Jesus calls on us to set ourselves apart from the world and serve others. Our world is full of arguments and conflicts. People fight and despise one another out of jealousy and selfish desires. Today, Jesus calls on us to be different from the world and learn to serve others. This is how we can be the greatest in his eyes.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 23, 2018

Dear Parishioners: what a beautiful time of year we are enjoying: the richness of the earth, the energy of young people back at school; it really is my favourite season. We had an excellent, turn-out for our meeting with families celebrating 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist and Confirmation: they are to be particularly commended for stepping forth in faith, given the recent revelations of clergy sexual abuse around the world and in our own diocese. (If any more information about the allegations against Fr. Andy Dwyer surfaces, I’ll try to keep everyone informed. During this time of pain and suffering, please keep an open ear to all your conversations about priestly abuse: perhaps someone will share with you their own story of being abused and you can be the listening and compassionate ear that begins the healing journey and search for justice for all survivors of abuse.) I mentioned earlier that we would be starting a series of informal discussion groups around various topics in both our parishes: obviously, the abuse scandal needs to be one issue we address. (I’m not sure if Catholic Update has a full length article on abuse - we may end up using some material from the Archdiocese of Boston for that topic.) Other than that, I hope to send out an Update each week of October and the first two of November, that everyone could read at home and discuss either at a group meeting or online - if I can figure out Facebook by then! Also, beginning in November, I want to start a six-week long bereavement group, following the Seasons of Hope program. (At the last Exeter Ministerial meeting, one colleague asked if anyone hosted a ‘Blue Christmas’ service those who cannot enter into the festive spirit of Christmas due to a recent death or major trauma. Once we wrap-up in mid December, I’m sure we’ll want to mark our time together with a service of prayer and commemoration. (I’ll be happy to lead the group, but I will need help with meal preparation, room set-up and other little roles: if you can help, please call the Office! Thank you.) Our diocesan workshop on Forming Missionary Disciples (and the New Evangelization in our Families of Parishes) has everyone pumped up! It was great to learn alongside and share with Fathers Ronnie (of Goderich) Len (of Mount Carmel/Exeter) and Tony (Grand Bend/Parkhill) our dreams of the future and practical efforts we can do today. Fr. Ronnie generously offered to share his parish’ up-coming Advent Mission (starting November 17th) with Fr. Red O’Reilly CSB, the singing priest of “Children of the Light” renown. I’ve hosted Fr. Red before, and his powerful message and uplifting music was well received by all. We’ll split the four nights of the Mission between Goderich and Exeter, to hopefully reach the maximum amount of people. Mark your calendars now and pray for the success of our Parish Mission! The Mission, our small groups, all sacramental preparation are all opportunities to encounter Jesus Christ and build up the Body of Christ. Please do what you can to open your heart and let God Speak to you in the midst of God’s Holy People. God Bless you this week! Fr. Matt

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family suffering from illness, Louise Merner, Reese Thomson, Fr. Martin Nyland, Shirley Bedard, Marie Cyr, Theresa Davies, Janet Durand, Steven Overholt, Donna Smith, Pat Mihm, Diane Belanger, Carolyn Rau, Steve Meidinger, Fr. Henry Cassano and all who minister in hospitals.

Prayers & Sympathy

Prayers and sympathy are extended to the families of Howard Jacobs, brother of Barbara Coker and Madeline Denomme, wife of Paul who died recently. May they rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 24 - 30

MONDAY: September 24
(Vocation Support Prayer: Deacon Brian Hanley)

TUESDAY: September 25
(Deacon David Callaghan)

St. Peter’s Church
11:30 am - Rosary & Devotions to St. Joseph & St. Andre
12:00 pm - Mass
+Velma Cantin - St. Peter’s CWL
+Patsy Rau - St. Peter’s CWL

WEDNESDAY: September 26
(Rev. Paul Duplessie, O.F.M. Cap)

St. Boniface Church
6:25 pm - Devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help
7:00 pm - Mass
+(Ann) Matthew Ducharme - Martha Risi & Family
Int. of Stephen & Pat Meidinger - Gerard & Mary Ducharme
Int. of Kathryn Regier - Paul & Shirley Bedard

THURSDAY: September 27
(Rev. Kenneth McKernan, C.S.B.)

Bluewater Resthome - 3:30 pm
+Barry Strong - The Family
Int. of Stephen & Pat Meidinger - Virginia Denomme

FRIDAY: September 28
(Rev. Christopher Pietraszko)

St. Boniface Church - 9:15 am
Int. of Lloyd & Mary Lou Aubin - George & Marg Suplata
A Special Intention - George & Marg Suplata
Int. of Stacie & Cody Hern
- Francis & Doreen Hartman & Family

SATURDAY: September 29
(Rev. Vince Gulikers)

St. Boniface Church - No Morning Mass
St. Peter’s Church - 5:00 pm

SUNDAY: September 30
(Rev. Richard Charrette)

St. Boniface Church - 9:00 am
St. Peter’s Church - 11:00 am
St. Boniface CWL

Thanksgiving Food Drive - we will be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to Blessings. They are in need of tuna, salmon, apple sauce, car fruit, cookies and crackers. There will be a box in the Narthex of the church to collect the items. Please have all your donations at the church by Monday, October 1st. Thanks for your support in helping to ensure everyone has a “Happy Thanksgiving”.

