

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.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Feb 5, 2023

Tues. Feb 7 – 7:00 p.m. Rosemary Thoms Req'd by Marsha & Stephen Shaw

Wed. Feb 8 – 9:00 a.m. Gord Marks Req'd by Margie Moyer

Thur. Feb 9 – 9:00 a.m. Caughlin family Req'd by Margie Moyer

Fri. Feb 10 – 9:00 a. m. Glen Hale Req'd by Dan & Angela Seifried & families

Sat Feb 11 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Feb 12 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Feb 11 - 4:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins

Sun. Feb 12- 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. Feb 11 - 5:30 p.m. Dec'd members of the Bodnar family Req'd by The Family

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Feb 12 - 11:00 a.m. Jim & Loretta Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 58:7-10*

In the work of justice, light shall break through darkness.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 112:4-9*

The just person will be a light in the darkness.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

Paul shows that he came to Corinth preaching Christ crucified.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 5:13-16*

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient

cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

Family Connection

The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light. To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight.

Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today's Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today's Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing "This Little Light of Mine."

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

Pope's intention for February: For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

A Letter from our bishop Douglas Crosby

THANK YOU TO THE PRIESTS, DEACONS, CHANCERY COLLEAGUES, LAY PASTORAL WORKERS, MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, AND PARISHIONERS throughout the Diocese who celebrated Masses and participated in a Spiritual Bouquet of prayers offered for my intention on the 25th anniversary of my Ordination as a Bishop. I was buoyed up by the generosity of your prayerful and practical support!

On January 2nd, the actual date of the anniversary, I celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King with a few friends and co-workers, followed by a festive meal, in McNally Hall. At the Mass, a letter from Pope Francis was read aloud by Cardinal Arthur Roche, (a long-time friend and surprise visitor), in which the Holy Father imparted an Apostolic Blessing to me, to the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton, and to my relatives. The Pope concluded the letter requesting that we pray for him and his ministry. I am grateful to the Holy Father for his kind words, and I assure him of our prayers for him and his Petrine ministry.

Some excerpts from my homily at the Mass of Thanksgiving:

“I was ordained bishop on the feast day of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory, Bishops and Doctors of the Church. It was a Friday that year, and the ordination took place at St. Joseph Parish in Ottawa, where I had served as Pastor for three short years. The next day, about 14 family members and friends and I flew on a chartered plane from Ottawa directly to Labrador City. There I was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Labrador City-Schefferville at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on the Sunday, Solemnity of the Epiphany – hence the presence of the Epiphany star on my Coat-of-Arms and my pastoral staff/crozier.”

“I can say that over the past 25 years, I have felt the love of the Lord and his many blessings in very profound ways. I have wondered how – unworthy as

I am – this happened to me! It is not for nothing that when the Bishop prays for himself in the Eucharistic prayer, instead of saying his name as do others who preside at Masses within the boundaries of the Diocese, he uses the words *‘and me your unworthy servant’*. These words mean something – one truly feels *‘unworthy’*. The Jesus Prayer comes easily and quickly to mind every time I begin a time of prayer: *‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’*”

“Jesus calls. How do we *hear* that call? Often, it is communicated through those who know and love us. We are made aware of gifts, talents, and interests that are ours – maybe not unique to us, but are ours. When I was an Oblate, the community was in the process of discerning service in Labrador. I felt strongly drawn there. I read as much as I could find about Bishop Lionel Scheffer, the first Bishop of Labrador. I was inspired by his missionary story – never expecting that I would succeed him one day – as the fifth Bishop of Labrador.”

“And certainly, I never expected to be called from Newfoundland and Labrador to be the Bishop of Hamilton. But, coincidentally, I was visiting the Oblate priests serving at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish when they suggested I join them for the Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King which took place on November 21, 1982. I was present when Bishop Paul Reding anointed the walls of this Cathedral – the only time I had ever been present for such a ceremony.

Evenings with His Excellency - Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for “Evenings with His Excellency”. This is an opportunity to learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the second Friday of each month, at 7pm - 8:30 p.m. at St. Ann Church, Ancaster. This month we will look at *Chapter 3 – The Moral Life of the Church*. It is also available by livestream on St. Ann’s YouTube channel. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith, all are welcome.

“The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their way preserve their lives.”- Proverbs 16,17

Young Adults Night - March 4th – Waterloo - 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, March 4th at St. Michael's Catholic Church (80 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH - Parenting Tip 147 - Manners matter because they promote respect between your child and every person with whom they engage. Doing so will promote higher self-esteem, making your child feel more confident in all areas of their lives. Manners are both taught and caught, so continually remind them about, as well expect them to use, manners. More importantly, model manners in all you do, including your own interactions with your children. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - Marriage Tip 127 - Parents are the first and foremost teachers about relationships for their children. It is good now and then to take a quick check and ask if your marriage and the way you interact with each other is what you hope your children's relationships will be when they grow up. If the answer is no, as a couple you deserve to find a way to create for yourselves the kind of relationship you want for your children. Seek support, read together relationship self-help books and/or consider attending a Retrouvaille weekend with the Diocese. Marriages cannot be perfect all the time, but they should be lived in a way that makes you proud to pass on to your children. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE – Are you frustrated or angry at each other or have you just stopped talking to each other? **Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times to rediscover the

relationship that drew you together. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples. For confidential information about, or to register for the program on March 10, 11, 12, 2023 please call 905-664-5212 or email: 1013@helpourmarriage.org or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

The 2023 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary - 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). Register at www.hamiltondiocese.com, or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

Grief Relief - Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Join us on Thursdays from 7 – 8:30 p.m. from April 13th - May 18th, 2023 to learn more about what you are feeling and how to gently move forward. You are not alone! The Diocese of Hamilton program will be offered online using Zoom. To register, go to www.hamiltondiocese.com and look for April 13th under Upcoming Events. To find out more, please call Teresa at 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

Sat Feb 11-Our Lady of Lourdes



In 1858 Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Immaculate Conception, appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in a cave at Massabielle, near Lourdes in France.