Ascension of the Lord - May 8, 2016

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen was faithful to his Lord even as he lay dying. Hatred did not consume him; rather forgiveness was on his lips and his heart. May we pray often to Saint Stephen for his intercession as we struggle to be forgiving when faced with dissension and conflict.

Dear Parishioners: God bless Fr. David! Everyone agrees that he celebrated a wonderful, reverent Mass last weekend – he’s a natural! Happy Mother’s Day to all our mothers: may we all be filled with self-sacrificing love this day & every day of our lives. The good weather also brings our annual Cemetery Sunday celebration (May 22nd). This year, we’ll be at St. Peter’s following the Mass with prayers & a social for all to enjoy. Easter Season officially ends with Evening Prayer on Pentecost (May 15th): please consider attending & thanking God for all the blessings we’ve received over these holy 50 days. Happily, the 15th is also the Feast of St. Isidore, patron of farmers: we’ll start our prayer novena this week (Saturday the 7th) which you can find at https://catholicrurallife.org or printed copies at the doors of the church. I’ll be happy to bless any seeds or tools (no gas-powered weed-whackers!) during the Mass on Pentecost (larger implements need a home/farm visit, with a cup of coffee to boot). Our refugee family – the Moham-meds – continue to slowly integrate themselves into our community: God bless them for every effort they’re making! Rustem (the Dad) has found employment at McCann’s Concrete (his chosen field, both in Syria & Turkey) but is still in the process of getting his driver’s license. Is there anyone who can give him a ride at 6:30am from Zurich to Mt. Carmel? Since his workday ends anywhere from 5-7pm, is there anyone coming this way from Mt. Carmel then? Please contact Pauline Overholt-Tait (519-636-6859) if you can help. Thanks to everyone who is helping out in so many ways: we now have bicycles & helmets for the whole family! The Lord bids us to wait until we are “clothed in power” at Pentecost: may we witness each day to the power of God in our lives! Have a blessed week.

Fr. Matt

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Questions of the Week

Pentecost Sunday - “Gifts for service “


Reading II 1 Corinthians 12:3–7, 12–13 (many gifts, one Spirit, and the analogy of the body)

Gospel John 20:19–23 (appearance to the disciples)

Key Passage “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord.” (1 Corinthians 12:4–5)

Adult: What gifts of service have you received from the Holy Spirit and how well are you using them right now?

Youth: Ponder the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe. Which of these do you already practice or do you need to start practicing?

Ways to be Merciful

“Instead of losing patience with someone online (or in person), try to hear their fear. Ask God for what Solomon asked for: “an understanding heart.”

Bulletins News for the Weeks of May 16 - 29

Please have all bulletin news from May 16 - 29 to the Church Office no later then Wednesday, May 11 as we will be doing a 2 week bulletin.
HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO ALL WHO SHARE IN THIS VOCATION!!!

“God blessed this world with many wonderful things but the nicest of all was when He blessed it with MOTHERS”

Prayer List
Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Joyce Waller, Roxanne Rau, Louise Merner, Reese Lenssen, Steven Wild-Denys, Darl Rau, Tanya Ashenden, Joyce Cole, Barb Regier, Debra Overholt, Veronica Bedard and Steve Brock.

Prayers and Sympathy
Prayers and sympathy is extended to the family of Randy McKinnon, brother of Kevin & Kim McKinnon who died this past week. May he rest in peace.

St. Boniface K of C
Mother’s Day Breakfast - The K of C are holding a Mother’s Day Breakfast at the arena this Sunday, May 8 from 10 am - 12 pm. Cost is $7/adult, $5/youth ages 6-14, children 5 and under free. Family rate is $25 for larger families with children under 16. Everyone is welcome!

Executive/General Meeting - Wednesday, May 18 at 8:00 pm at St. Boniface Church.

