

PASTOR’S NOTES

The second semester of Advent . . .

Most Catholics do not realize that the Advent season is broken into two parts. The first part begins with the first Sunday of Advent and runs through December 16<sup>th</sup>. Advent’s second part runs from December 17<sup>th</sup> to the Christmas Eve Mass.

On Tuesday of this week (December 17<sup>th</sup>) we begin the second part of Advent where our attention becomes focused on the one who will fulfill the hope that has been engendered in Advent’s first part. Those first days spoke of God’s desire for a world where violence is no more {swords into ploughshares}, where natural enemies live in communion {lamb and wolf} and where darkness and depravity are redeemed {parched deserts, the blind and the lame}.

The second part of Advent focuses on the seven (7) attributes of the one whose coming will change the course of human history! The song – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – proclaims these 7 attributes. This song is characterized by its ‘O’ antiphons. The origin of this song goes back to an anonymous monk of the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century, who was seeking to deepen his preparation for the great solemnity of Christmas and especially the person of Jesus, the Messiah.

The ‘O’ antiphons are composed of seven poetic verses each of which describes in greater detail what it means for Jesus to be our Savior. The antiphon that introduces the Gospel for each day beginning December 17<sup>th</sup> proclaims one of these seven ‘O’ antiphons.

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. The Latin translation for each of the above antiphons are: Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavix, Oriens, Rex and Emmanuel. If you take the first letter from each of these Latin words 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 seven ‘O’ antiphons lead our meditations on the one who comes at Christmas – *Wisdom from on high, Saving Lord, Flower of Jesse’ stump, Key to heaven, Dayspring who puts death to flight, King who is Prince of Peace, ‘God with us’ – Emmanuel*.

Calendar Notes:

- > **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** - Advent Family Bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m. (after the usual Religious Education Simple Supper) run by our RE students along with prizes; all parishioners are welcome!
- > **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** - St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service @ 7 p.m.
- > **Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Christmas Eve Mass** - at St. Thomas in Buffalo @ 5 p.m.  
(Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> -- Christmas carols at St. Leo’s in Casselton @ 9 p.m.)
- Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Christmas Eve Mass** - at St. Leo’s in Casselton @ 9:30 p.m.
- > **Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** – **Christmas Day Mass** at St. Leo’s @ 10 a.m.



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 15, 2019

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 15:

Mon - Dec 16 - 9:00 am - **Michelle Alex** by Patti Alex  
Tues - Dec 17 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **Andrew Gubrud** by Marian Kasowski  
*St. Leo’s - NO MASS*  
Wed - Dec 18 - 9:00 am - **+Kenny Habiger** by Stan & Angeline Mathias  
Thurs - Dec 19 - 9:00 am - **+Bernie Baumler** by Ron & Lorraine Kensok  
Fri - Dec 20 - 9:00 am - **Addison Alex** by Patti Alex  
**Sat - Dec 21 - St. Leo’s - 5:00 pm - +Rob Schmaltz by Theresa Dooley**  
**Sun - Dec 22 - St. Leo’s - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes**  
**St. Thomas - 10:30 am Mass - +Mike Vavra by Keith & Joni Biggers**

Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer  
**E-mail:** james.ermer@fargodiocese.org  
**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh  
Phone: 701-347-4609  
E-mail: stleo@casselton.net  
**Liturgy/RE:** Sue Knoll  
Phone: 701-347-4609  
Cell: 701-261-2047  
**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 & Mark Wieland  
**St. Thomas Directors:** Larry Zaun & Gary Milbrandt

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
at St. Leo’s  
4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday  
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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
Sun., Dec 15 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm — KC Breakfast in the Spirit of Life Center
Wed., Dec 15 - 5:15– 6 pm - Children’s Choir practice
Wed., Dec 18 - 3:45 pm - RE Classes at St. Thomas
Wed., Dec 18 - 6:00 pm - Simple Supper
6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo, NO RE Classes
Wed., Dec 18 - 8:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
<b>Fri., Dec 20 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service</b>
Sun., Dec 22 - 9:30– 10:30 am - Adult Choir practice
<b>Tues., Dec 24 - 5:00 pm– Christmas Eve– Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo</b>
<b>9:30 pm– Christmas Eve– Mass at St. Leo’s, Carols start at 9 pm</b>
<b>Wed., Dec 25 - 10:00 am - Christmas Day – Mass at St. Leo’s</b>
Tues., Dec 31 - 5:00 pm– Holy Day/Mary Mother of God– Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
Wed., Jan 1 - 10:00 am– Holy Day/Mary Mother of God– Mass at St. Leo’s
Tues., Jan 7 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery committee meeting at the rectory
Wed., Jan 8 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas
Wed., Jan 8 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo’s, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm
6:15 pm - Junior class meets

**Thank you** to West Funeral Home for providing the *Feasts & Saints* calendars for 2020. The calendars are located on a table at the entrance to the church. Please take one per household. Thank you.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

	<b>Saturday Dec 21</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> <i><b>St. Leo’s</b></i> 3rd Sat of the Month	<b>Sunday Dec 22</b> <b>8:30 am</b> <i><b>St. Leo’s</b></i> 4th Sun of the Month	<b>Sunday Dec 22</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <i><b>St. Thomas</b></i>
<i><b>Lector</b></i>	Renee Anderson	Fred Eldridge	Judy Von Bank
<i><b>Eucharistic Ministers</b></i>	Gary Grommesh Delores Grommesh	Denise Bartholomay Virjean Cramer Dave Glennon Terri Monilaws Mark Weber	Joni Biggers Keith Biggers
<i><b>Altar Servers</b></i>	Ronnie Burchill Samantha Burchill	Lauren Glennon Sarah Monilaws	Gavin Besette Claire Halland
<i><b>Offertory Collectors</b></i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bob & Judy Von Bank
<i><b>Gift Bearers</b></i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Mark & Carmen Gubrud

## NEWS AND NOTES

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

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

### **Family Bingo Night**

**Wed., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm**


in the Spirit of Life Center

Prizes awarded! Treats will be served!

Bring a non-perishable food item or 25¢ to play.

Proceeds go to the Casselton Food Pantry.

Everyone is welcome!



**St. Leo's 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 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>**. See the poster on the bulletin board for donation ideas. All donations collected will be distributed equally to the following non-profits: The Perry Center, Women's Care Center, and Birthright of Fargo Moorhead.

**Celebrate Baptism** - We give thanks to God for the Baptism of Morgan Joy Lagan, daughter of Travor and Kristen.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide her to live as a child of God.*

**Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** Christmas Cards are available for purchase. Located in the magazine rack in church entry. Cost of cards is .50 cents, please place money in envelope provide and return to parish office. All proceeds go to the mission.

### **Knights of Columbus Breakfast**

Sunday, Dec., 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

in the

Spirit of Life Center

Serving Pancakes & sausage.

Free will offering, proceeds will benefit Seminarians including Matt Kensok.

**The Knights of Columbus** is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. Our local council St. Leo's #9477 will be holding a membership drive on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to [KofC.org/join](http://KofC.org/join) us and enter our council #9477 for local information.

**Do you know of any one with children 18 years of age and under and adults with special needs who are in need of help with Christmas gifts?** Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for information from First Link for assistance in getting gifts.

<p><b>This week’s Stewardship moment:</b></p> <p><i>“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” - James 5:8</i></p> <p>Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.</p>
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