

PASTOR’S NOTES

Events of Note - - -

- > **Sunday, December 8th** @ 7 p.m. - Free Christmas Concert sponsored by the Casselton Area Ministerium at the Bank North Theater of Central Cass High School;
- > **Monday, December 9th** - Holy Day of Mary’s Immaculate Conception - Mass times are: 5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas in Buffalo and 7 p.m. at St. Leo’s in Casselton;
- > **Wednesday, December 18th** - 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 20th** - St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service @ 7 p.m.

... On your Christmas list???

We all have Christmas lists of things to do, places to go, gifts to get, etc. Our Advent days are filled with a frenzy of activities. Gifts, gatherings and food are hallmarks of this season. **In all of this we must not forget our spiritual lives.**

In order for us to worthily meet Christ at his second coming, we must make room for him in the ‘*Inn of our hearts*’. There is a lot of clutter that has gathered from unreconciled relationships, nasty deeds, undisciplined habits, thoughtless remarks, arrogant hearts, etc. Such is sin! But God, in his great mercy desires to free us from such bondage and slavery. For this very reason Christ left his Church with the sacrament of Reconciliation. On the night he rose from the dead his very first words were, “*Peace be with you ... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.*”

In these days before Christmas area Catholic churches are offering **Advent Reconciliation Services**. The list of times and places are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Church.

St. Leo’s Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Friday, December 20th at 7 p.m.

Immaculate Conception – a most misunderstood Holy Day!

This coming Monday (December 9th) the Church will celebrate the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Normally this day is celebrated on December 8th, but this year December 8th falls on a Sunday and Sundays of Advent take precedence over holy days. Therefore, this solemnity has been moved to Monday for this year.

Since this holy day falls in the days leading up to Christmas many Catholics thinks that this day celebrates the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. **WRONG!** This holy day is about Mary’s conception and birth without the stain of Original Sin. She is the only human person ever born without Original Sin {*Note: Jesus is a divine person with both a human and divine nature*}.

The Church teaches the Original Sin of our first parents is transmitted to subsequent generations through our being born. It also teaches whatever is believed about Mary comes from its teachings about Christ. Since Jesus was born of the Virgin into the human condition it would seem that Christ had original sin. But Christ is a divine person and no stain of sin can be a part of God. **Therefore, by a singular grace of God Mary was preserved from Original Sin (the Immaculate Conception).** Therefore, Christ had no such sin and what Scripture says is true – he was like us in all ways but sin [Heb. 4:15].

This Immaculate Conception of Mary teaches us that all are called to be sinless, but such sinlessness is the result of God’s grace in our lives. Such is the meaning of the Holy Day of Mary’s Immaculate Conception and the grace we seek from our God. See above for Mass times!



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 8, 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 8:

- Mon - Dec 9 - 5:30 pm - St. Thomas– Holy Day Mass– Special intention** by Frank & Laura Biggers
- Mon - Dec 9 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo’s– Holy Day Mass– NO 9 am Mass**
- Tues - Dec 10 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - +Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s - NO MASS
- Wed - Dec 11 - 9:00 am - ++Nick & Mary Ann Bachmeier** by Bea Bachmeier
- Thurs - Dec 12 - 9:00 am - +Duane Mergner** by Marian Watson
- Fri - Dec 13 - 9:00 am - Michelle Allex** by Patti Allex
- Sat - Dec 14 - St. Leo’s - 5:00 pm - +Norbert Puhr by Paul Puhr**
- Sun - Dec 15 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes**
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am Mass - +Mary Ermer by Tom & Myra Nowak

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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Secretary: Delores Grommesh
Phone: 701-347-4609
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Liturgy/RE: Sue Knoll
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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: Mark Rehovsky & Mark Wieland
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
Sun., Dec 8 - 9:30– 10:30 am - Adult Choir practice
Sun., Dec 8 - 7:00 pm - Peder Eide Christmas Concert at Central Cass Bank North Theater
Mon., Dec 9 - 5:30 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo
7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's
Wed., Dec 11 - 5:15– 6 pm - Children's Choir practice
Wed., Dec 11 - 3:45 pm - RE classes at St. Thomas
Wed., Dec 11 - 6:30 pm - RE classes at St. Leo's, Simple Supper at 6:00 pm
6:15 pm - Senior class meets
Thurs., Dec 12 - 12:00 pm - Casselton Ministerium meeting in the Spirit of Life Center
Sun., Dec 15 - 9:00– 10:00 am - Adult Choir practice
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 - 8:00 pm - KC meeting at the rectory
Wed., Dec 18 - 6:00 pm - Simple Supper
6:30 pm - Advent Family Bingo, NO RE Classes
Fri., Dec 20 - 7:00 pm - St. Leo's Advent Reconciliation Service

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

	Saturday Dec 14 5:00 pm St. Leo's 2nd Sat of the Month	Sunday Dec 15 8:30 am St. Thomas	Sunday Dec 15 10:30 am St. Leo's 3rd Sun of the Month
<i>Lector</i>	Mark Voss	Gary Milbrandt	Steve Carvell
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bill Franck Nicole Scherweit	Larry Zaun Penny Zaun	Joan Carvell Jeff Grommesh Tom Nowak Deb Werner Jake Werner
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Hayden Faleide Sophie Scherweit	Courtney Hovelson Hallie Besette	Mikaela Prochnow Katherine Sullivan
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Bob & Judy Von Bank	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Andrew Fraase Family	Ray White Family

NEWS AND NOTES

Christmas Music: Time to get ready! Practice for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies will be:


Sun., Dec 8– 9:30– 10:30 am

Sun., Dec 15– 9:00– 10:00 am

Sun., Dec 22– 9:30– 10:30 am

Singers and instrumentalists of all kinds- we have room for you! Adults and students in 8th -12th grades are welcome and if you have any college students who may be home- let us know! If you have any questions, please call Sue. 347-4609/261-2047.

Christmas Choir Practice for kids in grades 2-7, will be on Wed., Dec 11 & 18 from 5:15-6p, (before the Simple Supper) in the church. Again this year, we would like to have our students participate in our Christmas Eve liturgy with a couple musical selections and the procession to the manger. If you will be gone for Christmas, your kids are welcome to come to the practices and just have fun singing carols and songs of Christmas.



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. 24th**. 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.

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., 15th


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 us and enter our council #9477 for local information.

Grades K-6- KC Coloring Contest:

The St. Leo's KCs are again sponsoring a coloring contest for students in grades K-6. Students received the coloring sheets in class and there are extra sheets on the bulletin board at the church entrance. Entries are due in the parish office by Sun., Dec. 15th.

<p>This week's Stewardship moment:</p> <p><i>"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." - Matthew 3:10</i></p> <p>Do you bear good fruit? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?</p>
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