

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues., Dec 3 - 7:00 pm - Education meeting at the rectory
Sun., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception/Holy Day Vigil Mass at St. Leo's
Mon., Dec 9 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception/Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas
 Thurs., Dec 12 - 6:30 pm - 1st Eucharistic parent meeting
 Wed., Dec 18 - 6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo Night; 6:00 pm - Simple Supper
 Fri., Dec 20 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Advent Reconciliation Service
 Tues., Dec 24 - 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve- Mass at St. Thomas
 9:30 pm - Christmas Eve- Mass at St. Leo's; Carols begin at 9 pm
 Wed., Dec 25 - 10:00 am - Christmas Day- Mass at St. Leo's

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Dec 4

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
 Grades K & 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)
 Grades 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Grade 5 - Class B and 11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Congratulations to
Carter & Christina Norrie
 On the convalidation of their marriage
 on Wednesday, November 27th.
 We pray God may continue to bless their
 love for each other and that they may
 support each other throughout the
 joys and sorrows of life.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Dec 7 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo's</i> 1 st Sat of December	Sunday Dec 8 8:30 am <i>St. Leo's</i> 2 nd Sun of December	Sunday Dec 8 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
			
Lector	Megan Bolda Lois Titus	Shari Kensok	Alecia Killoran
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Susan Kempel Paul Olsen Deb Werner	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun
Altar Servers	Richard Family Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Carly Hovelson Claire Halland
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Travis & Darcie Besette
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Bryce Kasowski Family
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES

Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Holy Day

Sun., Dec 8th - 7:00 pm Mass at St. Leo's
 Mon., Dec 9th - 7:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas

St. Leo's Christmas Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is located in the Spirit of Life center. This year's giving tree will be supporting the Jeremiah Program. Please take a tag(s) and return your donations **unwrapped** to the church by **Saturday, December 21st**. Thank you.

Come and make some joyful music!
Join our Christmas Choir!
 Mass on Christmas Eve - Tues. Dec 24th
 Cards at 9:00 pm and Mass at 9:30 pm
 Mass on Christmas Day - Wed., Dec 25th at 10:00 am

Adults and students in 6th - 12th grades:
First practice Sun., Dec 1st from 8:45- 10:00 am
 Singers and instrumentalist are welcome- we'll have music ready! Practices continue on:
 Sun., Dec 15 - 11:30 am to 12:45 pm
 Sun., Dec 22 - 9:30 to 10:45 am
 Call the parish office with any questions. 347-4609

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, December 15th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30- 10:00 am that day to run through these songs: #39, #47, #62, #213, #68, #428. YouTube is great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

St. Leo's Sunday Financial Stewardship

Year to Date (October)	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Adult Envelopes	\$221,243	\$225,596	\$216,295
Children's Envelopes	\$687	\$701	\$618
Plate	\$15,944	\$13,899	\$12,414

Our Sunday offering has slipped this year. Whatever level of support you can give is deeply appreciated!!



Council 9477

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



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

KC Christmas Coloring Contest: The KCs will be handing out the Christmas coloring sheets on Wed., Dec 4th to all students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. Completed coloring sheets need to be returned by Sun., Dec 15th.

At Home With the Word Books: For the new church year, once again At Home With Word books - a book containing the Sunday Scripture readings and insightful commentary for each week will be available. Please see the display in the church entry for more information.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." ~ Luke 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

PASTOR'S NOTES

Advent — getting it straight ... doing it right

Of the five (5) seasons of the church year, Advent gets short shrift. It gets pushed out of the way as people make a mad dash for Christmas. The meaning and purpose of Advent is often never explored nor experienced. We have all learned from the world of medicine that having the right diagnosis makes all the difference in the world for the restoration of one's health. Knowing the place of Advent in the life of the Church is critical for living the life of the Church.

Advent begins the church year. **Advent is not Christmas!** Advent sets the stage for what is to come – *the gift of a Christmas Child whose life-giving death and resurrection will literally change time and history.*

Advent is that time in which the human spirit ponders the question – **Do I (we) really need such a child? How can a child change time and history?**

In our absolute busyness we seldom take time to ponder the full purpose of life and living. We get caught in the present moment and all its pressing needs – *making a living, paying bills, seeking the good life, keeping up with the Jones, funding our leisures, insuring our retirements, besting our competitors, establishing connections, having the latest app, seeking the best deal, etc.*

Whether we do any of this well or poorly, we are all going to die. Then what? That is where the season of Advent begins.

Advent begins a new church year, but the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent is always taken from Jesus' last days on earth when he declares the Son of Man will come on a cloud with full power and glory when our redemption is at hand. He prays that our *"hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily ... be vigilant at all times and pray ... (so as) ... to stand before the Son of Man."*

Advent begins by reminding us of Christ's second coming. In order for that to go well we need to revisit the story of the One who saved us. Beginning with the second Sunday of Advent we will meet John the Baptist who tells us to *"Prepare the way of the Lord!"*

Immaculate Conception – a most misunderstood Holy Day!

On Monday, December 9th the Church will celebrate **the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Normally this day is celebrated on December 8th, but this year December 8th falls on a Sunday and Sundays of Advent take precedence over holy days. Therefore, this solemnity has been moved to Monday for this year.

Since this holy day falls in the days leading up to Christmas many Catholics think that this day celebrates the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. **WRONG!** This holy day is about Mary's conception and birth without the stain of Original Sin. She is the only human person ever born without Original Sin **{Note: Jesus is a divine person with both a human and divine nature}**.

The Church teaches the Original Sin of our first parents is transmitted to subsequent generations through our being born. It also teaches whatever is believed about Mary comes from its teachings about Christ. Since Jesus was born of the Virgin into the human condition it would seem that Christ had original sin. But Christ is a divine person and no stain of sin can be a part of God. **Therefore, by a singular grace of God Mary was preserved from Original Sin (the Immaculate Conception).** Therefore, Christ had no such sin and what Scripture says is true – he was like us in all ways but sin [Heb. 4:15].

This Immaculate Conception of Mary teaches us that all are called to be sinless, but such sinlessness is the result of God's grace in our lives. **Holy Day Masses are as follows:**

Sunday, December 8th @ 7 p.m. at St. Leo's in Casselton
Monday, December 9th @ 7 p.m. at St. Thomas in Buffalo



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 ADVENT December 1, 2024



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 Dec 1:

Mon – Dec 2 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Tues – Dec 3 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – **+Bob Von Bank** by Joe & Lora Killoran
NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Dec 4 – 9:00 am – **+Rick Keller** by Peggy Bauslaugh

Thurs – Dec 5 – 9:00 am – **+Linus Kensok** by Margaret Kensok

Fri – Dec 6 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

Saturday – Dec 7 – 5:00 pm - +Vince Bachmeier by Bea Bachmeier

Sunday - Dec 8 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Ken Waldorf by Gary & Delores Grommesh
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

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Prayer Chain:

Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088

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.

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