

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Feb 1 – 11:30 am- St. Leo's Annual Parish Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center

Wed., Feb 4 – RE Classes – see below

Tues., Feb 3 – 7:00 pm – Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory

Thurs., Feb 5 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith

Mon., Feb 9 – 6:30 pm – Confirmation Parent meeting #2 in the Spirit of Life Center

Tues., Feb 10 – 7:00 pm – Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory

Sun., Feb 15 – 9:00 am – KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center

Wed., Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday – 5:15 pm – Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo

7:00 pm – Mass at St. Leo's

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 4th

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

Grades K- 5, 7, 8, 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grades 6 & 9 – Class B — 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm

12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Prayers and Sympathy:

Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Tony Roth and his family on the death of his uncle, Doug Ellenbecker.

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

NEWS AND NOTES

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, February 15th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome to sing. **Gentlemen, we need you too!** We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #730, #419, #453, #418, #590. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com



Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving pancakes and Langdon sausage **Sun., Feb. 15th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.



Lenten canisters: It's time to start preparing Lenten canisters for this year's season of Lent. According to our records, there are about 50 canisters still that need to be returned. To help defray the cost of having to order canisters for this year, we are asking that if you have any old Lenten canisters at home if you could please return them as soon as possible. Each canister costs around \$2. Canisters can be returned to the church at anytime. Thank you.

Redeemed Men's Retreat: March 19-21, 2026 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moorhead, MN. Every man needs the opportunity to step away from the noise, busyness, and relentless expectation of daily life and be reminded of his purpose and identity. This 3-day retreat is that opportunity. Come receive authentic and relatable testimonies from men who found strength, direction, and freedom by surrendering their life to God. For more information and to register please visit: www.fargodiocese.org/fm-redeemed

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Feb 7 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i> 1st Sat of February	Sunday Feb 8 8:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i> 2nd Sun of February	Sunday Sun Feb 8 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
	Megan Bolda Lois Titus	Shari Kensok	Keith Biggers
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Susan Kempel Deb Werner Paul Olsen	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt
Altar Servers	Richard Family Lako Family Bolda Family	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Carly Hovelson Tucker Killoran
Offertory Collectors	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Gary & Linda Milbrandt
Gift Bearers	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Flint & Dee Kasowski
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner	Deb Werner	

This week's Stewardship moment:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matthew 5:3

The phrase "poor in spirit" can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God's providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

PASTOR'S NOTES

Sermon on the Mount – *the radical call of holiness*

Beginning this Sunday and continuing until the Sunday before Lent begins our Sunday Gospel readings will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew's *Sermon on the Mount*, which comprises chapters 5, 6 and 7 of his Gospel.

Matthew's Gospel is written from the perspective of a Jew who has become a convert to Christianity and presents Christ as the very Messiah the Jews had always expected to come as God's Anointed One!

Mountains play an important part in Jewish history. Mountains are places where God descends and man ascends. They encounter one another and God reveals himself to his people. Moses ascended Mt. Sinai and received the Ten Commandments as God's revelation of his will about how people are to live in relationship to him and one's neighbor. The temple in Jerusalem was built on Mt. Zion as the place where God takes up residence among his people.

In Matthew's Gospel Christ begins his public ministry by going up a mountain where he sits down and begins to teach the fundamental characteristics of life with God. He begins with the *Beatitudes* [Mt. 5:1-12] as the staircase to heavenly life and the steps that must be taken by all true disciples.

That staircase consists of:

knowing one's need for God *[blessed are the poor in spirit]*,

being keenly aware of the world's need for God *[blessed are those who mourn]*,

giving one's allegiance to Christ and accepting his 'battle plan'

[blessed are the meek],

deeply desire the fruits of the spiritual life

[blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness],

being willing to see life through the eyes of the other *[blessed are the merciful]*,

being fully truthful, honest and transparent in thought, word and deed

[blessed are the clean of heart],

living for the other person's highest good without counting the cost

[blessed are the peacemakers {shalom}].

The Beatitudes are the working of God's grace in a believer's life. Such righteousness should issue forth in a remarkable patterns of behavior that go well beyond a minimal understanding of the Ten Commandments. The *Sermon on Mount* goes on and tells us beatified disciples (*do not harbor anger* [Mt. 5:22]; *do not look lustfully* [Mt 5:28]; *love and pray for enemies* [Mt. 5:44]; *are people of rightful prayer, fasting and almsgiving* [Mt. 6:2, 5, 16]; *do not store up earthly treasure* [Mt. 6:19]; *are not anxious about food and drink* [Mt. 6:31]; etc.). Christ ends his sermon by telling us that those who live in such ways have built their houses on rock and they will weather all the storms that life will throw their way [Mt. 7: 24-25]

Despite seeming to be impossible to live, the *Sermon on the Mount* is the ethic of discipleship. It expresses the holiness that God expects of us for Christ says, "unless your holiness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees you shall not enter the kingdom of God" [Mt. 5:20] ... you must be made perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect [Mt. 5: 48]." Perhaps the key to living the *Sermon on the Mountain* can be found later in Matthew's Gospel when Jesus tells his disciples, "... if you had faith the size of a mustard seed ... nothing would be impossible for you" [Mt 17:20]."

Such begins the public ministry of Jesus Christ in Matthew's Gospel and our walk with him this church year.



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 IN ORDINARY TIME

February 1, 2026

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 Feb 1:

Mon – Feb 2 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Feb 3 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Marvin Ries by Minnie Ries
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 4 – 9:00 am – ++Gerald & Kathy Hulm by Bill & Mona Franck

Thurs – Feb 5 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – Feb 6 – 9:00 am – +Shirley Marek by Monica Qvale

Saturday – Feb 7 – 5:00 pm – +Ralph Howard by Lori Howard

Sunday – Feb 8 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am – For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am – +Larry Zaun by Penny Zaun

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

Please call or email the parish office.

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

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.

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