

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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
Mon., Dec 9 - NO 9 am Daily Mass at St. Leo's
 Thurs., Dec 12 - 6:30 pm - 1st Eucharistic parent meeting
 Mon., Dec 16 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
 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

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Dec 11


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 A and 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

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

	Saturday Dec 14 5:00 pm St. Leo's 2nd Sat of December	Sunday Dec 15 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Dec 15 10:30 am St. Leo's 3rd Sun of December
	Mark Voss	Judy Von Bank	Steve Carvell
Lector			
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Howard Bill Franck	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Damien Norrie Layla Norrie	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Travis & Darcie Besette	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Gift Bearers	Seth Hauschulz Family	David Killoran Family	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha		Volunteer needed

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

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Sue Nesemeier on the death of her husband, Larry.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4

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:

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

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.

This week's Stewardship moment:

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." ~ Philippians 1:9-10

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person? Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

Second Week of Advent:

Candle Color - Purple

Candle Represents - Peace



This candle signifies Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. It also symbolizes the peace that Jesus Christ brings to the world.

St Thomas is collecting nonperishable food items for families in need of a Christmas meal. Items donated could be canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberries, etc. Monetary donations can also be dropped off at the Buffalo Food Mart to help with hams, turkeys, buns, etc. We also have a tree set up and would love to see it decorated with new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves! **Please donate by December 15th**. Items can be dropped off at the church. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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

Gentle reminder — *Holy Day of Mary's Immaculate Conception*

On Monday, December 9th the Church will celebrate the **Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Normally this holy 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. **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

Advent — *the three comings of Christ*

Many spiritual writers about Advent tend to focus on the two comings of Christ — (1) the one at the end of time {aka, *the Second Coming*} and (2) Christ's first coming at Bethlehem 2000+ years ago. This kind of focus suggests that the proper preparation for Christ's Second Coming would mean revisiting and reviewing Christ's First Coming that we celebrate at Christmas time. In doing so, one should better understand the spiritual life that flows from life in Christ.

In that spirit St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a French monk who lived in the 1100s, takes a little different tack when he once wrote about Advent. In that Advent sermon St. Bernard says this —

We know there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God and they will look upon him whom they have pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty. ...

In case someone should think that what we say about the middle way is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: *If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and will come to him.* ... Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart ... Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. ...

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. ... This coming will fulfill what is written: *As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall bear the likeness of the heavenly man.* Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.

In this Advent season may the word of God come to us [the third coming] and take possession of us.

Envelopes — *at the back of the church*

As we come to the close of this year, there are 3 different envelopes at the back of the church for collections that have been taken up this year: (1) **God's Gift Appeal** that supports the daily operations of the Diocese of Fargo; (2) A pledge envelope in support of the Diocese of Fargo's **Capital Campaign**; (3) a **natural disaster envelope** to support Catholic parishes devastated by hurricanes in southeastern United States this Fall. If you have not yet supported these worthy causes, *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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8, 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 8:

Mon – Dec 9– 7:00 pm – St. Thomas– Holy Day/Immaculate Conception- +Fr. William Ovsak

NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Tues – Dec 10 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – +Souls in purgatory

NO MASS at St. Leo's

Wed – Dec 11 – 9:00 am – +Harriet Dimmer by Marie Dormanen

Thurs – Dec 12 – 9:00 am – +Jim Waldorf by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Fri – Dec 13 – 9:00 am – +Lynn Kensok by Ann Faught

Saturday – Dec 14 – 5:00 pm - ++Clem & Irene Pollock by Missy Poulson

Sunday - Dec 15 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Bob Von Bank by Clarence & Sandi Loesch

St. Leo's - 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.