

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Prudence in the face of the coronavirus —

It would be hard to believe that most people have not heard of the coronavirus (COVID - 19). It has changed the present landscape of American life (e.g. - Wall Street, the world of athletics, etc.). This virus has circled the globe and affected many, many nations – *some more drastically than others*. This virus seems to have caught the medical world flat-footed. We are still not fully aware of its origin, nature and mode of transmission. Any vaccine solution is not immediately available and lies in the future. Some doctors are saying this virus is 10 times more deadly than the common flu virus. At this point prudence is the better part of valor.

Given these concerns, the liturgy office of the Diocese of Fargo forwarded a memo to all diocesan parishes regarding **temporary** common sense practices for avoiding the possible spread of this virus. As always the most obvious practice is proper hygienic protocol (e.g. - washing of hands, etc.).

**With regard to the Mass** other more immediate and temporary common sense practices include:

- > receiving Communion in the hand, rather than on the tongue, reduces the risk of transferring viruses;
- > temporarily suspending exchanging the Sign of Peace through physical contact like the shaking of hands;
- > temporarily suspending receiving the Precious Blood from a common cup, except for those who can not receive under the form of bread;
- > temporarily emptying the church's holy water fonts of holy water *{parishioners are encouraged to take holy water bottles from our holy water reservoir and bless themselves at home}*;
- > suspending the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for persons who are ill including those who are elderly and suffer from a chronic medical condition; *if one is unable to attend Sunday Mass, join in spiritual communion with the parish by watching the televised Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m. on either channel 6 {WDAY} or channel 8 {WDAZ}*.

**Both St. Leo's and St. Thomas parishes will abide by these temporary, prudential practices until further notice.**

This kind of illness reminds us our fragility as human beings, our finite natures and as our status as creatures in the grand design of things. In our multi-layered response to this disease, may prayer be a centerpiece in our daily lives. Prayer is not about informing God of this situation (God knows), but prayer attunes us to what God is saying to us in our deepest needs as his sons and daughters. It is not God's will to harm us, but to bend our hearts and minds to ways of living and love that seek what is true and what is good for the whole of the human race and not just our personal lives.



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 LENT March 15, 2020

### 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 15:

Mon - Mar 16 - 9:00 am - +**Myrtle Mergner** by Marian Watson

Tues - Mar 17 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Fr. Leo Kinney**

*St. Leo's - NO MASS*

Wed - Mar 18 - 9:00 am - +**Ernest Fritel** by Clara Bachmeier

Thurs - Mar 19 - 9:00 am - +**Conrad Barnes** by Stan & Angeline Mathias

Fri - Mar 20 - 9:00 am - +**Don Mergner**

**Sat - Mar 21 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - +Mary Madsen by Stephen & LaRae Madsen**

**Sun - Mar 22 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes**

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - Ray Killoran**

### 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.


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

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 15 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at United Methodist Church, Supper at 6 pm  
 Wed., Mar 18 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Mar 18 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 Wed., Mar 18 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 Wed., Mar 18 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
 Fri., Mar 20 - 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's, Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6 pm  
 Sun., Mar 22 - 6:30 pm - Ecumenical Prayer Service at Canaan Moravian Church, Supper at 6 pm  
 Wed., Mar 25 - 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Thomas in Buffalo  
 Wed., Mar 25 - 8:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Fri., Mar 27 - 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm - **KC Fish Fry**  
 Fri., Mar 27 - 7:00 pm - Living Stations of the Cross at St. Leo's  
 Sat., Mar 28 - 1:00- 4:00 pm - Reconciliation Retreat for 2nd graders  
 Mon., Mar 30 - 7:00 pm - Eucharist Parent Meeting in lower level of Church  
**Fri., Apr 3 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service**

