

PASTOR’S NOTES

Correction

In last week’s *Pastor’s Notes* the meaning of fast and abstinence were switched around. **To fast** means to only have one full meal with the other two being much smaller; **to abstain** means to refrain from eating meat. *Thank you to Ron Kensok for catching that.* **Remember:** both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence; Lenten Fridays are days of abstinence.

The gift of Lent

On the surface Lent can seem like a lot of doom and gloom. It begins with the smudge of ashes on Ash Wednesday and 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 invites 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 invites 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; family rosary;* 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 invites 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 injustices which often brand 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 Lenten Reconciliation Service on Friday, March 27th, or anytime by appointment]. *A good Lent will find us fasting.*

Such is the season of Lent. It is an opportune time to revitalize our lives of faith in the rich medicine of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a gift. Its prize is **EASTER 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



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 14, 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 14:

Mon - Feb 15 - 9:00 am - +**Donald Mergner** by Marian Watson
Tues - Feb 16 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s - NO MASS

Ash Wednesday - Feb 17 - 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas - +Fr. Charles Leute
7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo’s
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s

Thurs - Feb 18 - 9:00 am - +**Gene Rosholt** by Emily Eisenbeisz
Fri - Feb 19 - 9:00 am - +**John ‘Jack’ Ermer** by George & Bernie Lies
Sat - Feb 20 - 5:00 pm - +Dam Chi Dung by Ron & Thuy Kaufman
Sun - Feb 21 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - +Arnold Seefeld by Jerry & DeLilah Volk

Parish Staff:

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Prayer Chain:
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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.

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


PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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
 Fri., Feb 19 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm
 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
 Wed., Feb 24 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas - Group B
 6:30 pm - Re classes at St. Leo's - Group B, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets
 Fri., Feb 26 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Feb 28 - **NO Beverage and Bite** after 8:30 am Mass
 Sun., Feb 28 - 4:00 pm - RE 10th grade in Spirit of Life Center

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.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 20 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 21 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Feb 21 10:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Renee Anderson	Larry Zaun	Steve Carvell
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Delores Grommesh		Joan Carvell
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Ronnie Burchill Samantha Burchill	Rudi Wendel	Mikaela Prochnow Katherine Sullivan
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Larry & Penny Zaun	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>		<i>Volunteers needed</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

Special prayers and blessings to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

Jim & Paulette Schmitt - 53 years on February 17

Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Rhen Owen Hill, son of Colton and Michaela.

We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide him to live as a child of God.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Rick Keller and family on the death of his mother, Barbara Keller.

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

Decora: Saturday March 6th, 8 am - 4 pm. Decora is a day retreat empowering high school and college-age women to live happy and healthy lives by embracing the gift of their femininity! This year Decora will be at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (710 10th St S, Fargo). The day includes inspiring speakers, fun breakouts, delicious food, a fashion show, and a guy panel – all to inspire young women to discover their feminine genius! High school women are encouraged, but not required, to share this special day with their mom or female mentor. This event is free for students and \$35 for non-students (inclusive of meals & materials). For more information and to register please visit bisoncatholic.org. The registration deadline is Feb 28. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Knights of Columbus Grab & Go Rolls: Sunday, February 21st 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.

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 or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org



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. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "goods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"