

PASTOR’S NOTES

End ... Beginning!!

Each church year ends with the Solemnity of Christ the King with the following Sunday being the First Sunday of Advent, which begins a new church year.

During each church year we travel anew through the mysteries of Christ’s life and God’s love for His People. Each church year is marked by various season lasting varying lengths of time: *Advent* (4 weeks); *Christmas* (2/3 weeks); *Lent* (5 weeks); *Holy Week/Triduum*; *Easter* (7 weeks); *Ordinary Time* (33/34 weeks). The Solemnity of Christ the King ends the period of time or season known as Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time we are called to live out the life of the Holy Spirit that was bestowed on history and humanity at Pentecost.

The life of faith is so deep and rich that one can never probe its fullness and treasure. The best we can do is to continually revisit what God has revealed in the life of his son, Jesus Christ, and his desire to form us in being the Body of Christ. The seasons of the church year becomes the lens by which our minds are given insight and our hearts give themselves in faith to the triumph and glory of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

In (*Advent*) our hearts and minds are prepared for God’s coming in flesh and blood (*Christmas*). The love of God enters death on our behalf (*Lent*) and rises gloriously to eternal life (*Easter*) calling us by communion with and through the Holy Spirit to the glory and majesty of *Life* without end, of *Truth* without blemish, of *Beauty* without equal, of *Love* without limit (*Ordinary Time*).

With this hope in heart and mind let us prepare ourselves to enter Advent - next Sunday - praying ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Thanksgiving

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, and perhaps recall some history of Pilgrims and Native Americans coming together to share the fruit of the harvest. With the march of time this day and time of the year has become highly commercialized, but Thanksgiving does afford us an opportunity to review the many blessings that have come our way. **As I see it, there is thanks to be given:**

- > for the bounty of this land and its opportunities to pursue life, liberty and happiness;
- > for the gift of family and friends as we live in care and concern of others and seek the common good
- > for the gift of faith and its call to ‘do what is right, love what is good and walk humbly with our God’;
- > for the gift of hope that reminds us ‘our citizenship is in heaven’;
- > for the gift of love by which God reconciles the human family into a people who ‘bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things’;
- > for the gift of Church as the sacrament of salvation as it gives flesh to the Gospel of Christ;
- > for the gift of eternal life and those names who will be written in the Book of Life.

For all of this we surely give thanks!

You are invited to our **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services at St. Leo’s this Sunday at 7 p.m.** You are invited to bring a canned food item to this service and/or contribute to a free-will offering that will be taken and then given to those in need.

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at St. Leo’s at 9 am.



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



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
November 24, 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 Nov 24:

Mon - Nov 25 - 9:00 am - **Michelle Alex** by Patti Alex
Tues - Nov 26 - 9:00 am - St. Thomas - **+Souls in purgatory**
St. Leo’s - NO MASS
Wed - Nov 27 - 9:00 am - **+Don Mergner** by Marian Watson
Thurs - Nov 28– Thanksgiving - 9:00 am - +Fr. Leo Kinney
Fri - Nov 29 - 9:00 am - **Addison Alex** by Patti Alex
Sat - Nov 30 - St. Leo’s - 5:00 pm - +Alice Puhr by Paul Puhr
Sun - Dec 1 - St. Thomas - 8:30 am Mass - For the people of our parishes
St. Leo’s - 10:30 am Mass - Neil Larson by Michelle Kieffer

Parish Staff:

Pastor: Fr. James Ermer
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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.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

| PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p>Sun., Nov 24 - 7:00 pm - Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. Leo's</p> <p>Mon., Nov 25 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory</p> <p>Wed., Nov 27 - <b>NO</b> RE Classes at St. Thomas or St. Leo's</p> <p>Thurs., Nov 28 - 9:00 am - Thanksgiving Mass at St. Leo's</p> <p>Sun., Dec 1 - 9– 10 am - Adult Choir practice</p> <p>Tues., Dec 3 - 7:00 pm - Eucharist Parent meeting in large classroom, lower level of church</p> <p>Wed., Dec 4 - 5:15– 6 pm - Children's Choir practice</p> <p>Sun., Dec 8 - 9:30– 10:30 am - Adult Choir practice</p> <p><b>Mon., Dec 9 - 5:30 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas in Buffalo</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm - Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass at St. Leo's</b></p> |

***Celebrate Baptism*** - We give thanks to God for the Baptisms of Olivia Jean Bartholomay, daughter of Sam & Michelle and Dominic John Diemert, son of Adam & Cady.

