

PASTOR’S NOTES

‘O’ Antiphons – the closing days of Advent

Starting December 17th the tone of Advent shifts. It becomes more focused on the one who is to come, the one who will do marvelous things. It is seven days before Christmas eve with seven being the biblical number symbolizing perfection as in the seven days of creation. In these seven days before Christmas eve we set our hearts more earnestly of God’s providential love throughout history culminating in the mystery of Christmas.

The song – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – proclaims seven (7) attributes of the ‘Coming One’. The origin of this song goes back to an anonymous monk of the 7th or 8th century, who was seeking to deepen his preparation for the great solemnity of Christmas and especially the person of Jesus, the Messiah. This song is characterized by its ‘O’ antiphons, which are Old Testament images signifying the hope of Israel, who put their trust in God. Each ‘O’ antiphon rises to a new level of fulfillment with the one born in Bethlehem:

- > The first ‘O’ antiphon – **wisdom** [Sapientia] – acknowledges that God’s wisdom fills and gives order to all things. The coming Christ will make incarnate (visible) this wisdom.
- > The second ‘O’ antiphon – **Lord** [Adonai] – remembers God’s revelation of his name and his law to Moses. The coming Christ will bring us into covenant with God’s inner life.
 - > The third ‘O’ antiphon – **Flower of Jesse** [Radix] – recalls God’s promise to King David, whose grandfather was Jesse. When all seemed dead, Jesse’s stump sprouts new life with the coming Christ who dies on the Tree of Calvary.
- > The fourth ‘O’ antiphon – **Key of David** [Clavix] – remembers the loss of Paradise and humanity becoming imprisoned to their own desires. The coming Christ breaches the darkness of sin and unlocks heavenly life.
- > The fifth ‘O’ antiphon – **Radiant Dawn** [Oriens] – acknowledges God’s people often walk in darkness and the shadow of death. The coming Christ is the ‘Dayspring from on high’, who is the light of the world.
- > The sixth ‘O’ antiphon – **King of nations** [Rex] – recalls that God’s Chosen People often became frozen in notions of privilege and status. The coming Christ comes to serve, to give his life as ransom for the many, to bring all things into one - He is King of Kings!!!
- > The seventh ‘O’ antiphon – **God with us** [Emmanuel] – reminds us that Israel’s great consolation was that God was close to them. The coming Christ takes on human flesh (becoming one of us) and lives with us until the end of the ages.

The traditional order of the seven ‘O’ antiphons describe Christ as: *Wisdom, Lord of Might, Rod of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of Nations and Emmanuel {‘God with us’}*. There is an interesting note to this ordering of the seven ‘O’ antiphons when they are translated into Latin (*as they appear above within brackets*). The Latin translation for each of the above antiphons are: Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavix, Oriens, Rex and Emmanuel. If you take the first letter and each of these Latin translations and reverse them they spell out the phrase — *ERO CRAS* — which translates **“Tomorrow I shall be there”**.

After seven days of proclaiming the great attributes of Christ and asking him to come in the ‘O’ antiphons, it seems so fitting that ERO CRAS comes to fulfillment in the Christmas feast. In these last days of this Advent season may the ‘O’ antiphons lead our meditations on the one who comes at Christmas.



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633-5150



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 19, 2021



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 19:

Mon - Dec 20 – 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**
Tues - Dec 21 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - **+Randy Pfeifer** by Joe & Lora Killoran
St. Leo’s — NO MASS
Wed - Dec 22 – 9:00 am - **Ted & Virginia Pedeliski**
Thurs - Dec 23 – 9:00 am - **+Lois Myers** by Marian Watson
Fri - Dec 24– Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm - Mass at St. Thomas
9:00 pm - Carols begin at St. Leo’s
9:30 pm - Mass at St. Leo’s - +Jerry Volk by DeLilah Volk
Sat - Dec 25 – Christmas Day - St. Leo’s - 10:00 am - +Fr. Bernard Bachmeier
Sun - Dec 26 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Sandi Olund by Keith & Joni Biggers