**Lenten Canisters** – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is *Salvation Army in Fargo*. They provide warm meals, access to food pantries, and assistance for anyone needing physical, emotional or spiritual help. They meet basic needs as well as helping with long-term solutions. Other services include rent and utility assistance, counseling, crisis intervention, emergency disaster service and personal care closet. Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                                     | Saturday Mar 21<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's<br>3rd Sat of Month                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Sunday Mar 22<br>8:30 am<br>St. Leo's<br>4th Sun of Month | Sunday Mar 22<br>10:30 am<br>St. Thomas |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <br><b>Lector</b> | Renee Anderson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Fred Eldridge                                             | Larry Zaun                              |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                                        | <i>Due to concerns regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) St. Leo's and St. Thomas will temporarily suspend the distribution of the Precious Blood. That change will mean that only one EMHC will be needed and that is at the Sunday morning Mass at St. Leo's. If you are normally scheduled for that date, please check in before Mass to see that it is covered.</i> |                                                           |                                         |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                                                | Cassie Bartholomay<br>Volunteer needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Claire Glennon<br>Sarah Monilaws                          | Carson Hovelson<br>Carly Hovelson       |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                                         | Volunteer needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Volunteer needed                                          | Keith & Joni Biggers                    |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                                 | Volunteer needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Volunteer needed                                          | Gary & Linda Milbrandt                  |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Musicians:** We would welcome more musicians for our Holy Week liturgies! And we have added a practice for this coming Tuesday. Please join us! Practice Schedule:

Sun., Mar. 15 - no practice  
**Tues., Mar. 17th - 6:30- 7:30 pm**  
 Sun., Mar. 22 - 9:30- 10:30 am  
 Sun., Mar. 29 - 9:00- 10:00 am  
 Sun., Apr. 5 - 9:00- 10:00 am

**The Evangelization Tote:** Fr. Ermer wrote about the Tote last weekend in his bulletin notes. Sign-up today to take a turn with the Tote for your household. In the Tote, there is something for everyone to help you grow in your Catholic faith. The sign-up sheet is in the church entry.

**Teams of Our Lady** is celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> year and now has eleven teams of five to seven couples each and is inviting other Catholic couples to come and check out Teams of Our Lady by attending one of our two information meetings to see if it might be something your marriage might be enriched by. Team Couple Matthew and Laura Devick will present a 45 minute information session with time for questions on the following dates: Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo) at 2 pm in room #206 and on Sunday, May 3 at Nativity Catholic Church, (1825 11<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo) at 2 pm in the Bethlehem Room. Teams of Our Lady is an international marriage movement begun in 1940's in France and is a way for couple to grow in holiness in your marriage by meeting other like-minded Catholic couples.

**Women's Redeemed Conference:** Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last date to register for this exciting event. Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet in Fargo on March 27-28 together with women from across our region. You will have the chance to encounter Christ deeply by stirring music of *The Vigil Project*, to listen to keynote speakers Helen Alvarie, Dr. James Link and others. For more information and how to register, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the church entry or visit: [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemedwomen](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemedwomen).

**Women's Care Center** in Fargo has an opening for a part-time nurse or sonographer. Will train. Please send resume to [angela@wccnd.com](mailto:angela@wccnd.com) or call (701)532-1928 for further details of questions.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." - John 4:13*

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions we always want more. True Joy and Peace only comes when we follow Jesus; when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered".

**Attention all fishermen!** St. Leo's KC's are looking for fish donations for their annual Lenten Fish Fry to be held on Friday, March 27. For more information or to donate fish please contact Grand Knight Micah Bartholomay at (701)630-4555. Thank you.

### Perpetual Rosary for Vocations

The St. Leo's Knights of Columbus will be praying the Rosary for Vocations on:  
**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm both nights.**  
 Everyone is welcome to come and pray the Rosary with the Knights.

### Knights of Columbus Breakfast



Sunday, Apr., 5<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
 in the  
 Spirit of Life Center Serving  
 French Toast & sausage.  
 Free will offering,



### God's Gift Appeal 2020

|            |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|
|            | Goal     | 3/6/2020 |
| St. Leo's  | \$48,052 | \$15,465 |
| St. Thomas | \$10,884 | \$ 3,300 |

Thank you to all parishioners who have made their gift to the 2020 God's Gift Appeal. Pledge cards may be placed in the offertory basket and we will see they are delivered to the Diocese. Extra pledge cards are available in the church entry.