

PASTOR’S NOTES

A pervasive spiritual cancer —

The numbers are overwhelming and frightening!  
> It touches 40 million Americans regularly. It affects 55% of married men and 70% of unmarried ones; 25% of married women and 16% of unmarried ones; men are more than 5 ½ times more likely to be affected than women.  
>The numbers among young people are more startling – 14% of boys and 9% of girls are exposed before 13 years of age; 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to this cancer before 18 years of age.

What are we talking about?? PORNOGRAPHY!!

The numbers and statistics on pornography just keep rolling along. Pornography has led to a number of serious issues in our culture:

- > **on personal moral behaviors**  
56% of person aged 13-24 believe **not** recycling is more wrong than viewing pornography; only 24% of adults believe a fully nude image is pornography; 67% of young men and 49% of young women believe viewing pornography is an acceptable way to express their sexuality; 71% of teens confess they hide what they are doing online by cleaning a browser’s history, lying, deleting, etc.
- > **in marriage and family life**  
trust is diminished between spouses; the hope of sexual monogamy is becoming abandoned; teaching about the gift of sexuality is being left in the hands of the porn industry; promiscuity leads to violent behaviors and abusive relationships; increased lack of attention to family and child-rearing; compulsive pornography leads to greater impairment of sexual arousal and erectile difficulties in intimate relationships; increasing belief that promiscuity is the natural state.
- > **on a personal level**  
increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) over a life time; viewing sex as a commodity and human beings as objects of pleasure; becoming numb to deviant sexual behaviors (e.g.– bestiality) and the trivialization of rape; lowering of one’s perception of seeing one’s spouse as attractive; creating erectile dysfunction, low libido and other sexual dysfunctions.

These numbers and consequences are staggering and devastating! It is critical that everyone, but especially parents, are aware of the dangers that lurk in our technologically-laden world. This not your ‘grandfather’s porn’. This stuff is available 24/7 and has the ability to “imprint” on a person’s mind in ways that few other experiences do. This “imprinting” leaves us vulnerable and weakened to temptations demanding just ‘another pornographic fix’. Ultimately this becomes addictive and not only self-destructive but also destructive of family, marriage, friends, etc.

The Church is committed to helping people in their struggle with pornography. On this *Safe Haven Sunday* and for the second year in a row we have given a booklet to our RE parents to help them raise their children by making each of our homes -- SAFE HAVENS. This year’s booklet – **CONFIDENT: Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure** – is published by Covenant Eyes (<https://www.covenanteyes.com/>). We ask that you please read it and become informed so as to make your homes safe havens where the gift of sexuality is lived in the ways that God intended. The website – <https://cleanheart.online> – is another helpful resource.



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 1, 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 Mar 1:

Mon - Mar 2 - 9:00 am - +**Lucille Matthey** by Marian Watson  
Tues - Mar 3 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **Ray Killoran**  
*St. Leo’s - NO MASS*  
Wed - Mar 4 - 9:00 am - +**Ken Habiger** by Tim Schmeets  
Thurs - Mar 5 - 9:00 am - +**Ed Mergner**  
Fri - Mar 6 - 9:00 am - +**Bev Ehlers** by Stan & Angeline Mathias  
Sat - Mar 7 - St. Leo’s - 5:00 pm - +**Zachary Kaufman** by Ron & Dung Thuy Kaufman  
Sun - Mar 8 - St. Leo’s - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes  
St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - +**Helen Hansen** by John Hansen

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 1 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
Sun., Mar 1 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Supper at 6 pm  
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  
Sun., Mar 8 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at Goshen Moravian Church, Supper at 6 pm  
Mon., Mar 9 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy committee meeting at the rectory  
Wed., Mar 11 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffal  
Thurs., Mar 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life center  
Fri., Mar 13 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm  
Sun., Mar 15 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at United Methodist Church, Supper at 6 pm  
Wed., Mar 18 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
Fri., Mar 20 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm  
Sun., Mar 22 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at Canaan Moravian Church, Supper at 6 pm  
Wed., Mar 25 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
Fri., Mar 27 - 5:00 pm– 7:00 pm - KC Fish Fry  
Fri., Mar 27 - 7:00 pm - Living Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Mar 7</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i><br>1st Sat of Month | <b>Sunday Mar 8</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo’s</i><br>2nd Sun of Month | <b>Sunday Mar 8</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Lector</i>                                                                      | Tricia Gegelman<br>Lois Titus                                                   | Shari Kensok                                                                  | Gary Milbrandt                                              |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>                                                       | Lucy Wagner<br>Mona Franck                                                      | Ann Faught<br>Mary Jendro<br>Susan Kempel<br>Terry Kensok<br>Richard Muscha   | Keith Biggers<br>Laura Biggers                              |
| <i>Altar Servers</i>                                                               | Nikita Howard<br>Ethan Richard                                                  | Sarah Kempel<br>Melody Kempel                                                 | Courtney Hovelson<br>Hallie Besette                         |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i>                                                        | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                       | Keith & Joni Biggers                                        |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>                                                                | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                       | Ray & JoEllen Killoran                                      |

NEWS AND NOTES

**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. 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

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Great Plains Food Bank.** Great Plains Food bank provides food for thousand of hungry people through a network of partner feeding programs throughout ND and western MN. 96 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to programs that feed hungry people. Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities.

**Catholic Daughters to meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, March 10<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.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

*“It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.” - Matthew 4:10*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast



Today, 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

Last weekend was Commitment Weekend for the 2020 God’s Gift Appeal. This past week you should have received your God’s Gift Letter and your pledge card. There are extra pledge cards available on the bulletin board in the church entry. 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.