

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Feb 22 – 8:30 am Mass: OCIA Rite of Sending of Catechumens & Candidates
 Sun., Feb 22– 6:30-Ecumenical Prayer Service at Westminster Presbyterian church; Soup & Sandwich at 6pm
 Mon., Feb 23 – 6:30 pm– KC meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Feb 25 – 6:00 pm– St. Thomas – Stations of the Cross
 Wed., Feb 25 – RE Classes – see below
 Fri., Feb 27 – 6:30 pm – St. Leo’s – Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich supper at 6 pm
 Sun., Mar 1 – 9:00 am – KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
 Sun., Mar 1 – 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at Martins Lutheran church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Feb 25th

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

Did you collect all Jubilee Pilgrimage site coins? If you did, GREAT! Please call the parish office. We would like to recognize this spiritual effort. Thank you.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Feb 28 5:00 pm St. Leo’s 4th Sat of February	Sunday Mar 1 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Sun Mar 1 10:30 am St. Leo’s 1st Sun of March
	Tony Roth	Alecia Killoran	Karren Bartholomay
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt	Jared Nelson Ruth Monilaws Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
Altar Servers	Evelyn Roth Joe Kappes Jensen Kappes	Hannah Besette Ali Killoran	Olivia Garman James Diemert Isaac Diemert
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	JoEllen Killoran Betty Lou Stallman	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Michelle Kappes		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

FREE Lenten Devotional Items: There are numerous devotional items/booklets available in the church entry for the taking to help with your spiritual growth during this season of Lent. There is also a Lenten Calendar, to keep you abreast of all the various activities taking place during Lent; a Lenten canister, with the six charities that will benefit from your almsgiving, and a nail to keep in your pocket to remind you of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us. We encourage everyone to make use of these as a source of spiritual growth during this season of Lent.

Cantata Practice: All singers are invited to join the Casselton United Singers in performing this year’s cantata on Palm Sunday, March 29th at St. Leo’s Church. **Practices are on Sundays at 4 pm at St. Leo’s Church.** If you have any questions please contact Maari Loy at (701)261-1069.

Wild Game Feed: Saturday, February 28th, 5:30– 8:30 pm at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 2711 7th St. E, West Fargo, ND. Tickets are \$30/Adult, \$15 for 12 & under. Tickets can be purchased by calling the church office: (701)282-7217, or on-line (using Venmo) at: www.holycrosswestfargo.com/wild-game-feed For more information/details and raffle prizes, please see the flyer on the church bulletin board.

Lenten Canisters – One recipient of our Lenten canisters is **HIA Hospice**, formally known as Hospice of the Red River Valley, a local organization for individuals to receive coordinated, skilled care to meet their needs and wishes for the last chapter of their lives by providing end-of life care. In addition to individuals receiving care, their families receive support to help their loved one in their last days, plus grief support following the death.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” ~ Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other “gods” we have put before God.



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast:
 Serving French toast and
 Langdon sausage **Sun., Mar. 1st**
from 9:00 am to 12:00
pm in the Spirit of Life
 Center. Free will offering.



St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus
FISH FRY
 Friday, March 6th,
 5:30 to 7:00 pm
 Everyone welcome.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, March 15th** 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: #519, #520, #427, #463, #426, #486. YouTube is a **great** way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com

PASTOR'S NOTES

The gift of Lent

On the surface Lent can seem like a lot of doom and gloom. It begins with a smudge of ashes on Ash Wednesday with the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." It ends 40 days later with us looking into an empty tomb.

In between there are days of fast and abstinence and the 'giving up of something' – all with the conviction that doing so will make us better persons. Not denying any of this, there is a deeper three-fold dynamic to Lent that must not be overlooked.

In Lent we need to revisit 3 (three) essential markers in our lives:

1) Genesis 2:18 says, "It is not good for man to be alone."

Lent is about others.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our **spirit of almsgiving** — of reaching out and connecting with others in their deepest needs. There are countless good ways in which we can develop a habit of almsgiving: the **corporal works of mercy** [feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, bury the dead, visit the imprisoned]; Sunday Offertory giving; supporting God's Gift Appeal; giving to our Lenten canisters; the **spiritual works of mercy** [instruct the ignorant, forgive sins readily, correct the sinner, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead].

A good Lent will find us giving alms.

2) The Vatican II document on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*, 36) declares, "Creation without the Creator fades into nothingness."

Lent is about God.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our **spirit of prayer** and communion with God. Tertullian [160-230] is quoted as saying, "prayer is the one thing that can conquer God ... even the Lord himself prayed." In Lent there are countless good habits of prayer in which we could engage: Daily Mass; Stations of the Cross on Friday nights at St. Leo's and Wednesday nights at St. Thomas; Ecumenical prayer services on the Sunday evenings of Lent sponsored by the Casselton Ministerium; etc.

A good Lent will find us praying.

3) The pagan philosopher, Socrates [469-399 B.C.], is quoted as saying, "The unexamined life is not worth living."

Lent is about us.

Lent will ask us to deepen and enrich our **spirit of fasting**. We do that by examining more clearly and looking more deeply into the patterns and choices that make up our lives. In our examination of conscience we seek to root out the capital sins [pride, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, anger and sloth] and social injustice which often brands our lives. This turn from sin and vice (**aversion**) and the giving of ourselves to God and his mercy (**conversion**) can be celebrated in the many opportunities for the **Sacrament of**

Reconciliation [Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. at St. Leo's; area Lenten Reconciliation Services; St Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service on Friday, March 27th, or anytime by appointment].

A good Lent will find us fasting.

Such is the season of Lent. It is a time of opportunity to revitalize our lives of faith in the rich medicine of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a gift. May its prize be **NEW LIFE!!**



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT February 22, 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 22:

Mon – Feb 23 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Feb 24 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **NO MASS**

NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Feb 25 – 9:00 am – +Margaret Kensok by Carol Nilles

Thurs – Feb 26 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – Feb 27 – 9:00 am – **Special intention** by Sandie Nystrom

Saturday – Feb 28 – 5:00 pm – Rob Punton

Sunday – Mar 1 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am – For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am – +Don Nilles by Sue Knoll

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.

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