

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

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
Sun., Jan 18 – 9:00 am– KC Breakfast in the Sprit of Life Center
Mon., Jan 19 – 6:30 pm– Parent Reconciliation meeting
Tues., Jan 20 – 7:00 pm – Finance Committee meeting at the rectory
Wed., Jan 21 – 6:45 pm – Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Service



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.

| Upcoming Ministry Schedule | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Saturday Jan 3 5:00 pm St. Leo’s | Sunday Jan 4 8:30 am St. Thomas | Sunday Jan 4 10:30 am St. Leo’s |
| | Lois Titus Megan Bolda | Keith Biggers | Karren Bartholomay |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Lucy Wagner Alex Richard | Kristi Hovelson Cynthia Comprendio | Jared Nelson Ruth Monilaws Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Luke Steckler |
| Altar Servers | Richard Family Lako Family Bolda Family | Carly Hovelson Tucker Killoran | Olivia Garman James/Isaac Diemert |
| Offertory Collectors | Volunteer needed | Jurgen & Barb Suhr | Volunteer needed |
| Gift Bearers | Travis Keller Family | Mark & Carmen Gubrud | Volunteer needed |
| Lead Rosary | Lucy Wagner | | Volunteer Needed |

NEWS AND NOTES

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Holy Day Mass Schedule -

Wednesday, December 31st - 5 pm at St. Thomas
Thursday, January 1st - 10 am at St. Leo’s

2025 Contributors: We ask that you please try and have your 2025 contributions in before December 31st. Checks dated for December 31st will be credited to your 2025 offertory statement and checks dated January 1st will be credited to your 2026 statements. Thank you.



St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:
The Knight of the month is **Jerry Christiansen**. Thank you Jerry for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.



Knights of Columbus Breakfast:
Serving French toast and Langdon sausage **Sun., Jan. 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

This week’s Stewardship moment:
“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”~ Colossians 3:17
Giving thanks to God and using our words and actions to give all glory to God is the foundation of living a stewardship lifestyle. We were made in God’s image and likeness, gratitude and generosity is in our DNA. As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are all part of God’s family. Using our gifts to help others is our gift back to God and helps grow the Body of Christ here on earth and establishes a pathway to Heaven for each of us.

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas environment at St. Leo’s

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|-----------------------|--|
| Lee & Jackie Anderson | in memory of all deceased family members |
| Don & Audrey Cramer | in honor and in memory of all living and deceased family & friends |
| Skip & Audrey Doyle | in honor of all St. Leo’s parishioners |
| Darin & Judy Hamre | in memory of Tyson & Jeffrey Jewison, Steve Lund, Butch Hamre, deceased Depuydt & Hamre family members & in honor of all living children & grandchildren |
| Ron & Thuy Kaufman | in honor of all living family members |
| Terry & Shari Kensok | in memory of Linus & Margaret Kensok |
| Sue Nesemeier | in memory of Larry Nesemeier and deceased Levos family members |
| Mary Ellen Nilles | in memory of Donald Nilles |
| Paul Puhr | in memory of all deceased family members |
| Joann Radermacher | in memory of Charlie Radermacher |
| Paulette Schmitt | in memory of Jim Schmitt |
| Lois Titus | in memory of Al J & Marcella Artz and Neil Artz |
| Anonymous | in honor of all Christmas environment volunteers |

PASTOR’S NOTES

Octave of Christmas

What is an octave? Most people in the music world will recognize that as a musical term. But in the life of the Church, this term has come to mean something different. An octave is an eight-day celebration and meditation of the Church’s most significant liturgical festivities. The Church year has two octave celebrations — one for Christmas and one for Easter. The sense is that after faithfully meditating on these two mysteries for 7 straight days, one begins the 8th day aware and alive in the meaning of being either a Christmas people or an Easter people.

The 8-day Christmas octave is book-ended by the solemnity of the Christmas day celebration [December 25th] and ends with the solemnity and Holy Day of Mary, Mother of God celebration [January 1st]. Within this book-end of days are four other feast days that tell us of the mystery and meaning of the Christmas event. On the day following Christmas, December 26th, we celebrate the Church’s first martyr – **St. Stephen**. December 27th celebrates **St. John the Apostle**, the Gospel writer, who in the last days of his life was exiled to the island of Patmos. December 28th celebrates the feast of the **Holy Innocents** when King Herod, in an attempt to destroy the Christ child, ordered “*the massacre of all boys two years old and younger in Bethlehem and its environs, ...*” [Mt. 2:16]

The joy of Christmas day is immediately interrupted by these three days that speak of the harsh reality of what is means to be a disciple of Christ. As John’s Gospel said “... *the light came into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were wicked.*” [Jn. 3:19]

Within the octave days of Christmas, Holy Family Sunday is the Sunday following Christmas Day. This symbolizes the primary role family life plays in God’s plan of redeeming the human race. Family life is the primordial place where love of God and love of neighbor is bred and nurtured.

The eighth and final day of the Christmas Octave concludes with the solemnity and Holy Day of Mary, Mother of God, celebrated on January 1st (*New Year’s Day*). It is Mary’s fiat (*Be it done to me according to your word*) that begins the mystery of Christmas and God’s redemptive plan for humanity. His son will share our human nature and enter into the human condition. He will heal it from the inside out. As the Mother of God, Mary is also the Mother of the Church. She stands as a model of hope for all generations and for all years to come. In light of her fiat we begin every year grounding our hopes in the trust and hope of her ‘**yes**’ to God working in her life for the life of all people. **That seems a great way to begin a new year!!**

Holy Day Mass schedule

Thursday, **January 1st is the Holy Day** and solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass schedule for that day is as follows:
 > **Wednesday, December 31st at 5 p.m.** at St. Thomas in Buffalo;
 > **Thursday, January 1st at 10 a.m.** at St. Leo’s in Casselton.

Thank you

Thank you very much for all the thoughtfulness you sent my way during the last days of Advent and now the Christmas season – **greetings, goodies, cards, gifts, family photo**. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your pastor. The staff also sends their gracious thanks.
Last, but not least, a deep thank you to all who have helped make this celebration of Christmas so beautiful – musicians and their practice time to lead us in praise and worship, decoration of the church for Advent and Christmas, purchase of Christmas flowers.



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



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 28, 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 28:

Mon– Dec 29 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**
Tues – Dec 30 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +**Marvin Ries** by Minnie Ries
 NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – Dec 31 – 9:00 am Daily Mass – St. Leo’s – +**Janice Muscha** by Richard Muscha
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
Fri – Jan 2 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**
Saturday – Jan 3 – 5:00 pm – +Mary Ann Waxler by Her family
Sunday – Jan 4 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am For the people of our parishes
 St. Leo’s - 10:30 am – +Al Brandt by James & Stacie Morowski

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Secretary: Delores Grommesh
Phone: 701-347-4609
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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth
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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.