3rd Sunday of Lent - March 4, 2018

Jesus performed many signs, but it was in his death and resurrection that God’s glory was fully revealed and made manifest. When Jesus drives the money changers and animal vendors from the Temple, the Jews demand a sign to prove his authority. They do not have the faith to see what is in front of them. Later, when Jesus dies and is risen, his disciples remember his words, and they understand and believe. Do we have the faith to see what is revealed right in front of us, in this Eucharist?

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**Life and Family Prayer for Families & Small Groups**

Jesus, you turned the tables in the Temple. Help us to see and despise the ways we choose our own slavery. Make us active in choosing life instead, for ourselves and for others. Amen.

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**Dear Parishioners:** How the days fly by! Here we are in March already, with **Easter just around the corner**, waiting to surprise us on April 1st. I congratulate **St. Peter’s CWL** on hosting the **World Day of Prayer** at Bluewater Rest Home (whoever came up with the idea of using the chapel there was inspired!): as I recall, my first time in any non-Catholic church was to participate in a WDP service. The leadership the various Christian Women’s groups give the WDP makes us all a little more thoughtful, a little more connected with our brothers & sisters around the world – well done! Next Sunday, I may or may not be here for the Masses: I’m serving as spiritual advisor for the London Men’s Cursillo weekend, but the numbers are too low to hold the event – we’ll have to play it by ear. I was blessed to attend a workshop hosted by Huron County on “The Power of Unconscious Bias”, with a special emphasis on newcomers to the area, like our refugee families. It was startling to recognize within myself the many **assumptions I make** when someone responds differently to a gesture as simple as a handshake, or how important it is to smile! (It was also good to hear all the initiatives the County is taking to try and attract young working families, and to make home-owning a more possible dream!) Is Lent “getting to you” in the best way? I’m looking forward to attending the **Mission at Seaforth/Kinkora** in a couple weeks’ time (see further info), and I’m really enjoying the discussions we’re having in our **Amoris Laetitia Discussion Groups**: we’re currently on Chapter 3, but please don’t worry about not having attended the first couple sessions – come whenever you’re able. We are converted to the Kingdom of God in a step-by-step way: may all our Lenten practices of **prayer, fasting & alms-giving** bear fruit in this life and the next!

Have a blessed week. Fr. Matt

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**From the Amoris Laetitia Study Group:**

Pope Francis summarizes the church’s teaching on **human life in a most succinct way in #83 of the “Joy of Love.”** Any rational person who understands that **human life is an end in itself** - and not a means to be used and discarded - can rejoice in this message of Good News.

83. Here I feel it urgent to state that, if the family is the sanctuary of life, the place where life is conceived and cared for, it is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed. So great is the value of a human life, and so inalienable the right to life of an innocent child growing in the mother’s womb, that no alleged right to one’s own body can justify a decision to terminate that life, which is an end in itself and which can never be considered the “property” of another human being. The family protects human life in all its stages, including its last. Consequently, “those who work in healthcare facilities are reminded of the moral duty of conscientious objection. Similarly, the Church not only feels the urgency to assert the right to a natural death, without aggressive treatment and euthanasia”, but likewise “firmly rejects the death penalty.”
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, Madeleine Denomme, Marie Cyr, Michael Frijters, Theresa Davies, Martha Risi, Janet Durand, Fr. Henry Cassano and all who minister in hospitals.

Prayers & Sympathy
Prayers and Sympathy is extended to the family of Lawrence Verrue, brother of Mary & John Jacobs who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Day of Confessions
This year’s diocesan Day of Confessions will take place on Wednesday, March 21, enabling us to set aside our old ways, to be renewed in heart and soul, and to be reconciled with our merciful and loving God. As Pope Francis reminds us, confession is where we encounter Jesus. Confession times at St. Boniface Church are: Mass at 8:30 am with Adoration from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm; Confessions - 9 - 11 am; 1 - 4 pm; 6 - 9 pm. Our diocesan website (www.dol.ca) offers a schedule of confession times for other parishes, as well as information about Lent, Day of Confessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Easter Flowers
We will be accepting donations for Easter Flowers in memory of deceased loved ones. If you wish to make a donation in their memory place your donation in an envelope marked “Easter 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 March 25, 2018. The names of the deceased love ones will be published in our Easter bulletin.

