

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Jan 5 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Jan 8 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Jan 8 - Religious Education classes resume- see below  
 Mon, Jan 13 - 6:30 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., Jan 14 - 7:00 pm - Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory  
 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

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 8

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 B and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11 5:00 pm St. Leo's	Sunday Jan 12 8:30 am St. Leo's	Sunday Jan 12 10:30 am St. Thomas
<b>Lector</b>	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Gary Milbrandt
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Bill Franck Lori Howard	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Susan Kempel Paul Olsen Deb Werner	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Hannah Besette Hallie Besette
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Kyle Boeder Family	Volunteers needed	Jacob Schultz Family
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Patty Roth and her family on the death of her aunt, Theresa Marcotte. *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 19<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Married Couple's Retreat:** January 10-12, at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. Looking for a fun get-away weekend for Catholic married couples? Come join Deacon Ben & Jennine Seitz and Jeff Bates from Vita Counseling to learn more about yourself, your spouse and your marriage. For more information visit: [www.sixstonejars.org](http://www.sixstonejars.org)

**Catholic Man Night:** Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (210 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony's Church (710 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:regentctstann@gmail.com)

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."* ~ Matthew 2:11

What gifts do you give the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold - we should reflect Christ's wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense - represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh - is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.



Council 9477

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

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



**Life-Giving Wounds Support Group:** 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](http://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

### Epiphany – *more than meets the eye*

We are familiar with the story of magi following a star and bearing gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense to the Christ Child. **This story has become the liturgy celebrated on Epiphany.** It is a beautiful, sentimental story imbedded within the Christmas scene. But there is more here than initially 'meets the eye'.

Epiphany is a theologically rich story paralleling great truths that will be more fully exposed in the public ministry of Jesus Christ.

First and foremost **the magi** in the Epiphany story represent the Gentile world (*non-Jewish people*) coming to worship a new born king of Israel. The Gentile world, unlike the Jewish nation, did not have the privilege of having had prophets announcing God's love affair with the human race. Yet here they come! **The point is** – *All people throughout history, who seek the Truth and the meaning of life, will find it in the person of Christ born in Bethlehem.* The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story of salvation for the whole world that has come to be in Christ's Death and Resurrection. As John's Gospel tells us, "... anyone who accepts him, he empowered to become children of God." [Jn. 1:12]

In many ways **the star** of the Epiphany story confirms this:

Abraham, the father of the Jewish faith, had been promised descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky. Now this secondary light of a star leads the magi to the true light of the world through whom the whole world will be '*born again*'.

In the Exodus story of God leading His people to freedom in the Promised land, a pagan prophet named Balaam was hired by a Moabite king to lay a curse on the Israelites. He was unable to do so; quite to the contrary, Balaam proclaimed a blessing saying, "*I see him {God}, though not now; I behold him, though not near: a star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel, ...*" **Is this the star of Bethlehem?** The Israelites descend from Jacob and Israel with Jesus himself being an Israelite.

The star also foreshadows all of creation responding to one born in Bethlehem. Beyond the twinkling of the star, Jesus will walk upon the waters and calm its waves [Mt. 14:25ff; Mk. 6:48], at his death the sun will become darkened, the earth will quake, rocks will be split asunder [Lk. 23:44; Mk. 15:33] and sheol will surrender its dead [Mt. 27:52]. The one born in Bethlehem is Lord of heaven and earth. Thus, the Epiphany star is more than a celestial object or a stargazer's wonder. It symbolizes all creation pointing to and being subject to God's glory.

The **gifts of the magi** — **gold, frankincense and myrrh** also tell us who this Christ Child is — gold represents a king, frankincense speaks of worship given to God, and the scent of myrrh will cover the smell of death, which all human beings will experience, but will be conquered in Christ's death and resurrection.

**As a side note** — an Epiphany devotional practice is to have chalk blessed and then use the blessed chalk to inscribe upon the door frames of our homes the inscription — **20+C+M+B+25**. As the Holy Family welcomed the wise men, may the doors of our homes this coming year be hospitable and welcoming. 2025 represents the present year; C-M-B traditionally represent the first letter of the names of the three wise men — **Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar**; the four crosses represent the four Gospels that tell the story of Christ, Savior of the World!

*Such is the richness of the Epiphany story!*



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 Epiphany of the Lord* January 5, 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 5:**

Mon – Jan 6 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Jan 7 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Bob Von Bank** by Sue Knoll

*NO Mass at St. Leo's*

Wed – Jan 8 – 9:00 am – +**Bill Sinner, Sr.** by Jane Sinner

Thurs – Jan 9 – 9:00 am – +**Karol Utt** by Mike Utt

Fri – Jan 10 – 9:00 am – **Madalyn Wiersma** by Casey & Anna Garman

**Saturday – Jan 11 – 5:00 pm - Anthony Garman by Casey & Anna Garman**

**Sunday - Jan 12 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am - +Rick Keller by Tony & Zita Dietz**

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Larry Zaun by Penny Zaun**

#### **Parish Staff:**

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer

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**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

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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.