

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



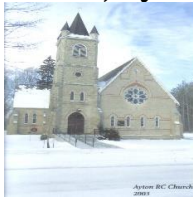
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P. Email: manderson@hamiltondiocese.com

Bookkeeper: Annette Connelly Email: stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca

Secretary: Dee Dee Eurig Email: stmarymtforest@wightman.ca

St. Peter's Mission,
943 Caroline Street, Ayton ON N0G 1C0



St. Thomas the Apostle,
#5800 Hwy 89, Harriston ON N0G 1Z0



New Parishioners - WELCOME! - Please introduce yourself to the priest.

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.

*Please note: The
deadline for Bulletin submission is
Wednesday a.m.*

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 (please
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
the 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 NOG 2L3
Telephone: 519-323-2586
Fax: 519-323-9446

PARISH REQUESTS:

Keep your love for parish alive
in your will &
expression of sympathy.

"Prayer is the soul of hope"

~ Pope Francis

35th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Dec 3 /23

1st Sunday of Advent



Tues. Dec 5– 7:00 p.m. Maria Smolkova Req'd by The Family

Wed. Dec 6– 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Bill and Mary Hammond & Family

9:00 a.m. Martin Pronk Req'd by Corrie Pronk & Family

Thur. Dec 7– 9:00 a.m. Kay Lehman Req'd by Cyndy, John & Nathan Redburn

Fri. Dec 8 – 9:00 a.m. Eileen Murray Req'd by Linda & Paul O'Connor

Sat. Dec 9 – 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Dec 10 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Contributions: \$1,186.00

LECTORS

Sat. Dec 9 - 4:00 p.m. - Evelyn Collins

Sun. Dec 10 - 9:00 a.m. - Melissa Reid

CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or call Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Dec 9 – 5:30 p.m. – Aiden Felsbourg Req'd by Kathleen Boone

Contributions: \$240.00

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Dec 10– 11:00 a.m. Anna Marie Raftis Req'd by The Estate

Contributions: \$85.00

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7

Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

A prayer for the Lord's protection

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of **Advent**, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in

glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

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

The Pope's Intention for December 2023

For persons with disabilities, We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Extra Times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

During the season of Advent there will be more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please come to the place and at the time, most convenient for you:

- **December 6, between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM at St. Thomas Church, Harriston.**
- **Wednesday December 13, between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM at St. Peter Church, Ayton.**
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- **Thursday December 21, between 9:30 AM and 9:30 PM at St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest**

Reconciliation is also available every Tuesday evening at 5:30 PM and any time by appointment (519 323 1054)

CWL

The CWL Christmas dinner is Tuesday Dec. 12, 2023 at 5:00pm, Cost is \$15 pp. A sign up sheet will be in the foyer.

St. Mary Auxillary (HNS) Next meeting is Wed. Dec. 6/23 at 7:00 pm. All men from the parish are invited to attend.

The list for Ramoth House is posted on the bulletin board located in the foyer of the church. Please place your donations in the basket provided. Thank you

Next Coffee Sunday - Dec. 3 and 17th
Please join us in the TD Smith Memorial Hall for fellowship and treats! All Welcome!

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious deacon, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

Christmas Remembrance Services



Sunday December 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Mount Forest United Church, hosted by England Funeral Home. This is a non-denominational service held in loving memory of those who have passed away. It is a time of reflection to honour the lives of those who have graciously touched ours. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by Friday Dec. 8th by calling 519-323-2631 or visit www.englishfuneralhome.com.

The **2024 Offering envelopes** are now available for pickup. Please ensure that your address is correct. You may submit any updates or changes to the office. The **2024 Sunday Missals** are available as well, please take one home, one per household only. Thank you. Also, If you are new to our Parish, welcome. Please contact the Parish office if you wish to have offering envelopes.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve - Sunday Dec 24
Mt. Forest at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Harriston at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day- Monday Dec 25
Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m.
Ayton at 11:00 a.m.
HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE

Christmas Cantata

Directed by Derek Moore

Sunday December 17th, @ 2:30 pm
St. Mary of the Purification, Mt. Forest &

Monday Dec. 18 @ 7:30 pm. St. John The
Evangelist, Arthur
Please bring a non-perishable food item for the
Community Pantry

The Month of December Dedicated to the Immaculate Conception



The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of life. On December 8, the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all his blessings he has given to the people. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting our people.

Collect prayer from the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that as you preserved her from very stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw so through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



Saint Nicholas Feast Day Dec. 6

Children all over the world know him and love him. In Germany, he's Kriss Kringle. In France, he's Pere Noel. British children call him Father Christmas. Of course, you know him as Santa Claus. He's got another name, you know. It's an ancient one that goes back hundreds of years. It's one of the very first names people called him: St. Nicholas. Children tell lots of fun stories about Santa Claus, Pere Noel, or Kriss Kringle. All of these stories remind us of how much

we're loved and of how happy we are when we give. The earliest stories we know were told about St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra.

Hundreds of years ago, Nicholas lived in a seaside town named Myra, which is in the country we now call Turkey. Ever since he was a small child, Nicholas loved God more than anything. He studied hard, prayed often, and followed Jesus by helping the poor. The people of Myra loved Nicholas so much that when their old bishop died, they immediately elected Nicholas to replace him. He served them well for a long time. Nicholas was loved for one reason. He loved. He loved God and God's people so much that he would do anything for them. Here is a story about Nicholas that has been passed down through many generations. There was a man living in Myra who was very poor. This man had no wife, but he had three grown daughters who lived with him. In those days, when a young woman got married, she had to bring money or property with her into the marriage. This is called a dowry. If a woman didn't have a dowry, she would never marry. This man was so poor that he had no money for his daughters' dowries. And he didn't have enough money to support them either. He had, he believed, only one choice: to sell his daughters into slavery. Nicholas heard about this terrible situation. Late one night, Nicholas crept to the man's home and threw something through the window. It was a bag of gold—enough to pay the dowry for his oldest daughter. The man was overjoyed, and his daughter was too. She married, but her father was still left with a problem. Two, to be exact. What about the two younger daughters? Sadly, he prepared to send them away. Nicholas returned one night and again threw a bag of gold through the window. The father rejoiced. But he wondered who was helping him and why. Of course, Nicholas didn't want the man to know. He knew that it's best to help others without letting them know we're helping them. If we help others in this way, we help because we truly want to and not because people will praise us for it. But the father was determined. He had one daughter left and no money for a dowry. He certainly hoped he would be helped again, especially because he wanted to find out who was doing it. So he locked the windows and watched out the door.

Nicholas still wanted to help, but he didn't want to be seen. So, in the back of the house, far from the father's sight, he dropped the bag of gold for the third daughter right down the chimney. Other stories are told about Nicholas. It's said that God worked through Nicholas's prayers to raise children from the dead—some who had been killed in a fire and another child who had drowned. All of these stories tell us the same thing about St. Nicholas. He lived for God, which means that he lived for love. If people were in need and he was able to help, St. Nicholas gave them hope and strength. St. Nicholas never paused for a minute to wonder what he should receive in return for his help. He only thought about what he could give to those who needed him. Stories about St. Nicholas spread from his home in Turkey up to Russia, where he is still a very popular saint. Through the centuries, people passed on stories of him across the most northern parts of Europe, then to Germany, France, and England, and finally to the United States. The children in every country gave St. Nicholas a name in their own language, and ours is Santa Claus.

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