*We pray that the Spirit of Christ may guide them to live as children of God.*

***Prayers and Sympathy:*** Our Parish communities extend our deepest sympathies to Tricia Geggelman on the death of her sister-in-law, Sandi Rader, to Lorraine Kensok on the death of her brother, Bernie Baumler and to Rhonda Hiltwein on the death of her mother, Maxine Bjerkebeck.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. — Matthew 5:4*

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|  | Saturday Nov 30<br>5:00 pm<br><i>St. Leo's</i> | Sunday Dec 1<br>8:30 am<br><i>St. Thomas</i> | Sunday Dec 1<br>10:30 am<br><i>St. Leo's</i>                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tony Roth                                      | Larry Zaun                                   | Anna Garman                                                                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Richard Muscha<br>Delores Grommesh             | Keith Biggers<br>Laura Biggers               | Micah Bartholomay<br>Kristi Dutchuk<br>Leo Kieffer<br>Pam Spooner<br>Jerry Volk |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | <b>Volunteers needed</b>                       | Carson Hovelson<br>Carly Hovelson            | Jacob Dutchuk<br>Isabelle Dutchuk                                               |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                        | Bob & Judy Von Bank                          | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                                                         |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | <i>Volunteer needed</i>                        | James Biggers Family                         | Tim Masset Family                                                               |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Christmas Music:** Time to get ready! The first practice for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies will be on Sun. , Dec. 1st , **9-10:00am**. Again this year we would like to invite everyone to join in the music-making! Singers and instrumentalists of all kinds- we have room for you! Adults and students in 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome and if you have any college students who may be home- let us know! We will practice on the Sundays in December, after the 8:30a Masses (9:30-10:30a), and before the 10:30a Masses (9- 10:00a). If you have any questions, please call Sue. 347-4609/ 261-2047.

**Christmas Kids:** On Wed., Dec. 4th, we will have a meeting and **Christmas music practice for kids in grades 2-7, 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 your family will be in town for Christmas, please consider having your kids take part in this! But even if you will be gone, your kids are welcome to come to the practices and have fun singing carols and songs of Christmas. We will get together Weds., Dec. 4, 11, and 18, from 5:15 -6:00p.

**New missalettes...** we will be putting out the 2020 missalettes after the 9 am Mass on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Assistance would be appreciated.

**ADVENT Opportunities:** There are copies of the December issue of “The Word Among Us” at the church entry as well as other resources to use during this season of Advent.

As we begin this new Church year, we also have available “At Home with the WORD”- a book containing the Sunday Scripture readings and an insightful commentary for each week. Cost is \$10 and they can be picked up at St. Leo’s Parish office. There is a limited number.

**KC Christmas Coloring Contest:** St. Leo’s Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a *coloring contest* for students in grades K-6. Coloring sheets were given to all RE students in class on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and are due back to the parish office by Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. There are also coloring sheets on the bulletin board at the back of church. Preschoolers are welcome to participate as well.

### St. Leo’s Advent Baby Shower

A colorful illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated on the right, holding the baby Jesus. Joseph is on the left, leaning over the manger. A cow and a donkey are also present, looking at the baby. The scene is set in a stable with a manger.

*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.*

#### This week’s Stewardship moment:

*“...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.” - Colossians 1:12*

God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can’t do, look at them as guides for living a joy-filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or spend most of our time trying to acquire “things”. Try putting God first in all things instead. Ask Him how He wants you to use your gifts.