

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wed., Dec 3 – RE classes — see below
Thurs., Dec 4 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith in lower level of St. Leo’s church
Sun., Dec 7 – 7:00 pm – St. Thomas – Holy Day Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass
Mon., Dec 8 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Holy Day Immaculate Conception Mass
Thurs., Dec 11 – 7:00 pm – Inquiry Class on the Catholic faith in lower level of St. Leo’s church
Fri., Dec 19 – 7:00 pm – St. Leo’s – Advent Reconciliation Service

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Dec. 3rd
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



Knights of Columbus
Breakfast: Serving
pancakes and
sausage **Sun., Dec.**
7th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in
the Spirit of Life Center.



Council 9477

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Dec 6 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Dec 7 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Dec 7 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
	Mark Voss	Jackie Vavra	Karren Bartholomay
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Lucy Wagner Alex Richard	Joe Killoran Linda Milbrandt	Jared Nelson Nicole Scherweit Pam Spooner Lucas Steckler Ruth Monilaws
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Richard Family Bolda Family Lako Family	Damien Norrie Cole Hovelson	Olivia Garman James/Isaac Diemert
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Travis & Darcie Besette	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Larry Biffert Family	Travis Besette Family	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Lucy Wagner		Volunteer Needed

NEWS AND NOTES

Come and make some joyful music!
Join our Christmas Choir!
Mass on Christmas Eve – Wed. Dec 24th
Carols at 9:00 pm and Mass at 9:30 pm
Mass on Christmas Day – Thurs, Dec 25th at 10:00 am
Adults and students in 6th - 12th grades:
First practice Sun., Dec 7th from 8:45– 10:00 am
Singers and instrumentalist are welcome– we’ll have music ready! Practices continue on:
Sun., Dec 14 – 9:30 am to 10:45 am
Sun., Dec 21 - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Call the parish office with any questions. 347-4609

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be **Sunday, December 21st** at the 10:30 am Mass. Any-one 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: #39, #62, #742, #70, #68, #51, #47. YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand. Contact Wanda Mangin with any questions at wanda.mangin@yahoo.com

St. Leo’s Sunday Financial Stewardship			
Year to Date (October)	2023	2024	2025
Adult Envelopes	\$225,596	\$216,295	\$218,144
Children’s Envelopes	\$701	\$618	\$627
Plate	\$13,899	\$ 12,414	\$12,132
Our Sunday offering is ahead of last year’s year-to-date giving, but shy of our all time high of year-to-date giving. Thank you for you generosity!			

This week’s Stewardship moment:
“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”~ Matthew 24:42
People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a great appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God’s active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

ADVENT Booklet: Please see the table in the church entry to pick up an Advent booklet along with an Advent Calendar with suggestions on how to make your Advent more meaningful.

Thank you to West Funeral Home for providing *The Miracles of Jesus* 2026 calendar. Calendars are located in the church entry. Please limit one calendar per household.

St. Leo’s Christmas Giving Tree: This year St. Leo’s will be sponsoring The Jeremiah Program and The Perry Center. Both non-profit organizations help young women who have chosen life for their babies. In this time of giving, lets remember these young women and the life they are working on to create for their babies. Starting November 22nd tags will be available on the Giving Tree located in the Spirit of Life Center along with instructions. **Unwrapped gifts along with the tags can be returned by Mon., Dec. 15th.**

99th Annual Concordia Christmas Concert: More than 250 singers and three choral ensembles and a 90-piece symphony orchestra combine to create a holiday concert event you won’t soon forget. Concert dates are: Fri., Dec 5 - 7:30 pm; Sat., Dec 6 - 2 pm and 7:30 pm; Sun., Dec 7 - 2 pm. Purchase tickets at: ConcordiaChristmas.com or see the flyer on the bulletin board to scan the QR code.

St. Mary’s Cathedral 8thAnnual Christmas Ball: Friday, December 19th, 6:00 - 10:00 pm. All ages are welcome to this FREE event, attire is formal. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

PASTOR’S NOTES

The Advent season ...
... a four-step ladder to Christmas

Each of the five Church seasons [Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter & Ordinary Time] celebrate deep and abiding truths about our Christian faith. Advent is no exception, but it mostly gets lost in the ‘Christmas buzz’. **In actuality ‘a lost Advent’ means a malformed Christmas.**

Each week of the four-week Advent season is a step on a four-step ladder to Christmas as viewed through the Sunday readings for Advent.

In the first week of Advent, we are told, ‘the world as we know it is passing away’. Like the people of Noah’s time we are often oblivious to the signs of our times. Destruction came to all except Noah and his family. Wars, famine, pestilence, pandemics, etc. were never meant to be normative events. From whence comes this mayhem? On the other hand the prophet Isaiah tells us, “one nation shall not raise the sword against another nor shall they train for war again.” Is this just a fairy tale? Advent begins by asking serious questions who we are meant to be and stirring hope that things can be better than they are. In what and though whom does that hope spring?

In the second week of Advent, we are told ‘to get our house in order’ by preparing the way of Lord through acts of repentance. God would like to restore what has been corrupted by sin, but always seeks our cooperation. We need to examine our lives and come clean once again as we were on the day of our baptisms and sealed by the 7-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit on the day of our Confirmations. Once we know our destiny, the Advent season reminds us we have ‘fallen off the wagon’ and we need to seek God’s grace and mend some fences.

In the third week of Advent, we are told to ‘hitch our wagon’ to the one John the Baptist proclaimed to be the Lamb of God. He is the real deal. There is no equal. In him the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame leap and the dead are raised to life. There is a cacophony of voices in our lives vying for attention, making sale pitches and ‘promising the moon’. The Advent season is about discerning the good, the true and the right. Without such discernment we end in the same old places, doing the same old things and never making headway towards the destiny discerned in the first week of Advent.

In the fourth week of Advent, we are invited to a town called Nazareth to witness an age-old prophecy being fulfilled. Five hundred years earlier Isaiah the prophet foresaw a day when “the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” In Nazareth we meet a man called Joseph betrothed to a woman called Mary who has conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Could this one be ‘the promise of the ages’? Let us go and see!!!

Advent is the necessary preparation for Christmas.

Without Advent done well, Christmas is just a day of nice food, family gatherings, gift sharing and afternoon football.

Advent done well provides the foundation for the indwelling of divine life and the deification of human nature. As Psalm 8: 6-10 proclaims:

You have made little less than the angels,
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given rule over the works of your hands,
putting all things under his feet:
all sheep and oxen,
yes, and the beast of the field,
the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth.



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30, 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 Nov 30:

Mon – Dec 1 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Tues – Dec 2 – 9:00 am – St. Thomas – +Randy Pfeifer by Joe & Lora Killoran
NO 9 am Mass at St. Leo’s
Wed – Dec 3 – 9:00 am – +Shirley Marek by Monica Qvale
Thurs – Dec 4 – 9:00 am – +Doug Richman by Keith & Joni Biggers
Fri – Dec 5 – 9:00 am – +Souls in purgatory
Saturday – Dec 6 – 5:00 pm – +Jill Flack by Keith & Barb Marschke
Sunday – Dec 7 – 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
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

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.