

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS


Sun., Apr 27 – 9:00 am – KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
Sun., Apr 27 – 11:30 am – St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting
Sun., Apr 27 – 7:00 pm – Don Kinzler Gardening presentation in the Spirit of Life Center
Mon., Apr 28 – 6:30 pm – KC meeting at the rectory
Tues., Apr 29 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory
Wed., Apr 30 – Religious Education classes– **see below**
Tues., May 6 – 7:00 pm – Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory
Tues., May 13 – 7:00 pm – Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory

REMINDER: Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., April 30
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 B and 11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

St. Thomas parish will be honoring their 2025 confirmands and their 2025 high school graduates following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, May 4th. Please join us in celebrating them.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday May 3 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday May 4 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday May 4 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Keith Biggers	Karren Bartholomay
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Kristi Dutchuk Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Richard Family Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Gavin Besette Hannah Besette	Garman Family James Diemert
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	Volunteer needed	JoEllen Killoran Mike & Lisa Zahnow	Volunteer needed
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Volunteer needed	David Killoran Family	Volunteer needed
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Lucy Wagner		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

We extend a heartfelt congratulations to Christina Norrie as she was baptized and welcomed into full communion into the Catholic Church this past Saturday at our Easter Vigil Service. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her journey in our Catholic faith.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, May 18th** 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: #624, #150, #342, #334, #177. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Eucharistic Rosary Congress: Do Whatever He Tells You-All are invited to join us for a Eucharistic Rosary Congress with seven days of Adoration and Hourly Rosaries taking place at Sts Anne and Joachim Magnificat Chapel (5202 25th St S, Fargo) from Saturday, May 3rd at 8:30 am at the opening Mass through the closing Mass on Friday, May 9th at 7 am. Please call Cindy Petrich at 701-552-1675 to sign up or for more information. Our Mission is to bring every soul to believe in and to love deeply Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through Mary and the Rosary.

St. Mary’s Cathedral Spring Celebration: 604 N Broadway, Fargo. Saturday, May 3rd & 4th. Saturday, May 3rd, 6-8 pm. KC Burger Baskets, Live Band & Dance from 8– 10 pm, Live & Silent Auction. Sunday, May 4th, 11 am– 1:30 pm. Swedish Meatball Dinner, Kid’s Carnival, Raffle Drawing at 1:30 pm. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Catholic Home Missions: Special Diocesan collection **Sunday, April 27th**. This collection helps strengthen the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories by providing pastoral services including, evangelization, religious education, and the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups. The envelope for this collection can be found with your regular collection envelopes. Please consider giving generously.

This week’s Stewardship moment:
“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” ~ John 20:21
Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our “enemies.” Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving French toast and sausage **Sunday, April 27th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

St. Leo’s KC’s Gardening Seminar: **“Spring Lawn Care and Tips for Shopping in a Garden Center”** presented by Don Kinzler. **Sunday, April 27th at 7:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Open to the public and refreshments will be served.



God’s Gift Appeal 2025
Goal 4/17/2025

St. Leo’s	\$64,992	\$ 18,574
St. Thomas	\$ 10,217	\$ 5,650

Thank you to all parishioners who have made their gifts to the 2024 God’s Gift Appeal. Pledge cards/donations may be placed in the offertory collection basket or dropped off at the parish office.

Upcoming Diocesan Retreats: There are many retreat available in the coming months for anyone to attend. Please visit the Fargo of Diocese website for more information at: www.fargodiocese.org

PASTOR’S NOTES

Pope Francis

~~~~ a personal reflection ~~~~

My priesthood has been lived under the tutelage of five (5) popes (*Paul VI; John Paul I; John Paul II; Benedict XVI and Francis*). I was ordained during the final days of the papacy of Paul VI, who served as Pope for 15 years. This was followed by the one-month papacy of John Paul I. Then came the 27-year papacy of John Paul II, followed by 8-years of Benedict XVI and now the 12-years of Francis.

I did not personally meet any of these Popes, but their lives and papacies gave shape to my priest-hood. **Paul VI** guided the Church through the implementation of the Second Vatican Council and the many structures that undergird church life today. **John Paul I** only served for 33 days dying 3 ½ months into my first year of priesthood while serving St. Michael’s parish in Grand Forks. Then came the 27 year reign of **John Paul II**, who along with the 8 year papacy of **Benedict XVI**, left an abundance of deep theological writings on fundamental dimensions of human life and cultural issues (*e.g. -freedom, truth, love, etc.*). This was in addition to the second Catechism in the life of the Catholic Church along with a new Code of Canon Law under the oversight of John Paul II. Then Pope Francis was elected in 2013.

It seems to me Pope Francis’ papacy was much more directed towards pastoral issues, i.e., to the lived experience of Catholics in the modern world. From the beginning he directed our attention to the poor and the marginalized, those who found themselves on the peripheries of life. It was very important to him that such people not be forgotten nor their voices be lost in the din of modern life and the hustle and bustle of materialism and consumerism. He was renown for his Holy Thursday footwashings of male and female prisoners and even those not of the Christian faith. The Church must always proclaim and be alive in the mercy of God.

In many ways this direction of church life was captured in his call for synodality in the Church where the voices of all members be heard. That spirit of synodality was accompanied by his encouragement to enter into **dialogue** with others. True dialogue leads people into **encountering** the deeper matters of heart and mind. From such encounters people **accompany** one another in the joys, challenges and tribulations of life. Dialogue, encounter & accompany were the passwords of his life.

Out of this perspective he often challenged church leaders and priests to have “*the smell of the sheep*”, i.e., totally knowing the lived lives of the people they served. He frequently spoke forcefully against clericalism and church leaders and priests always looking for ‘perks and privileges’ and seeking power and status. He constantly reminded us – ‘we were ordained to serve and give our lives for our people’.

In turn, this led Pope Francis “to see” the Church as a **field hospital**, i.e., serving on the front lines of a modern culture that is ill and broken in many ways. The Church should be a ready refuge for the immigrant and refugee. The Church should speak courageously about economic injustice, the horror of war, caring for creation and ecology, the trafficking of human being, etc.

Pope Francis served the Church exquisitely. His voice and his presence was not always readily accepted. But in time, I believe, his vision of Church and church life will be seen as the prophetic voice of the Holy Spirit.

May he rest in peace and hear the Lord say —

*“Well done, good and faithful servant!  
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.”*



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
*Divine Mercy Sunday*  
April 27, 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 April 27:

Mon – Apr 28 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**  
Tues – Apr 29 – 9:00 am– St. Thomas– **NO MASS**  
*NO Mass at St. Leo’s*  
Wed – Apr 30 – 9:00 am – **Olivia Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman  
**Thurs – May 1 – 9:00 am – +Pope Francis**  
Fri – May 2 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**  
**Saturday – May 3 – 5:00 pm – +Betty Heyerman by Jim & Mary Heyerman**  
**Sunday – May 4 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Bob Von Bank by Judith Von Bank**  
**St. Leo’s - 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

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*  
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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 or by appointment.

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