

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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
 Sun., Jan 5 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
 Wed., Jan 8 - Religious Education classes resume
 Mon, Jan 13 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
 Tues., Jan 14 - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory




Cameroon Card Clearance Sale:

For a limited time there is a table set up in the Spirit of Life Center to purchase cards one last time. Monies raised from the card sales is sent to our Mission in Cameroon, Africa. Clearance Sale Cards can be purchased for free will donation. Thank you for your support towards our mission.

2024 Contributors: We ask that you please try and have your 2024 contributions in before December 31st. IRS regulations state that if a donor wants to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for 2024 for income tax purposes, it must be received or postmarked by December 31st. Checks dated for December 31st will be credited to your 2024 offertory statement and checks dated January 1st will be credited to your 2025 statements. Thank you.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 4 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Jan 5 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Jan 4 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Lois Titus Megan Bolda	Judy Von Bank	Karren Bartholomay
Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun	Kristi Dutchuk Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler
Altar Servers	Richard Family Tristan/Ignatius Lako	Damien Norrie Gavin Besette	James Diemert Garman Family
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Carter Norrie Family	Adam Diemert Family
Lead Rosary	Lucy Wagner		Volunteer needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Holy Day Mass Schedule -

Tuesday, December 31st - 5 pm at St. Thomas
NO 9 am Daily Mass at St. Thomas
 Wednesday, January 1st - 10 am at St. Leo's



Council 9477

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: Serving pancakes and sausage **Sunday, January 5th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest will be held on Sunday, **January 12th at 2:00 pm** for boys & girls ages 9 - 12 in the Central Cass Elementary School West Gym.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, January 19th** 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: #500, #375, #334, #497. YouTube is great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas environment at St. Leo's

Lee & Jackie Anderson	in honor of Lee & Jackie Anderson family
Anonymous	in honor of St. Leo's Christmas Ministry Volunteers
Bea Bachmeier	in memory of Vince Bachmeier
James & Sandy Bowles	in memory of Janice Muscha
Brad & Sue Braaten	in memory of Clarence & Margaret Baumler and Rube & Bev Braaten
Don & Audrey Cramer	in honor and in memory of all living and deceased family & friends
Skip & Audrey Doyle	in honor of all St. Leo's parishioners
Bill & Mona Franck	in memory of Joe Franck, Joe & Helen Krumm, Gerald & Cathy Hulm and in honor of Helen Franck and their grandchildren
Cole & Mary Jendro	in memory of deceased family members
Margaret Kensok	in memory of Linus & Lynn Kensok
Kari Muscha	in memory of Russel Muscha
Richard Muscha	in memory of Joseph & Margaret Muscha and Jake & Evelyn Schlenker
Don & Mary Ellen Nilles	in memory of all Nilles & Duval deceased family members
Sandra Nystrom	in memory of Vincent Nicolai & Dale Nystrom
Bill Radermacher	in memory of Beth Radermacher
Paulette Schmitt	in memory of James Schmitt, Ray & Clarice Schmitt and Leonard & Doris Brandenburg
Lois Titus	in memory of Al J, Sally and Neil Artz
Richard Voeller	in memory of all deceased family members

This week's Stewardship moment:

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." ~ 1 John 3:1

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received — being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Christmas season – *rich, short and full*

The Christmas season is the shortest season of the church's liturgical life. It usually lasts three weeks or less. It begins with the celebration of the Christmas Mass and extends through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year falls on Sunday, January 12th.

But, between Christmas and the Baptism of the Lord, the Church celebrates a plethora of holy and spiritual events:

A Christmas octave of eight (8) days from December 25th to January 1st that center on meditating on the mystery of God becoming man (**the Incarnation**);

three solemnities: [Christmas; Mary, Mother of God; and Epiphany];

five feast days: [St. Stephen (Dec. 26th); St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (December 27th) **Holy Innocents** (December 28th); **Holy Family**; **Baptism of the Lord**].

With his baptism by John the Baptist, Christ begins the three-year public ministry narrated in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Christmas is much more than the sentimentality that is often associated with the manger scene. The Christmas season is really the Gospel in miniature. All the major themes found in the public ministry of Jesus are found in the stories that dominate the Christmas season. **For example**:

- (1) the angel's song at the birth of Jesus reminds us that Christ came to unite heaven and earth, which had been rent apart by the sin of our first parents;
- (2) when Jesus is found in the Temple he reminds his parents he must be about his Father's business, which is the essence of Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane when he prays that his Father's will be done;
- (3) the story of the Magi remind us of the universality (catholicity) of Christ's mission to the whole of the human race;
- (4) Simeon's prophecy to Mary that her heart would be pierced by a sword looks forward to that famous sculpture work of the *Pieta* where Mary holds the body of her son as he is taken down from the Cross. All discipleship bears the mark of suffering.

With this understanding may our Christmas season be a little richer in appreciating the wonder of God's love — *it begins in a manger, is seemingly 'snuffed out' on Calvary, but breaks the bonds of death with the Easter resurrection, only to fill the world at Pentecost with the unconquerable hope of eternal life.* As John's Gospel says, "... *through him the world was made, yet the world did not know who he was. To his own he came, yet his own did not accept him. Anyone who did accept him he empowered to become children of God... of his fullness we have all had a share ... love following upon love.*" (Jn 1: 10-12,16)

**Such is the beauty and splendor of Christmas,
of Christmas people, of a Christmas world!**

A litany of thanks

Thank you very much for all the thoughtfulness you sent my way this Advent and Christmas season – greetings, goodies, cards, gifts, family photos. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your pastor. May our 2025 be rich in all that is good and holy — **Happy New Year!!**

The staff also sends their thanks for the greetings and goodies that have come our way and made it into the parish office in the last days of Advent. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

Last, but not least, a deep thank you who made our Christmas Service so wonderful – those who helped **decorate the church** on Christmas eve morning and our **musicians** who faithfully practiced and offered their voices to lead us in praise and worship of God. **Thanks so much!**



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



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 29, 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 29:

Mon – Dec 30 – 9:00 am – +**Janice Muscha** by Richard Muscha

Tues – Dec 31– **NO 9 am Daily Mass at St. Thomas**

Tues – Dec 31– Mary, Mother of God Holy Day - 5:00 pm - St. Thomas - +Marvin Ries

Wed – Jan 1 – Mary, Mother of God Holy Day- 10:00 am – St. Leo's - Deacon Don Tinguely

Thurs – Jan 2 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Fri – Jan 3 – 9:00 am – +**Shirley Marek** by Monica Qvale

Saturday – Jan 4 – 5:00 pm - +Jim Schmitt by Sue Knoll

Sunday - Jan 5 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Marvin Ries by Minnie Ries

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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.