3rd Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 14, 2014

We come to Mass to encounter the living God and then are dismissed to live out our daily lives in a way that brings Christ to others. How should we rejoice, pray and give thanks? How should we answer the question: Who am I and what does God desire of me? Let us remember, he who calls us is faithful and will not abandon us.

Dear Parishioners: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!” the Apostle Paul tells us. I pray this week will be one of great joy for everyone who looks forward to the day of the Lord. I regret that last week I failed to thank the sacristans who assisted so ably with our celebration of Confirmation: thanks to them & all those whose efforts allow us to experience the sacred mysteries in such a moving fashion. Today we celebrate First Reconciliation: my thanks to our preparation co-ordinators Monique Hartman & Jan Denomme, as well as Mrs. Hearn at St. Boniface Elementary for their careful work with our young candidates. We had an excellent meeting of representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, the Building Committee, and the Fund Raising Committee this week: it was good to have everyone there agree on the structure & relationship of all our various groups, to improve our communication between the groups & to our parishes, and clarify some questions around the recent fund-raising campaign in 2012. As in all times of transition, there were questions about continuity within the parish: as I’ve mentioned before, I am hoping that we as an entire diocesan Church can move from a personality-driven model of parish life to a more consistent, Church-policy one. A good starting place, then, is the diocesan Norms for Parish Councils, which we’ve posted on our parish website: please make yourself familiar with these norms, so that we’re all on the same page when it comes to our understanding of what the Parish Pastoral Council is, & how it is to function. May this Advent help us to recognize the “One who stands among [us], whom [we] do not know”! May you & your family be blessed with joy this week.

Fr. Matt

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Joyce Waller, Roxanne Rau, Louise Merner, Reese Lennsen, Steven Wild-Denys, Emily DePaepe, Darl Rau, Paul Bedard, Tanya Ashenden and Joyce Cole.

Prayers and Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy are extended to the families of Alvin Regier, brother & brother-in-law of Warren & Helen Regier & Ursula Regier, Martin Brand, brother and brother-in-law of Bill & Toni Brand and Bonnie Tindall, niece of Tille & Darl Rau. May they rest in peace.

A Message from your Finance Committee

The Finance Committee appreciates and depends on your generosity especially at Christmas time for the financial needs for the mission of our parishes. Currently both parishes are operating in a deficit [St. Boniface - ($9,515) and St. Peter’s ($13,598)] and we are going to need a little more help than normal to make a balance budget by years end. Hopefully with your help we can meet our operating needs at both parishes for this year. Thank-you to everyone for your generosity! The Finance Committee

St. Andre Garden

As of last weekend the St. Andre Garden was in a deficit of $1,052.23. Thanks to the generous Advent Memorial Donations to the St. Andre Garden we are no longer in a deficit - CONGRATULATIONS!!! A detailed report for the St. Andre Garden for 2014 will be given in the New Year. Please watch your bulletin.
Happy Birthday Fr. Matt!!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Fr. Matt who is celebrating a birthday this Friday, December 19.

Knights of Columbus

Membership Dues - Membership Dues for 2015 are due in the month of December. Cost is $40.

St. Peter's CWL

Stocking Stuffers - are you looking for stocking stuffers? St. Peter's C.W.L. has two great items for sale - Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets/ $5.00 each and “Angel Pins”/$2.00 each. Both items are available for purchase at St. Peter's Church, look for the table at the back of the church OR call 519-236-4925 to order.

1st Reconciliation

Our Grade 2 children will be making their 1st Reconciliation this Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 pm at St. Boniface Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

Bulletin News for the Weeks of December 21 - January 3

Please have any bulletin news from December 21 - January 3 to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, December 17 at noon as we will be doing a 2 week bulletin next week.

Donations for 2014

Please have all donations for 2014 into the church office no later then Wednesday, December 31 at 10:00 am to ensure that your donations are included on your 2014 income tax receipt. Any donations received after 10:00 am on December 31 can only be included on your 2015 income tax receipt.

Offertory Envelopes for 2015

If you are not currently receiving offertory envelopes and would like a set for 2015 or would like to make your offertory donations through automatic monthly bank withdrawal please contact the church office at 519-236-4191.

The New Evangelization Summit

This two day conference will bring together speakers who are leaders in the New Evangelization to provide inspiration, encouragement, training, practical wisdom and resources on how Catholics can effectively evangelize. All Catholics - pastors, missionaries, lay ministers, and the lay faithful - will benefit immensely from this powerful opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church. The annual New Evangelization Summit will be held in Ottawa on April 24 & 25 and lived streamed to 11 host-sites. This simul-casting of the event will provide a way for Catholics from around North America to participate in the Summit. In the Diocese of London we have 2 locations where the ‘live-streamed’ event will take place - St. Anne’s in St. Thomas and St. John the Baptist in Amherstburg. For more information or to order tickets please visit www.newevangelization.ca. Seats are limited so please order as soon as possible so you won’t be disappointed.

Annual Live Nativity

The Annual Live Nativity will be held this Sunday, December 14 at 7 pm at the Zurich Park Pavilion.

Volunteers needed!!!

We are looking for members to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council for both St. Boniface and St. Peter’s Parishes. If you would be interested please contact the church office at 519-236-4191.

