

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 9- 6:30 pm- Ecumenical Prayer Service at Goshen Moravian Church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm
 Wed., Mar 12 – Religious Education classes – see below
 Wed., Mar 12 – 6:00 pm - St. Thomas- Stations of the Cross
 Fri., Mar 14 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo’s– Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Mar 16– 6:30 pm–Ecumenical Prayer Service at Canaan Moravian Church; Soup & Sandwich at 6pm
 Mon., Mar 17– Eucharistic Parent Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
 Wed., Mar 19– 6:00 pm– St. Thomas– Stations of the Cross
 Fri., Mar 21– St. Leo’s– Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm

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

KC’s looking for fish: The KC’s will hold their annual Fish Fry on Friday, April 4th. They 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.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Mar 15 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Mar 16 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Mar 16 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
Lector	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Gary Milbrandt	Steve Carvell
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Linda Milbrandt Cynthia Comprendio	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Gran Burchill Ann Burchill Beau Parisien	Abigail Killoran Claire Halland	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	Duane Klatt Family
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jackie Vavra Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Mona Franck		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

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. We would like to include our RE students to participate in this wonderful example of Almsgiving during this Lenten season. Each Religious Education Class has been given a high need personal care product item(s) to bring in as a donation. The items needed will be posted in the Spirit of Life Center, and will also be sent to each RE student/ family. To participate, we ask that your child bring their items to their classroom on Wednesday evenings between **March 12th - April 9th** to be collected by their teachers. A goal and progress chart will be posted in the Spirit of Life Center during this time. All church members are welcome to bring donations as well!

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 17th-20th**. Practices will be on Sunday mornings either before or after the Sunday Mass. The practice schedule will be:

- March 23– 9:30 am
- March 30– 9:00 am
- April 6– 9:00 am
- April 13– 9:30 am

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

Cantata Practice: All singers are invited to join in performing this year’s cantata — *Lift High the Cross* on Palm Sunday, April 13th, 3 pm at St. Leo’s Church. **Practices will be held on Sunday afternoons, 4 pm - 6 pm. at St. Leo’s Church.** If you have any questions please contact Maari Loy at maarilynn@gmail.com

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, March 16th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #681, #127, #765, #610, #518. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Lenten Canisters - One recipient of our Lenten canisters is the Churches United for the Homeless. Churches United for the Homeless is a local charity that provides shelter, housing, and nutritious food to the homeless in our area in a spiritual setting. They act on the values to serve with heart, engage authentically, and act with courage to our neighbors in need by offering them a chance to reflect on the direction they wish for their lives, and the opportunity to utilize our community’s many resources in achieving their goals. **Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. We will collect these canister during Holy Week.**

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me.” ~ Deuteronomy 26:10

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your “first fruits” - the first and best that you have to offer? Or do you give from what you have leftover? Second, do you realize that everything you have and that everything you are has been given to you by God? We aren’t owners of anything, we are merely stewards of God’s gifts. Pray for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

PASTOR'S NOTES

God's Gift Appeal – *a couple of thoughts ...*

Over the last number of days each parish household should have received a letter from Bishop John Folda seeking your support for this year's God's Gift Appeal (GGA). The GGA is what supports the many works and ministries of the Diocese of Fargo, who is the mother Church of all parishes and missions in eastern North Dakota. **This year's budget for the God's Gift Appeal is \$3,773, 301.** Each of the 126 parishes and missions that comprise the Diocese of Fargo are given a goal that together totals the \$3 million plus. **St. Leo's 2025 GGA goal is \$64,992; St. Thomas' goal is \$10,127.**

Given these numbers I offer a couple of reflections:

- (1) The median household income in Cass county is \$73,000. Each parish household in our two parishes is being asked to give **a little over 3/10 of one percent (1%)** of their household income to support the work and ministries of our diocese. This amount to \$250 per household. This seems like a very modest ASK.
- (2) In the past few years the number of parish households who support the God's Gift Appeal has slipped below 40%. I would like to think our participation numbers could be a lot higher. One hundred percent (100%) participation should not be out of the question since we all benefit from our diocesan church. It seems that letting others "carry the water" should never become a normative practice. It seems a more profitable thought pattern would be Christ's words in his Sermon on the Plain — "... *the measure you measure with will be measured back to you*" [Lk. 6:38c].
- (3) **A very gracious thank-you to last year's (2024) God's Gift Appeal donors.** Eighty-one (81) households (**31% of St. Leo's households**) contributed \$45,773, which was an average of \$565 per household and put us at 74% of St. Leo's 2024 goal of \$61,723.
For St. Thomas — fifteen (15) households (**35% of St. Thomas households**) contributed \$7125, which was an average of \$465 per household and put us at 72% of St. Thomas's 2024 goal of \$9893.

Perhaps numbers were down last year because our diocesan capital campaign was going on at the same time. Hopefully 2025 and the spirit of Lenten almsgiving will reinvigorate us to see more clearly the essential place of the diocesan church in our lives and the vital support it needs from each of us.

Feasting — *another perspective on Lent*

Feasting is not usually the word that comes to mind when the word – Lent – comes up. We usually associate fasting with Lent. Fasting is not just something that deals with the body. Fasting can also mean - fasting from the capital sins of pride, greed, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony and lust.

On the other hand vices, like the capital sins, are opposed by virtues and **virtues are spiritual realities we should 'feast on'**, not fast from. In the classical listing of virtues, three (3) of them are called **theological virtues** — **Faith, Hope and Charity**. Four (4) of them are called **cardinal virtues** — **prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude**. The theological virtues direct our lives in relationship to God, while the cardinal virtues direct our relationship with one another. The cardinal (human) virtues are acquired by education; the theological virtues are infused by God into the receptive souls of believers. One can find a much deeper and fruitful reflection on this topic in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, especially in paragraphs # 1803-1832.



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT March 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 Mar 9:

Mon – Mar 10 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Mar 11 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Bob Von Bank** by Clarence & Sandi Loesch
NO Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Mar 12 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Thurs – Mar 13 – 9:00 am – +**Ted Kaiser** by Bryce Radermacher

Fri – Mar 14 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Saturday – Mar 15 – 5:00 pm - +**Irene Pollock** by Missy Poulson

Sunday - Mar 16 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Leo's - 10:30 am - +**Kenneth Mack** by Kris & Christi Mack

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.

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