

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mon., Feb 24 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Feb 26 - RE Classes—see below
 Thurs., Feb 27 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Thurs., Feb 27 - 6:30 pm - Parent Reconciliation meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Tues., Mar 4 - 7:00 pm - Education committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday - **NO** Religious Education Classes
Wed., Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday - 5:30 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
7:00 pm - Mass at St. Leo's

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 26


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 B and 11th 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 Mar 1 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i>	Sunday Mar 2 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Mar 2 10:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i>
			
Lector	Megan Bold Lois Titus	Alecia Killoran	Karren Bartholomay
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun	Kristi Dutchuk Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
Altar Servers	Richard Family Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Damien Norrie Layla Norrie	Garman Family James Diemert
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jim Biggers Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Ash Wednesday, March 5th Mass Schedule:

5:30 pm at St. Thomas
 7:00 pm at St. Leo's

We are looking for Mass servers, Mass Coordinator and EMHC volunteers for the Ash Wednesday Mass. A sign up sheet is located in the church entry.

Palms, Nails and Lenten Canisters: If you have nails and old palms at home, you are welcome to bring them to 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 so we can reuse them.** This helps us to defray the cost of purchasing new canisters for this year's Lenten season. *Each canister costs around \$1. Thank you.*

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, March 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: #681, #127, #765, #610, #518. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Cantata Practices to begin Sunday, March 2nd: All singers are invited to join the Casselton United Singers in performing this year's cantata — *Lift High the Cross* on Palm Sunday, April 13th, 3 pm at St. Leo's Church.

Practices will be held on Sunday afternoons, 4 pm - 6 pm. at St. Leo's Church. If you have any questions please contact Maari Loy at maarilynn@gmail.com Please consider joining the group and invite your friends!

This week's Stewardship moment:

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back..." ~ Luke 6:35

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast:
 Pancakes and sausage
Sunday, March 2nd
from 9:00 am to 12:00
pm in the Spirit of Life Center.
 Free will offering.



Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages- February 28-March 2, 2025

Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and reclaim the love that initially brought them together. The Red River Retrouvaille program will be held locally on February 28-March 2, 2025 in Fargo. For more information visit HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701) 356-7962 or via email at rrretrouvaille@gmail.com.



Adult Children of Divorce Retreat:
 April 4th - 6th at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City. The Life-Giving Wounds retreat is a unique opportunity for young adults (18+) and adults with divorced or separated parents to reflect on the wounds caused by the their family breakdown. Attendees learn to see how their life-draining wounds can become a life-giving mission of love for themselves and others. For more information or to register for the retreat, visit: www.fargodiocese.org/lgw

PASTOR'S NOTES

'getting the jump' on Lent ...

In ten days Lent will be upon us. 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. Christian writer 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; Holy Hours; 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 disciplining ourselves.

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 11th, or anytime by appointment].

A good Lent will find us fasting.

Such is the season of Lent. It is a opportune time 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, 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 23:

Mon – Feb 24 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Feb 25 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Bob Von Bank by Sue Knoll

NO Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 26 – 9:00 am – +Virginia Pedeliski by Ted Pedeliski

Thurs – Feb 27 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – Feb 28 – 9:00 am – +Brady Larson by Keith & Joni Biggers

Saturday – Mar 1 – 5:00 pm - +Robert Flanum by Rick Voeller

Sunday - Mar 2 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Marvin Ries by Minnie Ries

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

Website: www.stleosnd.org

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.