St. Leo's Parish

308-382-4753
2410 South Blaine
Grand Island NE 68801
www.saintleos.org

Sept. 27, 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday Evening 5 p.m.

Sunday Morning 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass 9 a.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation	*Baptism Preparation*	*Marriage Preparation*
Saturday 4-4:30 p.m. or by appointment	Call Jen Golka to register	By appointment at least 6 months in advance

Readings for the Week

Monday: Job 1:6-22, Psalm 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7, Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday:~Feasts of Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael~ Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab, Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5, John 1:47-51

Wednesday:~Memorial of St. Jerome~ Job 9:1-12, 14-16, Psalm 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15, Luke 9:57-62

Thursday:~Memorial of St. Therese of the Child of Jesus~ Job 19:21-27, Psalm 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14, Luke 10:1-12

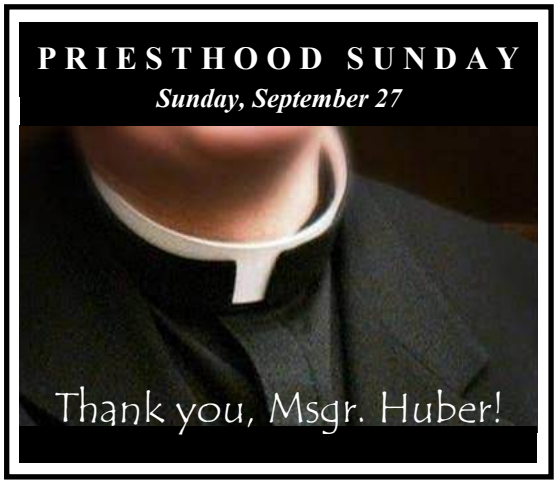
Friday:~Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels~ Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab, Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Saturday: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17, Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130, Luke 10:17-24

Sunday: Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43

Welcome to St. Leo's!

If you are a visitor for the day, we pray God's speed on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would welcome you into our family. Please call the office at 382-4753 or to register visit our website **www.saintleos.org**



Parish Clergy

Fr. Mark Huber, Pastor
frhuber@saintleos.org **ext. 11**
Deacon Bill Buchta
wbuchta@gidiocese.org
Deacon Ron Golka
rgolka@gidiocese.org

Parish Staff

Heather Tjaden, Office Manager
office@saintleos.org **ext. 10**

Kristen Schutte, Music Ministry Coordinator
kristen@saintleos.org **ext. 12**

Jami Kusek, Assistant Music Ministry
jami@saintleos.org **402-300-8023**

Peachis Amadou, Community Outreach
Outreach@saintleos.org **ext. 13**

Colleen Gallion, Media & Publications
publications@saintleos.org **ext. 20**

Jenny Golka, Children & Family Ministries
childrenandfamily@saintleos.org **ext. 14**

Rita Hemmer, Youth/Young Adult Ministry
rita@saintleos.org **ext. 18**

Martin Irvine, Maintenance & Operations
maintenance@saintleos.org

Mission Statement: (8/29/2006)

As a Vatican II Church, we strive to provide uplifting experiences where people gather to be nourished, to be given new hope, to be challenged by the Gospel and to be reenergized so that they can return to the world to fulfill Jesus' mission of loving God and loving humankind.

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Most of us received a supernatural gift from God as infants when we were baptized. Often parents present their children for baptism because they know it is customary but the catechism gives more of an explanation.

"Through Baptism, the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life" (CCC #537).

At the baptism of an infant the parents and godparents commit to a life of educating the child in the faith, praying for them and giving them example by living as a disciple of Christ. "By its very nature infant Baptism requires a *post-baptismal catechumenate.* Not only is there a need for instruction after Baptism, but also for the necessary flowering of baptismal grace in personal growth..." (#1231) "For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather* and *godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized - child or adult on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function (*officium*). The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism..." (#1255).

"The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit."

God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments..." (#1257).