Parish Staff:
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Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798
St. Leo’s Directors: Mark Rehovsky & Dave Glennon
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.
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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Wed., Dec 22 - NO RE classes at St. Leo’s or St. Thomas  
Fr., Dec 24 - 9:00 am - Church decorating at St. Leo’s for Christmas, all parishioners are welcome to help  
**Fri., Dec 24 – Christmas Eve– St. Thomas- 5:00 pm- Mass**  
**Fri., Dec 24 – Christmas Eve– St. Leo’s- 9:00 pm Carols followed by Mass at 9:30 pm**  
**Sat., Dec 25 - Christmas Day– 10:00 am Mass at St. Leo’s; NO 5 pm Mass - see NOTE below**  
Sun., Dec 26 - NO Beverage and Bite after 8:30 am Mass  
Mon., Dec 27 - 7:00 pm - Annual Collar Classic: Priests vs. Seminarians at Shanley High School, Fargo  
Fri., Dec 31 - 5:00 pm - St. Thomas- Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Vigil Mass  
Sat., Jan 1 - 10:00 am - St. Leo’s - Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day Mass  
Sun., Jan 2 - 11:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** On Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> *{Christmas Day itself}* there will be **no 5 p.m. Saturday** anticipatory Mass at St. Leo’s for Holy Family Sunday [December 26<sup>th</sup>]. The only Masses for Holy Family Sunday [December 26<sup>th</sup>] will be Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo’s and Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas. Because of the high precedence Christmas has in the life of the Church, any Mass celebrated on Christmas Day must have the readings and prayers of Christmas Day. The readings and prayers of Holy Family Sunday can not be anticipated on Christmas Day itself as is usually done on Saturday evening anticipated Masses for the coming Sunday Mass.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Dec 25<br>10:00 am Mass Only<br><i>St. Leo's</i> | Sunday Dec 26<br>8:30 am<br><i>St. Leo's</i>                          | Sunday Dec 26<br>10:30 am<br><i>St. Thomas</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Lector                                                                             |                                                           |                                                                       | Gary Milbrandt                                 |
| Eucharistic Ministers                                                              |                                                           | <div>Please see<br/>Sign-Up Sheets<br/>in the<br/>Church entry.</div> |                                                |
| Altar Servers                                                                      |                                                           |                                                                       | Carly Hovelson<br>Hannah Besette               |
| Offertory Collectors                                                               |                                                           |                                                                       | Bob & Judith Von Bank                          |
| Gift Bearers                                                                       |                                                           |                                                                       | JoEllen Killoran<br>Betty Lou Stallman         |

NEWS AND NOTES

**Holy Family Sunday Blessing:** We will be celebrating The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. At that Mass, Fr. Ermer will be blessing articles of Religious Devotion. Please bring to Mass anything you would like blessed that you can then bring back home to your “Domestic Church” to enrich *your* family’s holiness. Objects can include (but are not limited to!) a Bible, a Rosary, figurines of the Holy Family from your Nativity Scene, a Holy Family picture or a crucifix.

**Advent Bingo Night:** Bingo night this past Wed. was well attended. We had over 170 people come to play Bingo, eat popcorn and have lots of fun. A special thanks to members of our Education Committee — Virjean Cramer, Mona Franck, Karren Bartholomay and Casey Garman for all your help. Also, thanks to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who helped make Bingo a fun event. Over 100 lbs. of food was collected and \$200 was donated to the Casselton Food Pantry. Thanks so much for attending Advent Bingo and donating money and food items.



**Annual Collar Classic:** Priests vs. Seminarians will be held Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Shanley High School, 5600 25th St S, Fargo. Free admission and half time games for kids. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board.

**This week’s Stewardship moment:**  
*“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” ~ Luke1:44*  
When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not jus passive observers.



Council 9477

**St. Leo’s Knight of the Month:** The Knight for the month of **December** is **Adrian Kieffer**. Thank you Adrian for all you do for the KC’s. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Tree:** The KCs will be bringing in the Christmas tree on Tuesday, Dec 21st at 6:30 pm. All parishioners as welcome to come help set up the tree.

**Church Decorating:** If you like to help prepare the church for Christmas, we will be decorating at 9:00 am on Fri., Dec 24<sup>th</sup>. Young and old are welcome!

**Ministry sign-up:** We are looking for help with Mass coordinators, Readers, Mass servers, and EMHCs for Christmas and New Year weekend liturgies. Please sign up on the schedules in the church entry.

“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. 24<sup>th</sup>**.*  
*All donations collected will be distributed to local agencies working with expectant mothers.*