

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 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.

23RD Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sept 10, 2023

Tues. Sept 12 – 7:00 p.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Dan & Virginia McComiskey

Wed. Sept 13 – 9:00 a.m. Arthur, Mary & John McDonald Req'd by The family

Thur. Sept 14 – 9:00 a.m. Angela Crisci Req'd by Adamo Cieri

Fri. Sept 15 – 9:00 a. m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

Sat. Sept 16 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Sept 17 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Sept 16 - 4:00 p.m. Cesar Arruda

Sun. Sept 17 - 9:00 a.m. Marian Flanigan

Offering Aug 27: \$ 932.25

CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or call

Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston – Offering Aug 27: \$310.00

Sat. Sept 16- 5:30 p.m. Personal intention

ST. PETER'S, Ayton – Offering Aug 27: \$80.00

Sun. Sept 17 - 11:00 a.m. Jack Hawkins Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

The Son of Man is appointed as guardian of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 95:1-2,6-9*

Song of praise to God, our salvation.

Second Reading: *Romans 13:8-10*

The Law is summarized in the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18:15-20*

Jesus teaches his disciples how to settle disputes in the Church.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of

Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

Family Connection

Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of family life. Yet, within our family, we have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect.

As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his

disciples the way in which they are to handle conflict within the Christian community of the Church. Read together this Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20. Invite family members to summarize the steps that Jesus proposes for resolving conflict. How might today's Gospel inform your family's handling of disagreements? If you have time, your family might choose to role play how Jesus' teaching about conflict resolution might be applied to a disagreement that sometimes occurs in your household.

In today's Gospel, Jesus also promises that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner. Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

Peace Prayer

While often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, the Peace Prayer wasn't written by the saint. However, it remains a popular traditional prayer.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen. <https://www.loyolapress.com/>

HNS- meeting Wed, Sept 13, at 7.00 pm.

The Pope's Intention for September 2023

FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE MARGINS

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Attention: CWL members

CWL meeting on Tuesday Sept. 19 , at 5.00pm, Mass at 7.00pm.

FRASSATI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM - The Office of Youth Ministry will be holding a Catholic leadership program for young people in grade ten (ages 15-16). This program will equip them and encourage them to draw closer to Christ and their respective communities. The goal of this program is that young people will join us for opportunities for formation as Catholic leaders and then go back to their respective communities to turn their learning into practice. Registration for this program closes September 30th and can be found at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/>.

YOUTH MINISTERS RETREAT- The annual Youth Ministers' Retreat for the Diocese of Hamilton will be held the weekend of Friday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 24th at Mount Mary Retreat Centre. The retreat is open to all those who minister to young people within the diocese. Information and registration about the retreat can be found at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/> or contacting youthministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

DIOCESAN MARIAN DAYS – The Diocesan Marian Days continue on the first Saturday of the month October 7, 2023, at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. The day starts with Confessions at 9:00 a.m. followed by Holy Mass at 10:00 and a Rosary Procession at 11:00 a.m. Guided Tours of the Basilica are available during lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Holy Hour and Marian Catechesis start at 1:00 p.m. followed by the closing Benediction at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to join! Please bring a lunch. Contact the Basilica for more information: (519) 824-3951.

ReSTART: MOVING FORWARD – Our 10-week program offers support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The sessions will run from Sept. 19-Nov. 28 and take place from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join

our zoom classroom. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or register online at hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT - Your marriage doesn't have to feel like it is more trouble than joy, that it feels stagnant or disconnected and/or that it is causing you constant stress. The solution is Retrouvaille - a program for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship. Retrouvaille has one purpose: to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It also works well for couples who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is Oct. 20-22. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email teamrecine@gmail.com.

LOOKING FOR SOME LEARNING, SUPPORT AND FUN ON A FRIDAY EVENINGS? Join our RESTART: Refresh, Renew, Revive group held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays. These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. No registration required, but for ZOOM link please contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. We look forward to seeing you!

SEPARATED / DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP WATERLOO

Life changes are never easy. After a separation or divorce, you may be feeling isolated or need of support and healing to adjust to your new life? Come together with others to realize there is a 'second act'. Join us on the 3rd Tuesday of every month - 7:30-8:30 pm - September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19, 2023. Feel free to come early and join our Parish in prayer - 7:00pm Mass. We will meet in the Parish Centre (basement) at 7:30pm. To register: Phone 519-884-9311, or Email: parish@stmichaelw.ca

["Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually."- 1Chronicles 16.11](#)

STRUGGLING AFTER AN ABORTION?

Either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is available to help. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings on an individual basis, with a trained counsellor, to find hope and healing. **Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.**

DIOCESAN LITURGY WORKSHOPS

The Liturgy Office offers regular liturgical formation for ministers who serve as Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Children's Liturgy of the Word. The workshops are designed for new ministers and are a helpful refresher for lay ministers participating in Sunday Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Participants who complete a formation workshop receive a three-year mandate from the Bishop of Hamilton. The September 2023 liturgical formation dates are as follows for the following ministries:

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Friday, September 15, 2023, Sacred Heart Parish, Walkerton, Ontario, 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Ministers of the Word

Saturday, September 16, 2023, Sacred Heart Parish, Walkerton, Ontario, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Saturday, September 23, 2023, St. Joseph Parish, Port Elgin, Ontario, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Participants may register using the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

Pilgrimage to Egypt, the Holy Land & Jordan

Mar 7- 21, 2024- 15 days CA \$ 5,190.00

Under Spiritual guidance of Fr. Paul Vellimoozhayil, Administrator, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Dundalk, ON

Travel arrangements by QS Travel & Tours Inc. affiliate of Queen Syrena Travel Inc. 3055 Dundas St. W.# 4, Mississauga, ON L5L 3R8. Tel.1-800-565-3619 or 905-412-3355 www.qstours.com