May the Lord grant a deeper understanding of baptismal grace to everyone,

Fr. Mark Huber

PROMPTS FOR FAITH-SHARING

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sept. 27, 2026

- ◊ Which of the two sons in Jesus's parable do you feel better fits your own story? How can you respond to God in both word and action?
- ◊ In the first reading from Ezekiel, God's justice and mercy go hand in hand; those who turn away from evil are forgiven. How do you try to hold justice and mercy together in your relationships with others? Where do you find this difficult?
- ◊ Paul uses the example of Jesus's humility to teach the disciples at Philippi. Where do you find it challenging to place others' interests before your own? What are some practical ways you can serve others as Christ?

Don't forget to turn in your Commitment Card!

If you haven't returned your Commitment Card or completed one online at the parish website, *www.saintleos.org*, it is **NOT** too late. ***Even if you just want to say a prayer or update your address, go ahead and send it in!*** Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of St. Leo's and discerning how God is calling YOU to grow closer to Him this year.

Parish Council

Dr. Bill Kusek-*Chair*, Ashley Ruble-*Vice Chair*; Micah Schutte, Nancy Buettner, David McDonald, Nathan Keep, Heather Gearhart, John Hartman, Gerald Janulewicz

The Parish Council meets at 6 pm the third Tuesday in the Knights of Columbus room of the Parish Hall.

Finance Council

Deacon Ron Golka – *Chair,* Dennis Carroll- *Vice Chair*, Patty Hooker, Will Armstrong, James McDonald, Chris Stinson, Dave Faimon, Candy Conradt, Terry Pfeifer

The Finance Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Noon in the meeting room.

"Which of the two did the will of his father?" (Matthew 21:31)

Pray for Vocations

Vocations Ministry Team

On Priesthood Sunday, we give thanks for priests who humbly serve God's people. Celebrate this day by writing a note of gratitude and encouragement to a priest who inspires you. Remember in prayer the priest who baptized and confirmed you. Pray for ***Father Huber*** and support those discerning this vocation.

Stewardship

Vocations

One of the most crucial questions we ponder in our lives is that of creation. Who are you, and what are you called to do? In a fundamental way, we share common vocations as Christian disciples. To be a disciple is our vocation. But there is a personal vocation that must be considered as well. What shape will this discipleship take in your life?

Be gracious and give thanks

From *"30 Days on Stewardship—Reflections and Inspiration on Sharing God's Gifts"*

This Week at St. Leo's

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 ~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONUTS~
8:30 am Mass Intention: Parish Community
10:30 am Mass Intention: Bob Golka+
By: Martin & Lisa Troshynski
6:15 pm Confirmation Prep

MONDAY, SEPT. 28
9:00 am Mass Intention: Steve Lancaster+
By: Bob Rupp

TUESDAY, SEPT. 29
9:00 am Mass Intention: Harlan & Mildred Siebrass+
By: Randy & Debbie Mason
5:30 pm AA

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30
6:30 am 4th Day Group
8:15 am Continuum of Care
9:00 am Mass Intention: Chris Vrba
By: Tjaden Family

THURSDAY, OCT. 1
9:00 am Mass Intention: Norbert Wenzl
By: Mark & Linda Kollars
9:30 am Women's Bible Group (*Gathering Room)*
11:30 am Human Concerns
1:00 pm Prayer Shawl *(Gathering Room)*
6:30 pm OCIA

FRIDAY, OCT. 2~RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE~
5:30 am Brothers in Christ
9:00 am Mass Intention: Living & deceased members of the EJ Sullivan Family
By: Family
9:30 am Eucharistic Exposition
10:00 am Al Anon
10:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive *(10 am-4 pm)*
1:00 pm Benediction

SATURDAY, OCT. 3 ~ST. LEO'S WEEKEND FOOD DRIVE~
5:00 pm Mass Intention: Connie Stark
By: Denny & Kathy Dieckman

SUNDAY, OCT. 4~ST. LEO'S WEEKEND FOOD DRIVE~
8:30 am Mass Intention: Charles, Bernice & Norma Jean Swertzic+
By: John & Dianne Swertzic
10:30 am Mass Intention: Parish Community
11:45 am First Reconciliation Retreat #2
6:15 pm Confirmation Prep

The 31 Club

The 31 Club promotes praying for our current seminarians, priests and nuns. The 31 Club fosters and promotes vocations to ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service and supports our priests and seminarians as well as consecrated religious life. One day a month.

