

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.

Mary Mother of God – Jan 1, 2023

Mon. Jan 2 - 9:00 a.m. Most Rev. D. Crosby, O.M.I.

Mon. Jan 2 - 7:00 p.m. Most Rev. D. Crosby, O.M.I.

Tues. Jan 3 - 7:00 p.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

Wed. Jan 4 - 9:00 a.m. Dec'd members of the Braun Family Req'd by Paul & Mary MacMillan

Thur. Jan 5 - 9:00 a.m. Joe Oliveira Req'd by Family

Fri. Jan 6 - 9:00 a.m. Rita Kennedy Req'd by Jo-Anne & Frank McKenna

Sat. Jan 7 - 9:00 a.m. Maria Smolkova Req'd by The Family

Sat. Jan 7 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Jan 8 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Jan 7 - 4:00 p.m. Luis Arruda

Sun. Jan 8 - 9:00 a.m. Debra Ross

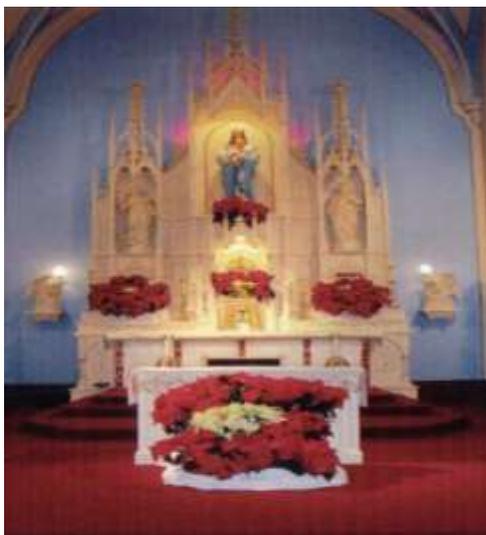
CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and by appointment, call Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Jan 7 - 5:30 p.m. Aidan Felsbourg Req'd by Kathleen Boone

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Jan 8 - 11:00 a.m. for intention of Mychelle Bouffard Req'd by Florence Ricard



Sunday's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

God gives a blessing for the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8*

All the people sing praises to God.

Second Reading: *Galatians 4:4-7*

God sent his Son to make us children of God.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:16-21*

The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second,

discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honored her commitment to God by naming her child *Jesus*, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child *Jesus* because he will save the people. The name *Jesus* means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named? Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."

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

My dear parishioners,

Thank you for your generosity and prayers on Christmas. I pray the joy of the Lord's nativity will continue to bless you this season and extend until into the seasons ahead.

Happy Christmas

Fr. Mike



May God, the source and origin of all blessings, grant you grace, pour out his blessing in abundance, and keep you safe from harm throughout the year. Amen.



Vocations

Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. 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 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.

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.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Mon. – Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.

Tue. - Rev. P. Machnacki, S.A.C. Wed.- Diocesan Priests

Thurs. – Rev. Ranjan D'Sa, O.C.D.

Fri. - Rev. J. Ahilan, C.R.S.P. Sat. - Rev. L. Lenssen, C.R.S.P.

Mary Mother of God

She is able to treasure the shepherd's words. She recognizes that God's plan is a beautiful gift. As she has always done, she looks to the future with peace and confidence, despite not knowing all that it holds. She can do this because she trusts God and gives him his rightful place- as the one in control of the future. **Mary Mother of God pray for us.**

www.Livingwithchrist.ca

Kindergarten registration:

- 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:

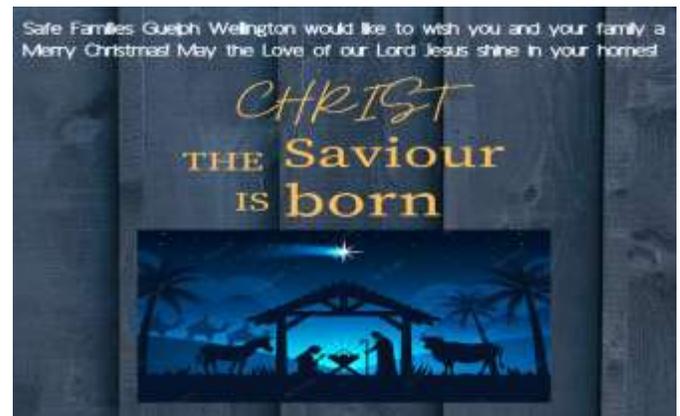
- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten. Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please call your school.

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.



A Very Merry Christmas from Safe Families Guelph-Wellington

Safe Families Guelph Wellington would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season! As a new organization to the area, we are so grateful for our warm welcome through the Christian churches in the Guelph Wellington area!! We have been so blessed by the Lord as we have already seen Him open many doors and hearts. We pray that this will have a positive generational impact on many families who experience the love of Christ through the volunteers and churches of SFGW.

We eagerly anticipate seeing what the Lord has planned for 2023 for SFGW!! As the new year arrives, we begin our interview process to hire a Family Placement Coordinator. We ask for prayers for wisdom, discernment and guidance for both SFGW and the applicants!

If you are considering being involved with SF, we have a training day on Jan 21. Contact veronica.hart@safefamilies.ca to register.

We thank you for your prayers, support and desire to be involved with your community in order to bless others! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!