

PASTOR’S NOTES

Prayers – appreciated

1) Over the next 2 ½ weeks 23 of our young students from both St. Leo’s and St. Thomas parishes will be completing their final preparations to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. This year St. Leo’s parish has 19 students and St. Thomas has 4 students.

In these final days groups of three students each, along with their parents, will be interviewed as to their understanding and readiness to celebrate this great sacrament of God’s merciful love and forgiveness.

Then on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the students will participate in a 3-hour Reconciliation retreat from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This will be their final step in preparation for celebrating their First Reconciliation on **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.** Their First Reconciliation is combined with our Lenten Parish Reconciliation Service scheduled at the same time. There will be six (6) priests available to celebrate this sacrament with us.

*Our Reconciliation students would certainly appreciate your prayers of support in this important step in their lives of faith.*

2) On the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday evening – Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>), **Den Bolda** will be completing his initiation into the life of the Catholic faith by celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation. As a youngster he was baptized Catholic and received the sacrament of the Eucharist, but had never been confirmed. Presently he is considered a **candidate** for Confirmation seeking to complete his initiation into the Church.

In the opposite direction **Hanna Schneider** has never been baptized and therefore, has received no sacraments. At the Easter Vigil Hanna desires to be baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time. Presently she is considered a **catechumen**.

Both have attended Inquiry classes into the Catholic faith with Hanna celebrating the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens and Den the Rite of Welcome into candidacy for Confirmation with Bishop Folda on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral.

On the second Sunday of Lent (last Sunday), Den received our prayer support for him to continue deepening his appreciation of baptism, to richly embrace the discipline of Lent and to more fruitfully grow in virtue and holiness.

The scrutiny for each Sunday is based on that Sunday’s Gospel reading. This Third Sunday’s Gospel deals with the Samaritan woman at the well and Jesus promising her living water. This Sunday’s prayers are that Hanna will see that **only Christ brings ‘water welling up to eternal life’**. The Fourth Sunday’s Gospel is about man born blind who is given sight by Jesus. The prayers of the Fourth Sunday are that Hanna will see that **only Christ is ‘the light of the world’**. The Fifth Sunday of Lent is about Christ raising Lazarus from the dead. The prayers of the Fifth Sunday are that Hanna will see that **only in Christ is one raised from the dead to eternal life**.

*In this last half of the Lenten season, Den and Hanna appreciate your prayerful support of their journeys into life with Christ in his Church.*

A dispensation (of sorts)

Since St. Patrick’s day (March 17<sup>th</sup>) falls on a Friday [a day of fast and abstinence], Bishop Folda “is allowing the faithful to fulfill their duty of abstinence on an alternate day. They may abstain from meat on another day between March 13-23.”



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 12, 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 Mar 12:

Mon - Mar 13 – 9:00 am – **+Janice Muscha** by Bea Bachmeier  
Tues - Mar 14 - 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**  
*St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass*  
Wed – Mar 15 – 9:00 am - **NO DAILY MASS**  
Thurs – Mar 16 – 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**  
Fri – Mar 17 – 9:00 am - **++Joe & Helen Krumm** by Bill & Mona Franck  
**Sat - Mar 18 - 5:00 pm - +Fr. Edward Sherman by Mike Bolgrean**  
**Sun - Mar 19 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Dwight Biggers 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 & Flint Kasowski

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
**at St. Leo’s**  
**4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday**  
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**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., Mar 12- 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Crossroads Church; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich  
Wed., Mar 15 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
Wed., Mar 15 - RE Classes — see below  
Fri., Mar 17 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s; 6 pm - Soup/Sandwich supper  
Sun., Mar 19- 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Westminister Presbyterian; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich  
Wed., Mar 22 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
Thurs., Mar 23 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
Fri., Mar 24 - 5:30 pm– 7:00 pm - KC Fish Fry in the Spirit of Life Center  
**Fri., Mar 24 - 7:00 pm - Living Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s**

**Religious Education Class Times — Wed., March 15<sup>th</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

 **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 purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Mar 18</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <b>St. Leo’s</b>	<b>Sunday Mar 19</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <b>St. Thomas</b>	<b>Sunday Mar 19</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>St. Leo’s</b>
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Keith Biggers	Steve Carvell
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Penny Zaun Joni Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Joan Carvell Jake Lako Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Hayden Faleide Burchill Family	Hallie Besette Abigail Killoran	Lucas Miller Bartholomay Family
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Mark & Carmen Gubrud	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Mona Franck		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Kailen Waslien and her family on the death of her grandmother, Irene Schanilec. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

**Children’s Busy Bags:** The Education Committee has put together Children’s Mass Busy Bags for our young members to utilize during Mass. Bags are located on the coat hooks in the Spirit of Life Center and are for children ages 6/7 and under. There are multiple activities and coloring sheets in each bag. We ask that you assist your child(ren) in grabbing a bag, ensuring all items are placed back in the bag and returned at the end of Mass. They may take home any coloring or activity worksheets.

**Catholic Man Night:** Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (1420 7<sup>th</sup> St N, Fargo). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk and short discussion with Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director of Real Presence Radio. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!

**CANTATA:** Casselton United Singers will be performing a Cantata on Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm at St. Leo’s Church. **All singers are welcome to join this group.** Practices are on Sundays March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>, from **4-5:30 pm** at St. Leo’s. Please consider joining this fun group as we move through the season of Lent!

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **St Ann’s Indian Mission.** St. Ann’s Indian Mission is a national organization serving the five parishes: St. Ann’s (Belcourt), St. Michael’s (Dunseith), St. Anthony’s (Rural Belcourt), St. Benedict’s (Rural Belcourt) and St. John the Baptist (St. John, ND) of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation. Since 1885 their mission is to use the love of family and a sense of belonging to encourage and inspire the Turtle Mountain Community to worship, receive and share the love of the Lord.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

*“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” ~ John 4:13*  
Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions, we will always want more and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only comes when we follow Jesus – when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”




Council 9477

St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus  
**FISH FRY**  
Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>,  
5:30 to 7:00 pm  
Everyone welcome.



**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.

	<b>God’s Gift Appeal 2023</b>	
	<u>Goal</u>	<u>3/7/2023</u>
St. Leo’s	\$56,112	\$5,885
St. Thomas	\$10,992	\$ 25
Thank you to all parishioners who have made their gifts to the 2023 God’s Gift Appeal. Pledge cards/donations may be placed in the offertory collection basket or dropped off at the parish office and we will see they get to the Diocese.		