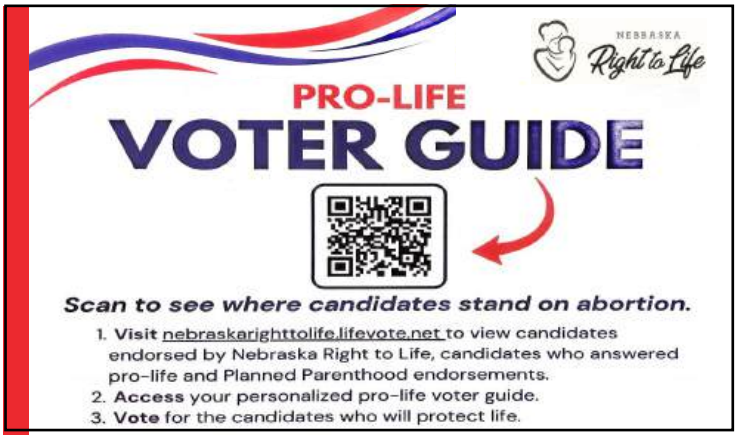
Sept. 27—Sue Kohles
Sept. 28—Carmen Moreno
Sept. 29—Mary Krupicka, Michael Niece
Sept. 30—Rose Holthaus, Cathy Ferguson
Oct. 1—Alan Brisnehan
Oct. 2—Marilyn Retzlaff
Oct. 3—Kathy Hartman
Oct. 4—Beth Clemans

The 31 Club has an opening for the 6th and 24th days of the month. Contact the office if you are interested.

REST IN PEACE to those who have died recently including **Todd Langan, brother of parishioner Joyce Aspen and Mary Schroder.** If you know of a former parishioner or a family member of a current parishioner who has died *and* you have the permission to publish this information, please let us know and we will include it in the most recent bulletin so others may pray for the deceased and offer consolation to their family.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace ~ ***Amen***

ProLife Corner

Deacon Bill & Nancy Buchta, Coordinators



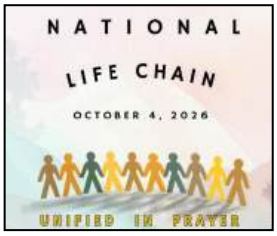
It's Priesthood Sunday — Pray for Vocations!

Traveling Crucifix For Vocations

The Vocations Bear

Wondering how you can help increase vocations to the priesthood? Help increase vocations with ***prayer*** and ***sign up*** for either the Traveling Crucifix or the Vocations Bear.
Prayer is a powerful tool!

Life Chain planned for Oct. 4 in Grand Island



Sunday, Oct. 4, is Respect Life Sunday. The local Right to Life Group will create a Life Chain on Webb Road between 13th St. and State St. in Grand Island from 2 pm to 3 pm. Parking is available at Heritage Bank, 1333 N Webb Road and Horst and Associates,1831 N Webb Road. Signs will be available at 1:45 pm. Feel free to bring chairs and strollers.

Use the QR code to log on to *your* ministry account to volunteer.
Reach out to **Jami Kusek at jami@saintleos.org** or **Kristen Schutte** with any questions. Thank you!

