8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 26, 2017

Today’s Gospel reminds us that we cannot serve both God and mammon. This means we must choose either to serve our own selfish desires, or choose to serve God and strive to love him above all things. Only one of these choices provides an inexhaustible treasure in heaven. Given this, let us seek in prayer and grace needed to choose wisely.

Dear Parishioners: We just shattered the 87 year-old heat record for February 23rd! I heard on the radio that a local maple syrup farmer has already processed 20% of his expected production for the year: let’s pray the rest of the trees don’t wake up until winter is safely over. Please bring in (or destroy) any blessed palms you have hanging around your home, office or vehicle: those ashes will soon mark our heads as a sign of inner conversion to the Gospel. I understand I doubled up on emailing last week’s Catholic Update on Catholic Christian Spirituality: not to worry – that’s the important one! You’ll receive many more in the weeks ahead (e.g., ideas for Lenten observances; a daily meditation guide for Lent & guides to different styles of prayer we’ll be experiencing during the Parish Mission), but the idea that everyone – by virtue of their Baptism – is filled with the Holy Spirit of God & thus called to cultivate the interior life is the central notion we need to communicate; whatever shape or form our particular spiritualities take is really immaterial. Congratulations to the St. André Jubilee Committee for their excellent celebration last week: as we mark some major moments in the life of the Saint, I pray that each one of us will advance in our own journey of faith. A few of our Confirmation Small Group Leaders have been meeting, to discuss ways to continue our young peoples’ initiation: please help spread the word that I will be the crêpier for our Mardi Gras party. Pope Francis’ teaching on the Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia) continues to unfold: next Thursday our Huron Perth Catholic School Board is hosting a dinner & talk given by Bishop Dabrowski: I look forward to learning more & seeing how we can integrate our good Pope’s plan of encounter & mercy into our Catholic Education System. Bishop Fabbro recently thanked all the parishes & deaneries for their efforts in re-organizing parishes into Families, as we look ahead to fewer priest personnel in the future of our Diocese; he said he will announce the complete plan when he returns from his Ad Liminal meeting with Pope Francis in May. (“Pioneer Families”, i.e., test parish projects, are to be implemented in 2018.) This week the Gospel asks us “Who is our master?” My guess is it’s the one we spend most of our time talking to/about. Let’s measure our words this week & during the holy season of Lent. God bless you & your family! Fr. Matt

St. Andre 100 Years Website
http://standre100.weebly.com

St. André 100 Years

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in our January and February celebrations. They have been very successful and we continue to plan for the following monthly events. We will be meeting at St. Boniface in the Narthex on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm to inform people of what has happened so far, plans that are in place for the spring and to continue to talk about ideas and make plans for future events. Please join us and become part of this great event.

Paint Night
You are invited to a Paint Night with Brushstrokes in Motion, St. Boniface Hall Saturday afternoon 1:00 to 5:00 March 11th. $15 from every $45 fee will go to the St Andre Celebrations at St. Peter’s Parish 2017. Contact Patty LaPorte 236-4876 before March 1st.
Prayer List
Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Joyce Waller, Roxanne Rau, Louise Merer, Reese Thomson, Joyce Cole, Steve Brock, Fr. Martin Nyland, Patrick Mihm, Shirley Bedard, Barbara Rau, Ed Smith, Madeline Denomme, Ken Mittelholtz, Alex Malcolm and Bernie Denomme.

Prayers & Sympathy
Prayers and sympathy is extended to the families of Louie Debus brother of Doug Debus & Shirley Bedard and Phyllis Snow sister of Evelyn Jeffrey and Marjorie Overholt who died this past week. May they rest in peace.

Stations of the Cross during Lent
Tuesday mornings at 11:30 am followed by Mass at St. Peter's
Friday mornings following the 9:15 am Mass at St. Boniface

Office Hours
The office will be closed on Tuesday, February 28 as both Fr. Matt & myself will be doing computer training.

Knights of Columbus
Please Note: There will be no card party in February.

12 Hour Adoration
There will be 12 Hour Adoration on Friday, March 3 from 8 am - 8 pm at St. Boniface Church. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex of the Church.

