

PASTOR'S NOTES

Starting Public Mass Starting Painting

On Monday, May 4th we will begin having public Masses in the Diocese of Fargo. That means we will return to our regular schedule of daily 9 a.m. Masses on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at St. Leo's and 9 a.m. Tuesday Mass at St. Thomas. Our first weekend Sunday Masses will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 9th at St. Leo's and Sunday, May 10th at 8:30 a.m. at St. Leo's and 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas.

As I noted in my email that was sent on Friday morning (May 1st) there are temporary restrictions regarding how public Masses will be celebrated. **Please read that email to be aware of these temporary arrangements.** Copies of that email are also available at our church entries.

On Monday, May 4th St. Leo's will begin painting their church's interior. On Saturday (May 2nd) all church pews were moved to the Spirit of Life Center to allow for both painting as well as stripping, sealing and waxing of the church's main floor. **Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Spirit of Life Center.** For Sunday weekend liturgies on May 9th and 10th as well as May 16th and 17th temporary seating will be arranged according to the 6-foot physical distancing requirement in both the church and Spirit of Life Center as needed. **Ushers will direct this effort.** If all goes well pews should be returned and in place by the early part of the week of May 17th.

..... towards a fullness

Beginning Monday, May 4th public Masses will be celebrated in the Diocese of Fargo accompanied with a number of restrictions. 47 days earlier (Wednesday, March 18th) public Masses and church events were prohibited in light of the pandemic of the coronavirus that was sweeping the world. That threat is not over. Serious days lay ahead. During this time frame over 60,000 Americans have lost their lives with more dying each day. A vaccine still needs to be found and the science surrounding this pandemic is still in its infant stages.

For believers these 47 days have been one long vigil of prayer seeking God's presence and intervention in all of this. Upon ascending to heaven and leaving this earth we remember fondly Christ telling us that he would be with us until the end of the ages. As a people we have done our best to live stream Masses, to videotape homilies and send out varied and sundry podcasts.

But there was no Communion nor public gathering (communal liturgy) for praise and worship with Sunday just another day in a series of days, etc. Often we viewed live stream services in silence and isolation with an almost total absence and sense of a larger community of believers, responses were muted if there was any at all, meaningful engagement was absent and human contact was negligible.

With the restart of public Masses, we move the dial towards a more full and complete celebration of the Eucharist. There are still these restrictions — *six-feet of physical distance, no holy water in the fonts, no sign of peace, no Extra Ministers of Holy Communion, no Communion from the chalice, limited singing, no Offertory procession, no handing out of bulletins, etc.* **But we will receive the Body of Christ and be with fellow believers!!** This is a step in the right direction.

Hopefully in the days ahead these restrictions will be lifted and the full, active and conscious participation of the faithful in the liturgy will come to pass. We will bless ourselves with holy water reminding us of our baptismal lives as we enter the church. We will joyfully and boldly sing the Lord's glory in worship and praise. We will greet one another in the Lord's peace. We will give ourselves freely and fully in the many liturgical ministries (e.g. - musicians, Mass servers, ushers, gift bearers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc.). We will receive the fullness of Communion in both the Lord's Body and Blood. We will engage in conversation and fellowship at Beverage and Bite.

On Monday we begin this move toward a fullness. Let us rejoice and be glad.



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 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 May 3:

Mon - May 4 - 9:00 am - **Larry Spiekermeier** by Deacon Don Tinguely

Tues - May 5 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - ++**John & Mary Ermer**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - May 6 - 9:00 am - +**Bev Ehlers**

Thurs - May 7 - 9:00 am - ++**John & Mary Ermer**

Fri - May 8 - 9:00 am - +**Conrad Barnes** by Bea Bachmeier

Sat - May 9 - 5:00 pm - +Ann Marschke by Laura Allym

Sun - May 10 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Ida Seefeld by Jerry & DeLilah Volk

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

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Phone: 701-347-4609

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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

Mon., May 4 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy committee meeting with physical distancing. There will be **NO** Beverage and Bite for the month of May.

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

**After Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for those who cannot attend, Sunday and Daily Masses can be viewed on the Fargo Diocese website.**

Go to: [www.fargodiocese.net](http://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).

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

**Don & Veronica Gill - 56 years on May 5**  
**Bob & Janice Miller - 58 years on May 26**  
**Bob & Marge Volk - 58 years on May 26**

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Lillian Eberhardt, Jim Kieffer and Leo Kieffer and their families on the death of their brother-in-law, Gerald Barnes.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4*

|  | <b>Saturday May 9<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Sunday May 10<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b> | <b>Sunday May 10<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Mark Voss                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Shari Kensok                                   | Judy Von Bank                                    |
| <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. At this time <b>only</b> Father Ermer will be distributing the Body of Christ.</i> |                                                |                                                  |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | TBD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | TBD                                            | Courtney Hovelson                                |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                       | JoEllen Killoran                                 |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Procession of gifts is omitted until further notice.                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                |                                                  |

## 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.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Fr. Ermer will continue hear confessions on Saturday's from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. For physical 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.

**Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages** Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program helping married couples with a hurting marriage find new hope and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. For more information visit [HelpOurMarriage.com](http://HelpOurMarriage.com) or call (701)356-7962, or via email at: [RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org](mailto:RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org).

**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)



**Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission: Mother's Day and Father's Day cards are available.**

Cards are located in the 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.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...' - Acts 2:38*

The word "repent" means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.