Dear Parishioners: there’s got to be an easier way to earn a buck than playing Pepper for 3 hours! My thanks to our Knights of Columbus for them sponsoring a very enjoyable (if not lucrative) evening of cards this past week. Welcome to all our Confirmation Candidates and their families who are celebrating the Rite of Enrolment: may all our faith-lives be renewed by our Candidates’ Act of Faith! I was almost able to attend our School Board’s Annual Dinner in Mitchell: while briefly there I connected with the chaplains from St. Michael’s High School in Stratford, and our Board’s Religion Consultant. I spoke with them about the Bishop’s retreat with Parish Pastoral Councils, and his call for a renewal in pastoral planning: I hope to get our Deanery to sponsor a training workshop day, and have our High School chaplaincies participate! (Maybe if our youth can do this successfully, our priests & parishes will see pastoral planning as something to embrace, rather than fear & ignore!) Involving the students, staff, School Council & the wider community of each school will lead to a more fruitful discussion of where we should be placing our pastoral energies, than having one or two people sitting in an office, trying to guess what the priorities of the faith community are! I’m reminded of Monsignor McGreed’s (the guru of Catholic stewardship from Kansas City) presentation to our diocese, when he talked about one parish who discovered (via their annual registration/commitment-to-ministry drive) that 1/3 of all their families were moving out of the area on an annual basis. He said knowing the reality of the community was the key to implementing effective pastoral ministry, instead of operating out of previously held assumptions. I think high school is a vastly different experience for the students who are there for 4 or 5 years, as opposed to the “lifers”: by way of analogy, I believe our (lifer?) parishioners need to be more directly involved with setting the agenda in the parish, rather than the 6 year-or-so pastor. I’ve had an excellent meeting with our St. Boniface Fund Raising Committee, and I now think I have almost unraveled the strange history of our latest round of church repair & renovation, and the use of funds to pay off our loan from the Diocese, rather than complete the interior work (!). I hope to arrange a joint meeting with the Fund Raisers, the Finance Committee, the Building Committee and Parish Pastoral Council. (I also need to hear Fr. Graham’s take on the story.) When all these groups can agree on a consistent timeline of exactly how things unfolded and what lies ahead of us, we will present the whole story to the parish. [You know how this place works: it’s kind of like a big game of Pepper, where everyone gets to trump your ace all the time!] Concerns about the hygiene of our Eucharistic Ministers’ hands are being raised again: [It’s great how no one ever gets sick from the priest’s magic, germ-free hands!] when we get a Liturgical Committee going, I hope to have a more systematic answer, but for now let me state that fear must never be the determining factor in how we celebrate the sacred mysteries. We trust our neighbours to have relatively clean hands; after our mechanic wipes his or her hands on a greasy rag, we are happy to shake their hand for a job well done. If you really want to lose sleep over the whole idea, consider how filthy money is: yet we gladly pass it from hand to hand everyday. When we stop handling money, I will then consider changing our praxis around receiving Communion. [The Blessed Sacrament is as least as important as money!] As I stated before, our Eucharistic Ministers have personal bottles of sanitizer; hand sanitizer is also available in the narthex of our churches; you are much less exposed to germs by receiving on the tongue (i.e., most disease is transferred hand-to-hand). We spread our germs before and after Mass: I do not understand why our exchanges during the Mass (the Sign of Peace & Communion) get far more attention than shaking hands at the doors of the church. May the Lord infect us this week with zeal for his kingdom! God bless you & your family. Fr. Matt
COR 25 - Calling all Youth Age 16 - 21!!!

COR is being held in Dublin from November 14 - 16. This is a fun opportunity to meet other youth in the area at a fun, faith filled retreat weekend! For more information please email tlvanher@hotmail.com or call Don or Terri-Lynn at 519-347-2258.

Sunday Missals 2015

New Living with Christ Sunday Missals for 2015 are available at both St. Boniface and St. Peter’s Churches. Cost $5/each

Installation of Eucharistic Ministers

We will be re-installing Eucharistic Ministers that have not been installed in the last 5 years on the weekend of November 15/16 at all Masses. If you received an email from the Parish Office asking you to be re-installed please attend one of the Masses that weekend. If you are unable to attend one of the Masses on November 15/16 please let the office know and we can make other arrangements to have you installed at a different Mass.

REACH - A Life-Giving Opportunity for Students to Accomplish Service Hours

Please note that this event, scheduled to take place in Dublin in November, is being rescheduled for the spring. More information will follow when the rescheduled date is available.

A Living Tribute

The Memorial Angel Tree at the Blue Water Rest Home offers participants a unique way to honour a loved one by donating a light to our tree. The tree will be lit at a Service which will be held at 7 pm on November 16, 2014. Each loved one’s name will be listed on a brochure which will be distributed at the service. New donations each year will be added to the list, and program participants will be acknowledge at the event. For further information please contact Patty Groot at 519-236-4373 ext 631 or p.groot@bluewaterresthome.com.

Community Influenza Clinics

The Bluewater Area Family Health Team is having Community Influenza Clinics on the following Dates:

- Zurich - Wednesday, November 5 at Zurich Community centre from 4 - 6 pm
- Dashwood - Saturday, November 8 at Zion Lutheran Church 10 - 11:30 am

Please bring your Health Card and wear a sleeve that will roll up!

Veritas Series for Faith and Culture

Singing Communities - Thursday, November 6 with Joe Weisenberg at Kings College. Having come to cherish the imperfectly beautiful music to normal people singing together, Joey works to empower communities around the world to unlock their musical and spiritual potential, and to make music a lasting and joy-filled force in shul (synagogue) and in Jewish life. Lectures will be held at the Joanne & Peter Kenny Theatre, Darryl J. King Student Life Centre, 266 Epworth Avenue, London, ON. Free parking and admission.

World Mission Sunday – Thank-You!!!

Thank you very much for your generous support of World Mission Sunday last week. This support is a blessing for the priests, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Catechists who depend on this help through the Propagation of the Faith. Please continue to pray for all who serve in mission countries that they may remain steadfast in their vocation to bring Christ’s message of love to those they serve – the world’s most vulnerable.

Stratford & District Right to Life Presents:

Rebecca Kiessling (conceived in rape, targeted for abortion) on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph’s Church Hall, Stratford. Free admission – Refreshments – Good Will Offering.

St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School

Greetings from St. Anne’s! This week has been a calm and reflective week beginning with our Grade 10 Retreat that was generously catered by the Knights of Columbus of Goderich. This retreat had an overall theme of the “Amazing Race Against Poverty” where students played several interactive games relating to the theme of poverty locally and globally. They also learned about ways to reduce poverty and to make the world a better place for all of our brothers and sisters. Furthermore, many students will be participating in the Halloween For Hunger Food Drive, and will be collecting non-perishable food items rather than candy. The items collected will be going to our local food banks to help families in need. This week also consisted of our Halloween Dance and our Halloween Civvies day, where students were able to show their school spirit by wearing a costume or Halloween colours. We are excited to welcome Pro-Life guest speaker, Rebecca Kiessling to our school this upcoming week. Also we would like everyone to keep a fellow classmate and Gr. 12 student, Ben in your thoughts and prayers as he begins his road to recovery from a tragic accident last week. God bless you, Ministers of Faith, Lexi Smith and Yris Van der Ploeg.