CGR Youth Retreat
(Youth in grade 11 & 12 and up to age 21)
Another exciting COR weekend will unfold during the weekend of March 31, April 1 & 2, 2017. COR 30 will take place in the quaint town of Dublin, ON. It is a weekend where teens discover more about themselves and respecting others, experience a reconnection with God, meet new friends, and just have a whole lot of fun through games and music. Pick up an application form at your parish, at St. Mike's or St Anne's High Schools, or by contacting Chris & Angela DeGroot at cadegroot@cyg.net or 519-949-4066. Please submit applications by March 24th for this amazing weekend for youth!

50 Years of Solidarity
For 50 years, Development and Peace/Caritas Canada has been in solidarity with worldwide social movements in addressing injustice and creating change. St. Anne’s CSS will be hosting the Solidarity Quilt on Monday, March 20 at 10:00 am and will use this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work of our Church’s International Development Organization. Everyone is welcome.

World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 3 at 2:00 pm at the Bluewater Resthome. Everyone is welcome!

Shrove Tuesday
Everyone is invited to a pancake & sausage supper at the Lutheran Church on Tuesday, February 28 from 5 - 7 pm. Free will offering.

Knights of Columbus Presents...An evening on Farm Succession and Estate Planning
All are welcome...Knights of Columbus members as well as non-members. Fraternal Advisors Tony Lambe FIC, RHU, Mike Phelps FIC and Herm Vanderheyden FIC are pleased to invite you to join our discussions on the Legal, Tax and Financial issues relevant to Farm and Estate Planning. Presentations by Joseph Murray L.L.B. (Lawyer) (Seaforth) and Steve Van den Hengel CPA, CA (Accountant) (Famme & Co., Stratford)

Thursday March 2, 2017. Knights of Columbus Hall, St. Columban @7:30 pm
Tuesday March 7, 2017. Knights of Columbus Hall, Kinkora @7:30 pm
Wednesday March 8, 2017 Precious Blood Catholic Church Hall, Exeter @7:30 pm
Please R.S.V.P. to your Personal Fraternal Advisor.

Calling all Women!
With lent only a week away we need to prepare our hearts for the 40 day journey into the wilderness. Perhaps we are committing more time to prayer, or fasting from certain foods this Lent? If we look at the journey of Jesus in the desert we can be certain of one thing this Lent - TEMPTATION. The Heart of Mary Women's Group invites you this Monday February 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm at one of the four locations Seaforth (contact lindsaysills@yahoo.ca), Kinkora (contact kinkorite@hotmail.com), Stratford (contact the_little_way122@yahoo.ca) and New Hamburg (contact pauline.witzel@gmail.com). Please RSVP.

2017 Lift Jesus Higher Rally
Be inspired, encouraged and healed: Come Celebrate the 25th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally, on Saturday, March 4 from 9 am - 5:30 pm at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (255 Front St. W.). Including Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and guest speaker Bishop Scott McCaig. High Mass (with Sunday readings) will be celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins. There is also a separate youth event (13-18 years) with great music, dynamic talks and inspirational skits. Tickets ($25 for adults, $15 for youth) can be purchased online at http://www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

A Seniors Luncheon with Elva Hurst
On March 17 from 12 - 3 pm the Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church is hosting a Seniors Luncheon with Elva Hurst. Elva is a professional artist and author from Lancaster, PA. Growing up in a large old order Mennonite family, she spent most of her time on the farm. After graduating 8th grade from her one-room school, she discovered the lost performance art of chalk talk. She now owns and operates the Barnyard Art Studio & Gallery on her 40 acre farm in Lancaster, while traveling abroad to share her stories of faith and freedom through chalk talk. Lunch will be provided. Freewill Donations will be accepted. RSVP by March 3 to Mary Lou @ 519-236-4779 or mamalouver@gmail.com.
Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....

- CMOB - Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in St. Peter’s Sacristy
- Ash Wednesday - March 1 - Mass times - St. Boniface at 9:15 am; St. Peter’s at 7:00 pm
- First Friday & 12 Hour Adoration - Friday, March 3 at St. Boniface Church
- World Day of Prayer - Friday, March 3 at 2:00 pm at the Bluewater Resthome
- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 5 at 7:00 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Lenten Mission Monday, March 6 - Wednesday, March 8
- CMOB - Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 pm in St. Peter’s Sacristy
- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at St. Peter’s Church
- CMOB - Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm in St. Peter’s Sacristy

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR PARISH BY REMEMBERING TO INCLUDE YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.
Parish Office & School
Contact Information
Parish Office:
22 Mary St., Box 81
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
519-236-4191
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 1L0
519-482-5454

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.

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

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

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.