

PASTOR’S NOTES

Lenten Holy Hour — *this Friday evening*

On this Friday, March 10th beginning at 5 p.m. St. Leo’s will host an hour of Eucharistic exposition and adoration. During that ‘*hour with the Lord*’ we will pray that day’s Evening Prayer of the Church and a Rosary. The ‘*holy hour*’ will close with Benediction. People can then go to our Lenten soup & sandwich supper at 6 p.m. followed by our Lenten Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m.

40 in the ‘40 days of Lent’

If you count the actual number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday you will end up with 47 days. **So how do we end up with ‘40 days of Lent’?**

As with many things there are numerous historical events and turning points that have brought us to where we are today and the same is true about our commonly understood notion of ‘40 days of Lent’ that comprise the season of Lent.

In the earliest days of the Church -- *Good Friday* celebrated Christ’s death, with *Holy Saturday* celebrating Christ’s time in the tomb, and *Easter Sunday* culminating in Christ’s resurrection from the dead. These days were known as the Paschal Triduum. Shortly thereafter, *Thursday* which celebrates Christ’s Last Supper, was incorporated into the days of the Paschal Triduum. But soon this whole week came to be directed towards the paschal festivities of Christ’s life-giving death and resurrection. **This has come to be known as Holy Week** with the Triduum being Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil [Holy Saturday evening.] Holy Week is meant to be a final, intense and focused meditation on the events that led up to **That Event**, which changed time and history.

On a second big historical note, the sense of the faithful was that, since the glory of Easter was celebrated over the course of 50 days [the Easter season], there should be a similar length of time in penitential preparation for what Christ did in his agonizing passion and death in saving the human race. This is where the number 40 comes into play.

In Scripture 40 is a highly symbolic number. Forty represents a critical amount of time during which serious transformations of life happen. *For example* — it rained for 40 days and 40 nights during the time of Noah and the great flood; God forms the people of Israel during 40 years in the desert of the Exodus journey; Moses spends 40 days on Mt. Sinai when receiving the Ten Commandments; King David, to whom God makes a promise of a messiah, reigns as king for 40 years; Elijah walks 40 days to Mt. Horeb to receive the call to be Israel’s first prophet; Christ fasted for 40 days in the desert before beginning his public ministry; after the Resurrection Christ appears for 40 days upon the earth before ascending to heaven.

In addition to the more intense focus of Holy Week and the fact that Christ spent 40 days in the desert, 40 seems an appropriate amount of penitential preparation to make up the season of Lent. Together ‘40 days of Lent and Holy Week seems a good balance to the 50 festive days celebrating Easter glory. In order to get ‘40 days of Lent’, Lent has to begin on Ash Wednesday and go to Palm/Passion Sunday when the special focused preparatory time of Holy Week begins. And so it is we arrive at ‘40 days of Lent’.

May our ‘40 days of Lent’ and Holy Week awaken us to the mystery of God’s love-suffering for the human race and the promise of resurrected life for all who give themselves to Christ.

New Lay Director

With the death of Larry Zaun, Flint Kasowski has been named new lay director of St. Thomas Catholic Church. Flint will serve alongside of Gary Milbrandt as St. Thomas’ second lay director. Lay Directors serve on the 5-member corporate board of each parish.



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347-4609

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633-5150



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
March 5, 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 5:

Mon - Mar 6 – 9:00 am – ++**Dee & Gillis Hageman** by Bill & Mona Franck
Tues - Mar 7 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass

Wed – Mar 8 – 9:00 am - +**Leonard Brandenburg** by Jim & Paulette Schmitt
Thurs – Mar 9 – 9:00 am - +**Fr. Edward Sherman**
Fri – Mar 10 – 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Mar 11 - 5:00 pm - +Janice Muscha by Don & Audrey Cramer
Sun - Mar 12 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Larry Zaun by Keith & Joni Biggers

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Secretary: Delores Grommesh
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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

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 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
Wed., Mar 8 - RE Classes — see below
Wed., Mar 8 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo
Thurs., Mar 9 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith
Fri., Mar 10 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo’s; 6 pm - Soup/Sandwich supper
Sun., Mar 12- 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service– Crossroads Church; 6 pm– Soup/Sandwich

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., March 8th
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 B and 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Don Nilles and his family on the death of his brother, David.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Mar 11 5:00 pm St. Leo’s	Sunday Mar 12 8:30 am St. Leo’s	Sunday Mar 12 10:30 am St. Thomas
Lector	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Alecia Killoran
Eucharistic Ministers	Bill Franck Nicole Scherweit	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Mary Jendro Susan Kempel Paul Olsen	Linda Milbrandt Jurgen Suhr
Altar Servers	Sophie Scherweit Addison/Noah Hushka	Sarah/Melody Kempel Mikaela Prochnow Quinn Gunkel	Clay Hovelson Hannah Besette
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Keith & Joni Biggers
Gift Bearers	Travis Keller Family	Chris Ziegelmann Family	Aaron Haseleu Family
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES

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 —

- March 5th - 9– 10:00 am
- March 12th - 9:30-10:30 am
- March 26th - 9:30– 10:30 am
- April 2nd - 9– 10:00 am

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 are on Sundays March 12th, 19th, & 26th, from **4-5:30 pm** at St. Leo’s. Please consider joining this fun group as we move through the season of Lent!

Children’s Busy Bags: The Education Committee has put together Children’s Mass Busy Bags for our young members to utilize during Mass. These bags are most appropriate for children ages 6/7 and under and will hang on the coat hooks in the Spirit of Life Center. 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. **The bags will be available beginning the weekend of March 11th/12th.**

Lenten Canisters – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Medical Mission Sisters.** Medical Mission Sisters, formerly known as the “Society of the Catholic Medical Missions” is an international organization located in Philadelphia, PA. Founded in Washington, D.C. in 1925, Medical Mission Sisters is a community of dedicated women with 450 Canonical members and 100 associates (women and men) with a goal of providing the poor of the world with better access to health care, i.e. hunger and malnutrition, unemployment, illiteracy, inadequate housing and unsafe water supplies.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” ~ Genesis 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful.”



Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving French toast and sausage today, Sunday, March 5th 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 12th weather permitting. The fish caught will be used for the KC fish fry to be held on Friday, March 24th. 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 28th 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.