


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 4<sup>th</sup>  
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  
12<sup>th</sup> 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

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Feb 7 5:00 pm St. Leo’s 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat of February	Sunday Feb 8 8:30 am St. Leo’s 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of February	Sunday Sun Feb 8 10:30 am St. Thomas
	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	

NEWS AND NOTES


Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is 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](mailto:wanda.mangin@yahoo.com)

Electric Piano for Sale: We have a new electric piano in the Choir loft. The electric piano that was in the Choir loft is now for sale. It is in the Spirit of Life Center for viewing and trial. It breaks into two pieces for transporting. \$500 or best offer. Contact the church office with any questions.

Confirmation 2026 Advance Notice: This year St. Leo’s Confirmation Liturgy with Bishop Folda will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the 5 pm Mass with 17 students being confirmed. There will be reserved seating for the Confirmation students and their families and the Mass will be longer than 1 hour and will have a bigger attendance than normal for a Saturday 5 pm Mass. For those who usually attend this Mass, you may want to attend one of the Sunday Masses that weekend (St. Leo’s– 8:30 am; St. Thomas– 10:30 am) given the limited amount of seating available at the 5 pm Mass.


Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony’s Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> St. S, Fargo) beginning with Mass at 5:15 PM; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food item donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to Peggy: [pmmots25@gmail.com](mailto:pmmots25@gmail.com)

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.



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast:  
Serving pancakes and  
Langdon sausage Sun.,  
Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 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, the 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 live to God. For more information and to register please visit: [www.fargodiocese.org/fm-redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/fm-redeemed)

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  
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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.