

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Jan 25 – 11:30 am- St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting  
 Mon., Jan 26 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Jan 28 – RE Classes – see below  
 Thurs., Jan 29 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith  
**Sun., Feb 1 – 11:30 am- St. Leo's Annual Parish Meeting in the Spirit of Life Center**  
 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

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 28<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 A — 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm

11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 31 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sat of January	Sunday Feb 1 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Sun Feb 1 10:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of February
	Megan Bolda	Alecia Killoran	Karren Bartholomay
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Paulette Schmitt <i>Volunteer needed</i>	Kristi Hovelson Cynthia Comprendio	Ruth Monilaws Jared Nelson Nichole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Lako Family Bolda Family	Damien Norrie Cole Hovelson	Olivia Garman James Diemert Isaac Diemert
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Gary & Linda Milbrandt	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bryce Kasowski Family	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Richard Muscha		<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## NEWS AND NOTES



Council 9477

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

**Bob & Anne Pyle - 54 years on January 29**

**St. Leo's Knight of the Month:** The Knight of the month is **Collin Miller**. Thank you Collin for all you do for the KC's. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

**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 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)

**Cost of Lighting a Votive Candle:** The cost of lighting a votive candle will be going up to \$5 per candle. A case of votive candles has gone up 70% in the last couple of years and as a result the church has ended up subsidizing votive candles by about \$500 a year. Therefore, we need to raise our price. Your cooperation in this matter is deeply appreciated.

**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.

**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](http://www.fargodiocese.org/fm-redeemed)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him." ~ Matthew 4:22*

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### The gift of your presence is requested —

#### St. Leo's Annual parish meeting

This coming Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> St. Leo's parish will have its annual parish meeting after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. **This meeting is open to all parishioners of St. Leo's parish.** It will begin with and free and very delicious meal. Younger children will be fed downstairs along with some entertainment so parents can participate in the meeting upstairs. **Come with fellow parishioners and learn more about your parish!!**

Perhaps a little reflection on parish life is in order.

Decades ago parish life played a central part in people's daily lives. Spiritual and social activities were a commonly part of a church's weekly life: there was the CYO for the youth, the Knights of Columbus for the men and altar societies and sodalities for women. **Obviously life has changed:** the explosion of social media, the ease of transportation, the all-encompassing place of sports, the rise of technology, etc. People find themselves going a thousand different directions. In all of this parish life has taken a hit!

Yet when one thinks about it, the essence of parish life has maintained a steady core. For people of faith, parish life is structured around the essentials of the spiritual life.

**Lives of faith** need to be nurtured and lived in parishes that offer places to pray, to offer praise and worship: **think** — *Sunday & daily Masses, Saturday afternoon confessions, Advent & Lenten Reconciliation Services, Rosary recitations, quiet visits to the Blessed Sacrament, weddings, First Reconciliation Services, Holy Week, Lenten Stations of the Cross, Tenebrae Service, Confirmation & Eucharist for the first time, Living Stations of the Cross, etc.*

**Lives of faith** need to be formed in the depth and wisdom of God's call to holiness and virtuous moral living: **think** — *Student Religious Education classes, literature rack in church entry, periodic Bible studies & adult education presentations, baptism classes, OCIA/RCIA classes for those joining the Church, special prayer and spiritual reading booklets for Advent, Christmas, Lent & Easter, diocesan retreats, etc.*

**Lives of faith** are called beyond themselves to the care of others in the many needs of the human condition and the building up of our faith community: **think** — *welcoming newcomers, Sunday beverage and bite, annual Fall Dinner, KC breakfasts, Lenten Fish Fry & Corn and Brat feed, Friday Lenten Soup & Sandwich, Cameroon Mission project, Giving Tree, Gifts for the Child, food collections, etc.*

**Lives of faith** know the certainty of death but bask in the promise of the resurrection and celebrate this belief in our care for the sick, the dying and our respect for the dead: **think** — *Anointing of the Sick, Communion to the homebound, hospital visitation, vigil (wake) services, funeral Masses, funeral receptions, etc.*

**Lives of faith** understand the need for facilities and the stewardship of finances to underwrite this enterprise of faith: **think** — *online giving or Offertory envelopes received in the mail, Lenten canisters, Ash Wednesday & Holy Thursday collections, support of the diocesan God's Gift Appeal, special appeals, etc.*

In summary this is the very way our parish life is structured: committees on **liturgy, education, social concerns, cemetery operations and finance and administration.**

A parish is not just a place where sacraments are celebrated and religion classes are taught. Hopefully a **parish is a community of people** who encounter one another as believers and disciples of Christ. The vibrancy of parish life is a concerted effort of all parishioners who honor their heritage, give of themselves, affirm others, seek the best, live in thanksgiving all the while firmly believing the best lies ahead when the Lords says to us, *"Well done good and faithful servant! Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world."*

**This is the spirit of St. Leo's annual meeting. All are welcome! Please come!**



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



### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME January 25, 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 Jan 18:

Mon – Jan 26 – 9:00 am – +**Jim Schmitt** by Paulette Schmitt

Tues – Jan 27 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Souls in purgatory**  
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Jan 28 – 9:00 am – +**Theresa Dooley** by Her children

Thurs – Jan 29 – 9:00 am – **Special Intention** by Lori Howard

Fri – Jan 30 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

**Saturday – Jan 31 – 5:00 pm – +Keith Marschke by Paulette Schmitt**

**Sunday – Feb 1 – St. Thomas – 8:30 am – +Lynn Olund by Liam Biggers**  
**St. Leo's - 10:30 am – For the people of our parishes**

#### Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: [james.ermer@fargodiocese.org](mailto:james.ermer@fargodiocese.org)

**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: [stleo@casselton.net](mailto:stleo@casselton.net)

**RE Coordinator:** Patty Roth

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: [dre@stleosnd.org](mailto:dre@stleosnd.org)

**Website:** [www.stleosnd.org](http://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.