

PASTOR'S NOTES

Advent — getting it straight ... doing it right

Of the five (5) seasons of the church year, Advent gets short shrift. It gets pushed out of the way as people make a mad dash for Christmas. The meaning and purpose of Advent is often never explored nor experienced. We have all learned from the world of medicine that having the right diagnosis makes all the difference in the world for the restoration of one's health. Knowing the place of Advent in the life of the Church is critical for living the life of the Church.

Advent begins the church year. **Advent is not Christmas!** Advent sets the stage for what is to come – *the gift of a Christmas Child whose life-giving death and resurrection will literally change time and history.* Advent is that time in which the human spirit ponders the question – Do I (we) really need such a child? How can a child change time and history?

In our absolute busyness we do not take time to ponder the full purpose of life and living. We get caught in the present moment and all its pressing needs – *making a living, paying bills, seeking the good life, keeping up with the Jones', funding our leisures, insuring our retirements, besting our competitors, establishing connections, having the latest app, seeking the best deal, etc.*

Whether we do any of this well or poorly, we are all going to die. Then what? **That is where the season of Advent begins!**

Advent is a short 4-week season with the first Sunday always beginning with Christ's last days in Jerusalem. His deepest desire is that in his **Second Coming** he will find a people steadfast and vigilant in the ways of God. In preparation for that coming of Christ the second and third Sundays of Advent have John the Baptist remind us that the spiritual life begins in repentance with good fruit as its evidence. On Advent's fourth Sunday the ultimate good fruit has Joseph putting aside his will for God's will, which is to save the world.

For Christmas to be something other than Santa Claus and all the commercialization that goes with it, we must first step into Advent. **Advent is about expectant hearts reordering their lives for the birth of a child who will grow in grace and stature and "save his people from their sins".** For our part we enter this mystery of salvation through the gift of the sacraments and the life of the Church.

In doing Advent right we get Christmas straight!

Of Advent note —

- 1) **Free Christmas concert** sponsored by the Casselton Ministerium on Sunday, December 8th at Central Cass' Bank North Theater starting at 7 p.m.
- 2) **The Holy Day of Mary's Immaculate Conception** for this year has been moved from its regular date of December 8th to Monday, December 9th. Mass times that day (*Monday, December 9th*) will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas in Buffalo and 7 p.m. at St. Leo's in Casselton.
- 3) **Advent Reconciliation Services** begin this week (see the bulletin insert for the many times and places). **St. Leo's Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Friday, December 20th at 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 December 1, 2019

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 1:

Mon - Dec 2 - 9:00 am - **Cameron Alex** by Patti Alex

Tues - Dec 3 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**

St. Leo's - NO MASS

Wed - Dec 4 - 9:00 am - **+Stephen Levitsky** by Marian Watson

Thurs - Dec 5 - 9:00 am - **+Ken Waldorf** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Fri - Dec 6 - 9:00 am - **Preston Alex** by Patti Alex

Sat - Dec 7 - St. Leo's - 5:00 pm - +Vince Bachmeier by Bea Bachmeier

Sun - Dec 8 - St. Leo's - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - +Curt Johnson by Larry & Penny Zaun

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

Secretary: Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

Liturgy/RE: Sue Knoll

Phone: 701-347-4609

Cell: 701-261-2047

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 & Mark Wieland

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.

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

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Dec 1 - 9- 10 am - Adult Choir practice  
 Tues., Dec 3 - 7:00 pm - Eucharist Parent meeting in large classroom, lower level of church  
 Wed., Dec 4 - 5:15- 6 pm - Children's Choir practice  
 Wed., Dec 4 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
 Wed., Dec 4 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm  
 6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
 Sun., Dec 8 - 9:30- 10:30 am - Adult Choir practice  
 Sun., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Peder Eide Christmas Concert at Central Cass Bank North Theater  
**Mon., Dec 9 - 5:30 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Sun., Dec 15 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm — KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center  
 Wed., Dec 18 - 8:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Fri., Dec 20 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Advent Reconciliation Service


**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptisms of Beckham Lee Poulson, son of Matthew & Katie and Brexton Calvin Lindseth, son of Anthony & Leah.

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

**Special prayers and blessings** to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:

**Richard & Janice Muscha - 51 years on Dec 6**  
**Jack & Rosemary Line - 51 years on Dec 21**  
**Leo & Alexia Kieffer - 52 years on Dec 28**

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | <b>Saturday Dec 7</b><br><b>5:00 pm</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i> | <b>Sunday Dec 8</b><br><b>8:30 am</b><br><i>St. Leo's</i>                   | <b>Sunday Dec 8</b><br><b>10:30 am</b><br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Mark Voss                                                   | Shari Kensok                                                                | Jackie Vavra                                                |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Bill Franck<br>Nicole Scherweit                             | Ann Faught<br>Mary Jendro<br>Susan Kempel<br>Terry Kensok<br>Richard Muscha | Barb Buhr<br>Joe Killoran                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Sophie Scherweit                          | Katie Kempel<br>Melody Kempel                                               | Clay Hovelson<br>Meyer Wendel                               |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                     | Bob & Judy Von Bank                                         |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                     | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                     | Keith Biggers Family                                        |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Christmas Music:** Time to get ready! The first practice for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies will be on Sun. , Dec. 1st , **9-10:00am**. 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 practice on the Sundays in December, after the 8:30a Masses (9:30-10:30a), and before the 10:30a Masses (9- 10:00a). If you have any questions, please call Sue. 347-4609/ 261-2047.

**Christmas Kids:** On Wed., Dec. 4th, we will have a meeting and **Christmas music practice for kids in grades 2-7, from 5:15-6p**, (before the Simple Supper) in the church. Again this year, we would like to have our students participate in our Christmas Eve liturgy with a couple musical selections and the procession to the manger. If your family will be in town for Christmas, please consider having your kids take part in this! But even if you will be gone, your kids are welcome to come to the practices and have fun singing carols and songs of Christmas. We will get together Weds., Dec. 4, 11, and 18, from 5:15

**The Giving Tree** is set up in the Spirit of Life Center with names of individuals who are in need of our help this Christmas Season. Take a name (which this year is the gift tag sticker), sign your name on the registration sheet so I know who took names and an information sheet on gift ideas and the how-to's for the giving tree. If you would like to take a name and do not have the means/time to shop get in touch with me and I will take care of the rest! If you have any questions please call Denise Bartholomay at 793-3417. Thanks for giving the gift of hope this holiday season!

**Medicare Part D** open enrollment is coming to a close on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Community of Care will have appointments available through Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Call (701)347-0032 to schedule your appointment in Arthur or Casselton.

### 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. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

### St. Leo's Knight of the Month



Council 9477

The Knight for the month of **December** is **Jerry Volk**. Thank you Jerry for your dedication and the works you do for the KC's. It is greatly appreciated.

### St. Leo's 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 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>**.*

*See the poster on the bulletin board for donation ideas.*

*All donations collected will be distributed equally to the following non-profits: The Perry Center, Women's Care Center, and Birthright of Fargo Moorhead.*