

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.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jan 22, 2023

Tues. Jan 24 – 7:00 p.m. Vincenzo Fabiano Req'd by The Family

Wed. Jan 25 – 9:00 a.m. Martin Sokol Req'd by Jolanta Sokol

Thur. Jan 26 – 9:00 a.m. Rita Tangney Req'd by Donna & John Morris

Fri. Jan 27 – 9:00 a.m. Dec'd members of the Moore & Downey families Req'd by Helen & Bert Moore

Sat Jan 28 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Jan 29 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Jan 28- 4:00 p.m. Maxine Schmidt

Sun. Jan 29 - 9:00 a.m. J. von Westerholt

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 28 - 5:30 p.m. Angolia Crisci Req'd by Adamo & Ernestina Cieri

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Jan 29 - 11:00 a.m. Jim & Loretta Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 8:23-9:3*

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 27:1,4,13-14*

The Lord is our refuge, our light, our salvation.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17*

Paul urges the community at Corinth to be united as people baptized in Christ's name.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 4:12-23*

Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls his first disciples. (shorter form Matthew 4:12-17)

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the

Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus.

Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out

the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be “fishers of men” even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority? Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today’s Psalm or the Lord’s Prayer.

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

BIBLE SUNDAY 2023: The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how The Bible Speaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith.

The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2023. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> for more information.

JOIN THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL for a special discussion and film screening to raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous Reconciliation, **January 26, 2023 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. The film *Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts* is a challenging, truthful documentary, meant to educate people about the historic policy, which established a justification for colonization and seizure of land. The legacy of the Doctrine and the impact on the current state of Indigenous affairs is discussed. Understanding the Doctrine of Discovery and its manifestations are

important as we strive for reconciliation. Special discussion following the screening with Rev. Val Kerr, Indigenous Elder, and former Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation, and Indigenous Ministry for the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, Sarah Guinta, Coordinator Office of Justice and Peace, Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, and Christina Mines, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Diocese of Hamilton. The screening and discussion will be hosted online. R.S.V.P. and view our full schedule of events at: <https://reeljusticefilmfestival.wordpress.com/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustice.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Parenting Tip 146 - As the New Year begins we often set “resolutions” to changes habits, behaviours or actions. This year set a resolution that will benefit the whole family: decide to purposely spend more time with your children, sending a message that family time matters. Build a snow fort together, make snow angels or go for a midnight walk in the snow. Cook, clean and play together. Look back on family albums and share memories and stories. Pray before/after meals, attend Mass and say the Rosary, all as a family. The possibilities are endless, as are the benefits. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH Marriage Tip 126 - Time is often a major problem in our day, since there never seems to be enough of it! As a result, couples spend less time together, seeing it as a solution to the short on time phenomena. But love grows and there is a sense of cohesiveness when the relationship is seen as a priority. Making time together an essential part of your planning will build a closeness between the two of you, give you time to reflect on the good and challenging events in your life and help you to know each other in a deep and caring way. So find time somewhere else, instead of taking it from your couple relationship! (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

WORLD YOUTH DAY FUNDRAISING DINNER: A Taste of Portugal - The Diocesan WYD Planning Team warmly invites you to join us for A Taste of Portugal, a fundraising dinner in support of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to WYD Lisbon this coming summer. Hosted at St.

Mary's Parish Hall on **Saturday, February 04, 2023** at 6:30pm, this dinner promises to be a feast for the senses, with Portuguese food, dancing and music to enjoy! Tickets are on sale for \$75.00 each and can be purchased by emailing us at: wyd@hamiltondiocese.com. Looking forward to having you join us!

THE CATHOLIC DATE NIGHT - Hosted by Kathleen and Jesse LeBlanc of Found Together - Are date nights with your spouse (or future spouse!) turning into Netflix binge nights? Do you want to grow in faith and prayer together? Do you wish you had a community of Catholic couples to truly journey with? It's time to level up your marriage vocation with The Catholic Date Night! Enjoy the LIVE monthly date nights from the comfort of your own home. Subscribe at www.wearefoundtogether.com/datenights and follow them on Instagram @TheCatholicDateNight for date night inspiration and more!



Kindergarten registration:

January 21 & 22, 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.

MASTERING YOUR MONEY: A Financial Wellness Presentation for the Diocese of Hamilton - Financial worries are the top source of stress for all Canadians, ranking above work concerns, health worries and even relationship struggles. The need for financial literacy has never been more pressing. Join us for this **special zoom session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7-8:30 p.m.**, presented by Mr. Fred Masters, President & Founder of Masters Money Management Inc., and the author of the critically-acclaimed new book 'Lessons on Mastering Money'. He has delivered dozens and dozens of personal financial literacy presentations and is a sought-after media commentator on financial literacy. This is a free virtual event, but you must register at www.hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming events, or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, to receive the Zoom link.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - FEBRUARY 4TH -

GUELPH - Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and early 30s) of our diocese to attend a night of Adoration, Fellowship and Praise Music. Arrival and Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), Social with Food (7:30pm-8:30pm), Praise Night and Vocation Testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, February 4th at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (28 Norfolk Street, Guelph). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

THE 2023 DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

MASS - Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2023? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass **on Sunday, April 16, 2023** at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available in early January at www.hamiltondiocese.com

January 18 – 25 Prayer for Christian Unity

CWL

Dues: 2023 CWL dues is now \$40.00. Please leave in the collection basket addressed to CWL.