3rd Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2016
As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we prepare our hearts and homes to receive him. As Saint Paul instructs, we prepare with patience and a firm heart. We will know he has come into our hearts and homes when we model true discipleship and work to bring the Good News to those around us.

Dear Parishioners: what an outstanding experience we had with Bishop Fabbro last week! I thank everyone who participated or was present in any way for his pastoral visit to our parishes. I think a lot happened then, and we need to reflect on all of it. I was so pleased that we celebrated Sacraments of Initiation at two Sunday Masses! This accomplished three important goals as I see it: first that our Bishop and our Confirmand Families got to see what our parishes look like on Sunday, and not some special one-off Mass they will never experience again. (We call that Graduation, and nobody graduates from our faith!) Secondly, it is our parishes that initiate our people, not Father nor some program or acquiring some pre-determined body of knowledge. (I am trusting that all these Baptisms at Sunday Mass and now Confirmation have impressed upon all present that it is the entire faith community - made flesh in the Sunday Assembly - that proposes, accepts, welcomes and promises to support those who have made a declaration of faith in our midst. Third, the participation by two un-baptized siblings being Baptized, Confirmed and Communicated by our Bishop should demonstrate to all the wisdom of the biblical (and ritual - in the R.C.I.A.) order of the sacraments of Initiation. I will bet your dollars to doughnuts that these two special people will recall the power and graces of their sacraments each time they approach the Altar of God: you and I who grew up with the Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation will probably struggle to remember our identity as God’s anointed ones. It makes so much sense when the Eucharist is the crowning of Christian Initiation! The Church calls it the “Sacrament of Sacraments” for a very good reason! I pray that one day our diocesan prayerfully discerns the call to change the order of Sacraments for our youth, as other dioceses - many in Canada have. Thanks again to our parents, sponsors, school teachers, group leaders, youth leaders and all parishioners who witnessed to our Confirmandi by their presence last week that God is alive in our world and in our Church! Our Day of Reconciliation and Prayer this past Wednesday was a blessing - perhaps to good - for all involved: my doctor, my bishop and my mother all want me to take a rest during the day (hence the 2 hour lunch break), but the people just kept on coming! Thanks be to God, things were steady from 8:30 in the morning until 4:30 pm! The evening rush also nicely filled the 6-8 pm slot. Be reconciled to God! Will you pray and sacrifice for our young people making their 1st Penance today (Sunday)? The best witness there you can provide is to humble yourself, make your confession and live a reconciled life as a new creation in Christ. Whew! Sorry for the extra-long message this week - with the Christmas mailer now everyone will be afraid of “Father Run-On”! - but there are so many teaching moments - really, Days of Salvation - happening all around us! May our preparations for Christmas open our eyes, minds and hearts to the Light of God, already present among us. Come Lord Jesus!

God bless, 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 Thomson, Joyce Cole, Steve Brock, Fr. Martin Nyland, Patrick Mihm, Shirley Bedard, Barbara Rau, Ed Smith and Madeline Denomme.

Office Hours
The office will be closed on Thursday, December 15.

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 12-18

MONDAY: December 12
(We pray for Mrs. Suzanne Walton, Pastoral Minister)

TUESDAY: December 13 - No Mass
(We Pray for Rev. Francis Jeyaseelen, C.R.)

WEDNESDAY: December 14
(We Pray for Mrs. Marguerite Heuer, Pastoral Minister)

Queensway Nursing Home - 3:30 pm
+ Randy McKinnon - Marie Cyr

St. Boniface Church - 7:00 pm
“Devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help”
For the Deceased Members of the Regier & Soudant Families - Jeannette Regier
+(23rd Ann) Russell & +(7th Ann) Dorothy Oesch - Ted & Janet Soudant & Family

THURSDAY: December 15
(We Pray for Rev. Jan Pochwala)

Bluewater Resthome - 3:30 pm
+ Betty Denomme - Virginia Denomme
+ Darl Rau - Chris & Janet Brown & Family

FRIDAY: December 16
(We Pray for Deacon Brian McDonald)

St. Boniface Church - 9:15 am
+ Paul & Stephen Watson & Adam - Angela Watson
+ Nick & Dolly Jeffrey - Peter & Evelyn Jeffrey
Int. of Helen Regier - Sister Mary Regier

SATURDAY: December 17
(We Pray for Rev. Eugeniusz Dziedzic, C.S.M.A.)

