

PASTOR'S NOTES

Confirmation/Eucharist & the coronavirus

On Thursday evening we received a memo from the Diocese of Fargo stating all Confirmation/Eucharist celebrations that Bishop Folda had scheduled for this spring have been cancelled. **That means the Confirmation/Eucharist celebration that had been scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at St. Leo's has been cancelled.**

What is the next step??

The memo notes that when we are given some direction to proceed safely with gatherings of some size, pastors can petition Bishop Folda to have themselves confirm their students or invite Bishop Folda to celebrate these sacraments, which would entail having some of these celebrations during the weekday and not on weekends.

Sue and I will be discussing this matter along with other pastors and parishes to see what plans they may have. Sue will certainly be in contact with the parents of our students to answer questions, listen to concerns and inform parishioners on how we will proceed.

In the meantime we will need to finish off some of the preparation requirements (*e.g. - a parent class, interview times, student handbooks, etc.*) Again Sue will be in touch with parents regarding dates, times and requirements. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact myself or Sue. **Sue will also be in contact with parents of Reconciliation students with plans on how to finish their preparation and celebration of that sacrament.**

St. Leo's church painting project

We have been able to schedule our painter beginning Monday, May 4th. We will begin in the nave of the church (i.e., where the pews are and the people sit).

On Saturday, May 2nd we plan on moving all the pews out of the church into the Spirit of Life Center. This will allow our painter free access to the church's interior (nave) for two weeks. Once the painter is done or near done our plans are to strip the flood, reseal and wax the floor of the nave. All in all, if things go well, the nave of the church will not have pews for two weekends (May 10th and May 17th) with the floor being finished and pews returned in place by May 20th.

Some bad news – our elevator

A little over a week ago our elevator maintenance man told us our elevator was shot. I had been told a number of years ago that our elevator was one of the last of its kind in this area and we should plan on replacing it since its operating electronic equipment would not be able to be replaced.

The Parish Pastoral Council decided to wait until it finally gave out and then replace it. We got an additional six years out of it, but now it needs to be replaced. I have received two bids on replacing it and the Pastoral Council will review the situation, review the proposals and decide on how to proceed.

The bad part about all of this is that it will take at least ten weeks, once we make a decision, before we will have an operational elevator. In the meantime we have a handicap ramp behind the rectory garage that allows access to the church and through the church to the office area and the Spirit of Life Center. We would have no handicap access to the church basement.

Psalms 137 – a prayer for our times

As this coronavirus continues to plague our lives perhaps a prayerful praying of Psalm 137 could be a helpful antidote. We are not the first people to yearn for a return to 'the ways things were'. Many of the people of Israel were exiled to Babylon for 50 years and this was one of their prayers as they languished in some desperate times.



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 EASTER April 26, 2020

All Sunday and Daily Masses have been cancelled until further notice.

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

Sunday and Daily Masses can be viewed on the Fargo Diocese website.

Go to: www.fargodiocese.net

on the home page you can either click right on the video
or

Scroll down under the heading '**Watch the Daily Mass from St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo**'
click on the blue highlighted words **Diocese of Fargo YouTube** page and you
can watch the Sunday Mass or the Daily Mass (all videos are dated).

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

Liturgy/RE: Sue Knoll

Phone: 701-347-4609

Cell: 701-261-2047

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 & Mark Wieland

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.

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

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues., Apr. 28 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Apr. 29 - 3:46 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Apr. 29 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 6:15 pm - Jun

**CANCELLED**

*When we return to regular events you will be notified by email.*

## Sunday Offertory Collection

**A gracious thank you to those parishioners who have continued supporting their parish during these uncertain days.**

*[A Note: National statistics say church giving is down by over 50% in these economic times. Whatever church support you can give is deeply appreciated.]*

Since all parish households have Sunday Offertory envelopes, your envelopes can be mailed to St. Leo's [PO Box 340, Casselton] or St. Thomas [PO Box 22, Buffalo] or dropped off at St. Leo's parish office. Your continual support is deeply appreciated!!