	Saturday, Oct. 3 5 PM	Sunday, Oct. 4 8:30 AM	Sunday, Oct. 4 10:30 AM
Lector	Noelle Hooper	Nancy Bishop	Steve Riehle
Commentator	**NEED A VOLUNTEER**	Linda Hamik	Elaine Janulewicz
Communion Minister	Presiding Priest—Body 1 Matthew Kaslon—Body 2 Sr Carlene Headrick—Body 3 Shaun Hooper—Blood 1 Nancy Buettner—Blood 2 Mike Wilson—Blood 3 Justin Brown—Blood 1 Daniel Kaslon—Blood 2 Bill Buettner—Blood 3	Presiding Priest—Body 1 Don Dubas—Body 2 Paul Polansky—Body 3 John Reilly—Blood 1 Kathleen Schwieger—Blood 2 RoseAnn Allen—Blood 3 Barbara Reilly—Blood 1 Sarah Ruzicka—Blood 2 (sub request) Jim Meyer—Blood 3	Presiding Priest—Body 1 Donna Douglass—Body 2 (sub request) Michael Wardyn—Body 3 Becky Steinke—Blood 1 Sean Gellatly—Blood 2 John McMahon—Blood 3 Kristie Dolton—Blood 1 Doug Glunz—Blood 2 Dianne McMahon—Blood 3
Altar Server	Emily Price Jocelynn Price	**NEED A VOLUNTEER** **NEED A VOLUNTEER**	Lillian Ramaekers Sofia Ramaekers
Greeter	Susan Gunter Kevin Placzek Bob Rupp **NEED A VOLUNTEER**	Edwin Lewandowski Marlene Lewandowski Angie Smolek Jack Smolek	Darien Cox Karen Cox Eddie Dimmitt Kathy Dimmitt
Minister to the Homebound		Frank & Marsha Prucha—PYX 1 Dan & Kathy Boroff—PYX 2 Mike Gauthier—PYX 3 Connie Werner—PYX 4	

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St. James Parishioners $150.00
Non-Parishioners $200.00

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVSLgFBbHRIT48IN8UoDeymbCljx704puCb93heOD1H-9qvQ/viewform

The Stewardship Parish Prayer

My parish is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am; It will be holy, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work; It will be prayerful, if I pray.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring others into its worship if I invite and bring them.
It will be a parish of loyalty & love, of fearlessness & faith, of compassion, charity & mercy, if I who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.
Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Amen

Pro-life meeting on Respect Life Month to be Sept. 28 at Cathedral Square

A pro-life meeting will include discussion on Respect Life Month in October at 5:30 pm Monday, Sept. 28, in the West Room of the Cathedral Square, 112 S Cedar. Bring a friend!

Training for
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
will be after the
10:30 am Mass on **Oct. 11**
Anyone interested is welcome!

Last Week's Tithings

Regular Collection	$ 7,265.00
Plate/Youth	$ 4,380.35
Online	$ 1,192.00
	$ 12,837.35

Estimated Weekly Budget for September $11,203

American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Help save lives. *Give blood*

Calling all blood donors! *Fall* into the habit of giving blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma — anyone who donates between Sept. 21-Oct. 18 will receive $15 e-gift card to the merchant of their choice. Terms & additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/Fall

Blood Drive - St. Leo's
10 am to 4 pm, Friday, Oct. 2

For an appointment contact Patty at pattypedroza7@gmail.com or scan the QR code

Wood River Area Community Choir seeking voices

This is a personal invitation to become a member of the Wood River Area Community Choir. There are no auditions. Everyone is welcome. The choir is organizing for Christmas and will begin practicing **Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3 to 5 pm at St. Mary's Church, Marian Hall, Wood River.** All practices will be from 3 to 5 pm on Sundays, however this time can be adjusted to accommodate the majority. The performance will be at 2:30 pm Dec. 13 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wood River. This year, we will perform a cantata last performed in 2016, "All is Well." When the choir was organized 24 years ago, it was for the purpose of bringing our community together to sing. We now have singers from 8 different communities. All voices are needed. Please, seriously consider this as personal invitation to participate. Contact Vince Boudreau at 308-583-2961 for more information.

