

# 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](http://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](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)

Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly

Email: [stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)

Secretary: Katarina Smolkova

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**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](http://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](http://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.

## **3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 11, 2022**

### **ST. MARY PARISH**

### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

**Mon. Dec 12- 7:00 p.m. Diocesan Day of Prayer  
for Indigenous People of Canada**

**Tues. Dec 13– 7:00 p.m.** for Suffering People from  
disaster

**Wed. Dec 14– 9:00 a.m** Martin Sokol Req'd by  
Jolanta Sokol

**Thur. Dec 15– 9:00 a.m.** Peter De Jong Req'd by  
Dorothy De Jong & Family

**Fri. Dec 16 – 9:00 a.m.** Verna Daub Req'd by CWL

**Sat. Dec 17 - 4:00 p.m.** The People of the Parish

**Sun. Dec 18 - 9:00 a.m.** The People of the Parish

### **LECTORS**

Sat. Dec 17- 4:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins

Sun. Dec 18 - 9:00 a.m. J. vonWesterholt

**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 17 - 5:30 p.m.** Aidan Felsbourg Req'd by  
Kathleen Boone

### **ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun. Dec 18 - 11:00 a.m.** for intention of Diane  
Bouffard Req'd by Florence Ricard

### **Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will  
cease.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10*

The Lord will save his people.

**Second Reading:** *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is  
near.

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 11:2-11*

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the

kingdom that are being worked through him and  
praises John as more than a prophet.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally  
called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word  
meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named  
because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance  
antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians  
4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,  
rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this  
Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle  
instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful  
reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent  
reflection on the person and message of John the  
Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his  
relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This  
week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist,  
now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found  
in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's  
role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's  
arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John  
sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is  
the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus  
responds by pointing to the miracles that he has  
worked and invites John and the other hearers to  
make their own determination. In his next breath,  
however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing  
the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those  
who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great  
as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the  
kingdom being performed recalls the salvation  
described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a  
reminder that the beginning of salvation is already  
mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be  
fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as  
manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the  
Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the  
coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world  
today, we can find glimpses of God's work among  
us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's  
kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message  
is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

### **Family Connection**

It is easy to look at our world and become  
discouraged by the apparent absence of God and

signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

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

## Come Home for Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord at Christmas. In the weeks ahead, many of us will similarly prepare our homes to welcome loved ones over the holidays. Our special holiday touches and traditions provide a warm welcome to the family and friends who will grace our homes throughout this season. After two years where this was mostly not possible, this year's celebrations will undoubtedly take on a special significance.

Just as our homes have missed the presence of loved ones these past two years, our parish community has truly missed the presence of the whole community gathered together in worship. When all the members of our parish family are not gathered with us around the Lord's Table, our community is incomplete.

**Please accept our warm and heartfelt invitation to join us for Mass this Christmas.** If you have been away from the parish community, whether for a short time or a long time, we warmly welcome you home with open arms. If you attend Mass regularly, we thank you for your presence and we ask that you please extend this invitation to family, friends and neighbours.

Enclosed you will find a Christmas Mass schedule. We truly hope that you will be with us this Christmas - that together we may celebrate the

birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and share in the joy that Christmas gives to each generation. As your parish community, please know of our deep desire to have you join us for the celebration of Mass, and know that we are praying that every member of our community may accept our invitation to *Come Home for Christmas!*

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.  
Pastor, St. Mary Parish

### Liturgical Calendar

**Mon. Dec 12- Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Tue. Dec 13- St. Lucy

Wed. Dec 14- St. John of the Cross

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

email : [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](http://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/)

### 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- Dec 11**  
**EVERYBODY WELCOME!**

\* Volunteers are needed to set up for Coffee Sunday.

### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

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

## The 2023 offering envelope boxes

are available for pickup in our 3 churches this weekend. Please ensure that the address shown on your label on the top of the box is correct since that is the address that will be used when mailing tax receipts in the New Year. If your address is not shown on your label, please provide it to the office so that we can update your record. At the end of December, please discard any unused envelopes that are dated prior to 2023. Some givers' envelope numbers have changed and using old envelopes could result in your donation being credited to someone else. Thank you.

If you are new to our Parish and would like to use offering envelopes, please call the church office at (519) 323-1910, x6 and we will get a box ready for you.

### 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**

## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

**THANK YOU! You made a difference.**

Thank you ever so much for participating in our 2022 Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. During these struggling times, children in 3<sup>rd</sup> World Countries need a message of Hope and Love more than ever. Last year more than 6,000 boxes were

sent to Calgary from this area alone and more than 400,000 shoeboxes from CANADA.

You have made a difference.

Sincerely, Thanks from our team: Anne, Loretta, Susan' Sharon' Bonnie and Linda.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed over the holidays from Dec 27, 2022 to Jan 2, 2023. The office will be re-open on Wed. Jan 3, 2023.

**Parenting Tip** - The excitement of Christmas begins to build even before Halloween. Children are targeted with ads and commercials to ask Santa for the latest toys, electronic device or game. As parents we love to see the anticipation, but our task is a greater one – it is to keep the reason for Christmas at the forefront of our children's minds and understanding. Are they as excited about the coming of Christ and it's meaning for all people? Do they have a sense that long after every gift they desire from Santa is gone, the truths, love, care, compassion, guidance and stability from God will live on to help each of us to live and, ultimately, receive the gift of eternity? The true gift of Christmas should never be the last one we think of, or getting excited about, since it is indeed the most valuable. Advent is the perfect time to daily bring all of this to light!

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### Christmas Lessons

**Christmas is a special time to give, to serve, to love. It isn't just about yourself, but others that you think of: the presents, the trees, the glowing lights are fun but have no part in what the real meaning of Christmas is... That is in your heart; even if other people don't, you should try to do the things that you would want them to do to you. The holidays are a busy time but they are sometimes good because they keep you thinking about others like you should. So this year try to not think about yourself but think of the things you can do to help others to have a wonderful Christmas and you will find that you will be happy too.**

**-unknown author**

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