

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

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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

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.

Epiphany of the Lord – Jan 8, 2023

Tues. Jan 10– 7:00 p.m. Liberata Fabiano Req'd by Family

Wed. Jan 11– 9:00 a.m. Martin Pronk Req'd by Corrie Pronk & family

Thur. Jan 12– 9:00 a.m. Joe Oliveira Req'd by Family

Fri. Jan 13 – 9:00 a.m. Loretta Caughlin Req'd by Estate

Sat. Jan 14 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Jan 15 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Jan 14- 4:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins

Sun. Jan 15 - 9:00 a.m. C. Dalla Costa

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 14 - 5:30 p.m. Dec'd members of the Andrade & Bairos Families Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Jan 15 - 11:00 a.m. Jim & Loretta Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.



Family Connection

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



"After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Monday Jan 9, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the

confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father. The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Vocations

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name? 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/



A Wise Teacher, a Humble Pope Benedict XVI

By Greg Erlandson

The death of retired Pope Benedict XVI has inspired a wave of tributes to a man who is considered one of the great theologian popes in Church history. In his writings, interviews, and speeches spanning seven decades, Joseph Ratzinger shaped generations of theologians, priests, bishops, and laity. But perhaps his greatest gift to the Church—a gift often unrecognized in many of the commentaries on his life—was his humility.

Dec. 31, 2022, 6:28 AM ET - Benedict XVI, the first pope in almost 600 years to resign the papacy, died December 31, 2022, in his residence at the Vatican. The funeral of the former pope will be held January 5, 2023 and presided over by his successor, Pope Francis in Vatican City. Tens of thousands of people attended the requiem Mass. Benedict was buried in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica in what had been the tomb of John Paul II.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benedict-XVI>

CWL

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

Kindergarten registration:

Jan 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29, 2023

What are your spiritual resolutions for New Year?

Simplify your life- in a spiritual sense, simplicity involves decluttering our mental and emotional states of being.

Read one spiritual book per month.

Attend a weekend retreat.

Pray a decade of the Rosary daily.

Volunteer- The point is, giving of your time will fill your heart more abundantly and cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude.

Keep the Sabbath holy- Then spend Sundays together as a family. Worship together, pray together, rest, spend time in quiet, take a nap!

Go to Confession once a month- If you make a concerted effort to go to Confession regularly, especially as a family, you will be astounded at how much more clearly you see yourself and others. Moreover, when paired with reception of the Eucharist, these Sacraments of Healing offer us a boost of much-needed strength to overcome our weaknesses and vices.

Start a prayer journal- Sometimes this might be a gratitude list, a simple prayer, a letter to God.

Listen more- Try to make a habit of listening to others before you offer your opinion or thoughts. As you develop a more natural penchant for attentive listening, you will discover that it is much easier to discipline yourself to hear God's voice instead of chattering on to Him ad infinitum. In the space that silence affords you, allow God to speak to your heart and respond to Him with love.

Give your failures, weaknesses, and sins to God- The point here is to offer up your discouragement, disappointments, and frustrations to God as a prayer.

Bob Plamondon died on Tue Jan 3, 2023

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Robert (Bob) Plamondon. Parishioners are asked to keep him in your prayers.

“Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” – Rom 10; 17