Dear Parishioners: what glorious weather we get in these last days of spring and early fall! (I’ve always treasured our four-season changes, especially with my family having lived in a part of the world where it only went from the wet season to the hot one!) Clearly for us, this is a fruitful and active time: I invite all parishioners to attend the special Mass for Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse taking place next Thursday at 6pm. Reconciliation is the theme for this year’s King’s College Veritas series, and I very much look forward to hearing from Justice Murray Sinclair (one of the chairs of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission for Residential School Survivors) on Thursday the 19th. If you’d like a ride to London, let me know! Our Adult & Youth Faith Development programs are about to begin: see the bulletin for details, & please pray that all of us grow in our faith this year! Our Family of Parishes will hold its first meeting on October 20th, and the Diocese is asking that 30 people in leadership from each parish attend! (I love thinking big!) How will we celebrate? What will music ministry look like? What about sacramental preparation – working with our Confirmation Candidates? I wait with bated breath to hear from any and everyone involved in any ministry or group within our parishes & learning from our neighbours what is going on around us. How will our parishes grow together – to reconcile our separate existences? The Knights of Columbus will soon mark the Installation of Officers at a regional celebration in Grand Bend: I look forward to co-shepherding the Mt. Carmel/Exeter Council with Fr. Ben, and pray that from the ashes of our local council, a new, vibrant one will emerge! Our Diocese’ Year of Prayer is moving along (please note the new Reconciliation time on Wednesdays and the Holy Hour each First Friday at 3pm): I have a deep conviction that if any of the initiatives we undertake this year succeed, it will because they are rooted in prayer. The Lord invites us to make the Kingdom of God the central organizing factor in our lives – may we put God’s kingdom of justice & peace first and foremost in our lives! God bless you. Fr. Matt

{Since the Sunday celebration replaces the feast of the day, we will not be commemorating the Birth of Mary this year. Please enjoy the following poem and make a focus of your reflection during your prayer time. Mary, Morning Star, pray for us!}

September 8 – The Birth of Mary

The Lord be with you - And with your spirit.
On God, my whale, for sinful minnows fishing,
Through my most grievous wail, winnowed faults strip
Away the rust, reeling poetry’s sheen.

To celebrate the sacred mysteries
I nail the liturgy’s words on my tongue.
Reclaim the pain of these metaphors
To birth in blood: Kyrie, eleison.

Too full of grace, she breaks Man’s No—
With Yes. The Virgin crushes Eve’s origin:
All sin erased. Fruit poisoned, now blessed, to
Replant seed in sacred ground for all kin.

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on earth.
You take away the sins of the world, receive our rebirth.

Michael Anthony Martinez, S.J.
Save the Date!!!
The Exeter/Mount Carmel Knights of Columbus and the CWL’s are hosting their annual Ham and Sausage supper on **Sunday, October 6 at Precious Blood Parish, from 5-7 pm.** Proceeds to the purchase of new liturgical books for the Mount Carmel and Precious Blood parishes. Tickets go on sale September 21-22. More information to follow.

**Alzheimer’s Coffee Break**
The annual Alzheimer’s Coffee Break will be held at the Bluewater Rest Home on **Tuesday, September 17th from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.** Everyone is welcome.

**Goderich Ultreya**
The Goderich ultreya for September will be on **Friday, September 13** at the Knight's of Columbus Convention Centre at 390 Parson's Court in Goderich. It's a potluck. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Supper at 6 p.m. Please bring your cup, plate and cutlery and smiles. Spread the word. For more info call Eileen at 519-524-9400 or Marie at 519-955-9320.

**Planned Giving Session**
Income Tax Reduction and Estate Tax Elimination with Ryan Fraser on **September 17 at St. Joseph’s Church, Stratford.** Registration starts at 1 pm, presentation at 1:30 pm. You will learn how to minimize or even eliminate taxes on your estate; avoid double taxation on your “Red” retirement accounts; bypass paying upfront capital gains taxes when selling your investments; convert assets into an income You can’t Outlive and leave a Lasting Legacy. **Save taxes and Leave More to your estate!** To reserve a seat, please call Heidi at 519-914-1786 or legacy@dol.ca.

**King’s Veritas Lecture Series**
The Veritas Series for Faith and Culture endeavors to foster learning and dialogue by gathering our community together, as we seek to live lives of faith and justice. The word veritas comes from the Latin word meaning truth. It is taken directly from the College motto: “Christus est Via, Veritas et Vita” (Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life). The theme of this year’s series, RENEWAL, is drawn from the prophecy of Isaiah. In Isaiah 40:31, the prophet declares, “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” In the midst of the many challenges facing our nation and our communities of faith, we will be presented with opportunities to consider and evaluate where we find our hope and our direction for the future. The first talk is titled “The Future of Truth and Reconciliation” and will be presented by Senator Murray Sinclair on **September 26 at 7 pm.** As always, admission and parking are free, and facilities are wheelchair accessible. For a complete list of the 2019-2020 Veritas series, please visit [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry/veritas-series/](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry/veritas-series/)

**Retrouvaille**
If your marriage has lost the sense of closeness it once had, if you are living more like roommates, Retrouvaille can help you recapture that closeness. To learn more about Retrouvaille, or to register for the up-coming weekend **September 27-29, 2019** at the Michaeline Centre, email retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com. Visit us on the web at [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).