

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.

4th Sunday of Advent – Dec 18, 2022

ST. MARY PARISH

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. Dec 20– 7:00 p.m. Martin Pronk Req'd by Corrie Pronk & Family

Wed. Dec 21– 9:00 a.m Peter De Jong Req'd by Dorothy De Jong & Family

Thur. Dec 22– 9:00 a.m. Arthur, Mary & John McDonald Req'd by The Family

Fri. Dec 23 – 9:00 a.m. Maria Arruda Req'd by Luis Arruda

Sat. Dec 24 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sat. Dec 24- 8:00 p.m. The Nativity of the Lord

Sun. Dec 25 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Dec 24- 4:00 p.m. Maxine Schmidt

Sat. Dec 24- 8:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins

Sun. Dec 25 - 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 24 - 5:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Dec 25 - 11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 24:1-2,3-4,5-6*

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our

contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Family Connection

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family

life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

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

Vocations

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or a consecrated virgin, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

GOOD NEWS! The Office for Refugees has received official confirmation that Immigration Canada recently finalized seven of our refugee sponsorship applications. We are excited to report we will be welcoming 12 newcomers to Canada during the month of December! The countries of origin for these newcomers include Sri Lanka, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea. All of these applications will effectively reunite refugees overseas with immediate family members in Canada, all of whom have been long separated. Thanks to Fr. Joe Selvanayagam and Fr. Ranjan D'Sa, OCD for their support of this program!

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 REGISTRATION FORMS have been submitted to Lisbon, Portugal, this week! 25 young women, and 13 men – five of whom are Priests, will make up our Diocesan contingent. Preparation is now underway and the excitement grows!

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE OF LITURGY is preparing a two-part formation program for Parish musicians, to take place on Tuesday, February 7th, and Tuesday, February 21st, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. These sessions are

for all Directors of Music, Choir Directors, and Cantors who are serving the Parishes of our Diocese, and will be offered both "in person" and via Zoom. It is important that all our liturgical ministry leaders participate in the upcoming formation sessions. A personal invitation will be sent to each of the parish music leaders to sign-up for the sessions. *Pastors are invited to submit the names of those who should be invited.*

PLANS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY for *Sunday of the Word of God*, scheduled for January 22, 2023, Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and the Youth Ministry Office have collaborated in preparing digital resources for adults, youth and children on the Gospel of Matthew! Check out the website to watch these helpful resources.

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.



Kindergarten registration:

December 17 & 18, 2022
December 24 & 25, 2022
December 31, 2022
January 1, 2023
January 7 & 8, 2023
January 17 & 15, 2023
January 21 & 22, 2023
January 28 & 29, 2023

Kindergarten at Wellington Catholic...

We have faith in education.

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting registrations for Kindergarten at our schools beginning January 9th, 2023.

Kindergarten Eligibility

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2023, to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2023, to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

Documents needed:

- child's birth certificate
- a parent or child's Baptismal cert

- proof of tax support for families new to the system (i.e. most recent tax bill)
- proof of address (government document, mortgage, or rental agreement, Hydro bill, credit card statement)
- proper immigration documentation - custody documents (if applicable)

Please note:

Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten. Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please call your school.

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

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