

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### **Advent — getting it straight ... doing it right!!**

Each year the season of Advent, which begins a new church year, usually begins after Thanksgiving Day and every year the Advent season gets crushed by a culture that earlier and earlier each year uses the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas to bolster 'the bottom line'. All the while 'the reason for the season' recedes further and further into oblivion {just an ancient story about some baby being born long ago in some far-off place}.

Paradoxically this baby will become the 'bottom line' of all history and time, and as the Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Advent will tell us – **Stay awake ... Be prepared for his Second Coming!**

Without the footwork of Advent, Christmas becomes just another party day that quickly passes as we return to the same old routine – working, brokering deals, attending games, snapchatting, googling, twittering, tweeting, facebooking, etc. – ad nauseum!

Advent is the necessary antidote from the true meaning of Christmas being pilfered by a culture that finds itself lost in a wilderness of relativism and consumerism. Advent is about coming to know our need for a savior, heeding the Baptist's cry for repentance, and pondering an angel's greeting to a young virgin that nothing is impossible for God.

**Only hearts and minds trained by Advent are capable of being a Christmas people.**

**{or perhaps said in another way}**

Prolepsis is not a commonly used word, but it 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 is proleptic time. It 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'. For those graced with eyes to see and minds to understand, Christ redeemed the human race. 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!!**

### **Some advance notice —**

> Masses for the **Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception** will be as follows:

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Leo's in Casselton @ 7 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas in Buffalo @ 7 p.m.**

> Masses for **Christmas** will be as follows:

Saturday (Christmas eve), December 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas in Buffalo at 5 p.m.

Saturday (Christmas eve), December 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Leo's at 9:30 p.m. with Christmas carols at 9 p.m.

Sunday (Christmas Day), December 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Leo's at 10 a.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 27, 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 Nov 27:**

Mon - Nov 28 – 9:00 am – +Fr. James P. Lauerman

Tues - Nov 29 - 9:00 am - +Souls in purgatory

St. Leo's — NO 9 am Daily Mass

Wed – Nov 30 – 9:00 am – +Doris Brandenburg by Jim & Paulette Schmitt

Thurs – Dec 1 – 9:00 am - +Marie Hong Tran by Lisa Tran

Fri – Dec 2 – 9:00 am - Special intention by Jackie Anderson

**Sat - Dec 3 - 5:00 pm - Lincoln Kading by Bill & Mona Franck**

**Sun - Dec 4 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Sandy Olund by Keith & Joni Biggers**

**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

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**

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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.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mon., Nov 28 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Nov 30 - RE classes at St. Thomas and St. Leo's — see below  
 Thurs., Dec 1 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry Class on the Catholic Faith  
 Tues., Dec 6 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
**Wed., Dec 7 - 7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception/Holy Day Vigil Mass at St. Leo's**  
**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

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

Grades K, 1, 2, 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)

Grades 4-8 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 9 - Class B and 12<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

### 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

|  | Saturday Dec 3<br>5:00 pm<br><i>St. Leo's</i>   | Sunday Dec 4<br>8:30 am<br><i>St. Thomas</i> | Sunday Dec 4<br>10:30 am<br><i>St. Leo's</i>                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tricia Gegelman<br>Lois Titus                   | Keith Biggers                                | Anna Garman                                                                             |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Lucy Wagner<br>Alex Richard                     | Kristi Hovelson<br>Joe Killoran              | Kristi Dutchuk<br>Pam Spooner<br>Luke Steckler<br>Mark Weber<br><i>Volunteer needed</i> |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Tristan Lako<br>Ethan Richard<br>Olivia Richard | Carly Hovelson<br>Emercyn Killoran           | Isabelle Dutchuk<br>Garman Family                                                       |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        | Keith & Joni Biggers                         | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                        | Justin Killoran Family                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                                                |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Jessica Enge                                    |                                              | Anna Garman                                                                             |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Christmas Music:** Thanks so much to all of our regular musicians and for those of you (or your kids) who signed up in the 2022 Time and Talent! It's time to get ready for Christmas! The first practice will be this **Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the choir loft- after the 8:30 am Mass.** We won't have a specific children's choir this year, but all kids grade 5 and older are welcome to come and sing. It's a lot of familiar Christmas carols and we'd love to have their voices- maybe make it a family affair! Contact Sue if you are interested, but can't make this first practice. (701)261-2047

**Catholic Married Couples Retreat Weekends:** 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)

**KC Christmas coloring contest** for grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be handed out to the students on November 30<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** In the Spirit of Life Center 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>.

**Doing your Christmas shopping on-line this year? Do you shop Amazon? Did you know there is another way to support St. Leo's?**

**Shop AmazonSmile!**

Every time you make an AmazonSmile purchase, Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to St. Leo's parish — at no cost to you! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you will find the exact same shopping experience as on Amazon.com.

**Here is how it works:**

- 1) Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and use your existing Amazon credentials to log in;
- 2) Type in **St Leos Church Casselton** as your charity;
- 3) Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or add the page to you home screen to make it easy to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

If you should have any questions talk to Delores [347-4609] in the parish office. Thanks for your support.

*This is not an endorsement of Amazon.com, but intended to give another option to support St. Leo's if you shop on Amazon.*

**This week's Stewardship moment:**

*"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." ~ Matthew 24:42*

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. However, when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.