3rd Sunday of Advent - December 17, 2017

Rejoice in your God, the God of hope and light. The world literally grows darker each day this time of the year. But as dark as the world grows, the darkness will not overcome the light. Jesus is the light of the world. He illumines our darkness with his love and truth. We are able to sit in the darkness with confidence that the Lord is with us.

Dear Parishioners: Rejoice! (As St. Paul exhorts us, always!) Winter is truly arrived and with it the end of the year and so we take stock of our lives. Congratulations to our First Reconciliation families! I pray your witness inspires the rest of us (“Festivus”, anyone?) to celebrate the Sacrament & prepare our hearts for our grace-filled Visitor. Check your email in-box for a Catholic Update on “Ten Tips for Better Confessions”. I heartily recommend our diocesan newsletter with its two outstanding articles by recently-retired diocesan personnel from the Marriage Tribunal & Migrant Worker Ministry. (The one on why people choose not to go to Mass isn’t too shabby either!) The times they are a-changing! I’m fairly certain our Canadian Bishops 50% off sale of ritual books is the first in my life! I encourage our lectors to call the Office & sign up for a study edition of the Sunday Lectionary (the parish will pay half of your half-off price): there’s nothing like having the actual layout of the text to help our proclamation. (Now that being said, I want to discourage anyone from buying the large edition of the Book of the Gospels – we don’t need anyone processing around the neighbourhood, playing church!) We can rejoice that Manitoba has passed Bill 34, protecting the rights of conscientious objectors to euthanasia! (I know what the topic of conversation is going to be when I go to our MPP’s New Year’s Levee in January now!) Please let our Premier, our provincial Minister of Health and all Ontario lawmakers know how important it is that we not compel healthcare workers to take the lives of the sick and suffering. I always feel more alive in Advent – especially when it’s cold out! May the presence of the One among us that we do not know move us to greater witness and action on behalf of the Gospel! God bless your family this week.

Fr. Matt

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Louise Merner, Reese Thomson, Steve Brock, Fr. Martin Nyland, Shirley Bedard, Madeline Denomme, Marie Cyr, Michael Frijters, Theresa Davies, Martha Risi, Patricia Murray, Fr. Henry Cassano and all who minister in hospitals.

Prayers and Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy is extended to the family of Larry Regier, who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Happy Birthday Fr. Matt!!!

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

A Message from your Finance Committee

Our Parishes appreciate your generosity and depend on it continuing especially at Christmas time for our financial needs and the mission of the Church. Currently St. Peter’s is breaking even and St. Boniface is in a deficit of $10,344 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! The Finance Committee
Bulletin News for the Weeks of December 25 - January 7

Please have all bulletins news from December 25 - January 7 to the Church Office no later then Wednesday, December 20 at 4:30 as we will be doing a 2 week bulletin.

Annual Live Nativity

The Live Nativity will take place at the Zurich Pavilion (behind the ball diamond) on Sunday, December 17 starting at 7 pm. The Live Nativity has been a community, eucumenical tradition for many years. Come out and celebrate Christ’s birth with us. If you or your children are interested in wearing a costume and silently “acting/standing” out the story as it is read please contact Pastor Nadine at 519-236-4697. We have costumes in all sizes - adults and children are welcome.

St. Boniface CWL

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - Due to the weather last week St. Boniface CWL has rescheduled the December meeting and Christmas party to Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 in the hall. It will be an appetizer and dessert potluck. Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Also you are asked to bring an inexpensive gift for our gift exchange. Patti and Carmel’s group is in charge of the social. Hope to see you there.

All Day Confessions & Adoration

On Wednesday, December 20 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 8:30 am; Adoration 9:00 am – 9:00 pm; Confessions from 9:00 am – 11:00 am; 1:30 – 4:00 pm; 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

Update from Mark Hartman

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. I am doing well, and just finishing up my first semester at Sacred Heart Seminary. Know that you are in my prayers, as we prepare our hearts to encounter Christ in a new way this Advent.

