

PASTOR'S NOTES

The woman of Advent – *Blessed Virgin Mary* > **December 8th is the Holy Day and solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

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 that the Original Sin of our first parents is transmitted to subsequent generations through our being born into the human race. 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. As Scripture says – he was like us in all ways but sin [Heb. 4:15]. But Mary's "Yes" to God's saving plan brought forth the savior of the human race. As Scripture says of Mary through the angel Gabriel she is "full of grace". [Lk. 1:38] Jesus was born of woman and therefore he shared our human nature at the same time being God's only begotten Son. To be a worthy vessel of this divine plan of salvation the Church teaches – **by a singular grace of God, Mary was preserved from Original Sin** (the Immaculate Conception). Therefore the Church celebrate this mystery of faith.

Masses for this Holy Day of Mary's Immaculate Conception are as follows:
Wednesday, December 7th @ St. Leo's in Casselton at 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 8th @ St. Thomas in Buffalo at 7 p.m.

> **December 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

On December 9th of 1531 not many years after the Spaniards had conquered the Aztec nation in Mexico a young Aztec man, Juan Diego Cuanhtlatotzin, who had become Catholic, was on his way to Mass. On his way he encountered a beautiful young woman who declared to him, "*I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, mother of the True God.*" This happened at Tepeyac hill, the site of a former Aztec pagan temple. The woman asked Juan Diego to have the archbishop of Mexico City build a church on the site of this hill. When the archbishop asked for a sign, Juan Diego relayed that the woman.

On December 12, 1531 the woman asked Juan Diego to go to the summit of the hill. Even though it was winter Juan Diego found a bunch of Castilian roses. The woman placed these roses inside of Juan Diego's cloak and told him to take them to the archbishop. When Juan Diego opened his cloak to the archbishop the roses fell out, **but imprinted on his cloak was the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

That nearly 500-year old cloak and its image can still be seen today at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a northern neighborhood of Mexico City. Guadalupe is a Spanish translation of Tecuotlaxope meaning "*she will crush the serpent of stone*". Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe as patroness of the Americas and in 1999 Pope John Paul II raised the date of December 12th to be a feast day for all the countries of the Americas.

This day of spiritual pride for Hispanics is marked with major fiestas throughout Mexico, Central America and southwestern United States. Mary is seen as mother, protectress and guardian of the poor, the weak, and especially the unborn.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 4, 2022

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 4:

Mon - Dec 5 – 9:00 am – +**Ken Waldorf** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Tues - Dec 6 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's — NO 9 am Daily Mass

Wed- Dec 7 - 9:00 am - Daily Mass at St. Leo's - +**Linus Kensok** by Margaret Kensok

Wed- Dec 7- Holy Day/Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass- 7:00 pm– St. Leo's- +Vince Bachmeier

Thurs – Dec 8 – 9:00 am - Pray Liturgy of the Hours - *Not a Mass*

Thurs - Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Holy Day/Immaculate Conception Mass– St. Thomas - +Tim Lulay

Fri – Dec 9 – 9:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran

Sat - Dec 10 - 5:00 pm - +Zachary Kaufman by Ron & Thuy Kaufman

Sun - Dec 11 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Scott Friestad by Larry & 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:

Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555

Kelsey Lako: 793-7088

Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo's Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay

St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

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.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Dec 4 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Tues., Dec 6 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Dec 7 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas;  
 NO RE classes or Simple Supper at St. Leo's due to Holy Day Mass at 7 pm  
**Wed., Dec 7 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception/Holy Day Vigil Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Thurs., Dec 8 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
**Thurs., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception /Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
 Wed., Dec 21 - 6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo, 6:00 pm Simple Supper  
 Wed., Dec 21 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory

**Special Collection:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has requested that a collection be taken in regards to the natural disasters that occurred in 2022, i.e. hurricanes in Florida, Haiti and Puerto Rico. Envelopes for this special collection can be found on the tables at the back of the church. Envelopes with your donation can be returned to the office or dropped in the collection basket.

**St. Thomas Church Annual Fall Drive:** St. Thomas is once again holding their annual Fall Drive. We ask each family to donate \$20 and each single person to donate \$10. Donations may be given to Linda Milbrandt, Treasurer, after Mass.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Dec 10<br/>5:00 pm<br/>St. Leo's</b>  | <b>Sunday Dec 11<br/>8:30 am<br/>St. Leo's</b>                                | <b>Sunday Dec 11<br/>10:30 am<br/>St. Thomas</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Mark Voss                                         | Shari Kensok                                                                  | Gary Milbrandt                                   |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Bill Franck<br>Nicole Scherweit                   | Denise Bartholomay<br>Ann Faught<br>Mary Jendro<br>Susan Kempel<br>Paul Olsen | Penny Zaun<br>Larry Zaun                         |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Addison Hushka<br>Noah Hushka<br>Sophie Scherweit | Sarah/Melody Kempel<br>Mikaela Prochnow<br>Quinn Gunkel                       | Jami Vavra<br>Hannah Besette                     |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                      | Keith & Joni Biggers                             |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                          | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                      | JoEllen Killoran<br>Betty Lou Stallman           |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Richard Muscha                                    | Deb Werner                                                                    |                                                  |

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

Wed., Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm Mass at St. Leo's  
 Thurs., Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm Mass at St. Thomas

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

**Richard & Janice Muscha - 54 years on Dec 6**  
**Jack & Rosemary Line - 54 years on Dec 21**  
**Leo & Alexia Kieffer - 55 years on Dec 28**

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Rose Mary Eldridge and her family on the death of her brother, Bill Kissane. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* — Matthew 5:4

**Cathedral Solemn Vespers:** All are welcome to pray and sing vespers each evening from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo, (615 7<sup>th</sup> St. N.). The Church eagerly awaits the coming of the Messiah and sings the "O Antiphons" which recall various prophetic titles of the Christ: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel.

**Catholic Daughters to Meet:** Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's Church in Fargo, (710 10<sup>th</sup> St. N) beginning Mass at 5:15 pm; pot luck meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to [regentctstann@gmail.com](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com).

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ~ Matthew 3:10*

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused? Our time, talent and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** In the Spirit of Life Center Today, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm serving Biscuits and gravy with scramble eggs. Free will offering with proceeds supporting the Jeremiah Project.

**Christmas Tee:** The KC's are looking for a Christmas tree for St. Leo's church. There are some size requirements, but if you have one and it is accessible to cut and move, please contact Jerry Christiansen, (701)238-6819 or Micah Bartholomay, (701)404-0527 by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**KC Christmas coloring contest:** Coloring sheets were handed out this past Wednesday (Nov. 30) to students in grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Colored sheets need to be returned by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Catholic Married Couples Retreat Week-ends:** Deacon Ben and Jennine Seitz will lead a retreat on Virtues- Building Blocks for Great Lives & Joy Filled Marriages. They will lead you to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the virtues, how embracing virtues more deliberately every day leads to greater joy and fulfillment in marriage and in life. Retreat weekends are: January 20-22, February 17-19 and March 3-5 at the Franciscan Sisters of Dilligen Retreat Center, Hankinson, ND. For more information and to register visit: [www.sixstonejars.org](http://www.sixstonejars.org)