Dear Parishioners: welcome Bishop Fabbro! What a pleasure it is to have our Bishop with us to initiate our young people in the Sacrament of Confirmation. I thank all who have been working with our Confirmandi over the months of preparation, & all whose efforts bore fruit in our wonderful celebrations today. I heard great things about the Festival of Praise last Friday: let’s pray that that initiative – and many other outreaches to our youth – will flourish in the days ahead! (We’ve had our first ENCOR event since the COR Weekend: don’t tell anyone, but I am praying that we are able to parlay this into a regular, youth-friendly Sunday Mass for the whole Deanery! If you have a free prayer intention or two, please send them along that way.) Everyone who took the time to read my lengthy Christmas mail-out deserves a gold star: I know they’re meant to be sweet nothingness about the glories of Bethlehem, but there is just so much information we need to be sharing with the entire parish community! We will hold our parish-wide meeting about crafting a new recommendation for the Family of Parishes on Wednesday the 14th, following the evening Mass. As you read in the mailer, the Taskforce has challenged our deanery to come up with a plan that includes less priest personnel. We will need the creativity & openness of everyone, if this is to move ahead: all the priests in the area are keen to have a combined meeting in January – and anytime parishes get together, I know that is a good development! Looking ahead, please check your calendars for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this year hosted by our Mennonite neighbours. We’ll be gathering at noon for lunch, prayer & Bible study from Monday the 16th to Friday the 20th, then St. Boniface will host the wrap-up Prayer Service on Sunday the 22nd at 3pm. Let’s be People of Light this Advent! Join our KofC families (and St. Boniface CWL, whose meeting we’re hijacking!) for our Light Up for Christ Nativity & tree blessing ( & carol singalong) this Tuesday at 7pm, at the main doors of St. Boniface church. In honour of our diocesan patronal feast day – the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8th), we’ll hold all-day (starting at 8am) Confessions Dec. 7th, ending with a Holy Hour/ Sung Evening Prayer at 8pm. On the day itself, please consider joining us for Mass at the Rest Home, of better still, come to the Cathedral & celebrate with the entire Diocese! There’s just so many good things ahead of us – be filled with God’s blessings 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 Thomson, Joyce Cole, Steve Brock, Fr. Martin Nyland, Patrick Mihm, Shirley Bedard, Barbara Rau and Ed Smith.

The Newly Baptized

Welcome to our parish family Elyse Mirya Eilers, daughter of Stephen & April who was baptized last weekend at St. Boniface Church.

Prayers & Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy is extended to the family of Barb Regier, wife of Larry and Patricia Mittelholtz, sister of Ken Mittelholtz who died this past week. May they rest in peace.
Congratulations to Our Young People Who Were Confirmed this Weekend


1st Reconciliation

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

From the Finance Committee

As a clarification from Ted’s talk last weekend at St. Boniface Church we want to make sure parishioners understand that the only collection we are not assessed on is our monthly Parish Appeal. Thank-you to Ted for speaking to the parishioners on behalf of the Finance Committee.

Light Up For Christ

Please join the Knights of Columbus and Light up for Christ at St. Boniface Church on Tuesday, December 6 at 7 pm.

CMOB

The next C.M.O.B. meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in St. Peter’s Church.

St. Boniface CWL

Christmas Social - All St. Boniface CWL Ladies are invited to our Christmas social on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in the church hall. It is an appetizer and dessert potluck. There is no meal but please bring an appetizer or dessert to share throughout the evening. There will be singing and fun and games for all. Please come in your best “ugly” Christmas sweater as there will be prizes for the best dressed. Mark your calendar as you will not want to miss this event.

Blessing Christmas Food Drive - there will be a box in the narthex of the church for all food donations. Suggested donations are crackers, cans of fruit, apple or tomato juice, apple sauce, stuffing boxes or any items of your choice. All donations need to be at the church by December 8.

All Day Confessions & Adoration

On Wednesday, December 7 we will have the opportunity to experience God’s mercy and compassion and reconciling love. In our parishes the schedule for the Day of Confessions is as follows:

St. Boniface Church: Mass at 8:00 am; Adoration 8:30 am - 8 pm; Confessions from 8:30 - 11 am; 1 - 5 pm; 6 - 8 pm; Holy Hour 8- 9 pm.

Adoration

There will be Adoration on Wednesday, December 7 (All Day Confessions) from 8:30 am - 8:00 pm at St. Boniface Church. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex of the Church.

Advent Memorial Donations

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 Friday, December 16, 2016. The names of the deceased loved ones will be published in our Christmas bulletin.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: December 8

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the principle patron of the Diocese of London, will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8 at St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica at 7 pm. Bishop Fabbro will preside. All are welcome. If anyone is interested in carpooling and possibly dinner prior to Mass please contact the church office.

Offertory Envelopes for 2017

If you are not currently receiving offertory envelopes and would like a set for 2017 or would like to make your offertory donations through automatic monthly bank withdrawal please contact the church office at 519-236-4191.

Zurich Community Carol Sing

The Zurich Mennonite Church is inviting the community to join them for a Carol Sing on Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 pm at the Mennonite Church. Bring Christmas Goodies to share. Beverages provided.

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.

Marian Pilgrimage

Marian pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. June 20-29, 2017 with Fr. Alfredo Pereira, Chaplain. For more information call Mary at 519-666-3109.

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

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Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....

- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, December 4 at 7:00 pm at St. Peter’s Church
- Light up for Christ - Tuesday, December 6 at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church
- St. Boniface CWL Social - Tuesday, December 6 at 7 pm in the Church Hall
- CMOB - Tuesday, December 6 at 7 pm in St. Peter’s Sacristy
- All Day Confessions & Adoration - Wednesday, December 7 at St. Boniface Church
- School Mass - Friday, December 9 at 9:15 am at St. Boniface Church
- 1st Reconciliation - Sunday, December 11 at 2 pm at St. Boniface Church

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR PARISH BY REMEMBERING TO INCLUDE YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.
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

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.

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)

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.