


PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS


Mon., Dec 22 – 6:30 pm– KC meeting at the rectory
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
Wed., Jan 7 – RE Classes resume
Thurs., Jan 8 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith in lower level of St. Leo’s church
Tues., Jan 13 – 7:00 pm – Social Concerns committee meeting at the rectory

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 27 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Dec 28 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Dec 28 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
	Tony Roth	Fred Eldridge	Jackie Vavra
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Paulette Schmitt Mona Franck	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terry Kensok Terri Monilaws	Jurgen Suhr Penny Zaun
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Evelyn Roth Joe/Jensen Kappes	Claire/Jack Glennon Nolan/Paxton Ziegelmann	Hannah Besette Ali Killoran
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Travis & Darcie Besette
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Arnie & Barb Buhr
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Michelle Kappes	Sandra Keller	

NEWS AND NOTES

<p>Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass Schedule</p> <p>Christmas Eve - <u>5:00 pm</u> Mass at St. Thomas 9:00 pm Carols begin at St. Leo’s <u>9:30 pm</u> Mass at St. Leo’s Christmas Day - <u>10:00 am</u> Mass at St. Leo’s</p>	<p>Special prayers and blessings to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:</p> <p>Jack & Rosemary Line - 57 years on Dec 21 Leo & Alexia Kieffer - 58 years on Dec 28</p> <p>Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Tony Roth and his family on the death of his uncle, Jerry Roth. <i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4</i></p>
<div><p>Gifts for the Child: We will again be collecting items such as diapers, formula, baby wash, baby bottles, clothing and blankets to be given to Birthright of Fargo/Moorhead, a pregnancy support service for women and children. Donated items can be put by the crib located in the church entry. Monetary donations can also be turned in to the parish office.</p><p>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.</p></div>	<p>SEARCH for Christian Maturity: SEARCH is a peer-to-peer retreat ministry for youth (ages 16-17) and young adults (18+) who desire to grow deeper in their faith and in Christian community. SEARCH offers a powerful opportunity to encounter God, discover more about oneself, and build meaningful relationships within a loving, supportive Christian environment. The next retreat will be held January 9-11, 2026 at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City. For more information and to apply, please visit: www.fargodiocese.org/search4cm or see the flyer on the bulletin board to scan the QR code. Questions? Please contact Dori Picard at (952)210-2219.</p>

Advent Bingo Night: This past Wed., Dec. 17 we had around 175 people attend a great night of Bingo with fellowship, fun and yummy treats. A big thank – to our RE teachers , Education committee members and especially our 8th grade students and Virjean Cramer who did a fantastic job keeping the evening running smoothly. Advent Bingo night brought in 62 boxes of cereal and over \$400.00. Your generous donations of food and money will greatly impact the Rural Cass County Food Pantry. Your generosity of volunteers and donations truly reflects the spirit of Advent. Thanks for much!

This week’s Stewardship moment:
“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”~Matthew 1:24
Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him whenever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

PASTOR’S NOTES

Christmas – *what’s at stake?*

The Christmas story actually begins at the time of the Fall of Adam and Eve, our first parents. They fell from God’s grace by deliberately disobeying God’s command not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. As punishment they were expelled from the Garden of Eden and hence began humanity’s long journey into the darkness of the human condition, which is the exact opposite of life in Paradise.

God’s love of human creation could not be contained. He made many covenants [Noah, Abraham, Moses at Sinai, David] and sent many prophets [e.g. -Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel] to pull his people back from the precipice of disaster. **Christmas is the beginning of God’s final attempt to save humanity.** In their own words this is how St. Leo, Diognetus, St. Augustine, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux describe what is at stake in the Christmas story:

Pope St. Leo the Great {died 461} writes — *For unless the new man (Jesus), by being made in the likeness of sinful humanity, had taken on himself the nature of our first parents, unless he had stooped to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father’s substance and, being alone free from sin, united our nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of Satan. **The Conqueror’s victory would have profited us nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition.***

Diognetus {second century writer} writes — When we had made it clear that we could never enter God’s Kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God. When our wickedness had reached its culmination ... (God) did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead he was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; he gave his own Son as the price of our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we – wicked and sinful as we were – have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

St. Augustine {354-430} writes – *You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.*

The Christmas story is an intersection of many lives cooperating with God great plan of his Son’s incarnation and him taking on human nature all the while retaining his divine nature. There is the part played by Joseph, the birth and role of John the Baptist and of course the ‘yes’ of Mary. St. Bernard of Clairvaux reflects on the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary (Annunciation) —

St. Bernard of Clairvaux {1090-1153} writes — *The angel awaits an answer; ... We too are waiting, O Lady ... the price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent ... Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin ... Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for ... for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race. Answer quickly, O Virgin. ... See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. she says, “**be it done to me according to your word**”.*

So Christmas came to be!



St. Leo’s Catholic Church
211 Langer Ave North
PO Box 340
Casselton ND
347-4609



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 21, 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 21:

Mon– Dec 22 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Dec 23 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Bob Killoran** by Joe & Lora Killoran

Wed – Dec 24 – Christmas Eve – NO 9 am Daily Mass at St. Leo’s

Wed – Dec 24 – Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm– Mass at St. Thomas

Wed – Dec 24 – Christmas Eve – 9:00 pm– Carols begin at St. Leo’s

Wed – Dec 24 – Christmas Eve – 9:30 pm– Mass at St. Leo’s– ++Clare & Yvonne Schuler

Thurs – Dec 25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 am– Mass at St. Leo’s - +Jane Sinner

Fri – Dec 26 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Saturday – Dec 27 – 5:00 pm – ++Joe & Helen Krumm by Bill & Mona Franck

Sunday – Dec 28 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am For the people of our parishes

St. Thomas - 10:30 am – +Richard Steidl by Keith & Joni Biggers

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.

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

