

St. Mary of the Purification Parish

230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0

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St. Peter's Mission, 943 Caroline Street, Ayton, ON N0G1C0

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Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.

Email: 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 morning.

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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Aug 13, 2023

Tues. Aug 15– 7:00 p.m. Ray Horrigan Req'd by Betty Mogensen

Wed. Aug 16– 9:00 a.m. Eileen Murray Req'd by Catherine, John & Dan O'Connor

Thur. Aug 17– 9:00 a.m. Kay Lehman Req'd by Betty Mogensen & family

Fri. Aug 18– 9:00 a. m. Spec. intention for Richard Hammond (living)

Sat. Aug 19- 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Aug 20- 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Aug 19 - 4:00 p.m. Cesar Arruda

Sun. Aug 20 - 9:00 a.m. J. vonWesterholt

Offering July 30: \$ 1,130.00

ST. THOMAS, Harriston – Offering July 30: \$240.00

Sat. Aug 19- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Zurav Req'd by The Family

ST. PETER'S, Ayton – Offering July 30: \$ 85.00

Sun. Aug 20- 11:00 a.m. Anna Marie Raftis –Estate

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a*

The Lord appears to Elijah in a whisper.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 85:9-14*

The Lord is the source of salvation.

Second Reading: *Romans 9:1-5*

Paul speaks of the blessings that have come to the Israelites.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 14:22-33*

Jesus walks on water, and the disciples acknowledge him as the Son of God.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story

in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

Family Connection

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too.

Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbors and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family's acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering or the Lord's Prayer.

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The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Mary: Tuesday, August 15, 2023

First Reading: *Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*

The sign of God's salvation will be a woman clothed with the sun.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 45:10-12, 16*

The queen takes her place next to God.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:20-27*

Christ has redeemed Adam's sin.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-56*

Mary greets Elizabeth and sings God's praise.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's feast celebrates Mary's Assumption into heaven. It is one of three feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics. January 1 is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief. The belief was not defined as dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel for this holy day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary's Assumption into heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—could give birth to Christ, who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of the

redemption that her son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all.

Today's Gospel highlights Mary's faith. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.

“All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.” Lk 1, 48-49



**“Mother dear, lend me your heart. I look for it every day to pour my troubles into.”
- St. Gemma Galgani**

Announcement:

Our Parish Secretary Katarina Smolkova will be retiring Sept 30, 2023 therefore; we are looking for a new secretary. Those who are interested in this position can apply through Hamilton Diocese website.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Aug 20, 2023

Tues. Aug 22 – NO MASS

Wed. Aug 23 -9:00 a.m. Maria of the Jesus Req'd
by Luis Arruda

Thur. Aug 24 – NO MASS

Fri. Aug 25 – NO MASS

Sat. Aug 26 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Aug 27- 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Aug 26 - 4:00 p.m. Luis Arruda

Sun. Aug 27 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Westendorp

Offering Aug 6: \$ 1,365.50 Maintenance: \$ 225.00

ST. THOMAS, Harriston – Offering Aug 5: \$125.00

Sat. Aug 26- 5:30 p.m. James O'Donnell Req'd by
Dan O'Donnell

ST. PETER'S, Ayton – Offering Aug 6: \$1,126.00

Sun. Aug 27- 11:00 a.m. Allison McDougall req'd by
Chris Davis

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 56:1,6-7*

The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

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

All the nations will praise God.

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman
because of her great faith.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel in the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

Family Connection

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer. As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Was anyone surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.

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Coffee Sunday is every 1st and 3rd Sunday.