

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Advent Reconciliation — *Coming clean ... starting anew!!*

Coming clean and starting anew is good psychological medicine. Those involved in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) know the *gift of the 5<sup>th</sup> step* of their 12-step program. The 5<sup>th</sup> step is a moral review of one's life and sitting down and sharing that review with another person. It is in the very honest telling of the lies, the deceptions, the duplicity and the moral failings of one's life so that a spirit of renewal begins to bud forth in that person's life.

During the Advent season John the Baptist is the dominant voice in our Scripture readings. He speaks of repentance and making straight a path so the Lord can enter our lives. We must level the mountains of arrogance and pride, and fill in the valleys of deficit moral living. **We need to come clean so a spirit of renewal can take hold of our lives.**

Christ knows the human spirit. He shared our human nature in all ways but sin. Christ knows how humanity can be seduced into lies, deception and duplicity. He knows this deficit moral living has a cancerous effect on conscience and moral living. People convince ourselves they are not 'big time' sinners like Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin. But slowly and surely consciences become deaf and blind to what is truly good and right. Spiritual lives become lethargic and compromised. What they do and how they live gives scandal to family and friends. What was thought to be private and personal has now become public and 'out there'. Family life stumbles from lack of nobility and integrity. Young ones see hypocrisy and duplicity and the downward cycle continues.

**Yet at the same time** stories are told of martyrs and mystics, of saints and angels, of a call to holiness and a promise of life without end to all who give themselves to Jesus Christ.

It is this Jesus who promises forgiveness seventy times seven times to all who forsake the lure of sin and seek the Kingdom of God. On the night of his resurrection from the dead his first public words to his apostles were, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.*" Christ left his Church the gift of his reconciling love in the sacrament of Reconciliation. During this Advent season area Catholic Churches schedule Reconciliation services [*cf. bulletin insert in this week's bulletin*].

**St. Leo's is scheduled for Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Like the 5<sup>th</sup> step in the AA program we come confessing our deficit moral living and leave absolved, resurrected and flush with a new lease on life. What a gift! What a treasure! **Has it been a while?**

### Treat yourself!

### Help needed

Coordinators, Readers, Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

With the Christmas season just two weeks away and many people traveling we do need the help of a number of liturgical ministers for the upcoming Christmas season liturgies at St. Leo's. **The various sign-up sheets for these liturgies are at the back of the church or in the office hallway.**

- 1) Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass at 9:30 p.m.
- 2) Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m.
- 3) Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> Holy Family Mass at 5 p.m.
- 4) Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Holy Family Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- 5) Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Day Mass -- Mary, Mother of God at 10 a.m.

**Note:** If any of these times are your regularly scheduled time, **please sign up anyway** so our Mass coordinators know what ministries need to be filled.

**Your generous and willing spirit of service is deeply appreciated!!**



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 OF ADVENT December 10, 2023



### 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 10:

Mon - Dec 11 – 9:00 am – **Special intention for the Quinn family** by Cathy Braxton

Tues - Dec 12 – St. Thomas– 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – Dec 13 – 9:00 am – **+Bonnie Fiala** by Lillian Eberhardt

Thurs – Dec 14 – 9:00 am – **+Jim Waldorf** by Gary & Delores Grommesh

Fri – Dec 15 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**

**Sat - Dec 16 – 5:00 pm - +Mark Bolda by Den Bolda**

**Sun - Dec 17 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Kenny Ronning by Terri Biggers**

**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: 701-793-7088

**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

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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.

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

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Sun., Dec 10 - 6:30 pm - 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Parent meeting  
**Mon., Dec 18 - 7:00 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Leo's**  
 Wed., Dec 20 - 6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo, 6:00 pm Simple Supper  
 Wed., Dec 20 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
**Sun., Dec 24 - 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve- Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo**  
**9:30 pm - Christmas Eve- Mass at St. Leo's, Carols begin at 9:00 pm**  
**Mon., Dec 25 - 10:00 am - Christmas Day- Mass at St. Leo's**  
 Sun., Dec 30 - 5:00 pm - Mary, Mother of God Holy Day- Vigil Mass at St. Thomas  
 Mon., Jan 1 - 10:00 am - Mary, Mother of God Holy Day- Mass at St. Leo's

### Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

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


Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)

Grades 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Grade 7 - Class B and 11<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

There will be **NO Beverage and Bite on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** after the 8:30 am Mass.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                   | Saturday Dec 16<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's | Sunday Dec 17<br>8:30 am<br>St. Thomas | Sunday Dec 17<br>10:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                         |                                        |                                                                             |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Lee Ann Monilaws<br>Mallory Poulson     | Jackie Vavra                           | Steve Carvell                                                               |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Gary Grommesh<br>Delores Grommesh       | Penny Zaun<br>Joni Biggers             | Micah Bartholomay<br>Joan Carvell<br>Jake Lako<br>Deb Werner<br>Jake Werner |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Hayden Faleide<br>Burchill Family       | Carly Hovelson<br>Ali Killoran         | Elise Bartholomay<br>Brynne Bartholomay<br>Kayleigh Prochnow                |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | Volunteers needed                       | Travis & Darcie Besette                | Volunteers needed                                                           |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               |                                         | Frank & Laura Biggers                  | Tyler Waslien Family                                                        |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Mona Franck                             |                                        | Jessica Enge                                                                |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Come and make some joyful music!**  
*Join our Christmas Choir!*  
**Mass on Christmas Eve— Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Carols at 9:00pm and Mass at 9:30pm**  
**Mass on Christmas Day— Mon., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**  
**Adults and students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades:**  
 Singers and instrumentalists are welcome- we'll have music ready! Practices continue on:  
 Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
 Wed., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
 Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am  
 Call the parish office with any questions. 347-4609.

**Join us to sing from the choir loft!** "Choir Sunday" will be **Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone middle school and older is welcome is to sing. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10am that day to run through these songs: #71, #62, #702, #67, #70. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Music with harmony parts available-ask Wanda Mangin.



**GIFTS for THE CHILD:** At the main entry of the church is a crib that is accepting all sorts of baby supplies, e.g. diapers, wipes, blankets, and toiletries. These items will be brought up in procession at our 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and then be donated to some of the agencies that work with expectant parents/single moms. Monetary donations can also be turned in to the parish office.

**Humanitarian assistance for the Holy Land Special Collection:** An envelope is attached to this week's bulletin for this special collection. Funds raised will be sent to the Latin Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Please make checks payable to St. Leo's and return either in the collection next weekend or to the parish office. Thank you.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Donations will again be sent to Churches United, which is a local organization that gives shelter and donated items to those in need. This year, their critical needs are children's gifts and adult care items. The Giving Tree is located in the Spirit of Life center. Please grab a tag(s) and return your donations **un-wrapped** to the church by **12:00 pm noon on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** so they can be distributed by Christmas. Thank you.

**At Home with the Word books:** As we begin this new Church year, At Home with the WORD - a book containing the Sunday Scripture readings and insightful commentary for each week. Cost is \$8 and they can be picked up at St. Leo's Parish office.

**KC Coloring Contest:** Completed sheets need to be returned to the parish office by **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**St. Leo's Ministry Schedule for December 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>:** Because the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weekends of December are holiday weekends (*and people usually travel*) there will be sign-up sheets in the church entry to help fill the schedule for those weekends. **If one of those weekends is your normally scheduled weekend and you are going to be here we ask that you please sign up for your regular time slot.** This will greatly help us in the planning process. Thank you for your help.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"Prepare the way of the Lord.." ~ Mark 1:3*

We are called to live a holy life. We are called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven.