

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### The Pandemic – a Papal response

On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at noon local time and 6 p.m. Rome time Pope Francis gave an extraordinary blessing of the Blessed Sacrament ‘to the city and to the world’. In Latin this kind of blessing is called ‘urbi et orbi’ {to the city and to the world} and is usually more simple and only given at the election of a pope and at Christmas and Easter. But these are extraordinary times calling for extraordinary measures.

This was a Holy Hour held at the entrance of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome to an empty, rain-drenched St. Peter’s square. This was a Holy Hour for the world and was live-streamed.

In this hour of prayer the Gospel passage of Jesus calming the sea while the disciples were in a boat being tossed about by the wild waters of the Sea of Galilee was proclaimed. Pope Francis saw this Gospel passage as an apt description of our times - **the world being tossed by the coronavirus!**

In addition to the silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Pope Francis spoke some words to the world about this pandemic. He also prayed for God to see how people are suffering and to give us comfort. More specifically he sought God’s care for the sick and dying, for exhausted medical workers giving their all in the care of those in need and for political leaders and their policy decisions for protecting people.

Addressing the pandemic itself Pope Francis said this is **“not God’s judgement on humanity, but God’s call on people to judge what is most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on.”**

He went on to say this pandemic has exposed “our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities.”

He stated the Lord loves this world more than we do, but “we have gone ahead with breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things and be lured away by haste. We did not stop at your (God’s) reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.”

In this analysis Pope Francis sees the turbulent waters of our times, which is tossing the boat carrying humanity through this time in history. We have been caught off guard and find ourselves afraid and lost. We need to invite Christ **“into the boats of our lives (and) let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them”** as Christ calmed the sea of Galilee for his disciples.

In that spirit he ended the Holy Hour by raising the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament and blessed ‘the city and the world’ (*urbi et orbi*) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### Spiritual Communion ...

In these days of social distancing and the ‘closing down’ of public Masses and church events, the Church encourages us to enter into a ‘spiritual communion’ with the Lord, especially on Sunday, the Lord’s Day, when we go to church and receive Communion.

The Church has no particular formula for entering into a ‘spiritual communion’. One does this by conceiving a real desire to be united with Christ, to have him enter one’s heart and seek his blessings upon family and friends. We typically surround this desire with silent prayer, Scripture reading or devotional prayer (e.g. - the rosary).



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



**PALM SUNDAY**  
**April 5, 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.org](http://www.fargodiocese.org)

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

or

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

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**Website:** [www.stleosnd.org](http://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

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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.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Apr. 5 - 9:00am– 12:00 pm - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life  
 Wed., Apr. 8 - 3:46 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Apr. 8 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 6:15 pm - Sermon

**CANCELLED**

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

### Additional Individual Reconciliation times for the week of Apr. 5:

**Sat., April 4 - starting at 10:00– 11:00 am at St. Thomas in Buffalo**

Mon., April 6 - starting at 6:30– 7:30 pm - St. Leo's

Tues., April 7 - starting at 6:30– 7:30 pm - St. Leo's

Wed., April 8 - starting at 6:30– 7:30 pm - St. Leo's

You can also call Fr. Ermer to schedule a time for Reconciliation as well. 347-5609



### Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission: Easter cards are now available!

Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. Cost of cards is .50 cents, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

|  | <b>Saturday Apr 11</b><br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Sunday Apr 12</b><br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | <b>Sunday Apr 12</b><br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                               |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | <p>Due to concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic, St. Thomas will temporarily suspend Holy Communion and the Eucharist. That change will mean that only the Eucharist will be celebrated at the Sunday morning Mass at St. Thomas. If you are normally scheduled for that date, please check in with the parish office to be covered.</p> <p><b>MASSES CANCELLED</b></p> |                                               |                                               |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                               |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | Volunteer needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Joe & Lora Killoran                           | Volunteer needed                              |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Volunteer needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               | Volunteer needed                              |

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Sunday Offertory Collection

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

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** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Catholic Near East Welfare Association**. CNEWA was founded in 1926 by the Holy Father to share the love of Christ with the churches and people of the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. They work in places where poverty, war and displacement shatter innocent lives. They fund schools, clinics, orphanages and support vocations and provide pastoral care. Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities.

**Holy Land/Good Friday Collection:** Every year the collection on Good Friday supports the holy site and Christian communities of the Holy Land. **In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, Pope Francis authorized moving the Collection for the Holy Land to Sunday, September 13**, the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. And, so you will be invited to support the Holy Land collection in the fall. Please keep the Christians of the Holy Land in your prayers. *The envelope for this collection can be found with your regular envelopes for March/April.*

**Keeping the Seasons:** If you have had the chance to visit St. Leo's or St. Thomas this week you will notice that we are still decorated for the Lenten season. Palm Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>), the Triduum- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (April 9-11<sup>th</sup>) and Easter (April 12<sup>th</sup>) are fast approaching. We will most likely be celebrating these great days very differently than we ever have before but we do plan to decorate the environment in the churches in keeping with these days. We will have blest palms for you to pick up on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> after 5 pm and all day Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to take home with you. They will be in the church entry at St. Leo's and in the St. Thomas Social Hall. (They do tend to dry out in the open air so we will have them in plastic.) Also, we will be getting Easter flowers so if you would like to make a donation, you can use the form here- or make your own- and drop it off at St. Leo's parish office.

**We are again offering the opportunity to make a donation toward Easter flowers and environment in honor or memory of a loved one. Slips and donations may be dropped off at the parish office.**

Person(s) to be honored \_\_\_\_\_ Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of donation \_\_\_\_\_

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14-16*

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Him what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Usually, the answer is in "quite whispers", so take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His response.