Blessing of Animals

The Blessing of Animals will be held on Sunday, September 30 at 3 pm at St. Peter’s Church. Our pets are a blessing please consider getting your animals blessed.

NET Retreat for our Confirmation Students

On Wednesday, October 3 our parish/school community will be hosting the NET Team for our confirmation students. The team members act out dramas and give personal sharing’s about their own faith experiences as a way to further emphasize the points made during the large group presentations. During every NET retreat, the youth are given a time of prayer, the sacraments, fellowship and service. The retreat will begin with Mass at 9:15 am at St. Boniface Church - everyone is welcome to join in the Mass. Please keep our students in your prayers on this special day.

Catholic Update Study Groups

Starting in October we will begin an informal discussion group (six sessions) on selected Catholic Update articles. The study groups will be offered at St. Peter’s following the noon Mass on Tuesdays and at St. Boniface following the 7 pm Mass on Wednesdays. More information is to follow.

News Briefs from the September 2018 Blue Water Rest Home Board Meeting...

Partnership with Fanshawe College - A dual credit program is being offered onsite for post secondary students from the Avon Maitland and Huron Perth Catholic Boards. Students will be onsite for full days on Tuesdays during the months of October, November and December. Upcoming Events - Mental Health First Aid is being September 27 and 28, 2018 at the West Huron Care Centre. Cost $160.00. For more information, please contact Patty Groot, Outreach and Programs Manager 519-236-4373 x 631.

Blue Water Rest Home is a Registered Charity under the Income Tax Act. We publicly recognize donations of $500.00 or more and donations are used to enhance Resident Care, honour or recognize a loved one, or make a difference in the community.

Life Chain

Stratford & District Right to Life invites you to join hands for the LIFE CHAIN on Sunday, September 30, 2018 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, Ontario and Huron Streets, Stratford; refreshments to follow at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall.

Stratford & District Right to Life Annual General Meeting

All members are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting for the Stratford & District Right to Life on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm in the Meeting Room at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall (refreshments to follow the meeting).

Stratford & District Right to Life Annual Dinner

Stratford & District Right to Life 46th Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 20 at the Christian Reformed Hall, 190 Athlone Ave., Stratford with Keynote speaker Jakki Jeffs. Social: 5:30 pm and Dinner: 6:30 pm. For tickets contact Doreen Hartman at 519-237-3295 - Adults $25 and Students $18.

Happy, Joyous and Free

AA meeting “Happy, Joyous and Free” is now being held at St. Peter’s Church Hall on Tuesday’s at 1:00 pm. All that is required is a desire to stop drinking to attend.

Family Catechism

Do you want to spend time together as a family and learn more about your faith? Interested in meeting other families and making new friends. Looking for ways to grow in your relationship with God? Join us for Family Catechism. Visit or register at https://famfi.ca/family catechism/ or contact Stephen & Krista Huver (London) skhuver@hotmail.com or Chris & Barb Runstedler (Stratford) barb.runstedler@gmail.com. Family Catechism will start at the end of September for most locations.

Come and See Weekend

St. Peter’s Seminary invites you to a discernment retreat for men 17-45 years old considering a call to the priesthood. This weekend offers a first-hand experience of the life of a seminarian, spiritual helps for discernment, and an opportunity to meet current seminarians and faculty. For more info or to register, contact Fr. Patrick Bénêteau at vocations@dol.ca or 519-432-1824 ext. 204.

Jeremiah Day Soccer Challenge

The story of the prophet Jeremiah tells us that it is never too early to think about God’s plan for us. The Jeremiah Day Soccer Challenge, on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 10 am – 3 pm, is a day for young men in grades 8 - 12 to grow closer to God and to visit St. Peter’s Seminary. Activities include a tour of the seminary, Mass of Ministries, lunch, soccer tips from Bishop Dabrowski, and a soccer game with our seminarians in the afternoon. Please register by contacting Fr. Patrick Beneteau at vocations@dol.ca or 519-432-1824 ext. 204.
Are you interested in placing an ad on the back of our church bulletin. Please contact the church office at 519-236-4191.

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Hwy. 21, 7 miles North of Grand Bend
Call to book tournaments & tee times.

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Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance....
- Blessing of Animals - Sunday, September 30 at 3 pm at St. Peter’s Church
- Catholic Update Study Group - Tuesday, October 2 at St. Peter’s following the noon Mass
- NET Retreat - for Grade 7 & 8 students - Wednesday, October 3 at St. Boniface Church
- Catholic Update Study Group - Wednesday October 3 at St. Boniface at 7 pm
- First Friday School Mass & 12 Hour Adoration - Friday, October 5 at St. Boniface Church
- Catholic Update Study Group - Tuesday, October 9 at St. Peter’s following the noon Mass
- Catholic Update Study Group - Wednesday October 10 at St. Boniface following the 7 pm Mass
- Finance Meeting - Thursday, October 11 at St. Boniface Church at 7 pm

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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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.

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.