

PASTOR'S NOTES

Ongoing church notes regarding COVID ...

With the declining numbers of active cases, hospitalizations and deaths along with a good start at mass vaccinations, the Diocese of Fargo has given the green light for us once again to have holy water in our fonts and lifted the restriction on congregational singing.

Given these modifications along with State modifications regarding occupancy rates and in-person schooling it seems we can once again invite our children to bring their Sunday Offertory envelopes to the Offertory basket on the front step of the sanctuary as well as inviting them to the front of the church to receive their children's bulletin at the end of Mass.

Once again parishioners will be invited to bring up the gifts of bread, wine and the Offertory collection basket in the Offertory procession. We are planning to adjust our pew ropes (*2 open pews followed by 1 closed pew*) allowing larger family groupings to more comfortably sit together all the while **expecting everyone to use prudence** in maintaining appropriate distancing between non-family groups.

These practices will begin this coming Monday.

Preplanning 10 days out —

Lent is just 10 days away!

Usually Lent sneaks up on us and all of a sudden we find ourselves in the midst of deciding of how to fruitfully engage the spirit of Lent. Lent challenges us to an intensification of the three legs of the spiritual life — **prayer, almsgiving and fasting**. These three legs of the spiritual life are directly related to the three basic relationships that comprise our lives:

- 1) our relationship with God [prayer];
- 2) our relationship with others [almsgiving];
- 3) our relationship with ourselves [fasting].

Here are some preliminary Lenten thoughts for your consideration:

> in what ways could Lent 2021 be more rich in prayer?

- * read a little something about each of the 11 saints whose feast days fall during this 40-day Lenten season {consult the church calendar for the 11 saints days};
- * celebrate daily Mass when able;
- * pray Stations of the Cross on Lenten Friday evenings;
- * plan to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation at one of the many area Lenten Reconciliation Services.

> in what ways could Lent 2021 be more attentive to the needs of others {almsgiving?}

- * phone calls, Easter greeting cards, visits to persons in nursing homes, hospitals or home-bound;
- * being generous to our Lenten canister collections and the special collections on Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday;
- * strive towards tithing and/or sacrificial church offertory giving;
- * support the God's Gift Appeal of the Diocese of Fargo.

> in what ways could Lent 2021 be more self-disciplined {fasting?}

- * choose a spiritual or corporal work of mercy as a particular goal for this Lent;
- * honor **both** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of **fast** [no meat] and **abstinence** [only 1 full meal with the other two being much smaller]
- * honor Lenten Fridays as days of **fast** [no meat];
- * make a concerted effort to break the rule of a disordered passion in one's life {alcohol, porn, drugs, tobacco, etc.}.



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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 7, 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 7:

Mon - Feb 8 - 9:00 am - +**Stephen Levitsky** by Marian Watson

Tues - Feb 9 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Mary Castellano**
St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Feb 10 - 9:00 am - +**Sr. Alice Grommesh** by Radermacher cousins

Thurs - Feb 11 - 9:00 am - +**Mable Orth** by Linus & Margaret Kensok

Fri - Feb 12 - 9:00 am - **Jerry & Jane Christiansen** by Sandi Nystrom

Sat - Feb 13 - 5:00 pm - Eva Garman by Casey & Anna Garman

Sun - Feb 14 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Claudia Von Bank by Cheryl Sheckells

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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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.

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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., Feb 7 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass  
 Sun., Feb 7 - 4:00 pm - RE 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Feb 9 - 7:00 pm - Religious Education Committee meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Feb 10 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group A  
     6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group A, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Thurs., Feb 11 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Thurs., Feb 11 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church  
 Sun., Feb 14 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 10:30 am Mass  
**Wed., Feb 17 - 5:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
     **7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Thurs., Feb 18 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith in large classroom in lower level of church  
 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

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Myra Nowak and family on the death of her father, Donald Sando.

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

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Feb 13<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Feb 14<br>8:30 am<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Feb 14<br>10:30 am<br>St. Thomas |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Mark Voss                               | Shari Kensok                          | Keith Biggers                           |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Bill Franck                             | Ann Faught                            |                                         |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Hayden Faleide<br>Sophie Scherweit      | Sarah Kempel<br>Melody Kempel         | Carly Hovelson                          |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | Volunteers needed                       | Volunteers needed                     | Larry & Penny Zaun                      |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Volunteers needed                       | Volunteers needed                     |                                         |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**The Rural Cass County Food Pantry (in Casselton)** is in need of the following items: diced tomatoes, cream of chicken soup, tomato sauce, rice sides, hash browns, jello, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, shampoo, dryer sheets, laundry detergent, and dish soap. Items can be dropped off at TruCore Fitness in Casselton and Mary's Market in Arthur. The food pantry is located at 602 1st Street N, Casselton, and is open the first and third Wednesdays of the month. For question you can contact Bonnie at (701)740-3398 or Shelle at (701) 866-7440. Monetary donations can be mailed directly to: RCCEFP, PO Box 392, Casselton, ND 58012 Thank You.

**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](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: [RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org](mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org)

### Palms, Nails and Lenten canisters:

*If you have nails and old palms at home, you are welcome to bring them to the church to be used on Ash Wednesday. If you have any old Lenten canisters at home, we ask that you please return them as soon as possible. This helps us to defray the cost of purchasing new canisters for this year's Lenten season. Each canister costs around \$1. Thank you.*

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come.' " - Mark 1:35, 38*

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.



### St. Leo's Knight of the Month

Council 9477

The Knight for the month of February is **Mark Dooley**. Thank you Mark for your dedication and the works you do for the KC's. It is greatly appreciated.

### Knights of Columbus Grab & Go

**Rolls:** Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



### 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 price including Valentines Day cards. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.