

PASTOR'S NOTES

'Coming to his senses' — 'a pearl of great prize'

In this Sunday's Gospel story of the Prodigal Son, the youngest son discovered a 'pearl of great prize' — his father's merciful love!!

As you remember the youngest son got his inheritance early, left his father and family for a far-off land where he wasted his inheritance on raunchy living. Scripture say, 'he came to his senses' and returned home a repentant son. In turn his father restored him to sonship and celebrated with the fattened calf.

This is a classic story that embodies the sacrament of Reconciliation — repentance meets mercy and new life begins.

It seems the key line in the story of the prodigal son is — *"coming to his senses"*. In coming to his senses he remembers what he had learned from his days of religion — *that God's mercy trumps justice!* Human justice would say he only deserved to be treated like one of the hired workers. But he places his hope in what he had been taught to believe and returns home to experience a lavishness he would never had expected. This is what Christ teaches — God's merciful love is without limit (e.g. - *7 times 70 times forgiveness*).

'Coming to his senses' is a code word for examining one's conscience. Conscience is that voice of God that lies within each of us that speaks of virtuous living and holiness of life. It is that voice of the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes. It is that voice of the Gospel parables and healing miracles. It is that voice of God's Church and its many teachings about the pre-eminent place of God above all else, the treasures of the sacraments, the sanctity of life, the sacredness of sexuality, the stewardship of resources, the beauty of truth and the glory of love.

When we violate the voice of the Lord (conscience) we find ourselves in far-off lands like the prodigal son. When we 'hit the wall' this voice of God is awakened and we become aware of our sinful ways. This voice reminds us of God's relentless love in the face of sin. Our confession of sinful ways and disgraceful living unleashes the wellspring of the Father's merciful love. This dynamic of confession and absolution stands at the very heart of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

But, there is also the story of the older son in the story of the Prodigal Son where self-righteousness has blinded him from seeing his contempt for his father, his hatred for his brother, and his replacing grace-filled religion with secular notions of justice. Failing to 'come to his senses' he lives in a far-off land and abandonment to the world of sin.

Blessed is the younger son who 'came to his senses', acknowledged his deviant ways, confessed his sins, and received an abundance of new life (i.e., sandals for his feet, a ring for his finger and a cloak for his back).

Blessed are they who avail themselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Times and places of **Area Reconciliation Services** can be found on a larger flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry or some smaller flyers on the shelves behind the back pews in the church.

*St. Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service
is scheduled for Friday, April 8th at 7 p.m.*



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT March 27, 2022

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 27:

Mon - Mar 28 – 9:00 am - **NO MASS**

Tues - Mar 29 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's — NO MASS

Wed- Mar 30 – 9:00 am - **+Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran

Thurs - Mar 31 – 9:00 am - **+Charlie Radermacher**

Fri., Apr 1 – 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Apr 2 - 5:00 pm - +Gene Kaufman by Ron & Thuy Kaufman

Sun - Apr 3 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - +Julie Levos by Stella Baumler

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/Nicole Scherweit

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: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon

St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & 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., Mar 27 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass
 Sun., Mar 27 - 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Crossroads Evangelical Church; 6 pm– Supper
 (602 2nd St N, Casselton– formally Martins Lutheran Church)
 Wed., Mar 30 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas
 6:30 pm - St. Leo's RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm
 K/1st grade - Group A meets
 6:15 pm - Senior class meets
 Wed., Mar 30 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
 Fri., Apr 1 - 5:00 pm– Holy Hour at St. Leo's
 Fri., Apr 1 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's; 6 pm– Soup & Sandwich Supper
 Sun., Apr 3 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
 Sun., Apr 3 - 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Goshen Moravian Church, 6 pm– Supper
 Wed., Apr 6 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
Fri., Apr 8 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Reconciliation Service;
 - area Reconciliation services can be found on the flyer on the bulletin board

Attention Deer Hunters! We are looking for deer/homemade sausage donations for the Saturday, April 16th Easter Vigil reception. If you have any you would be able to share, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the parish office at 347-4609 if you can help. Thank you.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Apr 2 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Apr 3 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Apr 3 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Tricia Geggelman/ Lois Titus	Larry Zaun	Anna Garman
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner		Pam Spooner
Altar Servers	Tristan Lako Ethan/Olivia Richard	Hallie Besette Claire Halland	Isabelle Dutchuk Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	Phillip Keller Family	Aaron Haseleu Family	Joel Baarstad Family

NEWS AND NOTES

Team of Our Lady for Your Marriage: Are you interested in enriching your couple/marriage spirituality on a journey with other Catholic like-minded couples? The F-M Sector of Teams of Our Lady now has 11 teams comprised of 62 area couples, 9 chaplains, and has been going strong for 17 years! Join us to learn more at our spring information sessions to be held at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 710 10th St S, Fargo.

Info Session #1 — Sunday, April 24th at 4 pm

Info Session #2 — Thursday, April 28th at 7 pm

All couples (BOTH husband and wife) wishing to join TEAMS are required to attend one of these two meeting. For more information, contact Lorine Bernhardt at (701)781-2249 or fargosectorinformation1@gmail.com More information can be found on the TEAMS website at www.teamsofourlady.org

SEARCH Retreat for Youth and Young Adults... Do you want to grow closer to God? Do you want to meet other like-minded young adults? Do you need a “retreat” from the world around you? Experience God in a personal and real way. **SEARCH** for Christian Maturity has a retreat coming up April 29th — May 1st at Maryvale Convent in Valley City, ND. Youth and young adults, 16 and older are invited to attend. Details and application can be found at: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm> or call Dori at (952)210-2219. **Applications are due no later than Monday, April 11th.**

Lenten Canisters - One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **St. Gianna's Maternity Home**. St. Gianna's Maternity Home is a national charity dedicated to providing safe shelter, food, clothing, education, and counseling; and to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women in crisis pregnancies as an alternative to abortion. They are committed to providing families with a stable living situation based on spiritual values – one mother, one baby, one family at a time. Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.

This week's Stewardship moment:

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.”

~ Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.



Council 9477

St. Leo's Knight of the Month: The Knight for the month of **March** is **Tony Roth**. Thank you Tony for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.



Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving pancakes and sausage Sunday, April 3rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering,

EASTER CANTATA:

United Singers Casselton will present **"Portraits of Grace"** a cantata for Holy Week on Sunday, April 10th at 3:00 pm at St. Leo's Church. Everyone is invited to attend.