If this is a time you would like to join others who are enrolled in the automatic cash withdrawal for your Sunday offertory collection, please call Delores (347-4609) for details.

### **Lenten canisters**

With all the turmoil connected with this pandemic I would hope Lent might have spurred us to more prayer time. Conversations with God often lead us to a deeper and broader view of the world around us since God created all things.

As we see this larger world we can often be struck by the many human needs that fill this earth. **Hopefully we extend ourselves in almsgiving to these needs.** This is the very purpose of our Lenten canisters, which had the name of six organizations whose missions are to help those who find themselves 'down and out'. *Your generous support can go a long way of relieving that pain and hurt!!*

### **Parishioners of St. Leo's and St. Thomas**

- > could you please return your canisters at your earliest convenience;
- > St. Leo parishioners can return canisters to the **parish office** or leave them in the basket in the **vesting room** (the room between Sue's office and bathroom in parish office hallway);
- > St. Thomas parishioners can return canisters to **St. Leo's parish office** or leave them in the **sacristy** at St. Thomas (the room where Fr. Ermer and Mass server's vest). They will be picked up on a daily basis.

**Thank you very much for your support!!**

## NEWS AND NOTES

**St. Leo's Prayer Chain:** Did you know that St. Leo's has a prayer chain? In September of 2015 a number of parishioners re-started a prayer chain for all people requesting prayer support. Bea Bachmeier was appointed head of the St. Leo's Prayer Chain with Kelsey Lako serving as secondary head.

All prayer requests are to be directed to Bea, who will gather pertinent and necessary information and forward each prayer request to all members of the Prayer Chain. If Bea is unable to be contacted people are asked to direct their request to Kelsey. Telephone numbers for **Bea** {701-347-5555} and **Kesley** {701-793-7088} can be found on the front page of the church bulletin in the box listing staff persons.

If anyone has any questions about how the 'ins and outs' of how the Prayer Chain works or would like to become a member of the Prayer Chain please feel free to contact Bea or Delores at the parish office, 347-5609.

**Beginning Experience:** June 26 - 28, 2020 at the Retreat Center in Hankinson, ND. Beginning Experience is a program that helps people going through the difficult time of loss of a spouse whether widowed, separated or divorced. For more information please contact Frank (218-790-4202), Marlene (218-998-4300) or Jason (701-840-8951). You can also check the website: [beginningexperience-easternnd.org](http://beginningexperience-easternnd.org)

**The Rural Cass County Food Pantry (in Casselton)** is in need of the following items: pasta sauce, canned chicken, Manwich, rice/pasta sides, cereal, saltine crackers, pudding cups, frosting, pancake mix, syrup, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets. Items can be dropped off at TruCore Fitness in Casselton and Mary's Market in Arthur. The food pantry is located at 602 1st Street N, Casselton, and is open the first and third Wednesdays of the month. For question you can contact Bonnie at (701)740-3398 or Shelle at (701)866-7440. Thank You.

### **This week's Stewardship moment:**

*"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..." - Luke 24:36-37*

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to "see the face of Jesus" in others and to "be the face of Jesus" to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide "peace" to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength to live a "God-centered" life and not a "self-centered" life.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Fr. Ermer will continue hear confessions on Saturday's from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. For social distancing he will hear confessions in the side sacristy (where the Mass servers get ready for Mass). It is located in the Northeast corner of the sanctuary. Use the door by the entry to the Spirit of Life Center. He will light a candle by the doorway when he is there. The room is large enough to have the option to go face-to-face or behind the screen. You can still call Fr. Ermer to schedule a time for the sacrament of Reconciliation as well. 347-4609.

**The church continues to remain open for prayer and silent reflection.**



### **God's Gift Appeal 2020**

|            |             |                  |
|------------|-------------|------------------|
|            | <u>Goal</u> | <u>4/17/2020</u> |
| St. Leo's  | \$48,052    | \$27,236         |
| St. Thomas | \$10,884    | \$ 6,933         |

Thank you to all parishioners who have made their gift to the 2020 God's Gift Appeal. Pledge cards and donations may be dropped off at the parish office and we will see they get to the Diocese.