

St. Mary of the Purification Parish

230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0

Tel: 519-323-1054, Fax: 519-323-0117, www.stmarymountforest.ca

St. Peter's Mission, 943 Caroline Street, Ayton, ON N0G1C0

St. Thomas the Apostle Mission, #5800, HW 89, Harriston, ON N0G1Z0

Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.

Email: manderson@hamiltondiocese.com

Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly

Email: stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca

Secretary: Katarina Smolkova

Email: stmarymtforest@wightman.ca



New Parishioners - WELCOME! - Please introduce yourself to the priest.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

LORD'S DAY LITURGIES:

SATURDAY:

St. Mary: 4:00 pm Mass

St. Thomas: 5:30 pm Mass

SUNDAY:

St. Mary: 9:00 am Mass

St. Peter: 11:00 am Mass

WEEKDAY LITURGIES:

Please refer to schedule inside.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm or by appointment.

MARRIAGE: Please notify the Pastor at least 6 months in advance.

*Deadline for all announcement for the bulletin is on Wednesday.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please contact the parish office.

PASTORAL CARE NEEDS:

Please contact the Parish Office - for a priest to administer the Sacrament of the sick (best to call at the onset of illness)

- Holy Communion to the sick.
- Home, hospital and nursing home visits.

FUNERAL: When death occurs in the family, please contact the parish office.

PRIESTHOOD & RELIGIOUS

LIFE: For information or assistance, see

www.HamiltonVocations.com

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER:

For information about home activities & events of interest in Diocese of Hamilton, subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter at:

www.hamiltondiocese.com

SCHOOL:

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, 390 Parkside Drive, Mount Forest ON N0G 2L3
Telephone: 519-323-2586
Fax: 519-323-9446

PARISH BEQUESTS:

Keep your love for parish alive in your will & expression of sympathy.

1st Sunday of Advent – Nov 27, 2022

ST. MARY PARISH

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. Nov 29 – 7:00 p.m. Manuel & Maria Correia
Req'd by Luis Arruda

Wed. Nov 30– 9:00 a.m Martin Pronk Req'd by
Corrie Pronk & Family

Thur. Dec 1– 9:00 a.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by
Adell Mueller

Fri. Dec 2 – 9:00 a.m. Peter De Jong Req'd by
Dorothy De Jong and Family

Sat. Dec 3 – 9:00 am for suffering people from
disasters

Sat. Dec 3 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Dec 4 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Dec 3 - 4:00 p.m. Luis Arruda

Sun. Dec 4 - 9:00 a.m. Marian Flanigan

CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and by
appointment, call Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Dec 3 - 5:30 p.m. Mary & Francis Garvey Req'd
by Virginia & Dan McComiskey

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Dec 4 - 11:00 a.m. Joan Horrigan Req'd by
Mary Pavkeje

Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love, and are usually made of evergreen leaves, which "represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ". Within the Advent wreath are candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season: Hope- Peace- Joy- Love as well as "the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ"

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9*
Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*

Be prepared, salvation is near.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:37-44*

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation:

1st Sunday of Advent



Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to be always ready for the day of the Lord.

Family Connection

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/>

Vocations

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." If God is calling you to the priesthood, or consecrated virgin, **contact Fr. Mark Morley, Vocation**

Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

The Pope's Intention for December 2022

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

CWL

Dues: 2023 CWL dues must be in before the end of 2022. It is now \$40.00. Please leave in the collection basket addressed to CWL.

Monday Dec. 12, 2022 at 5:00 pm is the CWL **Christmas dinner**. \$15.00 per member. Please bring a guest. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

The CWL will be **collecting new baby outfits** and goods or toiletries for young women for the Ramoth house until Dec 13, 2022 at the CWL meeting.

There will be a basket in the foyer.

COFFEE SUNDAY- NOV 27

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

* Volunteers are needed to set up for Coffee Sunday. Please call Colleen at 519-323-9112*

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Christmas Cantata directed by Derek Moore, Sunday Dec.18th. @ 2:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church, Mount Forest.

Nativity Display

Where: at Knox Presbyterian Church in Conn
Hwy 89E, 815 Conn
When: Fri. Dec. 2, 5pm- 8 pm
Sat. Dec. 3, 10 am- 4pm
Sun. Dec. 4, 1pm- 4pm

In The First Light

First Baptist Church (116 Fergus St. N. Mount Forest) is hosting a concert on Fri. Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm called In The First Light. It is an Intimate Retting of the Christmas Story Through Music & Word. Cost: Free
For more info: 510-323-2093 or www.fbcmf.ca

Remembering the Faithful Departed

During the entire month of November, a book of remembrance will be on the back of the church. All are invited to record the names of the deceased you wish to remember.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Hosted by the England Funeral Home
Saturday, Dec 3, 2022 at 2 p.m.
First Baptist Church

116 Fergus Street North, Mount Forest
Please RSVP by Nov 30th at 519-323-2631 or
info@englandfuneralhome.com

The service will be livestreamed and may be viewed by visiting the England Funeral Home Facebook page.

Annual Christmas Remembrance Service, available in-person at Knox-Calvin Presbyterian Church, Harriston

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those who have experienced a death in their family. On Saturday, December 3th at 2:00 p.m. at Knox-Calvin Presbyterian Church, Harriston, we gather to remember those we've lost and to be among friends. This short, uplifting service offers support and strength as we approach the holiday season. If you feel you may benefit from this, regardless of how long ago your loss or where services were held, you are welcome. Contact Wendy at Hardy-Lee Funeral Home, Harriston, (519-338-2441) for more

information, and virtually (link available on our website).

COME RETREAT WITH LOYOLA HOUSE!

Are you looking to break away and spend some time in silence? Interested in learning something new? See our website at loyolahouse.com (under "Events") for more information on these upcoming retreats & programs:

- **8-Day Directed Silent Retreat** - January 17-25; February 7-15
- **A Weekend with Water: Celebrating the Source** - January 27-29
- **Stopping to Eat: A Weekend Retreat on Food** - February 3-5
- **Finding Your Way: Weekend of Discernment** - February 17-19
- **Silent Spring in Dead of Winter: A Weekend Retreat** - February 17-19
- **Knowing the Heart of Jesus** - February 24-26

Register online at loyolahouse.com or contact registration@ignatiusguelph.ca or by calling 519 824 1250 ext. 266.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve - Sat. Dec 24

Mt. Forest at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Harriston at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day- Sun. Dec 25

Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m.
Ayton at 11:00 a.m.

HOPE – PEACE- JOY – LOVE