

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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  
 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

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 12


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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 15 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Feb 16 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Feb 16 10:30 am St. Leo's
			
<b>Lector</b>	Mallory Poulson Lee Ann Monilaws	Gary Milbrandt	Steve Carvell
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Grant Burchill Ann Burchill Beau Parisien	Hallie Besette Carly Hovelson	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	Volunteers needed	Gary & Linda Milbrandt	Volunteers needed
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Volunteers needed	David Biggers Terri Biggers	Volunteers needed
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Mona Franck		<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome 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.



**Gifts for the Child:** Thank you for your generosity in supporting FM Birthright. Your generous donations of 184 baby/mom items and cash donation of \$165 will support several women and children in our community seeking help through FM Birthright. Many Thanks.

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com)

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast:** Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Buffalo Fire Hall. Free will offering. Sponsored by the Buffalo Area Quick Response Unit and the Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department.

**Catholic Man Night:** Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> St. S, Fargo). 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Adoration & Confession; 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm meal and talk. The guest speaker is Fr. Kevin Lorsung. Meal is a free will offering. **All men are invited, bring a friend!**

### This week's Stewardship moment:

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" ~ Isaiah 6:8

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord."



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

**GIVING HEARTS DAY - Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.** Please see the flyer on the bulletin board with the list of Casselton organizations you can donate to or visit: [www.GivingHeartsDay.org](http://www.GivingHeartsDay.org) You can schedule your gift now or donate on February 13<sup>th</sup>.



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

**Financial Contribution Statements:** To help cut down on the cost of postage, financial contribution statements will be available for pick up the next two weekends after Mass in the church entry or during the week in the church office. Thank you.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Valentine's Day — *what's the scoop?*

Over the years when mid February rolls around, I love asking people what big day is upcoming and most people will respond – *Valentine's Day*. When asked what day is St. Valentine's feast day? – a number of people say February 14<sup>th</sup>. Seems logical since that day is called Valentine's day on our calendars, but when you look at the Church calendar of saints – February 14<sup>th</sup> lists Saints Cyril and Methodius as the saints of that day. **So, what's the scoop???**

The Church does record the death of a martyred Roman priest name Valentine on February 14<sup>th</sup> in the mid 200s. He was buried in a Roman cemetery. After these facts the story becomes quite murky and a legend emerged that before his martyrdom and while imprisoned Valentine healed his jailer's daughter of blindness. Just prior to his execution he supposedly wrote that girl a note signing it '*Your Valentine*'. Thus, over the centuries has come the practice of sending Valentine cards. Beyond Valentine's martyrdom nothing of this legend story is historically verifiable. Since Vatican II [1962-65] and the revision of the Roman calendar of saints, the Church has much more strictly adhered to the principle of being historically accurate about the lives of saints whom are put forth for our veneration.

In our present time Valentine's day is connected with the theme of love and the sending of 'valentine cards/gifts'. In that spirit I thought I might share some thoughts about married love that comes from Pope Francis' 2016 encyclical letter on Marriage and Family life that is titled *Amoris Laetitia*, which is translated into English as the **Joy of Love**. Pope Francis wrote this reflection after having called and listened to what two synods of bishops and lay people had said about marriage and family life in our contemporary world.

*Amoris Laetitia* contains nine chapters of reflections. Chapter four is titled **Love in Marriage**. **Natural marriage is one thing, but the sacrament of marriage is of another level.** In speaking of the sacrament of marriage Pope Francis writes —

"... God is, as it were, 'mirrored' in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us. ... God makes of the two spouses one single existence."

This kind of love is the greatest form of friendship. Beyond the typical dimensions of friendship (*i.e., concern for others, reciprocity, etc.*),

"... those who marry do not expect their excitement to fade. Those who witness the celebration of a loving union, however fragile, trust that it will pass the test of time. Children not only want their parents to love one another, but also to be faithful and remain together. These and similar signs show that it is the very nature of conjugal love to be definitive. The lasting union expressed by the marriage vows is more than a formality or a traditional union ... For believers it is also a covenant before God that calls for fidelity: ... promising love for ever is possible when we perceive a plan bigger than our own ideas and undertakings, a plan which sustains us and enables us to surrender our future entirely to the one we love."

Such love is marked by joy and beauty. Joy is more than the search for pleasure. Rather joy increases our pleasure and helps us find fulfillment in any number of things, even when physical pleasure has ebbed. St. Thomas tells us this is possible because joy refers to an expansion of the heart. Beauty, for its part, sees the 'great worth' of another person.

"Beauty ... enables us to appreciate the sacredness of a person, without feeling a need to possess it ... Loving another person involves the joy of contemplating and appreciating their innate beauty and sacredness, which is greater than my needs."

It is that spirit of married love that we pray is found in our families and marriages.

**Happy Valentine's Day!!**



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 9, 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 9:

Mon – Feb 10 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Tues – Feb 11 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**

*NO Mass at St. Leo's*

Wed – Feb 12 – 9:00 am – **+Mylo Falstad** by Keith & Joni Biggers

Thurs – Feb 13 – 9:00 am – **+Genevieve Tamerius** by Cecilia Gonzalez

Fri – Feb 14 – 9:00 am – **Eva Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman

**Saturday – Feb 15 – 5:00 pm - +Shirley Marek by Monica Qvale**

**Sunday - Feb 16 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Patrick Pollock by Penny Zaun**

**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.