

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wed., Jan 7 – RE Classes – see below
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
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 7th

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 A — 6:15 pm - 7:45 pm
11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Jan 10 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Jan 11 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Jan 11 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
	Mark Voss	Shari Kensok	Judy Von Bank
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bill Franck Lori Howard	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Susan Kempel Paul Olsen Deb Werner	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Payton Neumann	Melody Kempel Quinn/Riley Gunkel Emma Rupp	Abigail Killoran Liam Biggers
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Aaron Haseleu Family
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

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

St. Leo’s Giving Tree: **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to this year’s Giving Tree. We were overwhelmed by the generosity given to the moms and children at both the Perry Center and the Jeremiah Program. We received many needed items like diapers, wipes, clothing, kitchen items, gift cards, bath and beauty items, books as well as toys for the little ones. St. Leo’s is a very caring and giving community. May you and your families have a Blessed New Year.

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.



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.



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.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”~ Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

PASTOR’S NOTES

Epiphany – some spiritual musings

This year the Christmas season goes from December 26th through January 11th. This is a total of 18 days and within these 18 days the Church celebrates three solemnities [**Christmas day** {December 25th}; **Mary, Mother of God** {January 1st}; and **Epiphany** {this Sunday, January 4th}. In addition there are *five feast days*: {St. Stephen {December 26th}; St. John the Apostle {December 27th}; The Holy Innocents {December 28th}; Holy Family Sunday and Baptism of the Lord {January 11th}. Almost half of the Christmas season is taken up by these special feast days. In turn, each of these 8 days carry deep spiritual truths worthy of reflections to deepen our spiritual lives and what it means to be a Christmas people.

Today I would like to offer some reflections on today’s solemnity – **Epiphany**: Epiphany is a spiritual story about some wise men who make their way to Bethlehem and honor a new born child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is the story’s most basic outline. It is all the details within the story that offer points of much reflection —

(1) We are told these men come from the east and have been following a star that has attracted their attention. We might assume they are astrologers who believe the stars of the sky carry messages and tell stories. This particular star has told them about a new-born king of the Jews.

~~ *a point of spiritual reflection* – the world of creation contains a number of ‘etchings’ by God whose wisdom created all things. If we deeply ponder and probe this creation wisdom [‘etchings’], we begin to see God’s plan for creation. **This is what is called natural law.** Natural law is foundational to many of the Church’s moral and spiritual teachings. The original sin took this natural order and used it in ways unintended by God, Creator and Designer of the universe. But when used, like the magi, it can lead us to God!!

(2) Initially the star led the magi to Jerusalem where they queried about the new-born king. The people of Jerusalem opened the book (the Bible) and found the passage from Micah that speaks about a ruler coming from Bethlehem who will shepherd God’s people [**Micah 5:1**].

~~ *a point of spiritual reflection* – this is a very sad point – the pagan magi go to Bethlehem, but the ‘believers’ are unmoved. Why not go? Bethlehem is only about 7 miles from Jerusalem. Do they not believe in the gift of natural law? Are they prejudiced against ‘strangers from the east? Does this fulfill John 1:11 “... to his own he came, yet his own did not accept him.” or more harshly John 3:19 “... the light came into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were wicked.”

(3) The magi arrive in Bethlehem, prostrate themselves, honor the child and offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

~~ *a point of spiritual reflection* – gold suggests something for a person of royal or kingly status; frankincense is the stuff of worship and used around altars; myrrh is used to cover the smell of death. Do these three gifts together suggest the sacrificial death of Calvary {myrrh} of the second person of the Godhead {gold} who is now found upon the altars of our churches {frankincense}?

(4) The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh suggest there were 3 wise men. Scripture itself does not make this point.

~~ *a point of spiritual reflection* – the magi represent the Gentile world (non-Jewish people) coming to worship the Savior of the world. God’s great plan of redeeming the human race is now set in motion. The prophet Isaiah’s Advent vision of people streaming to Mount Zion to be instructed in God’s way [**Is. 2:1-5**] is beginning to unfold.



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 Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 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 4:

Mon – Jan 5 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Tues – Jan 6 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Ray Killoran by Joe & Lora Killoran
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – Jan 7 – 9:00 am – +Shirley Marek by Monica Qvale
Thurs – Jan 8 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Fri – Jan 9 – 9:00 am – +Karol Utt by Mike Utt
Saturday – Jan 10 – 5:00 pm – Anthony Garman by Anna Garman
Sunday – Jan 11 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am For the people of our parishes
St. Thomas - 10:30 am – +Larry Zaun by Penny Zaun

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
E-mail: james.ermer@fargodiocese.org
Secretary: Delores Grommesh
Phone: 701-347-4609
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RE Coordinator: Patty Roth
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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.