

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Mar 15 – 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at Goshen Moravian church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm  
 Wed., Mar 18 – **NO** RE Classes  
 Wed., Mar 18 – 6:00 pm – St. Thomas – Stations of the Cross  
 Fri., Mar 20 – 5:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Holy Hour  
 Fri., Mar 20 – 6:30 pm – St. Leo’s – Stations of the Cross; Soup & Sandwich supper at 6 pm  
 Sat., Mar 21 – 10:00am – 11:00 am – St. Thomas – Father hearing confessions  
 Sun., Mar 22 – 6:30 pm– Ecumenical Prayer Service at St. Leo’s church; Soup & Sandwich at 6 pm  
 Wed., Mar 25 – 6:00 pm – St. Thomas – Stations of the Cross  
**Fri., Mar 27 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Reconciliation Service**  
 Sun., Mar 29– 4:00 pm– Cantata Performance followed by reception in the Spirit of Life Center

 **Easter Flowers:** This year there is a special envelope in your packet of offertory envelopes to use to make a donation to Easter Flowers in memory or honor of your loved ones. **Please turn in your envelope either in the collection basket or the parish office by March 29<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you.

**Attention! Need Sausage.** We are looking for deer/homemade sausage donations for the Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil reception. If you have any you would be able to share, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the parish office at 347-4609 if you can help. Thank you.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Mar 21</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of March</b>	<b>Sunday Mar 22</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i>St. Leo’s</i> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sun of March</b>	<b>Sunday Sun Mar 22</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i>St. Thomas</i>
<b>Lector</b>	Mallory Poulson Lee Ann Monilaws	Fred Eldridge	Gary Milbrandt
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terry Kensok Terri Monilaws	Kristi Hovelson Cynthia Comprendio
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ann/Grant Burchill Beau Parisien Max Monilaws	Claire/Jack Glennon Nolan/Paxton Ziegelmann	Abigail Killoran Liam Biggers
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Jacob Schultz Family
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Mona Franck	Sandra Keller	

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Jenifer Punton and her family on death of her husband, Rob.  
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

**Music for Holy Week and Easter:** Everyone is invited to join with the choir to provide beautiful music for Holy, Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Practices will be on Sunday mornings either before of after the Sunday Mass. The practice schedule will be:

- March 15– 11:45 am
- March 22– 9:45 am
- March 29– 9:00 am

Music will be provided. All singers are welcome.

**HELP NEEDED!** There are sign-up sheets located in the church entry for the liturgies during Holy Week. Lots of extra help is needed for these awesome celebrations! Please check them out to see where your can help.

**Good Friday Stations with Bishop Folda:** Everyone is invited to join Bishop Folda on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 am at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Fargo for Stations of the Cross. The meditations for the stations will be taken from Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *The Gospel of Life*.

**Lenten Canisters** – one recipient of our Lenten canisters is **Catholic Relief Services**, an international organization that carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. Services include sanitation, running water, education, food, medical care to those impacted by war and natural disasters in countries like Sudan, Haiti, India, Central America, Indonesia and the Middle East. **Please be generous in supporting our Lenten charities. Lenten canisters will be returned during Holy Week.**

### This week’s Stewardship moment:

*“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.” ~ 1 Samuel 16:7*

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

**EASTER CANTATA**  
**‘How Great Thou Art’**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2026**  
**4:00 pm**  
 St. Leo’s Catholic Church  
 All are Welcome – Free will  
 donation admission.  
 A reception will be held in the Spirit of  
 Life Center following the performance.

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, April 19<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: #177, #353, #366, #338, #191. 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)

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Bishop Folda's Pastoral letter

#### *Go, Make Disciples*

The March edition of our diocesan newspaper, the *New Earth*, contains a copy of Bishop Folda's long-awaited pastoral letter on his response to the Third Diocesan Synod that concluded on April 2024. That synod was a gathering of diocesan clergy, laity and religious who deliberated about the present and future direction of the Catholic Church in eastern North Dakota. This pastoral letter is Bishop Folda's response to that gathering of the faithful.

This Pastoral letter is divided into three parts: (1) encountering Christ; (2) being formed in the Gospel; and (3) being missionary disciples in our world.

Being a Christian is the result of an encounter with the person of Christ. In **Part One** of his letter Bishop Folda notes that the Eucharist "must be paramount in the life and activity of our diocesan Church. [5]" There we encounter Christ himself. With few exceptions he notes that no Catholic is exempt from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass (*cf. #10*). In light of the importance of the Eucharist, Bishop Folda is separating the reception of First Holy Communion and Confirmation from the present practice of receiving them the same day. Next year (*starting spring of 2027*) Holy Eucharist will be received in the third grade and Confirmation celebrated in the fourth grade (*starting Spring 2028*). I invite you to read sections 13 to 19 of the Pastoral letter for full details. Part one concludes with encountering Christ in Eucharistic Adoration, at retreats and in silence.

**Part Two** of the letter focuses on being formed in Gospel living. Bishop Folda states, "*A great need of our time is fuller catechesis for both adults and young people.*" In light of that Bishop Folda is asking for the development of a Catholic Formation Initiative for the Diocese of Fargo [38]. He is asking each home to have a Catholic edition of the Bible along with a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Beside formation in homes, each parish should offer formation opportunities including small group bible studies and faith sharing sessions. He is also reviewing the class texts we are using in our parish RE programs with some possible updating. He encourages but also cautions the use of mass media and social media. One must exercise prudence in what in what they view and watch. Some "*present a narrow agenda that is not in harmony with Catholic teaching... and distort the truth in its fulness and create discord and division [57]*"

**Part Three** concludes this Pastoral letter with reflections on being missionary disciples in our world. As our culture has become more indifferent and people more isolated, witness to our faith and evangelization are more important than ever. This should include every parish having a core team whose principal ministry is evangelization, offering intercessory prayer, outreach to the poor and needy, etc. We should never cease offering and encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life. With changing demographics parish planning is always an important part of parish life.

I strongly encourage parishioners to read this Pastoral letter.

#### Things of note:

- > **Eucharistic Holy Hour** at St. Leo's this Friday (March 20<sup>th</sup>) from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. followed by Lenten soup and sandwich and concluding with our last Friday Stations of the Cross for this Lent at 6:30 p.m.
- > **St. Leo's Lenten Reconciliation Service** is scheduled for Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We will have a total of 4 priests celebrating this great sacrament of mercy. Do plan on attending!!



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 OF LENT March 15, 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 Mar 15:

Mon – Mar 16 – 9:00 am – +**Mike Eberhardt** by Richard Muscha

Tues – Mar 17 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Souls in purgatory**

*NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's*

Wed – Mar 18 – 9:00 am – **NO MASS**

Thurs – Mar 19 – 9:00 am – +**Margaret Kensok** by Terry & Shari Kensok

Fri – Mar 20 – 9:00 am – +**Sr. Leonida Schmidt** by Sandie Nystrom

**Saturday – Mar 21 – 5:00 pm – +Beth Radermacher by Bill Radermacher**

**Sunday – Mar 22 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am – For the people of our parishes**

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am – +Marcel Sluke by Keith & Joni Biggers**

#### 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.