


PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wed., Dec 17– 12:00 pm– Casselton Ministeirum meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Wed., Dec 17 – NO RE classes—Simple Supper 6:00pm, **Advent Family Bingo** to follow at 6:30pm-
All are welcome– see announcement on the next page
Fri., Dec 19 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Advent Reconciliation Service
Wed., Dec 24 – 5:00 pm – St. Thomas – Christmas Eve Mass
9:30 pm – St. Leo’s – Christmas Eve Mass; Carols begin at 9 pm
Thurs., Dec 25 – 10:00 am – St. Leo’s – Christmas Day Mass
Wed., Dec 31– 5:00 pm – St. Thomas – Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Vigil Mass
Thurs., Jan 1 – 10:00 am – St. Leo’s – Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Mass

Christmas Eve/Day Ministry Sign Up:
Please see the sign up sheets in the church entry for Readers, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers for our upcoming Christmas Eve/Day Masses. Please consider signing up if you are planning to attend any of these lMasses. Thank you.

Christmas Church Decorating: All parishioners are welcome to come and help decorate the church for Christmas. Decorating will be at 9:00 am on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th. Young and old are welcome.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Dec 20 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Dec 21 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Dec 21 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
	Lee Ann Monilaws Mallory Poulson	Judy Von Bank	Volunteer Needed
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Kristi Hovelson Cynthia Comprendio	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Ann/Grant Burchill Beau Parisien Max Monilaws	Hallie Besette Skylar Norrie	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh/Natalie Prochnow
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Travis & Darcie Besette	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Jim Biggers Family	Corey & JoAnn Rood Family
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Mona Franck		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Come and make some joyful music!
Join our Christmas Choir!
Mass on Christmas Eve – Wed. Dec 24th
Carols at 9:00 pm and Mass at 9:30 pm
Mass on Christmas Day – Thurs, Dec 25th at 10:00 am
Adults and students in 6th - 12th grades:
Practices will be:
Sun., Dec 14 – 9:30 am to 10:45 am
Sun., Dec 21 - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Call the parish office with any questions. 347-4609


Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, December 21st** at the 10:30 am Mass. Any-one middle school and older is welcome is to sing. ***Gentlemen, we need you too!*** We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10 am that day to run through these songs: #39, #62, #742, #70, #68, #51, #47. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com

Special Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious: Today, Sunday, December 14th has been designated as ***Retirement Fund for Religious.*** This special collection assists religious orders of men and women in defraying the healthcare costs of their elderly and retired members. These men and women have given of their lives for decades in service of the Church’s mission by doing works of education, running hospitals and orphanages and caring for the poor. The envelope for this collection is in your regular packet of envelopes. Your support is deeply appreciated.

This week’s Stewardship moment:
“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”~ James 5:8
Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Advent Family Bingo Night
Wed., Dec. 17th from 6:30~7:30pm
Simple Supper of Hot Dogs at 6 pm.
Prizes awarded! Treats will be served!
Minimum of \$1 per card
and/or box or bag of cereal for
Rural Cass County Food Pantry.
Everyone is welcome!

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday: Sunday, December 28th is Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday. At the Saturday, December 27th 5pm Mass and on the Sunday, December 28th 8:30 am Mass Fr. Ermer will be doing a blessing over your household religious items. Examples are: family bible, rosaries, prayer books, icons or holy images, crucifixes and religious medals. Please bring your items to be blessed and place them on the table in the front of the church by the Mary statue before the beginning of Mass. Father will bless the items after communion at both Masses.

 **St. Leo’s Annual Christmas Tree:** Our usual source for a Christmas Tree for the Church is not available this year. If you have an evergreen tree that you would like to have removed from your property that is at least 14 feet tall, please contact the Church at 701 -347-4609 and we will come and look at it. Thank you.

PASTOR’S NOTES

‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord’

This familiar phrase began long before John the Baptist was seen as that voice crying out in the desert. Six hundred years before John the Baptist or Christ lived, Isaiah the prophet used this line to encourage the people of Israel to get their lives in order.

In that same spirit John the Baptist called the people of his time to ‘*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*’. Since the days of Isaiah God has had some unbelievable visions for his people — *days when swords would be made into ploughshares and there will be no harm or ruin on all God’s holy mountaintain.*

This does not happen magically !!! First, God’s people must desire and want this vision for themselves. Once it is ascertained that people desire this, then people must ‘take stock of the their lives and come clean.’ That is the heart of the Baptist’s call for repentance. The real meaning of Christmas can not come and take up residence in unclean hearts and minds. Christ understands this dimension of human existence. He shared our human condition. He knows the power of temptation and the lure of the ‘dark side’. He also knows the great mercy and love of his/our heavenly Father. For that very reason God left His Church the gift of his reconciling love in the sacrament of Reconciliation. On the very night of Christ’s Resurrection, Christ’s first public words to his apostles were, “*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.*”

In these last 11 days before Christmas, area Catholic churches are offering **Advent Reconciliation Services**. The list of times and places are included on the bulletin board in the church entry. You are certainly invited to make this part of your Advent preparation.

St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service
is scheduled for Friday, December 19th at 7 p.m.

Advent Bingo for families and parishioners ---

Each year our 7th and 8th grade RE students host an annual Advent Bingo time for the parish of St. Leo’s. This year – *Advent Bingo is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th*. Things begin with our usual Simple Supper at 6 p.m. By 6:20 p.m. bingo cards will be sold with all proceeds going to our local food pantry. **Bingo is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.** and to end around 7:30 p.m. with our local Knights of Columbus Council announcing their coloring contest winners.

Popcorn and desserts will be offered during the course of the bingo games.
It promises to be a fun event. Who knows?— *you may win a bingo prize!* Come and enjoy a night out with family and friends.

End of the Jubilee Year

On Sunday, December 28th the Jubilee Year will officially end in the Diocese of Fargo. That leaves two weeks to visit the six pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Fargo and obtain the Jubilee indulgence as well as a collectible coin from each pilgrimage site. I know a number of parishioners have visited all six sites. If you have done so, please let the parish office know.

Jubilee information is still available on our table in the church entryway for those who would like to ‘squeeze in’ a visit.

Perhaps you would like to make a ‘last minute’ tour of the various pilgrimage churches that we noted during our post-Communion reflections. Their data sheets are still mounted on the walls in the nave of the church.

The global closing of the Jubilee Year in Rome will be January 6, 2026 (*the feast day of Epiphany on the Church’s universal calendar*).



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 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 Dec 14:

Mon– Dec 15 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**
Tues – Dec 16 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – **+Marvin Ries** by Minnie Ries
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – Dec 17 – 9:00 am – **+Gene Dooley** by his family
Thurs – Dec 18 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**
Fri – Dec 19 – 9:00 am – **+Fr. William Callery**
Saturday – Dec 20 – 5:00 pm – Vince Emineth by Sandie Nystrom
Sunday – Dec 21 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Lila Harmsen by Frank & Laura 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: Kelsey Lako
Please call or email the parish office.

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 or by appointment.

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