

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Jan 18 – 9:00 am- KC Breakfast in the Spirit 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 – RE Classes – see below  
 Wed., Jan 21 – 6:45 pm – Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Service  
 Thurs., Jan 22 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith in lower level of St. Leo's church

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm

All classes will attend Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service at 6:45 pm

**NOTE:** All sessions of 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade (A & B) will meet at 6:15 pm

**NOTE:** 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade will have a combined class at 6:15 pm

**NOTE:** All other classes start at regular times.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Jan 24</b> 5:00 pm <b>St. Leo's</b>	<b>Sunday Jan 25</b> 8:30 am <b>St. Leo's</b>	<b>Sunday Jan 25</b> 10:30 am <b>St. Thomas</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Fred Eldridge	Jackie Vavra	
<b>KC Memorial Mass</b>	Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Patty Glennon Terry Kensok Terri Monilaws	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers	
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Claire Glennon Jack Glennon Nolan Ziegelmann Paxton Ziegelmann	Hannah Besette Ali Kiloran	
<b>Offertory Collectors</b>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Corey Hovelson Family
<b>Lead Rosary</b>	Michelle Kappes	Sandra Keller	

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

Ecumenical Prayer Service of Song  
 Casselton Ministerium

**Wed., Jan. 21, 2026 — 6:45 pm**

**St. Leo's Catholic Church**

Everyone is invited to join in an ecumenical celebration of prayer and song led by the Casselton Area Ministerium Association. This year's theme and prayer for Christian Unity is "There is One Body and One Spirit, just as you are called to the One Hope of your calling." (*Ephesians 4:4*) Reception to follow in the Spirit of Life Center.

**Week of Christian Unity Rosary:** Beginning **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and every day through Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**, Sandra Keller will be leading the Rosary at 3:00 pm everyday. All parishioners are invited to come and say the Rosary with Sandra during the week.

**Gifts for the Child:** **Thank you** to the parishioners who generously donated to the *Gifts for the Child* collection. Your support – including \$100 and 98 donated items – will greatly assist Birthright FM in its mission to support women and children in need throughout the FM area.

**Giving Tree Update:** There were 100 tags on the giving tree this year and all 100 were taken. The estimated value of all the items donated came to around \$2,700. Thank you again to all who donated to the Giving Tree and Gifts for the Child. Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference in these peoples lives.

**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.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..." ~ Isaiah 49:5*

God has given each of us different gifts. In order for God's plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast:**  
 Serving French toast and  
 Langdon sausage **Sun., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vocations@fargodiocese.org)



**Life-Giving Wounds Retreat: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce or Separation** – February 27-March 1 at the St. Francis Retreat Center, 102 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://fargodiocese.org/lgw) or see the flyer on the bulletin board to scan the QR code.

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Joining the Church

At the Church's Easter Vigil Service (*on Holy Saturday night*) many Catholic churches throughout the world celebrate the entry of new people into the life and membership of the Catholic Church. These are people who have gone through a process now called **OCIA**. This is an acronym for **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It was previously known as **RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults]**.

For the past number of weeks six people from the parishes of St. Leo's and St. Thomas have so far attended 12 of 16 classes on the Catholic Church and its teachings and beliefs. Two of these six would like to be fully initiated into the Church by being baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist. Such people are called **catechumens** as they go through OCIA. Four of the six have already been baptized in other Christian denominations and would like to be confirmed and receive the Eucharist. The OCIA process calls these persons **candidates for reception into full communion** with the Catholic Church.

Our catechumens are: **Don Krueger** and **Hunter Krueger**.

Our candidates are: **Hannah Barnes**, **Andrew Fraase**, **Jacob Schultz** and **Emma Weber**.

During these final weeks before Ash Wednesday they will finish their Inquiry classes. During the season of Lent they will finalize their final steps of full entry into the life of the Catholic Church that will be celebrated at our Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Please keep Don, Hunter, Hannah, Andrew, Jacob and Emma in your prayers!!**

### Ecumenism – a work of discipleship

Over the course of the last 2000+ years of Christian history the Church of Jesus Christ has suffered two major breaches in its unity. One breach occurred in the 1000s and is known as the East-West split. This gave rise to what is known as Orthodox churches. Then in the 1500s the Western Church suffered what was known as the Protestant Reformation.

Breaches in Church unity are against the will of Christ. At the Last Supper Christ prayed ‘*that all may be one as he and the Father are one*’ [Jn. 17:21]. This prayer has given rise to a word called ecumenism.

### Ecumenism is the work of restoring Christian unity.

One of the 16 documents of Vatican II was the Decree on Ecumenism which opening line reads, “*The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council.*” In 1995 the late pope St. John Paul wrote, “*At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to following the path of the ecumenical venture ...*”, and exhorts, “*all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to participate actively in the work of ecumenism.*” It is a source of joy to see that many ecumenical meetings almost always include and indeed culminate in prayer. The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, celebrated in January ... has become a wide-spread and well established tradition.”

In that spirit of ecumenism and the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, the Casselton Ministerium will be hosting an Ecumenical Service of Song and Prayer **this coming Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at St. Leo's**. All are welcome!!

### The Icon up front

The Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the stand near Mary's statue is part of the world-wide Knights of Columbus traveling pilgrim icon program that has happened annually since 1979. This icon is a reproduction of the 1767 painting by Pompeo Batoni and found in the Church of the Gesu in Rome. This icon carries the Apostolic blessing of the late Pope Francis.

On the altar next to the icon is newspaper article detailing this icon of the Sacred Heart along with a prayer card and a small prayer booklet for making a Holy Hour with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. **Please feel free to take a prayer card and spend some time in prayer.**



**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



### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**January 18, 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 18:

Mon – Jan 19 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Tues – Jan 20 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Randy Pfeifer by Joe & Lora Killoran  
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo's

Wed – Jan 21 – 9:00 am – +Margaret Kensok by Sue Knoll

Thurs – Jan 22 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory

Fri – Jan 23 – 9:00 am – +Sr. Leonia Schmidt by Sandie Nystrom

**Saturday – Jan 24 – 5:00 pm – +Don Nilles by James & Sandy Bowles**

**Sunday – Jan 25 – St. Leo's - 8:30 am – +George Waxler by Sue Knoll**

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am – For the people of our parishes**

#### Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer

E-mail: [james.ermer@fargodiocese.org](mailto:james.ermer@fargodiocese.org)

**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: [stleo@casselton.net](mailto:stleo@casselton.net)

**RE Coordinator:** Patty Roth

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: [dre@stleosnd.org](mailto:dre@stleosnd.org)

**Website:** [www.stleosnd.org](http://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.