

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS


Wed., Jan 14 – RE Classes – see below
Thurs., Jan 15– 7:00 pm– Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith in lower level of St. Leo’s Church
Sun., Jan 18 – 9:00 am– KC Breakfast in the Sprit of Life Center
Mon., Jan 19 – 6:30 pm– Parent Reconciliation meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Mon., Jan 19 – 6:30 pm – KC meeting at the rectory
Tues., Jan 20 – 7:00 pm – Finance Committee meeting at the rectory
Wed., Jan 21 – 6:45 pm – Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Service

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 14th

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm
St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
Grades K– 5, 7, 8, 10 — 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Grades 6 & 9 – Class B — 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm
12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Gifts for the Child: Dona-
tions for Gifts for the Child
will be accepted through
Sunday, January 11th.
Donations can be put by the crib
located in the church entry. Mone-
tary donations can also be turned in
to the parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Jan 17 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Jan 18 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Jan 18 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
	Mallory Poulson Lee Ann Monilaws	Gary Milbrandt	Volunteer Needed
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Penny Zaun Jurgen Suhr	Micah Bartholomay Jake Lako Collin Miller Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Ann Burchill Grant Burchill Beau Parisien Max Monilaws	Hallie Besette Skylar Norrie	Elise Bartholomay Brynne Bartholomay Kayleigh Prochnow Natalie Prochnow
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	Volunteer needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	Volunteer needed
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Volunteer needed	Darren Halland Family	Volunteer needed
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Volunteer needed		Volunteer needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, January 18th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone 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: #309, #390, #342, #423. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com

Cost of Lighting a Votive Candle: The cost of lighting a votive candle will be going up to \$5 per candle. A case of votive candles has gone up 70% in the last couple of years and as a result the church has ended up subsidizing votive candles by about \$500 a year. Therefore, we need to raise our price. Your cooperation in this matter is deeply appreciated.

PETER’S PENCE: Sunday, **January 25th** has been designated as *Peter’s Pence* Sunday. Envelopes for this collection are found with your regular collection envelopes. This collection supports the charitable works of the Holy Father and provides emergency assistance to those suffering the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and persecution. Please consider giving generously. Thank you.

Confirmation 2026 Advance Notice: This year St. Leo’s Confirmation Liturgy with Bishop Folda will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the 5 pm Mass with 17 students being confirmed. There will be reserved seating for the Confirmation students and their families and the Mass will be longer than 1 hour and will have a bigger attendance than normal for a Saturday 5 pm Mass. For those who usually attend this Mass, please plan accordingly.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you are coming to me?”” ~ Matthew 3:14
The Catholic Catechism states that, “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.



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.



Vianney Discernment Weekend: February 13-15 at the Maryvale Convent, Valley City, ND for men ages 16 to 30 years who are open to a vocation to the priesthood. The weekend brings together men to give them an opportunity to pray about their vocations and to meet with several priests and seminarians to hear about their call and how to discover the Lord’s will. There is no cost for the weekend, but pre-registration is required. To register, visit: vocations@fargodiocese.org



Life-Giving Wounds Retreat: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce or Sepration – February 27-March 1 at the St. Francis Retreat Center, 102 6th St. SE, Hankinson, ND. Come for a greater understanding of the wounds left by your parents’ divorce or separation, for advice concerning love and trust of others, and for an experience of Christ and community that will lead to deeper self-understanding and healing. Cost for the weekend is \$275 for a shared room or \$325 for a private room. To register, please visit: fargodiocese.org/lgw or see the flyer on the bulletin board to scan the QR code.

PASTOR’S NOTES

Ordinary Time (part one)

Once the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (which is this Sunday), the Church moves into a period of time called Ordinary Time. Ordinary time lasts a total of 34 Sundays in the course of the Church year, but it is divided up into a period of weeks before Lent (part one) and then the remaining weeks after Pentecost Sunday (part two).

In 2026 the first part of Ordinary time runs from Monday, January 12th through Tuesday, February 17th. The second part of Ordinary time will run from Monday, May 25th through Saturday, November 28th.

This long period of time that totals 34 weeks (as compared to the short periods of time for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter that total 18 weeks) is meant to be a period of time to faithfully and patiently meditate upon the mystery of salvation that has been revealed in the Gospel. The four major seasons of the Church year look specifically and intently upon humanity’s hope for a savior (Advent), the birth of that hope (Christmas), the suffering endured by Christ the bearer of hope (Lent) and the gift of the Resurrection/resurrected life (Easter).

Since Christ is our Savior, Ordinary Time is meant to deliberately walk through the entirety of Christ’s life from beginning to end in order to glean ‘how we are to put on Christ’ so that our names will be found written in the Book of Life, and in the last days be told, “Come inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.” Ordinary time is celebrated in a 3-year cycle of readings taken from either the Gospels of Matthew, Mark or Luke. John’s Gospel is found scattered throughout this 3-year cycle and often dominates the Gospel writings found in the other four church seasons.

This year’s (2026) Gospel readings for Ordinary time will be predominately taken from Matthew’s Gospel. Each Gospel has a particular lense through which the person of Christ will be viewed. Matthew is a converted Jew, who sees Christ as the fulfillment of all that people of the Jewish faith had envisioned as savior and messiah.

In Matthew’s Gospel we will hear Christ’s Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5-7] where Jesus begins his public ministry with the Beatitudes. For Matthew this resembles Moses ascending Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. In turn the Sermon on the Mount has some radical declarations about discipleship (e. g. - ‘adultery in the heart’, calling your brother names, either building one’s house on rock or sand, etc.).

Throughout this year’s Ordinary time, Matthew’s Gospel will specifically have Jesus talk about building his Church upon the rock of Peter and giving him the keys to heaven [Matthew 16]. Of course this is foundational to the Church’s understanding of the person of the Pope and the papal office. Matthew’s Gospel also has a number of unique parables (e.g.- the ‘Pearl of Great Price’ [Mt. 13], the five wise and five foolish virgins and the Last Judgement [Mt. 25]). It is hoped that after a year of hearing and living Matthew’s Gospel our lives will be richer and more faith-filled in our walk of discipleship and our journey to heaven.

Other events of note during Part one of Ordinary Time:

- > Wednesday, January 21st – Ecumenical Prayer & Song fest @ 6:45 p.m. St. Leo’s
- > Thursday, January 22nd – USA Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- > Sunday, January 25th – Word of God Sunday
- > Sunday, February 1st – St. Leo’s Annual Parish meeting after that Sunday’s 10:30 a.m. Mass



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 Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026

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 Jan 11:

Mon – Jan 12 – 9:00 am – +Linus Kensok by Terry & Shari Kensok
Tues – Jan 13 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Souls in purgatory
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – Jan 14 – 9:00 am – +Lorraine Kensok by Ron Kensok
Thurs – Jan 15 – 9:00 am – +Lois Smith by Keith & Joni Biggers
Fri – Jan 16 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Saturday – Jan 17 – 5:00 pm – Rob Punton
Sunday – Jan 18 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am – ++George & Angel Czyra Comprendio
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.

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