be overlooked.

In Lent we need to revisit 3 (three) essential markers in our lives:

1) Genesis 2:18 says, “It is not good for man to be alone.”

Lent is about others.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our spirit of almsgiving, of reaching out and connecting with others in their deepest needs. There are countless good ways in which we can develop a habit of almsgiving: the corporal works of mercy [feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, bury the dead, visit the imprisoned]; the spiritual works of mercy [instruct the ignorant, forgive sins readily, admonish the sinner, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead]; tithing, using our Lenten canisters, etc.

A good Lent will find us giving alms.

2) The Vatican II document on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes, 36) declares, “Creation without the Creator fades into nothingness.”

Lent is about God.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our spirit of prayer and communion with God. Tertullian [160-230] is quoted as saying, “prayer is the one thing that can conquer God ... even the Lord himself prayed.” In Lent there are countless good habits of prayer in which we could engage: Daily Mass; Stations of the Cross on Friday nights at St. Leo’s and Wednesday nights at St. Thomas; Ecumenical prayer services on the Sunday evenings of Lent sponsored by the Casselton Ministerium; etc.

A good Lent will find us praying.

3) The pagan philosopher, Socrates [469-399 B.C.], is quoted as saying, “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

Lent is about us.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our spirit of fasting. We do that by examining more clearly and looking more deeply into the patterns and choices that make up our lives. In our examination of conscience we seek to root out the capital sins [pride, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, anger and sloth] and social injustice which brands our lives. This turn from sin and vice (aversion) and the giving of ourselves to God and his mercy (conversion) can be celebrated in the many opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation [Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. at St. Leo’s, area Lenten Reconciliation Services, St Leo’s Reconciliation Service on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, or anytime by appointment].

A good Lent will find us fasting.

Such is the season of Lent. It is a time of opportunity to revitalize our lives of faith in the rich medicine of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a gift. May its prize be NEW LIFE!!



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



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
February 23, 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 23:

Mon - Feb 24 - 10:30 am - Funeral Mass for Conrad Barnes  
Tues - Feb 25 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Souls in purgatory  
St. Leo’s - NO MASS

Ash Wednesday - Feb 26 - 5:30 pm– St. Thomas - +Fr. Leo Kinney  
7:00 pm– St. Leo’s

Thurs - Feb 27 - 9:00 am - +Ken Habiger by Sue Knoll  
Fri - Feb 28 - 9:00 am - +Duane Mergner by Marian Watson  
Sat - Feb 29 - St. Leo’s - 5:00 pm - +Rob Schmaltz by Stan & Angeline Mathias  
Sun - Mar 1 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am Mass - +Patrick Pollock by Larry & Penny Zaun  
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer  
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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 & Mark Wieland  
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., Feb 23 - 1:00– 4:30 pm - Catholic Collage at Shanley High School, Fargo  
 Wed., Feb 26 - **NO** RE Classes, Ash Wednesday Masses  
**Wed., Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday - 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Fri., Feb 28– 5:00 pm– 6:00 pm– Lenten Adoration Hour at St. Leo's  
 Fri., Feb 28 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm  
 Sun., Mar 1 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Mar 3 - 7:00 pm - Confirmation Parent Meeting in the lower level of church  
 Wed., Mar 4 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Mar 4 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 Wed., Mar 4 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
 Fri., Mar 6 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm  
 Mon., Mar 9 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy committee meeting at the rectory  
 Thurs., Mar 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life center

**Palms:** If you have old palms at home, please bring them to the church. We will use them for ashes on Ash Wednesday. You may also return **Lenten Canisters** and **nails** you have for re-use for the upcoming Lenten season. Thank you.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Feb 29</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo's</i> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sat of Month	<b>Sunday Mar 1</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Sunday Mar 1</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo's</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Month
<b>Lector</b>	Tony Roth	Keith Biggers	Anna Garman Gavin Oberlander
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Delores Grommesh Richard Muscha	Penny Zaun Joni Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Kristi Dutchuk Leo Kieffer Pam Spooner Jerry Volk
<b>Altar Servers</b>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jami Vavra Rudi Wendel	Addison Hushka Lucas Miller Andy or Anthony Garman
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bob & Pat Killoran	Steve Scherweit Family

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Safe Haven Sunday—Equipping the Family: Having Critical Conversations

Next weekend, Feb. 29/ Mar. 1, our parishes of St. Thomas and St. Leo's, along with the entire Fargo Diocese and many dioceses throughout the United States will be celebrating our second annual Safe Haven Sunday. A booklet, **"Confident-Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure"** will be given to each Religious Education family in our parishes on Ash Wednesday. This booklet is designed to give you information on how to talk to your children about internet dangers, as well as their personal online and offline choices.

**Musicians:** We are hoping that you would consider joining us to lead the music for the Holy Triduum- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday- April 9-12, 2020. Here is a schedule of our practice times. **First practice will be Sunday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-10:00am (before 10:30 Mass).**

#### Practice schedule:

Sun., Mar. 1-9:00-10:00am  
 Sun., Mar. 8 – 9:30-10:30am  
**Sun., Mar. 15- no practice**  
 Sun., Mar. 22- 9:30- 10:30am  
 Sun., Mar. 29- 9:00-10:00am  
 Sun., Apr. 5-9:00-10:00am

#### Holy Week Liturgies:

Holy Thursday, April 9, 7:00pm  
 Good Friday, April 10, 7:00pm  
 Holy Saturday, April 11, 8:30pm  
 Easter Sunday, April 12, 10:00am

A music binder will be all ready for you when you get to rehearsal. We would love to have you join us for all (or some) of these great liturgies! Call if you have any questions! Sue Knoll 261-2047

**Catholic Charities of ND Caritas Award Luncheon:** Honoring Dr. Lucho Espejo Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at Sts. Anne and Joachim Church in Fargo. All are welcome to attend. For more information and to RSVP please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." - Matthew 5:44*

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy". When we pray for others, even "our enemies", maybe it softens their hearts as well.

### Knights of Columbus Breakfast



Sunday, Mar., 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

in the

Spirit of Life Center

Serving Pancakes & sausage.

Free will offering,

**Attention all fishermen!** St. Leo's KC's are looking for fish donations for their annual Lenten Fish Fry to be held on Friday, March 27. For more information or to donate fish please contact Grand Knight Micah Bartholomay at (701)630-4555. Thank you.

### Perpetual Rosary for Vocations

The St. Leo's Knights of Columbus will be praying the Rosary for Vocations on:

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm both nights.**

Everyone is welcome to come and pray the Rosary with the Knights.



### God's Gift 2020

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2020 God's Gift Appeal. Completed pledge cards may be placed in the offertory basket and we will see that they are delivered to the Diocese. Please help support our diocesan church. Thank you.