4th Sunday of Advent - December 23, 2018
Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Feast of the Holy Family - December 30, 2018
The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manager.

Dear Parishioners: a blessed & Merry Christmas to one and all! Welcome home to all our families, friends & guests who celebrate the Word-made-Flesh in the birth of Jesus our Lord. And we have much to celebrate: please forgive the exclusive language of the following excerpt, but as the poem “The Nativity of Christ” comes from St. Robert Southwell (d. 1595) one of the Martyrs of England & Wales, you will understand that inclusive language simply wasn’t on the radar then. He writes:

Man altered was by sin from man to beast;
Beast’s food is hay, hay is all mortal flesh.
Now God is flesh and lies in manger pressed
As hay, the brutest sinner to refresh.
O happy field wherein this fodder grew,
Whose taste doth us from beasts to men renew.

The infant of Bethlehem becomes the food & medicine of our fallen world – Alleluia! We are restored in our human nature by God becoming one like us in every way but sin, that we might know and live as God’s plan from all time here on this earth and forever in the world to come. There is no situation, no tragedy, no problem that is somehow beyond God’s healing reach: as we contemplate the Holy Family of Bethlehem & Nazareth, we see in all their ups and downs the gentle unfolding of God’s care & compassion. Thanks to all who make our Christmas liturgies possible: the Music Ministry, our Altar Servers, Ushers, Lectors, Collection Counters, Sacristans, Custodians, snow (?) removal people and Lori, our Parish Secretary. It really does take a whole village to celebrate well! May we all take heart at the closeness of our God, the love God has shown for all people in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, as his Spirit-filled disciples in our world today! As all our families & friends gather to mark this joyous occasion, may each of us be filled with new courage, new confidence in the love of God that restores all Creation through the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Merry Christmas! Fr. Matt
Merry Christmas!!!
May the warmth and joy of the Christmas Season remain with you throughout the coming year.

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, Carolyn Rau, Nanc Wilkins, Tim (TJ) Klopp, Fr. Henry Cassano and all who minister in hospitals.

The Newly Baptized
Welcome to our parish family Jack Jared Leslie, son of Jared & Meagan who was baptized at St. Peter’s last weekend.

Prayers & Sympathy
Prayers and sympathy is extended to the family of Gerardus Van Aaken, father of Frank Van Aaken & Mary Ellen Coombs, who died this past week. May he rest in peace.

Christmas Office Hours
The office will be closed from December 24 - January 1. It will re-open on Wednesday, January 2 at 8:30 am.

Mass Notations
Please note there will be NO WEEKDAY MASSES celebrated from Wednesday, December 26 - Thursday, January 10. Fr. Matt will be away on a much deserved holiday.

First Friday Adoration
Please note there will be NO Mass celebrated on First Friday, January 4 but there will be Adoration from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at St. Boniface Church. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex of the Church.

St. Boniface CWL
CWL Memberships - A reminder that all CWL Memberships Dues are to be handed in by the end of December.

Sacristans, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers needed
Both St. Boniface & St. Peter’s Churches are in need of new Sacristans, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers. If you would like to volunteer for one or more of these ministries contact Martha Munger (St. Peter’s) at 519-236-7321 or the parish office (St. Boniface) at 519-236-4191.

Donations for 2018
Please have all donations for 2018 into the church office no later then Monday, December 31 at noon to ensure that your donations are included on your 2018 income tax receipt. Any donations received after noon on December 31 can only be included on your 2019 income tax receipt.

Sung Evening Prayer
Sunday, December 23 at St. Peter’s at 7 pm

Blue Christmas Mass
If anyone is facing any particular struggle in life please join us on Saturday, January 12 at 2 pm at St. Peter’s Church for a Blue Christmas Mass.

2019 Offertory Envelopes Are Now Available
Your 2019 weekly offering envelopes are now available in the entrance of the Church. Envelope numbers will change every year, so please be sure you do not use your 2019 envelopes before January 1, 2019. Those who do not already have offertory envelopes and 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.

Faith of Steel Hockey Game
Young men (high school age and older) are invited to join us for some pick-up hockey on Friday, December 28, at 11:15am at the Mitchell Arena and Community Centre (185 Wellington St.), followed by lunch, a talk about a virtue in sports and in faith, and some social time at St. Vincent de Paul Parish hall, Mitchell. Cost is $10 per person. RSVP by December 26 to Fr. Patrick Beneteau at vocations@dol.ca

Memorial Donations for Christmas Flowers
Thank-you to everyone who made donations towards Christmas Flowers in memory of the following:
Louis & Marilee Ayotte – Loretta Ayotte
Bill Brand – The Family
Deceased Members of the Denomme & Meidinger Families – Steve & Pat Meidinger
Matthew & Cody Ducharme – Martha Risi
Alphonse Grenier – Beatrice Grenier
Deceased Members of the Noel LaPorte Family – Phil & Patty LaPorte
Wayne Masse – Gerard & Henrica Masse
The Mihm Family, Rosemary Wilkins & Emma Shortill – Elaine & Pat Mihm
John & Margaret Henderson, Jack Henderson, Paul & Alice Neilands, Dianne Stevenson, Neil McAllister – Tom & Kathie Neilands
Glen Overholt, George Grenier Sr. & George Grenier Jr. –Laura Overholt & Family
Deceased Members of the Smith & Bedard Families – Gerd & Cecilia Smith
Deceased Members of the Soudant & Oesch Families – Ted & Janet Soudant & Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Suplat & Mr. & Mrs. George McGuire – George & Marg Suplat
Paul & Stephen Watson & Adam Morrissey – Angela Watson & Family
Please Support These Local Businesses That Support Our Parish

Events at a glance:

• Sung Evening Prayer - Sunday, December 23 at 7 pm at St. Peter’s
• First Friday Adoration - Friday, January 4 from 8 am - 4 pm at St. Boniface Church
• School Mass - Friday, January 11 at 9:15 am at St. Boniface Church
• Blue Christmas Mass - Saturday, January 12 at 2:00 pm at St. Peter’s Church

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

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

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
519-236-4391
bluewater@dot.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

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.

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
Kristie Cresswell
Cynthia Forler
Lynette Graham
Ray Mathonia
Janet Soudian
Marg Suplat

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.