

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mon., Dec 16 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting  
 Mon., Dec 16 - 6:45 pm - KC Family Game Night in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Dec 18 - 6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo Night; 6:00 pm– Simple Supper; Bingo to follow  
**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  
 Tues., Dec 31 - 5:00 pm - Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Vigil Mass at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Jan 1 - 10:00 am - Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's

**Thank you** to West Funeral Home for providing the *Places of Pilgrimage* calendars for 2025. The calendars are located on a table in the church entry. Please take only one per household. Thank you.

**Christmas Eve/Day Ministry Sign Up:**  
 Please see the sign up sheets in the church entry for Readers, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers for our upcoming Christmas Eve/Day Masses. Please consider signing up if you are planning to attend any of these Masses. Thank you.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Dec 21</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <b>St. Leo's</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of December</b>	<b>Sunday Dec 22</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <b>St. Leo's</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sun of December</b>	<b>Sunday Dec 22</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>St. Thomas</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Fred Eldridge	Gary Milbrandt
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terri Monilaws Richard Muscha	Linda Milbrandt Jurgen Suhr
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Grant Burchill Ann Burchill Beau Parisien	Claire Glennon Jack Glennon Nolan Ziegelmann	Gavin Besette Hannah Besette
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Travis & Darcie Besette
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Lance Monilaws Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joe & Lora Killoran
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Mona Franck	Sandra Keller	

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

Adults and students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades:

Practices will be:

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

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

**Jack & Rosemary Line - 56 years on Dec 21**  
**Leo & Alexia Kieffer - 57 years on Dec 28**

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Mary Jendro and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Glenn Smith. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

### **Knight of Columbus - Family Game Night:**

Come and Join the Knights of Columbus for a Family Game Night on **Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:45 pm.** The Vikings football game will be playing for those who want to watch. Bring some food to share, bring your favorite game or join a game with the St. Leo's Community. This is for all genders, all ages, but kids must have a parent or guardian present. Let's have a fun Monday Night!

### **This week's Stewardship moment:**

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." ~ Philippians 4:6*

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God — He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

### **Third Week of Advent:**

Candle Color - Pink

Candle Represents - Joy

This candle symbolizes the joy we are filled with for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. This Sunday, often called "Gaudete Sunday", which means "rejoice" or "praise", also reflects on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.



### **Advent Family Bingo Night** **Wed., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm** **Simple Supper of Hot Dogs at 6 pm.**

Prizes awarded! Treats will be served!  
 Cost to play is \$1 for two cards  
 or a non-perishable food item.  
 Proceeds go to the Casselton Food Pantry.  
 Everyone is welcome!

**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 21<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you.

**Gifts for the Child:** We will again be collecting items such as diapers, formula, baby wash, baby bottles, clothing and blankets to be given to Birthright of Fargo/Moorhead, a pregnancy support service for women and children. Donated items can be put by the crib located in the church entry. Monetary donations can also be turned in to the parish office.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Advent Reconciliation —

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord ...*

Coming clean and starting anew is good psychological medicine. Those involved in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) know the *gift of the 5<sup>th</sup> step* of their 12-step program. The 5<sup>th</sup> step is a moral review of one's life and sitting down and sharing that review with another person. It is in the very honest telling of the lies, the deceptions, the duplicity and the moral failings of one's life that a spirit of renewal begins to bud forth in that person's life.

During the Advent season John the Baptist is the dominant voice in our Scripture readings. He speaks of repentance and making straight a path so the Lord can enter our lives. We must level the mountains of arrogance and pride, and fill in the valleys of deficit moral living. **We need to come clean so a spirit of renewal can take hold of our lives.**

Christ knows the human spirit. He shared our human nature in all ways but sin. Christ knows how humanity can be seduced into lies, deception and duplicity. He knows this deficit moral living has a cancerous effect on conscience and moral living. People convince ourselves they are not 'big time' sinners like Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin. But slowly and surely consciences become deaf and blind to what is truly good and right. Spiritual lives become lethargic and compromised. What they do and how they live gives scandal to family and friends. What was thought to be private and personal has now become public and 'out there'. Family life stumbles from lack of nobility and integrity. Young ones see hypocrisy and duplicity and the downward cycle continues.

**Yet at the same time** stories are told of martyrs and mystics, of saints and angels, of a call to holiness and a promise of life without end to all who give themselves to Jesus Christ.

Jesus promises forgiveness seventy times seven times to all who forsake the lure of sin and seek the Kingdom of God. On the night of his resurrection from the dead his first public words to his apostles were, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.*" Christ left his Church the gift of his reconciling love in the sacrament of Reconciliation. During this Advent season area Catholic Churches schedule Reconciliation services. **St. Leo's is scheduled for Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Like the 5<sup>th</sup> step in the AA program we come confessing our deficit moral living and leave absolved, resurrected and flush with a new lease on life. What a gift! What a treasure!

**Has it been a while? Treat yourself to new life!**

### Taking Stock ...

As we come to the end of another calendar year I bring the following financial information to your attention:

#### Diocesan Capital Campaign

- > 57 of 260 St. Leo's households have pledged \$239,080 towards our goal of \$289,086 leaving us a balance of \$50,006 yet to pledge;
- > 14 of 45 St. Thomas households have pledged \$30,770 towards our goal of \$49,536 leaving us a balance of \$18,766 yet to pledge.

#### God's Gift Appeal

- > 74 of 259 St. Leo's households have pledged \$42,278 towards our goal of \$61,723 leaving us \$19,445 short of our goal;
- > 14 of 42 St. Thomas households have pledged \$5925 towards our goal of \$9893 leaving us \$3968 short of our goal.

**As you can see we are running behind.** If you have not yet contributed, there are both God's Gift and Capital campaign envelopes at the back of the church for your use. **Your support is deeply appreciated.**



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 OF ADVENT December 15, 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 15:

Mon – Dec 16 – 9:00 am – **Luz Sullivan**

Tues – Dec 17 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – **+Marvin Ries** by Minnie Ries  
*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – Dec 18 – 9:00 am – **Marilyn Gilbertson** by Paulette Schmitt

Thurs – Dec 19 – 9:00 am – **+Shirley Marek** by Monica Qvale

Fri – Dec 20 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

**Saturday – Dec 21 – 5:00 pm - +Pam Lowry by Sue Knoll**

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

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am - Special Intention 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: 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

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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.

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