

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 30–6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at United Methodist Church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm  
 Wed., Apr 2 – 6:00 pm – St. Thomas– Stations of the Cross  
 Wed., Apr 2 – Religious Education Classes– see below  
 Fri., Apr 4 – 5:30 pm – KC Fish fry in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Fri., Apr 4 – 7:00 pm – Living Stations presented by the RE 9th grade class  
 Sun., Apr 6–6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm  
**Fri., Apr 11 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s Reconciliation Service**  
 Sun., Apr 13 – 3:00 pm – Easter Cantata at St. Leo’s

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., April 2


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 A and 12<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



**Gods Gift 2025:** Thank you to all who have already completed their pledge cards. Completed pledge cards can be returned either to the parish office or by placing in the collection basket at Mass.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Apr 5</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>	<b>Sunday Apr 6</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>	<b>Sunday Apr 6</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i>
			
<b>Lector</b>	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Keith Biggers	Karren Bartholomay
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Alex Richard Richard Muscha	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Kristi Dutchuk Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Richard Family Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Hannah Besette Hallie Besette	James Diemert Garman Family
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Darren Halland Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Richard Muscha		<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptisms of Brynn Rose Bogenreif, daughter of Joel & Emily and Bailey Kay Bachman, daughter of Jay & Kathleen.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide them to live as a children of God.*



Council 9477

**St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:** The Knight of the month is **Jake Werner**. Thank you Jake for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.



**St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry: Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** All are welcome. Proceeds to benefit Special Olympics. The KC’s are looking for anyone who has fish they would be willing to donate for the fish fry. Please call the parish office at 347-4609 if you would like to donate fish.

**St. Leo’s RE Lenten Challenge:** The Education Committee has teamed up with the Rural Cass County Emergency Food Pantry in an attempt to help fill their shelves with basic toiletry items for community members in need. Each Religious Education Class has been given a high need personal care product item(s) to bring in as a donation. All church members are welcome to bring donations as well. The items needed are posted in the Spirit of Life Center along with bins to drop off items. Items can be dropped off from now until **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. A goal and progress chart is also posted in the Spirit of Life Center.

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is *the American Red Cross*. The American Red Cross is a national charity that responds around the clock when disaster strikes, mostly due to home fires, by providing food, shelter and emotional support. Other services they provide are health and safety training in our communities, workplaces and daycares, such as CPR and First Aid. **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 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.

### EASTER CANTATA

*‘Lift High the Cross’*

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**3:00 pm**

St. Leo’s Catholic Church

All are Welcome

Refreshments to follow.

**Music for Holy Week and Easter:** Everyone is invited to join us in the choir loft to lead music for **Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**. The practice schedule will be:

- Sun. March 30– 9:00 am
- Sun. April 6– 9:00 am
- Wed. April 9– 6:30 pm
- Sun. April 13– 9:30 am

Music will be provided. Please come and help make these days special with some beautiful music!

**Upcoming Diocesan Events:** Please see information on the bulletin board for area churches events and retreats in our Diocese or visit the Fargo of Diocese website for more information at: [www.fargodiocese.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org)

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Reconciliation — *the pearl of great price*

The Gospel story of the Prodigal Son is one of Christ's best known parables. It speaks richly of God's extravagant love in the face of human pride, anger and brokenness. **This classic story embodies the sacrament of Reconciliation.** The story begins with the sin of a family being set apart from one another; followed by an awareness of one's life being deeply scarred by the destructive power of sin (**examination of conscience**); followed by a welling up of sorrow (**contrition**); followed by a verbalization of irresponsible actions (**confession**); followed by forgiveness and the new beginning of life (**absolution + penance**).

As you remember the youngest son sought 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.

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 calling us to virtuous living and holiness of life. It is the voice of the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes. It is the voice of the Gospel parables and healing miracles. It is the voice of Christ's forgiving love as he hangs upon the Cross. It is the voice of God's Church and its many teachings about 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 we find ourselves in far-off lands like the prodigal son. When we 'hit the wall' this voice of God is often awakened making us aware of our sinful ways. This voice also 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 contrition, confession, absolution and penitential resolve to live differently is the very dynamic 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 replacing grace-filled religion with secular notions of justice and rationalizations. Failing to 'come to his senses' he lives in a far-off land and the cesspool of sin.

Blessed is the younger son who 'came to his senses', acknowledges his deviant ways, confesses his sins, and receives an abundance of new life (i.e., sandals for his feet, a ring for his finger and a cloak for his back). **He discovered the 'pearl of great price'.**

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

The dates and times of area Lenten Reconciliation Services are posted on the church's bulletin board, as well as ½ page hand outs in this week's bulletin, and on the shelves behind the last set of pews at the back of St. Leo's church or on the entry way table at St. Thomas.

**St. Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** There will be five (5) priests to hear confessions and bestow the absolution of the Lord's merciful love.



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 30, 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 Mar 30:

Mon – Mar 31 – 9:00 am – +**Charlie Radermacher** by His family

Tues – Apr 1 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Souls in purgatory**

*NO Mass at St. Leo's*

Wed – Apr 2 – 9:00 am – +**Fr. Jerald Finnestad**

Thurs – Apr 3 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Fri – Apr 4 – 9:00 am – +**Shirley Marek** by Monica Qvale

**Saturday – Apr 5 – 5:00 pm - +Betty Heyerman by Jim & Mary Heyerman**

**Sunday - Apr 6 – 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

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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.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.