

PASTOR’S NOTES

Epiphany – more than meets the eye

We are familiar with the story of magi following a star and bearing gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense to the Christ Child. **This story has become the liturgy celebrated on Epiphany.** It is a beautiful, sentimental story imbedded within the Christmas scene. But there is more here than initially ‘meets the eye’.

Epiphany is a theological story rich in the great truths found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. First and foremost **the magi** in the Epiphany story represent the Gentile world (*non-Jewish people*) coming to worship a new born king of Israel. The Gentile world, unlike the Jewish nation, had not had the privilege of having had prophets announcing God’s love affair with the human race. Yet here they come! *The point is – All people throughout history, who seek the Truth and the meaning of life, will find it in the person of Christ born in Bethlehem.* The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story of salvation for the whole world that will come to be in Christ’s Death and Resurrection. As John’s Gospel tells us, “... anyone who accepts him, he empowered to become children of God.” [Jn. 1:12]

In many ways **the star** of the Epiphany story confirms this: Abraham, the father of the Jewish faith, had been promised descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky. Now this secondary light of a star leads the magi to the true light of the world through whom the whole world will be ‘born again’.

In the Exodus story of God leading His people to freedom in the Promised land, a pagan prophet named Balaam was hired by a Moabite king to lay a curse on the Israelites. He was unable to do so; quite to the contrary, Balaam proclaimed a blessing saying, “*I see him {God}, though not now; I behold him, though not near: a star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel, ...* Is this the star of Bethlehem? The Israelites descend from Jacob and Israel with Jesus being an Israelite.

The star also foreshadows all of creation responding to one born in Bethlehem. Beyond the twinkling of the star, Jesus will walk upon the waters and calm its waves [Mt. 14:25ff; Mk. 6:48], at his death the sun will become darkened [Lk. 23:44; Mk. 15:33], the earth will quake, rocks will be split asunder, and sheol will surrender its dead [Mt. 27:52]. The one born in Bethlehem is Lord of heaven and earth. Thus, the Epiphany star is more than a celestial object or a stargazer’s wonder.

The **gifts of the magi — gold, frankincense and myrrh** also tell us who this Christ Child is. Gold represents a king, frankincense speaks of worship given to God, and the scent of myrrh will cover the smell of death, which all human beings will experience.

Such is the richness of the Epiphany story!

Bishop Folda’s invitation —

Attached to this week’s bulletin is an explanation of the upcoming diocesan synod for the Diocese of Fargo.

In preparation for this significant event, the Diocese of Fargo is hosting 16 listening sessions throughout the eastern 30 counties that comprise the Diocese of Fargo. Four of the 16 sessions will be held in Cass county making it easy for parishioners from Holy Spirit, the Cathedral, St. Anthony’s, Nativity, Sts. Anne & Joachim, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Cross, **St. Leo’s, St. Thomas**, St. Benedict’s and NDSU Newman to attend.



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 Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 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 Jan 8:

Mon - Jan 9 – 9:00 am – **+Karol Utt** by Mike Utt
Tues - Jan 10 - 9:00 am - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s — NO 9 am Daily Mass
Wed – Jan 11 - 9:00 am - **Anthony Garman** by Casey & Anna Garman
Thurs – Jan 12 – 9:00 am - **Madalyn Wiersma** by Casey & Anna Garman
Fri – Jan 13 – 9:00 am - **+Linus Kensok** by Margaret Kensok
Sat - Jan 14 - 5:00 pm - +Hank Weber by Stan & Angeline Mathias
Sun - Jan 15 – St. Thomas - 8:30 am - +Rita Steidl by Keith & Joni Biggers
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes

Parish Staff:

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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., Jan 10 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
Wed., Jan 11 - RE classes - see below
Thurs., Jan 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Thurs., Jan 12 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith
Sun., Jan 15 - 9:00 am - KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
Wed., Jan 18 - 6:45 pm - Week of Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service
Thurs., Jan 19 - 7:00 pm - Inquiry class on the Catholic Faith
Tues., Jan 24 - 7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the rectory

Religious Education Class Times — Wed., Jan 11th
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 B and 12th grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	Saturday Jan 14 5:00 pm St. Leo’s 2 nd Sat of January	Sunday Jan 15 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Jan 15 10:30 am St. Leo’s 3 rd Sun of January
Lector	Tricia Geggelman	Judy Von Bank	Steve Carvell
Eucharistic Ministers	Bill Franck Nicole Schwerweit	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers	Micah Bartholomay Joan Carvell Jake Lako Deb Werner Jake Werner
Altar Servers	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Sophie Scherweit	Rudi Wendel Abigail Killoran	Lucas Miller Bartholomay Family
Offertory Collectors	Volunteers needed	Jurgen & Barb Suhr	Volunteers needed
Gift Bearers	Volunteers needed	Bob & Judy Von Bank	Korey Lorenz Family
Lead Rosary	Richard Muscha		Alexia Kieffer

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayers and Sympathy: Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Richard and Russel Muscha and their families on the death of their wife and mother, Janice and to Frank Kasowski and his family on the death of his wife, Ruth.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4


Catholic Daughters to Meet: Court St. Ann #261 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet Tuesday, January 10th at St. Anthony's Church in Fargo, (710 10th St. N) beginning Mass at 5:15 pm; pot luck meal to follow and meeting at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to bring non-perishable donations. If interested in CDA, please join us at our meeting. Any questions, please send an email to regentctstann@gmail.com

Catholic Man Night: Thursday, January 12th at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (218 10th St S, Moorhead, MN). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk and short discussion with speaker Angela Wanbach, Director of Women’s Care Center in Fargo. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!


The Awaken Women’s Retreat: March 24-26, 2023 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City, ND. Come and awaken the wonder and mystery of being human! With Jen Settle, Director of Ongoing Formation at the Theology of the Body Institute and Fr. Sean Mulligan. Cost will vary depending on accommodations. Space is limited, so reserve your spot not at: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/awaken-retreat> or contact Jennie Korsmo at 701-356-7901 for more information.

This week’s Stewardship moment:

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” ~ Matthew 2:11
The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

 **Knights of Columbus Breakfast:** Serving pancakes and sausage on Sunday, January 15th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Spirit of Life Center. Free will offering.

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages: Retrouvaille is an international, peer-run program that has helped hundreds of thousands of hurting married couples turn the tide, find new hope, and rediscover the love that initially brought them together. Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with stronger, healthier marriages. 2023 Retrouvaille weekends will be held locally in Fargo on February 3-5 and October 6-8. For more information or to register, visit: HelpOurMarriage.com or contact us at (701)356-7962 or via email at: RedRiverRetrouvaille@fargodiocese.org

 **Help Support our Cameroon 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. All proceeds go to the mission.