Donations for 2017

Please have all donations for 2017 into the church office no later then Friday, December 29 at noon to ensure that your donations are included on your 2017 income tax receipt. Any donations received after noon on December 29 can only be included on your 2018 income tax receipt.

Offertory Envelopes for 2018

Your 2018 offertory envelopes are available for pick up in the entrance of the Church. Those who do not already have offertory envelopes an 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 2018 as envelope numbers have changed and your contributions will not be recorded properly.

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 from 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 Monday, December 18, 2017. The names of the deceased loved ones will be published in our Christmas bulletin.

Feast of the Epiphany - A Christmas Celebration

On January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, a Christmas celebration will be held at St. Peter’s Church hall. This dinner will be for needy families in our communities. It is our hope that members from both of our parishes will be able to assist in making a contribution towards this dinner. The contribution could be in the way of a small gift for a child, a monetary donation or food items to complement our dinner menu which is: Turkey soup, turkey with stuffing, cranberries, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, rolls and of course dessert. If you wish to help in this celebration please call Lynette Graham at 519-238-2946. Thank you.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Come join us for some bible sharing during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The noon hour bible study will be held from Monday January 15 to Friday, January 19 at the Zurich Mennonite Church; soup and beverages provided. We will end the week with a Christian Unity dinner on Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 pm at the Zurich Mennonite Church.

CCCB Initiative for Life and Family Prayer

God of oppressed, the broken hearted, the captives, and the prisoners, teach us to trust that we have been anointed to bring your good news. While we wait for you to heal our broken world, teach us to work in faithful trust alongside you, cherishing every ounce of goodness, healing, freedom, and release we encounter on the way. Amen.

4th Sunday of Advent Mass Times

Saturday, December 23 - 5 pm @ St. Boniface
Sunday, December 24 - 11 am @ St. Peter’s

Christmas/New Year’s Mass Times

Christmas Eve - December 24
5 pm St. Boniface 7 pm St. Peter’s
Christmas Day - December 25
9 am St. Boniface 11 am St. Peter’s 1 pm BWRH
New Year’s Eve - December 31
5 pm St. Boniface
New Year’s Day - January 1
9:30 am BWRH 11 am St. Peter’s
Are you interested in placing an ad on the back of our church bulletin. Please contact the church office at 519-236-4191.

Pat Bedard Construction
General Carpentry
Renovations - Additions
Siding - Decks
519-236-4720

Bayfield Garage
519-565-2538
Don McIlwain, Owner
Hwy 21, Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0
Brakes - Front End - Suspension - Mufflers - Front Wheel Drive

Bayview Golf Club
Phone: 519-236-4030
Email: bayviewgolf@hay.net
www.bayviewgolfclub.ca
Hwy. 21, 7 miles North of Grand Bend
Call to book tournaments & tee times.

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David Regier, Owner
RR#2
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
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Fax: 519-236-4960
Renovations
Additions
Residential
Commercial
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Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....

- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Annual Live Nativity - Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm at the Zurich Pavilion (behind the ball diamond)
- All Day Confessions - Wednesday, December 20 at St. Boniface Church - Mass at 8:30 am; Adoration 9 am - 9 pm; Confessions from 9 - 11 am; 1:30 - 4 pm; 6 - 9 pm
- Together with Christ Discussion Group - Wednesday, December 20 at noon at St. Boniface Church
- Christmas Eve Mass Times - Sunday, December 24 at 5 pm at St. Boniface; 7 pm at St. Peter’s
- Christmas Day Mass Times - Monday, December 25 at 9 am at St. Boniface; 11 am at St. Peter’s; 1 pm at BWRH
- New Year’s Eve Mass Times - Sunday, December 31 at 5 pm at BWRH; 11 am at St. Peter’s

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

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

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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 regularly 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.

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.