

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Feb 2 - 11:30 am - St. Leo's Annual Parish Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Mon., Feb 3 - Blessing of Throats after the 9 am daily Mass at St. Leo's

Tues., Feb 4 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory

Thurs., Feb 6 - 6:30 pm - Parent Reconciliation meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Tues., Feb 11 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory

Sun., Feb 16 - 9:00 am - KC breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center

Tues., Feb 18 - 6:30 pm - Parent Confirmation meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Mon., Feb 24 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 5

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

Grades K & 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)

Grades 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 5 - Class A and 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm




Cameroon Card Clearance

Sale: From now and until Lent begins there is a table

set up in the Spirit of Life Center to purchase cards one last time. Monies raised from the card sales is sent to our Mission in Cameroon, Africa. Clearance Sale Cards can be purchased for free will donation.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 8 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 9 8:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Feb 9 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
			
Lector	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Judy Von Bank
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Howard Bill Franck	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Susan Kempel Paul Olsen Deb Werner	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers
Altar Servers	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Gavin Besette Hannah Besette
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Gary & Linda Milbrandt
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Travis Besette Family
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, February 16th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #619, #568, #351, #433, #434. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, February 11th at St. Anthony's Church (710 10th St. S, Fargo) beginning with Mass at 5:15 PM; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food item donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to regentctstann@gmail.com

Golf Scramble for the Knights of Columbus and their families: Women's Care Center is sponsoring a Suite-heart Golf Knight on Thursday, **February 13th** at Suite Shots in Fargo. This is a family golf scramble event that features contests, games, and prizes as you golf on a simulation course of California's Pebble Beach Golf Links. There are three tee times to choose from: 3 pm, 5:30 pm & 8 pm. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board or email: lisa@wwccnd.com Top council will win bragging rights and a traveling trophy.

Defend Us In Battle - Retreat for Catholic Men: March 14 - 16 at St. Francis Retreat Center, Hankinson, ND. A weekend of speakers, worship, prayer ministry and more. Learn how to build a life of prayer to stay strong and alert to do battle against the enemy of Satan. Cost of the retreat is \$300 and includes accommodations and meals. For details and to register go to: www.ecclesiadomestica.net or contact Deacon Thane Barnier at ecclesiaretreats@ecclesiadomestica.net

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." ~ Hebrews 2:18

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus know us better that we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.



Knights of Columbus Breakfast: French toast and sausage **Sunday, February 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

GIVING HEARTS DAY -

Thursday, February 13th.

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 to over 600 charities. There are six area Casselton organizations you can donate to. They are: *Casselton Community Medical Foundation, Central Cass Dollars for Scholars, Central Cass Treehouse, Community of Care, Rural Cass Emergency Food Pantry and Sinner Bresnahan Healthy Kids Initiative* along with some other area charities such as - *Catholic Charities, Women's Care Center and The New Life Center*. You can schedule your gift NOW or donate on February 13th at www.GivingHeartsDay.org. Select the organization and make your secure donation. All gifts of \$10 or more are matched, up to a specific amount for each group.

For information on Diocesan retreats, please see the bulletin board in the church entry or visit the Fargo Diocese website at: www.fargodiocese.org

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Presentation of the Lord – February 2nd

February 2nd is the 40th day after Christmas and is known as *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*. In some places this feast day marks the end of the Christmas season. This **comes from it being the 40th day** and is based on the 40 years of the Exodus story, or the 40 days and nights it rained in Noah's time before God begins a new covenant with the human race, or the 40 days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai when he received the Ten Commandments, or the 40 days of temptation Christ spent in the desert. **Forty signifies a time of significance in the life of human beings.**

Over the course of history this feast day has had at least four different points of reflection:

(1) At times this day was called the **Purification of Mary**. Old Testament law [Lev. 12:1-18] required every mother to offer a purification sacrifice in Jerusalem 40 days after the birth of a male child. But Mary was sinless. Therefore she has no need to offer such a sacrifice. Yet like Christ and his baptism by John the Baptist, he joins in solidarity with the Jewish faith and religious practices of his day. In similar fashion Mary joins in solidarity with the faith and religious practices of her time in regard to her son.

(2) At the present time this day is called the **Presentation of the Lord**. Old Testament law [Ex. 13:2,12; Num.18:16] noted that every first-born male belonged to God and needed to be '*ransomed or redeemed*' usually within a month or so of his birth. At the time God freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery the first-born in the land of Egypt, who had not put the 'blood of the lamb' on their doorposts, suffered death. Now every first-born male of the Jewish race needed to be redeemed. So Joseph, Mary and Jesus are in Jerusalem not only for Mary's purification but also to 'redeem' Jesus. Again Jesus already comes from the Father and has no need of redemption, but they abide by the religious law of their time.

(3) At times you may hear this day called **Candlemas** day. By the year 400 a procession of lighted candles had become part of this feast probably because of Simeon's declaration of Christ being a light for the revelation for the gentiles during Jesus' presentation in the Temple. To this day some churches bless candles and carry them in procession into their parish churches proclaiming Christ as the light of the world. Therefore, the name Candle Mass.

(4) Lastly this day is often seen as the fulfillment of what Israel's last prophet, Malachi, declared, "*Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple, the Lord whom you seek ...*" [Mal. 3:1-4]. On this day Jesus makes his first entry into his Father's temple in Jerusalem.

For our part the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* offers a number of reflection points about our faith and our belief in Christ, who enters our churches and offers the sacrifice of his body and blood for the salvation of mankind and serves as the Light of the World.

Blessing of Throats

Every February 3rd the Church celebrates the memorial of St. Blaise, who is often associated with the Catholic sacramental of the *Blessing of Throats*. Since the 8th century St. Blaise has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. The Church's book of blessings states, "*In the United States the annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of a Christian ...* In that spirit **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.**

Year-end statements

Year-end statements are available to be picked up after Sunday Masses for the next two weekends at the rear of the church or from the parish office during the week.



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, 2025

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 – +**Souls in purgatory**

Tues – Feb 4 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Bob Killoran** by Joe & Lora Killoran

NO Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 5 – 9:00 am – +**Leo Bittner** by Dean & Heidi Bittner

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

Fri – Feb 7 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Saturday – Feb 8 – 5:00 pm - Terry & Luz Sullivan by Jill Moore

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

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Larry Zaun by Penny Zaun

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

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Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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Prayer Chain:

Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo's Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay

St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

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.