

PASTOR'S NOTES

Advent – a proleptic time--

Prolepsis is not a commonly used word, but is something for which most of us are somewhat familiar. Prolepsis is the time between an already anticipated future event and its present ongoing reality. For example, if a person is sitting on a dock and they see it is raining in the near distance, it is probably fair to assume rain will soon be falling on the deck – *it is raining but not here yet*. **Christ has come already, but not yet in his fullness!** Such is proleptic time.

Advent bridges these two comings – recalling the First Coming 2000+ years ago all the while preparing for his future Second Coming.

To prepare well for the Second Coming we revisit the First Coming in order to assimilate and take on a spiritual life that will form us anew into the 'image and likeness' of God that was deeply tarnished by the sin of our first parents in the garden of Eden, but was fully restored in the person of Christ. By taking on our human nature *{the Christmas mystery}* Christ came so we would come 'to know God's love', to be our 'model of holiness' and made us 'partakers of the divine nature.' In this he redeemed the human race for those with eyes to see and minds to understand. To prepare for such a wondrous event is the 'heart and soul' of the Advent season.

A well-conceived and well-lived Advent is the gateway to a true Christmas!!

Advent events – of which to take note –

1) charitable opportunities

- > **'Gifts for the baby'** – with the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus on the horizon Advent is a time to help mothers in need to clothe and care for their babies. See the set-up in the church entry for details about how you can help today's babies!
- > **'O Antiphon Food Collection'** – First Link is not organizing a Giving Tree program this year. In its place we suggest taking up a collection of food items for our local food pantry and beginning it on December 17th. The Gospel acclamations of the last seven days of Advent [December 17th - 24th] proclaim the coming of Christ with seven 'O Antiphons'. The song *O Come, Emmanuel* proclaims these antiphons as characteristics of the One to come. The One who comes tells us to care for those in need and to love our neighbor. A food collection during these 'O Antiphons' days would seem to honor the spirit of those days.

2) free spiritual reading material

- > **'The Word Among Us'** has all the readings for daily and Sunday liturgies along with daily Scriptural reflections for each day. **DO TAKE ONE!!**
- > A variety of **devotional books** containing Advent meditations are available for your taking along with some Advent coloring books. **DO TAKE ONE!!**

3) some calendar dates of note

- > December 4th & 5th – Rite of Enrollment for students preparing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the weekend Masses.
- > Monday, December 6th – Eucharist parent meeting at 7 p.m. in Spirit of Life Center
- > Wednesday, December 8th – Holy Day celebration of the Immaculate Conception. *Masses will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7th at St. Thomas in Buffalo and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8th at St. Leo's in Casselton.*
- > Wednesday, December 15th – Advent RE & Family Bingo in Spirit of Life Center
- > Friday, December 17th – beginning of the 'O Antiphons Food Collection'
- > Monday, December 22nd – St. Leo's Advent Reconciliation Service @ 7 p.m.



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 28, 2021

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 Nov 28:

Mon - Nov 29 – 9:00 am - +**Doris Brandenburg** by Jim & Paulette Schmitt

Tues - Nov 30 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +**Josephine Pfeifer** by Joe & Lora Killoran

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Dec 1 - 9:00 am – +**Fr. Charles Leute**

Thurs - Dec 2 – 9:00 am - +**Duane Mergner** by Marian Watson

Fri - Dec 3 - 9:00 am - +**Souls in purgatory**

Sat - Dec 4 - 5:00 pm - +Jeanne Glynn by Sandie Nystrom

Sun - Dec 5 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes

St. Leo's - 10:30 am - +Ken Waldorf by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth/Nicole Scherweit

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: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon

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.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Nov 28 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Tues., Nov 30 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Dec 1 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Dec 1 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo's RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
     K/1<sup>st</sup> grades - Group A meets  
     6:15 pm - Senior class meets  
 Sun., Dec 5 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in Spirit of Life center  
 Mon., Dec 6 - 7:00 pm - Eucharist Parent meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
**Tues., Dec 7 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Vigil Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**Wed., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Thurs., Dec 9 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Sun., Dec 12 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
 Wed., Dec 15 - 6:30 pm - Family Bingo night in the Spirit of Life Center  
**Mon., Dec 20 - 7:00 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Leo's**

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." ~ Luke 21:28*

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Dec 4<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Dec 5<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Dec 5<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                      | Tricia Geggelman<br>Lois Titus         | Larry Zaun                            | Anna Garman                           |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                       | Lucy Wagner                            |                                       | Pam Spooner                           |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                               | Tristan Lako<br>Ethan/Olivia Richard   | Jami Vavra<br>Abigail Killoran        | Isabelle Dutchuk<br>Garman Family     |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                        | Volunteers needed                      | Bob & Judith Von Bank                 | Volunteers needed                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                                | Volunteers needed                      | David Killoran Family                 | Volunteers needed                     |

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Christmas Music: Time to get ready!

Again this year we would like to invite everyone to join in the music-making! Singers and instrumentalists of all kinds- we have room for you!

**Adults and students in 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades** are welcome and if you have any college students who may be home- let us know! We will continue practices on the Sundays in December (5th, 12th, 19th), after the 8:30a Mass (9:30-10:30a), and before the 10:30a Masses (9- 10:00a).

We sing at the Christmas Eve Mass on Dec. 24th, starting at 9:00pm with carols and Mass at 9:30pm. On Christmas Day we sing at the 10:00 Mass.

We'll have music folders ready for you and we'll meet in the choir loft. If you have any questions, please call Sue at 701-261-2047.

**Cruise Opportunity:** Megan and Den Bolda had a Catholic couples cruise booked for January 2022, but due to unforeseen circumstances they are now no longer able to go. The cruise was non-refundable but they are able to transfer it to another couple. The cruise is called *Charting A Joyful Course for your Marriage* and is being held through Royal Caribbean cruise lines. The date of the cruise are January 9 - 16 leaving from Miami. The cost of the package is \$5000. Information on the cruise can be found at: <https://goodnewscruise.com> More information from Megan and Den can be found on the bulletin board in the church entry or if you would like to contact them please call the parish office (347-4609) for their contact information. Royal Caribbean is requiring proof of Covid vaccination and a passport is also required.

**Evangelization Opportunity:** Motivated parish missionaries (couples or individuals) are sought to form a team to carry out discipleship and evangelization in a parish setting. Missionaries would have the freedom and support to help transform the parish to respond to Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations. Salary and benefits are negotiable. Missionaries would be based at Holy Spirit Parish in Fargo, ND. To apply or receive additional information, contact Fr. Ross Laframboise at [pastor@holyspiritfargo.com](mailto:pastor@holyspiritfargo.com) or call at 701-404-5411. Previous discipleship experience is required.



### ADVENT Opportunities:

There are various Advent booklets available in the church entry for use during the Advent season. Please help yourself.



**KC Breakfast:** In the Spirit of Life Center Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm serving Biscuits and gravy with scrambled eggs. Free will offering.

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Hendrix James Faleide, son of Luke and Kristin and to Bodie Russell Nelson, son of Brett and Kimberly.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide them to live as children of God.*

## "Gifts for the Baby"

Advent Baby Shower



*A baby is just the beginning of a beautiful story but many moms in our area struggle to make ends meet. St. Leo's Parish will collect items or money to make this Christmas a little brighter for babies and moms.*

*Donations can be put by the manger in the front entry of the church before **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**.*

*All donations collected will be distributed to local agencies working with expectant mothers.*