

# 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

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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.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent – Dec 4, 2022

### ST. MARY PARISH

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tues. Dec 6–** 7:00 p.m. Bruce Kleinsteuber Req'd  
by Staff & Students St. Mary School

**Wed. Dec 7–** 9:00 a.m Pat & Christian Flanigan  
Req'd by Betty Mogensen & Family

**Thur. Dec 8–** 9:00 a.m. Leo & Margaret Coulson  
Req'd by Wilf Coulson

**Fri. Dec 9 –** 9:00 a.m. Dec'd members of the Keffer  
Family Req'd by Philip & Kathleen Keffer

**Sat. Dec 10 -** 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

**Sun. Dec 11 -** 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

### LECTORS

Sat. Dec 10- 4:00 p.m. Susan Thurston

Sun. Dec 11 - 9:00 a.m. Debra Ross

**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 10 -** 5:30 p.m. Sean MacMillan Req'd by  
Paul & Mary MacMillan

### ST. PETER'S, Ayton

**Sun. Dec 11 -** 11:00 a.m. Jim & Loretta Muray Req'd  
by Dot Bourgeois

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-10:* A descendent of Jesse will usher in  
a time of peace.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17*

The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the  
nations.

**Second Reading:** *Romans 15:4-9*

Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the  
salvation found in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 3:1-12*

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a  
message of repentance.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our  
Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to  
consider John the Baptist and his relationship to

Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the  
work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great  
prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform  
to the people of Israel. In this reading, John directs a  
particularly pointed call to repentance to the  
Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish  
community of the first century.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key  
theme of the Advent season. As John's message  
prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we,  
too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus'  
coming. We respond to John's message by our  
repentance and reform of our lives. We are also  
called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by  
our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

### Family Connection

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our  
celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare  
Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of  
repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that  
our repentance is another way in which we can  
prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of  
Christmas. Parish communities often offer a  
communal celebration of the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your  
family might choose to participate in the communal  
celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out  
the sacrament on an individual basis.

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



**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary- Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**First Reading:** *Genesis 3:9-15, 20*

God confronts Adam and Eve after they have eaten  
of the tree forbidden them by God and curses the  
serpent for his action.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4*

Sing to the Lord for he has done wondrous deeds.

**Second Reading:** *Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12* In Christ, we were chosen to be adopted children of God.

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 1:26-38*

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus, and Mary responds, "Let it be done to me as you say."

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

Today we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast celebrates God's choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God preserved Mary from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. Thus, Mary was the first to receive the benefit of the redemption that her Son would merit for all.

Mary's affirmative response to this seemingly impossible message gives evidence to the grace we know that she possesses from God. Only one who is "full of grace" can be so receptive to and cooperative with the will of God. Because of this, Mary is the model of discipleship for all Christians.

To be chosen by God for a particular task is an awesome thing. That is why we honor Mary, the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Yet we believe that each of us is chosen by God in particular and important ways, and each of us is given gifts and talents by God to share with the world. One of the tremendous responsibilities of parenting is helping our children determine the gifts and talents they have to share with others to serve the reign of God.

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

### **Vocations**

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin in order to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto: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- Dec 4** **EVERYBODY WELCOME!**

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

### **Nativity Display**

Where: at Knox Presbyterian Church in Conn  
Hwy 89 E, 815 Conn  
When: 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](http://www.fbcmf.ca)

### **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**

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

#### **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.