St. Boniface Church - 9:00 am
“Sacrament of Reconciliation 8:00 - 8:45 am”
Int. of Fr. Matt George - Tillie Rau
Int. of Ed Smith - St. Boniface K of C
Int. of Mary Jacobs - St. Boniface K of C

St. Boniface Church - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY: December 18
(We Pray for Rev. Eugene Bugala)

St. Boniface Church—9:00 am
St. Peter’s Church—11:00 am
St. Peter’s Church - 7:00 pm
Sung Evening Prayer
The Newly Baptized
Welcome to our parish family Jadyn & Chase Patterson, children of Chad & Jennifer who were baptized last weekend at St. Boniface Church.

1st Reconciliation
Our Grade 2 children will be making their 1st Reconciliation this Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm at St. Boniface Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.

Parish-Wide Meeting
There will be a parish-wide meeting to discuss a new recommendation for the Family of Parishes on Wednesday, December 14th following the 7 pm Mass at St. Boniface Church. The Taskforce has challenged our deanery to come up with a plan that includes less priest personnel.

Please have all your Advent Memorial Donations to the Office by the End of This Week!
Once again this year we are offering a way for you to remember your loved one this Christmas! We will be accepting donations for both parishes for flowers throughout the Christmas Season to be donated in memory of your loved one. If you wish to make a cash donation in memory of someone please place your donation in an envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” along with the name of the deceased person and your name or the name you wish to use as offered by. Please have all donations into the church office by this Friday, December 16, 2016. The names of the deceased loved ones will be published in our Christmas bulletin.

Offertory Envelopes for 2017
Your 2017 offertory envelopes are available for pick up in the entrance of the Church. Those who do not already have offertory envelopes and would like some, or if you would like to make your offertory donations through automatic monthly bank withdrawal please sign the sign-up sheet in the entrance of the Church. Please do not use your previous years envelopes in 2017 as envelope numbers have changed and your contributions will not be recorded properly.

Annual Live Nativity
The Live Nativity will take place at the Zurich Pavilion (behind the ball diamond at the park) on Sunday, December 18 starting at 7 pm. Plan to attend and dress warm.

St. Andre Celebration Planning Meeting
A planning meeting will be held on December 12th at 7:00 pm in St. Peter’s Parish Hall. 2017 is the 100th anniversary of St. Andre’s first visit to our parish. To commemorate this special anniversary, we are planning a special event for each month during the year. We need many volunteers to assist with these events. Please join us at this meeting to find out how you can get involved to make this year-long celebration a memorable experience for everyone. We also welcome people from surrounding communities who share a devotion to St. Andre to join us. Please contact Phil LaPorte at laportep@hay.net

Knights of Columbus
Executive/General Meeting - Wednesday, December 21 at 8:00 pm at St. Boniface Church.

Decorating of St. Boniface Church
We are looking for volunteers to help with Christmas decorating at St. Boniface Church on Sunday, December 18 at 11 am. During this busy Christmas season what a great gift it is to give of your time.

A Message from your Finance Committee
Our Parishes appreciate and depend on your generosity especially at Christmas time for the financial needs for the mission of our parishes. Last year both St. Boniface and St. Peter’s ended up in the black. Currently both parishes are operating in a deficit [St. Boniface – ($5,150) and St. Peter’s ($1,640)] and we are going to need a little more help than normal to make a balance budget by year end. Hopefully with your help we can meet our operating needs at both parishes for this year. Thank you!

The Finance Committee

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Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....
- **1st Reconciliation** - Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm at St. Boniface Church
- **Sung Evening Prayer** - Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at St. Boniface Church
- **Sung Evening Prayer** - Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 pm at St. Peter’s Church

**Christmas/New Year’s Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve** - December 24
- 5 pm St. Boniface;
- 7 pm St. Peter’s

**Midnight Mass at St. Boniface**
- Christmas Day - Dec 25 - 11 am St. Peter’s; 1 pm BWRH
- New Year’s Eve - Dec 31 - 5 pm St. Boniface
- New Year’s Day - 9 am St. Peter’s; 11 am BWRH

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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 the 9:00 am mass.

**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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**Website**

Our website is regularly updated. There is a monthly calendar of events, important information and great pictures.

[www.bluewater.dionet.ca](http://www.bluewater.dionet.ca)

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**Parish Pastoral Council**

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

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**Parish Office & School Contact Information**

**Parish Office:**
22 Mary St., Box 81
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
519-236-4391
bluewater@dol.ca

**St. Boniface School:**
24 Mary St., Box 128
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
519-236-4335
stbonifacecs@hpcdsb.ca

**St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School:**
353 Ontario St., Box 490
Clinton, ON N0M 1Lo
519-482-5454

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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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**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.