5-Day Pilgrimage and Mission to Mexico City

All area faithful are invited to a 5-day journey organized by St. Mary's Church in Ashland on Oct. 22-27, 2026. It will be a life-changing encounter with Christ through service, prayer, and pilgrimage. We will serve the poor alongside the ministry Hope of the Poor. We will also have extended times at the Basilica with Our Lady of Guadalupe, daily Mass, and teachings about Juan Diego's tilma. The cost of $850/person covers all transportation, meals, and lodging in Mexico City (excludes flight) Go to stmaryashland.org

A NOTE FROM HEATHER ...

Heather Tjaden

FALL, PUMPKIN SPICE & THE COUNTDOWN TO 50 and 240!

Fall is here, St. Leo's! That means cooler weather, changing leaves, PUMPKIN SPICE EVERYTHING ...and me learning to dance in public! While I'm busy preparing to dance at the GRACE Cancer Foundation Gala (prayers appreciated!), I've decided I need ONE thing to be easy this fall: **THE DIOCESAN APPEAL!**

The appeal starts **Oct. 1** and our household goal is 240. St. Leo's has approximately 770 registered families so I *know* we can do this! And because I apparently enjoy giving myself challenges, I've created a **birthday challenge! MY GOAL: 50% OR MORE OF OUR HOUSEHOLD GOAL BY OCT. 14!** Why Oct. 14 and why 50%? Because that's my 50th birthday! And honestly, what better birthday present could I ask for than St. Leo's jump-starting the Appeal? Every household counts. Every dollar counts. Every gift makes a difference. So, St. Leo's family, please help make the Diocesan Appeal the easy part of my fall. You all take care of the 240 Diocesan Appeal households and leave the dancing to me!

Oct. 1 — LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN!

Heather

OCIA: Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, being baptized or confirmed or for those who have other questions about the Catholic faith, may contact Msgr. Huber at 382-4753 or by email frhuber@saintleos.org All are welcome to attend. Sessions will be **Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 pm. Bring your questions for Msgr. Huber!**

OCIA
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

WANTED: Maintenance Director

ST. MARY'S Cathedral

The director of maintenance oversees maintenance and janitorial operations of the church, rectory, parish hall, campus grounds **AND reports to the pastor, working closely with the pastor, parish staff and volunteers.** The director of maintenance is an experienced leader with strong technical, communication and problem-solving skills. **Responsibilities include** collaborating with the pastor, staff and volunteers; supervising all maintenance and major renovation projects; performs and supervises work on HVAC, electrical, safety, security, janitorial, grounds/maintenance, audio/visual, lighting, sprinkler systems & snow removal; coordinates contracted services, bids and interviews as needed; establishes preventative maintenance programs; prioritizes and addresses maintenance work; event set up/take down and cleaning before and after; works with church staff for special events; and oversees purchase of maintenance supplies and other needs. The successful candidate will also be responsible for compliance with federal, state and archdiocese maintenance and safety regulations. To apply call 308-382-2523 or email office@stmarysgi.com

Widowed?

You don't have to walk this journey alone

The St. Leo's Widow's Group is an ongoing gathering where you can share your grief journey, find friendship and connect with others who truly understand. Participants share stories, memories, joys, challenges and sometimes even laughter. New members are always welcome. The group meets in the Gathering Room on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 am after Daily Mass.

Community OUTREACH

"Let us reach out personally to the hungry and the homeless, to the poor and the powerless, and to the troubled and the vulnerable. In serving them, we serve Christ. Our service efforts cannot substitute for… just public policies, but they can help us practice what we preach about human life and human dignity."
Economic Justice for All, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1986, #26.

Annual coat event is Oct. 22

The 22nd annual St. Leo's Parish Coat Drive and Giveaway together with the State Knights of Columbus, will be from 10 am to 5:30 pm on Oct. 22. Donations of new or gently used coats and other winter-wear are now being accepted and can be dropped off at St. Leo's. Anyone interested in helping can call or just stop by on Tuesdays after Mass.

