

PASTOR’S NOTES

Is ... on your Christmas list???

Coming clean and starting anew is good psychological medicine. Those involved in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) know the *gift of the 5th step* of their 12-step program. The 5th 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 that a spirit of renewal begins to bud forth in that person’s life.

During the Advent season John the Baptist is a 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 the Advent season area Catholic Churches schedule Reconciliation services. See this week’s bulletin insert or the poster on the bulletin board in the church entry for dates and times.

St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for
Monday, December 19th at 7 p.m.

Like the 5th 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!

Is celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation on your Christmas list?
Treat yourself!

Calendar notes —

- > **Wednesday, December 21st**— RE/Family/Parish Advent Bingo — RE Simple Supper at 6 p.m. followed by Bingo at 6:30 p.m. Come one! come all!
- > **Christmas Mass schedule:**
 - Christmas eve., Dec. 24th @ 5 p.m. — St. Thomas in Buffalo
 - Christmas eve., Dec. 24th @ 9:30 p.m. – St. Leo’s in Casselton **[Carols at 9 p.m.]**
 - Christmas Day, Dec. 25th @ 10 a.m. — St Leo’s in Casselton



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11, 2022



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 11:

Mon - Dec 12 – 9:00 am – **+Jim Waldorf** by Gary & Delores Grommesh
Tues - Dec 13 - 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass
Wed– Dec 14 - 9:00 am - **+Hank Weber** by Sue Knoll
Thurs – Dec 15 – 9:00 am - **Scott Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman
Fri – Dec 16 – 9:00 am - **+Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Sat - Dec 17 - 5:00 pm - +Gene Dooley by Theresa Dooley
Sun - Dec 18 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Claudia Von Bank by Keith & Joni Biggers
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Prayer Chain:
Bea Bachmeier: 347-5555
Kelsey Lako: 793-7088
Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher
Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo’s Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay
St. Thomas Directors: Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

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.

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

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues., Dec 13 - 7:00 pm - Eucharist Parent meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Wed., Dec 14 - Religious Education classes— see below
Sat., Dec 17 - 9:30 am– 10:30 am - Fr. Ermer will hear confessions at St. Thomas in Buffalo
Mon., Dec 19 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service
Wed., Dec 21 - 6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo, 6:00 pm Simple Supper
Wed., Dec 21 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
Sat., Dec 24– Christmas Eve- 5:00 pm - Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
9:30 pm - Mass at St. Leo’s, Carols start at 9 pm
Sun., Dec 25 - Christmas Day - 10:00 am - Mass at St. Leo’s

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Dec 14th
St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo’s RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm
Grades K, 1, 2, 3 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)
Grades 4-8 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Grade 9 - Class A and 11th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



Help Support our Camer-oon Card Mission: Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. There is a wonderful selection for all occasions available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Dec 17 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Dec 18 8:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>	Sunday Dec 18 10:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Larry Zaun	Steve Carvell
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Joan Carvell Jake Lako Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Burchill Family Hayden Faleide	Gavin Besette Damien Norrie	Lucas Miller Cassie Bartholomay Elise/Brynne Bartholomay
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Keith & Joni Biggers	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Gary & Linda Milbrandt	<i>Volunteers needed</i>
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Mona Franck		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

Celebrate Baptism - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Julia Christine Hill, daughter of Colton and Michaela.
We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Audrey Cramer on the death of her mother, Marlys Rohde.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4

St. Leo’s 2022 Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is located in the Spirit of Life Center. Please take a tag/tags off the tree to purchase items for those in need. Drop off **unwrapped** donations by Sunday, December 18th by 5 pm. Donations can be left either with someone in the parish office or by the tree. Giving tree items will be delivered to Churches United for the Homeless.

Special Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious: This Sunday, December 11th has been designated as **Retirement Fund for Religious**. This special collection assists religious orders of men and women in defraying the healthcare costs of their elderly and retired members. These men and women have given of their lives for decades in service of the Church’s mission by doing works of education, running hospitals and orphanages and caring for the poor. The envelope for this collection is in your regular packet of envelopes. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to West Funeral Home for providing the *Feasts & Saints* calendars for 2023. The calendars are located on a table in the church entry. Please take only one per household. Thank you.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” ~ James 5:8
Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer, God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

“Gifts for the Baby”

Advent Baby Shower



A baby is just the beginning of a beautiful story but many moms in our area struggle to make ends meet. St. Leo’s Parish will collect items or money to make this Christmas a little brighter for babies and moms.
*Donations can be put by the manger in the front entry of the church before **Dec. 24th**.*
All donations collected will be distributed to local agencies working with expectant mothers.

Cathedral Solemn Vespers: All are welcome to pray and sing vespers each evening from December 17th to 23rd at 7 pm in Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Fargo, (615 7th St. N.). The Church eagerly awaits the coming of the Messiah and sings the “O Antiphons” which recall various prophetic titles of the Christ: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel.



Annual Collar Classic: Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball game. Tues., Dec. 27th at Shanley High School, Fargo. Free admission and half-time games for kids. All are welcome to attend. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.