

PASTOR’S NOTES

Thank you kindly —

For the many Christmas greetings, goodies, cards, gifts and family photos that have been sent my way. All is deeply appreciated and serves as a rich reminder of what Christ said to Peter, “... *there is no one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children or property, for me and for the gospel who will not receive in this present age a hundred times as many homes, brothers or sisters, mother, children and property ...*” [Mk 10:29-30] **Thank you!!**

Christmas season

The Christmas season is the shortest season of the church’s liturgical life. It begins with the celebration of the Christmas Mass and extends through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on Sunday, January 9th. The Baptism of the Lord celebrates the beginning of Christ’s 3-year public ministry of walking the land of Israel and doing the works recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Within the short season of Christmas we celebrate the feast of the **Holy Family** (December 26th) and the solemnities of **Mary, Mother of God** (January 1st) and the **Epiphany of the Lord** (January 2nd).

Christmas is much more than the sentimental reflection upon the manger scene. The Christmas season is really the Gospel in miniature. All the major themes that are found in the public ministry of Jesus are found in miniature in the stories that dominate the Christmas season. For example:

- (1) the angel’s song at the birth of Jesus [Lk. 2:14] reminds us that Christ came to unite heaven and earth, which had been rent apart by the sin of our first parents;
- (2) when Jesus is found in the Temple [Lk. 2:41-49] he reminds his parents he must be about his Father’s business, which is the essence of Christ’s prayer in the garden of Gethsemane;
- (3) the story of the Magi [Mt. 2:1-12] remind us of the universality (catholicity) of Christ’s mission to the whole of the human race;
- (4) Simeon’s prophecy to Mary [Lk. 2:34-35] that her heart would be pierced by a sword looks forward to that famous sculpture work of the *Pieta* where she holds the body of her son as he is taken down from the Cross. Discipleship is marked by suffering.

With this reflection in mind may our Christmas season be a little richer in appreciating the wonder of God’s love, which begins in a manger, is seemingly ‘snuffed out’ on Calvary, but breaks the bonds of death at Easter only to fill the world at Pentecost with the unconquerable hope of eternal life. As John’s Gospel says, “... *through him the world was made, yet the world did not know who he was. To his own he came, yet his own did not accept him. **Anyone who did accept him he empowered to become children of God... of his fullness we have all had a share ... love following upon love.***” [Jn 1: 10-12,16]

Such is the beauty and splendor of Christmas,
of Christmas people,
of a Christmas world!



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 26, 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 26:

Mon - Dec 27 – 9:00 am - +**Marie Hong Tran** by Lisa Tran
Tues - Dec 28 – 9:00 am St. Thomas - +**Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — **NO MASS**
Wed - Dec 29 – 9:00 am - +**Sr. Alice Grommesh** by Gary & Delores Grommesh
Thurs - Dec 30 – 9:00 am - +**Ernest Watson** by Marian Watson
Fri., Dec 31 – 9:00 am - **NO MASS** at St. Leo’s
Fri - Dec 31– Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day- St. Thomas– 5:00 pm– Larry & Penny Zaun Family
Sat - Jan 1 – Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day- St. Leo’s - 10:00 am
Sat - Jan 1 - 5:00 pm - +Deceased family members of Ralph and Barb Nelson
Sun - Jan 2 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - +Howard Kitchen by Lori Howard

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/Nicole Scherweit
Phone: 701-347-4609
E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org
Website: www.stleosnd.org

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: 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

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  
Tues., Jan 4 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory  
Wed., Jan 5 - RE Classes resume - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas  
6:30 pm - St. Leo's RE classes; Simple Supper at 6 pm  
K/1st grade - Group B meets  
6:15 pm - Junior class meets  
Sun., Jan 9 - 9:30 am - Beverage and Bite after Mass  
Tues., Jan 11 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory

**This week's Stewardship moment:**  
“See what love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” ~ 1 John 3:1  
During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people who are different than you, those who you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Jan 1<br>5:00 pm<br><i>St. Leo's</i>                         | Sunday Jan 2<br>8:30 am<br><i>St. Thomas</i> | Sunday Jan 2<br>10:30 am<br><i>St. Leo's</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Lector</i>                                                                      | <div>Please see<br/>Sign-Up Sheets<br/>in the<br/>Church entry.</div> | Jackie Vavra                                 | Anna Garman                                  |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>                                                       |                                                                       |                                              | Deacon Matt Kensok                           |
| <i>Altar Servers</i>                                                               |                                                                       | Gavin Besette<br>Meyer Wendel                | Garman Family                                |
| <i>Offertory Collectors</i>                                                        | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                              | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                     | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                     |
| <i>Gift Bearers</i>                                                                | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                                              | Gary & Linda Milbrandt                       | <i>Volunteers needed</i>                     |

NEWS AND NOTES

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Holy Day**  
**Mass Schedule -**  
*Friday, December 31 - 5 pm at St. Thomas*  
*Saturday, January 1 - 10 am at St. Leo's*



**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

**A Christmas Season “Thank You”:** As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season, we extend a special thanks to all the people who helped make our Christmas so special - the environment decorators, the Mass coordinators, Lectors, EMHCs, Mass servers, ushers, and musicians. We thank those who took time out of their busy schedules to plan, prepare and practice so that everything we did gave glory to God. Have a blessed New Year!

**2021 Contributors:** We ask that you please try and have your 2021 contributions in before December 31<sup>st</sup>. IRS regulations say that if a donor wants to claim a contribution as a charitable deduction for 2021 for income tax purposes, it must be received or postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Checks dated for December 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to your 2021 offertory statement and checks dated January 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited to your 2022 statements. Thank you.

**Prayers and Sympathy:** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Alecia Killoran and her family on the death of her grandmother, Joanne Olson.  
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4*

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas environment:

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| <b>St. Leo's:</b><br>Bea Bachmeier<br>Don & Audrey Cramer<br>Skip & Audrey Doyle<br>Jeff & DeAnn Grommesh                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | in memory of Vince Bachmeier and Janice Fritel<br>in honor and memory of all living & deceased family & friends<br>in honor of all St. Leo's parishioners<br>in memory of Peter Lindstrom, Paul & Eileen Grommesh and Roger & Mar-Jo Hanson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Russ & Joyce Hest<br>Ron & Lorraine Kensok<br>Bill Kent<br>Richard & Janice Muscha<br>Linus & Margaret Kensok<br>Adrian & Susan Kieffer<br>Ralph & Barb Nelson<br>Don & Mary Ellen Nilles<br>Sandra Nicolai Nystrom<br>Paul Puhr<br>Jim & Paulette Schmitt<br>Dick & Irene Sinner<br>Tony & Patty Roth<br>Lois Titus<br>Anonymous | in memory of Don & b Arlene Maertens and Ralph & Ethel Hest<br>in memory of our parents<br>in memory of Kathyrn Kent<br>in memory of Margaret & Joe Muscha and Evelyn & Jake Schlenker<br>in memory of Marie Dooley<br>in memory of Julie Levos<br>in memory of Ralph P. Nelson<br>in memory of the deceased Nilles and Duval family members<br>in memory of Vincent Nicolai and Dale Nystrom<br>in memory of John & Alice Puhr, Genieve Puhr and Jack Puhr<br>in memory of Ray & Clairice Schmitt and Leonard & Doris Brandenburg<br>in memory of Larry & Leona Miller, Janice Miller and Bill Sinner<br>in memory of Clare Schuler<br>in memory of Aloysius & Sally Artz and Neil Artz<br>in honor of Music and Christmas Enviroment Volunteers |