Spring Cleaning at St. Boniface Church
The spring housecleaning of St. Boniface Church will be on Monday, May 16 beginning at 9 am. It would be appreciated if we could have some volunteers to give a helping hand. We ask that you bring your own pail and cleaning cloths. Any time you can spare would be very helpful and greatly appreciated.

Faith in Action Award
Students graduating from St. Anne’s are invited to put their names forward to be considered for the St. Peter’s CWL Faith in Action Award. The criteria are - to be an active member of St. Peter’s (in St. Joseph) Church, and a good role model for youth, with involvement in the church and community. Letters stating how they are involved can be brought to the church or church office in an envelope labelled St. Peter’s CWL by May 31.

Annual March for Life
The Annual March for Life, Canada, will be held in Ottawa on Thursday, May 12, 2016. The Stratford & District Right to Life group is once again organizing buses so that many people will be able to attend this great rally. Please check our church website for the schedule. Cost: $50/adults and $35/students (sponsorship available). Please contact Jacqui Connolly at 519-284-4848 or email conn4@live.ca.

Year of Mercy and Rome’s Holy Doors
Shrines of Italy Pilgrimage with Fr. Graham Keep, September 23 to October 2, 2016….Presentation/Question & Answer Session at St. Anne’s Church (Meeting Room) 20 Morrison Dr., St. Thomas…Saturday, May 14 at 3:00 pm. For more information, please call George Cifa at 519-639-4971.

“Give a Gift that Keeps on Giving”
Types of Bequests
1. General Bequest: In this instance, a fixed dollar amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of an estate is left to a named beneficiary, a certain group of people, or to a special cause.
2. Specific Bequest: A designated item is donated to a named entity for a specific purpose. It could be, for example, a piece of art or an artefact donated to a museum, or a collection of rare books to a university.
3. Residuary Bequest: The testator makes one or more general and/or specific bequests, and designates that what is left over (the residue) is given to a named heir.
4. Contingency Bequest: A named beneficiary receives a bequest only if a specific condition is met - for example, if a person named in a will does not survive the deceased. A common example could read, “if my spouse predeceases me, then I bequeath to…etc.”

Parish Wide Email
We are trying to compose a parish wide email list so we can email Catholic Update on a monthly basis. Please send your email address to bluewater@dol.ca.

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Events at a glance....

- **Mother’s Day** - Sunday, May 8
- **K of C Mother’s Day Breakfast** - Sunday, May 8 at the Bluewater Community Centre from 10 am - 12 pm
- **Pentecost Sunday - Sung Evening Prayer** - Sunday, May 15 at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church
- **Coffee Social** - May 21 & 22 following the Masses at St. Boniface & St. Peter’s Churches
- **Blessing of St. Peter’s Cemetery** - Sunday, May 22 following the 11 am Mass
- **Youth Group Thinkfast** - Friday, May 27 & Saturday, May 28 at St. Boniface School
- **Corporate Celebration 1st Communion Class** - Sunday, May 29 at 11 am at St. Peter’s Church
Weekend Masses
Sat  5:00 pm  St. Peter (mid April to mid October)
      St. Boniface (mid October to mid April)
Sun 9:00 am  St. Boniface
      11:00 am  St. Peter

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

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)

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 11:00 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.

Website
Our website is regularly updated. There is a monthly calendar of events, important information and great pictures.
www.bluewater.dionet.ca

Contact Information
Mail: 22 Mary St., PO Box 81
      Zurich Ontario N0M 2T0
Phone: 519 236-4191
E-mail: bluewater@dol.ca

Parish Pastoral Council
Cynthia Forler
Lynette Graham
Phil LaPorte
Kathryn Regier
Janet Soudant
Marg Suplat

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 after the 12:00 pm Mass and Devotions on Tuesdays at St. Peter’s or before Mass on Saturday mornings from 8:00 - 8:45 am at St. Boniface 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 - Tuesday after the 12:00 pm mass - St. Peter’s.
Our Mother 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.