

PASTOR’S NOTES

RCIA — *what is that??*

RCIA is an acronym which stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA is meant to describe the process by which a person enters into the fullness of life in the Catholic Church.

First off, there are basically two (2) types of person who go through an RCIA program: catechumens or candidates. Catechumens are persons who are unbaptized, or belong to a non-Christian religion [e.g. - Hindu, Judaism, Islam, etc.]. Candidates are persons: (a) who are baptized Catholic but have never been catechized; (b) who are baptized Catholic and have celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, but have never been confirmed; (c) who are baptized but catechized in a non-Catholic religion [e.g. - Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, etc.].

Entering into the life of the Church has always involved a process of some sort. In the earliest days of the Church the Gospel of Jesus’ Death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven was preached to nonbelievers. Those who came to believe in Jesus and desired to belong to the community of believers were enrolled in a three-year process called the **catechumenate**. In the catechumenate they were taught about the person of Christ, learned the various prayers of the Church and engaged in works of charity. At the end of the three-year catechumenate and at the Easter Vigil [Holy Saturday night] those adults were baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist for the first time. **At that time they became known as Christians**. As the centuries unfolded most of western Europe was Christian and the catechumenate fell into disuse.

In the early years of this country if a person desired to join the Catholic Church the local priest usually did some one-on-one instructions with the interested person with that person being confirmed by the bishop when he did his regular Confirmation tour of parishes in the diocese.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a lot of historical research unearthed how the early church initiated people into Church life. With the Second Vatican Council [1962-1965] some of this historical material became **the basis of what we now call the RCIA process**. Presently the RCIA process acknowledges four (4) major time periods in the life of a person desiring to become a member of the Catholic Church:

- (1) the first time period involves a person beginning to ponder the possibility of joining the Church and asking questions about what is all involved in joining the Church;
- (2) in the second time period one is taught and learns the basic teachings of the Catholic faith. At St. Leo’s/St. Thomas this period is known as the **Inquiry classes**, which are open to all people interested in learning more about the Catholic Church;
- (3) once the Inquiry classes are done and the person still desires to join the Church, the season of Lent is the third period of time when interested individuals more intensely witness to their desire and seek the prayers of the local church. During this time the persons are introduced to the local parish and are given presentations of the Faith along with prayers for their final days of journey into the Church.  
**This time period ends at the Easter Vigil** [Holy Saturday night] when either catechumens are baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time, or candidates desiring to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church are confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time, or candidates having been baptized Catholic desire to complete their baptismal grace by being confirmed and thereby fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.
- (4) the fourth time period follows a person’s joining the Church and is known as mystagogy. At that time newly initiated members of the Church receive further instruction about church life and the practice of the Catholic faith.

This year St. Leo’s parish has both a catechumen – **Hannah Schneider** {sponsor: Lillian Eberhardt} – and a candidate desiring to complete his baptismal grace by being confirmed and becoming fully initiated into the life of the Catholic Church – **Den Bolda** {sponsor: Brooks Kobiela}. **Please keep Hannah and Den in your prayers!!**



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  
February 26, 2023

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 19:

Mon - Feb 27 – 9:00 am – +**Mary Farrell** by Paul Nelson  
Tues - Feb 28 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**  
*St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass*  
Wed – Mar 1– 9:00 am - +**Janice Muscha** by Don & Mary Ellen Nilles  
Thurs – Mar 2 – 9:00 am - +**Fr. Edward Sherman**  
Fri – Mar 3 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**  
**Sat - Mar 4 - 5:00 pm - +Henry Sherman by His family**  
**Sun - Mar 5 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Mary Klemek by Keith & Joni Biggers**  
**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:  
Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555  
Kelsey Lako: 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

*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 26- 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service- Goshen Moravian Church; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich  
Mon., Feb 27 - 6:30 pm - Eucharist Parent Meeting  
Wed., Mar 1 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
Wed., Mar 1 - RE Classes — see below  
Thurs., Mar 2 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith  
Fri., Mar 3 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s; 6 pm - Soup/Sandwich supper  
Sun., Mar 5 - 9:00 am– 12:00 pm– KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
Sun., Mar 5 - 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– St. Leo’s Church; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich Supper  
Tues., Mar 7 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory

**Religious Education Class Times — Wed., March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm  
St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm  
Grades K, 1, 2, 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)  
Grades 4-8 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Grade 9 - Class A and 11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

**St. Anthony of Padua’s Parish Mission:**  
Fr. Bouck from the Diocese of Bismarck will lead a Parish Mission March 5-7, with his practical message, “Lord, How Are We to Pray? And Why Don’t I Want To? Please see the flyer on the bulleting board for more information.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Mar 4 5:00 pm St. Leo’s	Sunday Mar 5 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Mar 5 10:30 am St. Leo’s
Lector	Tricia Gегelman Lois Titus	Jackie Vavra	Anna Garman
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Joe Killoran Kristi Hovelson	Kristi Dutchuk Lori Howard Pam Spooner Luke Steckler Volunteer needed
Altar Servers	Ethan Richard Olivia Richard Tristan Lako	Gavin Besette Claire Halland	Isabelle Dutchuk Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Keith & Joni Biggers	Volunteers needed
Gift Bearers	Steve Schneider Family	Arnie & Barb Buhr	Joshua Albrecht Family
Lead Rosary	Jessica Enge		Anna Garman

NEWS AND NOTES

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Kate Olivia Rubick, daughter of Alex and Kelsey.  
*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.*

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:  
**John & Sharyn Melting - 58 years on March 1**  
**Robert & Mary Lynne Snyder - 61 yrs on March 24**

**Holy Week Music:** Everyone is welcome to be a part of the choir leading the music for the Holy Triduum– Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday– April 6-9. Practices will be on Sundays, **starting this Sunday, Feb. 26th, after 8:30 am Sunday Mass, from 9:30-10:30 am in the choir loft.** A music binder will be all ready for you when you get to rehearsal. Call Sue if you have any questions. (701)261-2047.

**CANTATA:** Casselton United Singers will be performing a Cantata on Sun., April 2nd at 3:00 pm. **All singers are welcome to join this group.** Practices will be on Sunday afternoons, **4-5:30 pm** at St. Leo’s beginning on **Sun., Feb. 26th.** Please consider joining this fun group as we move through the season of Lent!

**Changes to St. Anthony’s Church Mass Schedule:** (NO more 7:30 pm Sunday Mass) Please see the announcement on the bulletin board.

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Food for the Poor.** Food for the Poor is the one of the largest international ecumenical Christian organizations in the nation motivated by faith in God, spreading His unconditional love, regardless of race, wealth or creed to minister to those in desperate need in primarily 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Their relief programs help children and the poorest of the poor by providing lifesaving food, secure housing, clean water, healthcare, emergency relief, education opportunities and giving those in extreme poverty a chance at a better future, and showing them God’s love.

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, and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other “gods” we have put before God.



Council 9477

**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:**  
Serving French toast and sausage on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

**The Knights of Columbus** will go ice fishing on March 12<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. The fish caught will be used for the KC fish fry to be held on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. All members are encouraged to help. For more information please contact the Grand Knight, Micah Bartholomay at (701)404-0527.

**Will and Estate Planning:** Steve Schons, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Fargo will hold a seminar on Will and Estate Planning on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at St. Mary’s Cathedral of Fargo (604 N Broadway) in the social hall. Whether you are planning to create a will or simply updating the one you already have, the seminar will cover the key elements of a will, explanation of terminology, and a booklet to get you started with organizing your information. All are welcome to attend.