Decorating of our Churches

We are looking for volunteers to help with Christmas decorating at both our churches. We will be decorating after the 9 am (St. Boniface) & 11 am (St. Peter’s) Masses on Sunday, December 21. During this busy Christmas season what a great gift it is to give of your time.

Please Remember to Save Your…..

Pop Cans—Please save your aluminum pop cans to help support St. Boniface Church with their Restoration Fund. Pop cans can be dropped off in a plastic bag to John Jacobs or Doug Debus. St. Peter’s may drop off their pop cans at Mike Miller’s house.

Milk Bags and Pop Can Tabs—Please help St. Peter’s CWL by saving your Milk Bags and Pop Can Tabs. At St. Peter’s there is a basket in the room under the stairs at the back of the church to put the milk bags in and at St. Boniface there is a box in the narthex for the milk bags. Anyone wanting to join in making the mats from Milk Bags please come to St. John by the Lake in Grand Bend on Wednesday mornings from 10 am – 12 pm.

Milk/Bread Bag Tabs – Please save your milk/bread bag tabs. Tabs are sent to Toronto for the plastic parts of wheel chairs.

Prayer Shawls/Monetary Donations – St. Boniface & St. Peter’s are accepting prayer shawls and monetary donations for shawls. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a shawl, please contact the parish office or Patty LaPorte at 519-236-4876.

Campbell Soup Labels—St. Boniface School is still collecting Campbell soup labels. Please save your labels to help support our school. Labels can be left at either of our churches.

St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School

Good morning! Starting the week, the exercise science and biology students travelled to the University of Waterloo and participated in there Kinesiology lab days with a variety of activities relating to the movement of the human body from many perspectives. Next our Girls Volleyball and Boys Basketball have both begun their Huron Perth seasons. Our choir, jazz band, concert band, student cabinet and teachers have been practicing and preparing for the annual Christmas assembly. Many students were dressed fancy for our Semi Formal Dance that took place on Friday with a Great Gatsby theme. Everyone is invited to our Advent Mass on Tuesday the 16th as we Keep Calm and prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Ministers of Faith Lexi Smith and Yris Van Der Ploeg
SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR PARISH BY RE-MEMBERING TO IN-CLUDAYOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.

Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance.....

- 1st Reconciliation - Sunday, December 14 at 2 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Advent Evening Prayer Service - Sunday, December 14 at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Advent Evening Prayer Service - Sunday, December 21 at 7 pm at St. Peter’s Church

Christmas/New Year’s Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24, 2014
5:00 pm @ St. Boniface  7:00 pm @ St. Peter’s
Christmas Mass at Midnight @ St. Boniface
Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25, 2014
11:00 am @ St. Peter’s  1:00 pm @ BWRH
New Year’s Eve - Wednesday, Dec. 31 @ 5 pm St. Boniface
New Year’s Day - Thursday, January 1
@ 9 am St. Peter’s; 11 am BWRH
**St. Boniface and St. Peter Parishes**

### Weekend Masses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Peter (mid April to mid October)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>St. Boniface (mid October to mid April)</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>St. Peter</td>
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### Pastoral Staff:

- **Pastor:** Fr. Matthew George
- **Secretary:** Lori LaPorte
- **Office Hours:**
  - Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
  - Friday - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV, Catholic edition)

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**Parish Organizations**

- **Parish Advisory Council:** A combined council meets every month to discuss and plan pastoral initiatives and practical functioning of the parish. If you have suggestions please consider contacting one of the members.
- **Youth Ministry:** Youth from grades 5 to 8 gather regularly for fun, faith and friendship. See the website for information.
- **Children’s Liturgy of the Word:** Every Sunday at both the 9:00 am and 10:30 am masses.
- **Catholic Cemeteries:** We have the privilege of having cemeteries associated with St Peter and St. Boniface Churches. Information can be found on the website.
- **Other Organizations:** Catholic Women’s Leagues, Knights of Columbus and others.

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**Parish Council**

**Chair**

Bella Soudant

**Vice-Chair**

Monique Hartman

Brian DePaepe

Rose Marie Rader

Ken Forler

Liz Masse

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**Celebrating Our Faith**

- **Baptism**
  - Please contact the office as you await the birth of your child or while you are awaiting adoption.
- **Reconciliation**
  - God sent His Son so that we might be saved! Experience God’s healing through the sacrament of reconciliation before Mass on Saturday 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm or by appointment.
- **Marriages**
  - The sacrament of marriage is a beautiful expression of God’s love for the world! Minimum six months notice is required during which time the engaged couple must attend a Marriage Preparation Course.
- **Sacrament of the Sick**
  - If you know of a person who is in hospital, or who is homebound because of illness and is desiring the sacrament of the sick, contact the office to make arrangements.
- **Bluewater Nursing Home**
  - A weekly mass is offered on Thursdays at 3:30 pm in the chapel. All are welcome.
- **Devotions**
  - **St. Joseph and Saint André** - Saturday after the 9:00 am mass - St. Peter’s.
  - **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** - Wednesday after the 7:00 pm mass - St. Boniface.
  - Every first Friday at St. Boniface Church there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm—come be transformed by the healing power of Jesus.