St. Boniface CWL
Anyone wanting to go to the Diocesan Convention for a day? Please contact Joan Regier at 519-236-4289 by March 10, 2018.

St. Peter’s Bible Study
St. Peter’s Bible Study will resume after Easter on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the parish hall. We will be studying the Psalms. Anyone interested in joining please contact Martha Mungar at 519-236-7321.

NET Do Something Amazing Retreat
Sign up for the London DSA Retreat to come and see what being a NET Missionary is all about! To be held at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Tilbury, ON beginning Friday March 9 at 7:00 pm ending approximately Saturday, March 10 at 4:00 pm (optional: stay for 5:00 pm Mass). Register at dsa.netcanada.ca

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)
Share Lent Campaign
CCODP is the development arm of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is through this campaign and your generosity that CCODP, on behalf of Catholics across Canada, contributes to projects that alleviate poverty in developing countries and offers educational opportunities to Catholics here at home. The theme of the 2018 campaign is Together for Peace. It is about ‘knocking down walls to build bridges’ through “dialogue”. As your Bishop, I ask that you generously donate to the Share Lent Campaign in your parish in order that CCODP can continue to support projects that will better the lives of people in different parts of the world. This year, I also invite you to consider becoming a year-round contributor to the work of CCODP by pledging a monthly contribution. Those who wish to learn more about the 2018 campaign and Share Year-Round monthly giving can visit the CCODP website at www.devp.org and www.devp.org/shareyearround.

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

Lenten Parish Mission
St. James, Seaforth and St. Patrick’s Dublin have invited Rev. Enzo Del Brocco a member of the Catholic religious order of the Passionist Missionaries to lead them in their Lenten Mission this year. The theme for our mission this year is “Return with Your Whole Heart”. The schedule will be as follows: Sun. March 10/11 – Father Enzo will preach at all Sunday masses; Sun. March 11 7:30 PM – St. James Seaforth – “I Wanna Go Home”; Mon. March 12 7:30 PM – St. James Seaforth – “God’s Lost and Found” Tues. March 13 7:30 PM – St. Patrick’s Dublin – “All or Nothing at All” Reception to Follow (Tuesday evening). The Mission is taking place at the halfway point of Lent – a great way to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Easter – please feel free to invite family and friends! All Are Welcome"

Cursillo Weekends
Where is Christ in our life now? A Catholic Cursillo weekend can give you the time to reflect and redirect your path, and spiritual food for reflection. Cursillo provides a chance for people to recognize and appreciate the presence of the Holy Spirit and to better understand ourselves for the great feast of Easter – please feel free to invite family and friends! All Are Welcome"

Retrouvaille Weekend
The next Retrouvaille weekend, hosted by Greg & Anita Turner, will be held April 6 – 8 at the Michaelite House Retreat Centre. They continue to promote Retrouvaille and “spread the word” about the Marriage and Family saving program. Whatever the marital situation, there can always be hope and hurting couples are not alone. The website for Retrouvaille is https://retrouvaille.org.
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Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....
- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 4 at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Amoris Laetitia Study Group - Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 pm in St. Boniface Hall
- Amoris Laetitia Study Group - Thursday, March 8 at 12:00 pm in St. Peter’s Hall
- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 11 at 7 pm at St. Peter’s Church
- Amoris Laetitia Study Group - Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 pm in St. Boniface Hall
- Amoris Laetitia Study Group - Thursday, March 15 at 12:00 pm in St. Peter’s Hall
- Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, March 18 at 7 pm at St. Boniface Church
- Amoris Laetitia Study Group - Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 pm in St. Boniface Hall

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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

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.

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.