

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mon, Jan 13 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
 Tues., Jan 14 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Jan 15 - RE class — see below
 Tues., Jan 21 - 7:00 pm - Finance Committee meeting at the rectory
 Wed., Jan 22 - 6:45 pm - Ecumenical Week of Christian Unity Service for all parishioners
 Sun., Jan 26 - 11:30 am - St. Thomas Pastoral Council meeting at the church
 Mon., Jan 27 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 15

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



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.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 18 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Jan 19 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Jan 19 10:30 am St. Leo's
Lector	Mallory Poulson Lee Ann Monilaws	Jackie Vavra	Steve Carvell
Eucharistic Ministers	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Grant Burchill Ann Burchill Beau Parisien	Carly Hovelson Abigail Killoran	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	Volunteers needed
Gift Bearers	Volunteers needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	Volunteers needed
Lead Rosary	Mona Franck		Volunteer needed

NEWS AND NOTES

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

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.

Catholic Man Night: Monday, January 13th, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (210 5th Ave W, West Fargo). 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Adoration & Confession; 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm meal and talk. The guest speaker is Bishop John Folda. Meal is a free will offering. **All men are invited, bring a friend!**

Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, January 14th at St. Anthony's Church (710 10th St. S, Fargo) beginning with Mass at 5:15 PM; meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable food item donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to regentctstann@gmail.com

Upcoming Diocesan Retreats: There are many retreat available in the coming months for anyone to attend. Please see the information on the bulletin board or visit the Fargo of Diocese website for more information at: www.fargodiocese.org

This week's Stewardship moment:

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...” ~ Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus — the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

PETER'S PENCE: Sunday, **January 26th** has been designated as *Peter's Pence* Sunday. Envelopes for this collection are found with your regular collection envelopes. This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father and provides emergency assistance to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and persecution. Please consider giving generously. Thank you.



Life-Giving Wounds Support Group-Online:

January 13– March 3, 2025. The Life-Giving Wounds peer support group is a unique opportunity for healing for adults (18+) whose parents have divorced, separate, or left broken families to reflect intentionally on the wounds caused by their family's breakdown and to heal from them, together with others who know this pain and knowledgeable, compassionate leaders, who are also predominantly adult children of divorce or separation themselves. For more information and to register visit: www.fargodiocese.org/lgw-sg

Fr. Mike Schmitz podcasts for 2025: Listen for free on the Ascension App to *The Bible in a Year* and *The Catechism in a Year* podcasts by Fr. Mike Schmitz. More information on how to download these podcasts is available on the bulletin board in the church entry. You can either take a flyer with the information or scan the QR code available on the bulletin board to get the podcasts.

PASTOR'S NOTES

Why baptism for Jesus? – He is sinless!!

For most Christians baptism is associated with the removal of original sin from our souls. Today's feast celebrates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan river. **But Jesus is God and sin can have no part of God. So why did Jesus get baptized? He is sinless and has no need of baptism!**

If we read the story of Jesus' baptism, John the Baptist insists that Jesus should baptize him; yet Christ insists that John baptize him. In turn the Church notes a number of points in this feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

- 1) **Christ's baptism** reveals the fact of Christ's divine sonship when the Father's voice declares, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- 2) Beyond the Father's voice **Christ's baptism** includes the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. This suggests the appointment and anointing (commissioning) of Christ who, in turn, will now begin his public ministry in the land of Israel. *(In effect this feast concludes the Christmas season and is the transition feast into Christ's 3-year mission of redeeming the human race culminating in his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending forth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.*
- 3) **Christ's Baptism** professes his solidarity with the human race including the sin we bear because of our descent from our first parents and their Fall from grace. *(In essence, this becomes the overarching mission of Christ – the restoration of the likeness of God that was lost by the sin of Adam and Eve.)*

As St. Cyril of Alexandria [374-444] writes, "In a plan of surpassing beauty the Creator of the universe decreed the renewal of all things in Christ. In his design for restoring human nature to its original condition, he gave a promise that he would pour out on it the Holy Spirit along with his other gifts ... for the Father is to accept us in Christ as his adopted children ... He (Christ) receives it (the Spirit) to renew our nature in its entirety and to make it whole again."

- 4) **Christ's Baptism** in the waters of the Jordan river makes all the waters of baptism holy.

As St. Maximus of Turin [380-465] declares, *"Christ is baptized not to be made holy by the water, but to make the waters holy... For when the Savior is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages."*

Student Stewardship – Slipping, slipping ...

In 2016 our **student's** Sunday Offertory collection for St. Leo's parish averaged \$11.86 per student for that year. Eight years later (*this past year 2024*) and with 30 more students, our student Sunday Offertory giving has disappointedly slipped to \$4.45 per student.

Parents we can use your help in this matter. This past week all St. Leo's RE students received a packet of Sunday Offertory envelopes for 2025. If each student were to give 25 cents per week during the course of this year, we would collect over \$2000. **Please remember** – all money collected in student Offertory envelopes is sent to the mission work that goes on in Chimbote, Peru, South America. **Again thank you parents** for reminding your student(s) to use their Sunday Offertory envelopes, which helps some of the poorest people in the world..

A note – if your child forgets to bring their Sunday Offertory envelope from home when they come to church, there is a basket of generic children envelopes on the shelf behind the last pew at the back of the church for your child's use. Just have them write their name of that envelope.



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 Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2025

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 Jan 12:

Mon – Jan 13 – 9:00 am – **Special Intention** by Lee & Jackie Anderson

Tues – Jan 14 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Souls in purgatory**

NO Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Jan 15 – 9:00 am – **+Virginia Pedeliski** by Ted Pedeliski

Thurs – Jan 16 – 9:00 am – **+Harriet Dimmer** by Rene Anderson

Fri – Jan 17 – 9:00 am – **+Lynn Kensok** by Sue Knoll

Saturday – Jan 18 – 5:00 pm - +Mary Ann Waxler

Sunday - Jan 19 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Bob Von Bank by Minnie Ries

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

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

RE Coordinator: Patty Roth

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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

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.