Marriage Encounter in Colorado

Jesus said, "If anyone is willing to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Learn techniques to help face challenges in your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience Nov. 6-8 in Grand Junction, Colo. Call or text 402-370-5839 for more information. For Spanish contact Victor and Lupita Corona at 651-343-2348. For additional dates and locations, visit wwme.org or on Instagram and Facebook at Worldwidemarriageencounter.

Grief support *Invitation*

If you or someone you love is grieving the death of a dear one and still experiencing difficulty, please accept our invitation to join us for a six-week

grief support group

We will meet for six consecutive Mondays beginning Oct. 12 at St. Mary's Cathedral Square (just north of St. Mary's Cathedral)
112 S. Cedar St., Rm #226
From 6 to 7:30 pm.
Trish Curran of Curran Funeral Chapel will facilitate. If you have questions, please call Trish at 308-384-8862

Collection for Food Pantry NEXT WEEKEND, Oct. 3/4

St. Leo's will collect food for St. Mary's Food Pantry on the first weekend of each month Bring your non-perishable items in whatever bag they came in. Support the local community and help families facing hunger.

The 2026/27 Diocesan Appeal for the Diocese of Grand Island will begin the first weekend in October. Watch your mailbox for more information and a letter from the bishop.

Empower Youth

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" **- St. Catherine of Siena**

Empower Youth Wed. Night Youth Group for all 6th through 10th grades

Empower Youth Fall days: Oct. 7, 14, 21
Nov. 4 (BEHOLD Night—Boulder Flatts), Nov. 11,
(Parish Advent Night, Nov. 18) Dec. 2, 9, 16

Use the qr code for more info about Empower Youth and to register!

STRAND FINANCIAL & INSURANCE

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308-384-2523

Walking with Moms in Need

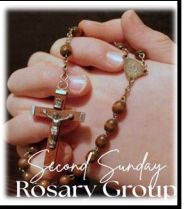
WHAT'S HAPPENING at St. Leo's

K of C Tootsie Roll Drive is Oct. 17/18

Sign up for a shift for the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive Oct. 17 and 18 at Hyvee in Grand Island. This annual fundraiser helps people with intellectual disabilities by providing health care, learning and quality of life opportunities. This event dates back to 1970 in Chicago where a member of the Knights there asked the Chicago-based Tootsie Roll Industries for a donation to help people with disabilities. For every donation, each donor is offered a Tootsie Roll. Contact the Knights of Columbus for more information.

Second Sunday Rosary Group

St. Leo's Second Sunday Rosary Group meets at 6:30 pm on the second Sunday of the month. The next scriptural rosary will be **Oct. 11 in the Gathering Room** at St. Leo's. All are welcome. Call Mary Harb at 308-390-1750 or Sr. Carlene Headrick at 308-380-9100.



Happy Work Anniversary
Peachis Amadou

Happy 4th Anniversary as our Community Outreach Coordinator!

We appreciate you!

All Faiths Funeral Home
308-398-2929
www.giallfaiths.com
2929 S. Locust
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Dan Naranjo
Funeral Director/Owner/Parishioner

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Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

Parade begins at 8:15 a.m. at the Eddy Street Underpass.

The route travels east along 3rd Street and concludes at Oak Street around 11:30 a.m.

We will be assigned a number in line in the parade and an exact time to line up mid-September.

Please call or text

Connie at 402-461-1934

if you are interested in joining South Central Nebraska Right to Life, and Grand Island Right to Life, in walking with our float.

We can update you with more details once we receive that information.

Together, we can make a difference!

Join us for our Annual Family

FALL Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Dinner
Adults $15.00
Children(4-11) $5.00
3 and under FREE

DINNER 11:00 AM
GAMES 12:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Church
Jubilee Center

518 W State St

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We need volunteers! If you are available please contact Ruth at 308-384-0532