

# St. Mary of the Purification Parish



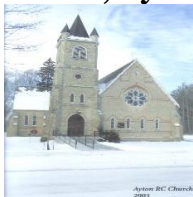
**230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0**  
**Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

*Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P. Email: [manderson@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)*

*Bookkeeper: Annette Connelly Email: [stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)*

*Secretary: Dee Dee Eurig Email: [stmarymtforest@wightman.ca](mailto: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 Wed. 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](http://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](http://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*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 14, 2024**

**Tue. Jan. 16 – 7:00 p.m.** Dec'd members of the Caughlin & Farrell Families Req'd by Rita Caughlin  
**Wed. Jan. 17– 9:00 a.m.** Stephen Zurav Req'd by The Family  
**Thur. Jan. 18 – 9:00 a.m.** Wayne McDonald Req'd by Betty Mogensen & Family  
- 9:00 a.m. Bob McIntee (Living-80<sup>th</sup> Birthday) Req'd by Lorne & Florence Moyer  
**Fri. Jan.19 – 9:00 a.m.** Kay Lehman Req'd by Cathy Conrad  
- 9:00 a.m. Paul Krishko Req'd by the Smolko Family

**Sat. Jan 20 - 4:00 p.m.** The People of the Parish  
**Sun. Jan. 21 - 9:00 a.m.** The People of the Parish  
**Contributions: \$1,713.60**

**Lectors**

**Sat. Jan 20 -** Susan Thurston  
**Sun. Jan 21 -** Debra Ross

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

**ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. Jan. 20 – 5:30 p.m.** Patricia Raftis Req'd by Brent & MaryLynn Zeinstra  
**Contributions: \$175.00**

**ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun Jan. 21– 11:00 a.m.** Jim & Loretta Murphy Req'd by Dot Bourgeois  
**Contributions: \$290.00**

**Today's Reading:**

**First Reading**

1 Samuel 3:3b–10,19  
The Lord calls Samuel.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10  
A prayer of commitment to follow the will of the Lord.

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,17–20  
Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel Reading**

John 1:35–42  
John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels. In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God,

using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

### Family Connection

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life. Before your family gathers, look around your house and gather some items that your family might have that remind you of your faith. Perhaps you have a cross or crucifix displayed in your home, a statue of Mary, or statues or other art depicting saints. In today's Gospel we learn about how Andrew led his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Read today's Gospel, John 1:35-42. In our family life, we also help to lead one another to Jesus. Talk together about the items that you gathered, discussing what these items mean to you and how you might use them during the day for prayer. Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in our faith in Jesus. Pray together the Glory Be to the Father.

### **The Month of January**

***Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus***

### **Pope Francis' 2024 Monthly Intentions**

**JANUARY For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church.** " Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church."



### **CWL Coffee Sunday - Jan 7<sup>th</sup> & Jan 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Please join us in the TD Smith Memorial Hall for fellowship and treats! All Welcome! The next CWL meeting will be held Tuesday Feb. 13, 2024 at 1pm. There is no HNS/St. Mary Auxilliary meeting scheduled as of yet.**

**Vocations:** A good vocation prayer to say every day – from the time we are young until we are in our golden years - is found in today's first Scripture reading :“ Speak Lord, for your servant is listening”. Just try it with sincerity, starting today and , if you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call **Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988** Email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)



The Wellington Catholic District School Board welcomes families to register their children for Kindergarten beginning Monday, January 8 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Kindergarten registration is set to run until February 5 and is conveniently available online. To assist in optimal planning for Kindergarten programs for the upcoming school year, we encourage families to register within this registration period. To attend Year 1 Kindergarten in September 2024, students must be four-years-old on or before December 31, for those inquiring about starting in Year 2 Kindergarten – children must be five-years-old on or before December 31.

Please visit our Kindergarten Registration page for more details on how to register: [https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/apps/pages/childregistration](https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/apps/pages/ages/childregistration)

### **2024 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass**

**Will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 1:30 PM. This is an annual Mass for couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> plus Wedding Anniversary!** Mass includes a renewal of marriage vows by all participating anniversary couples. Couples will be able to register online. A formal invitation (including general information and directions) is mailed to the home of the anniversary couple once registration has been received. Each couple will receive a program listing the names of all participants and a small corsage to celebrate the day. Light refreshments follow the Mass, as well as an opportunity to take a picture with Bishop Crosby, so bring your camera!

Large numbers of couples register for the Mass, so only those couples married 60 or more years may bring a guest as there will be no remaining seats to accommodate guests. Registration will begin early January, please visit [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)



### **Grief Relief**

**Event Date: January 17, 2024**

A 6-week program using Dr. Bill Webster's grief material, this program is intended to help you to understand your grief and provides practical tips for helping you through. In Hamilton, this program is offered twice a year, in the Spring and Fall and all are welcome to attend. Programs are provided by trained facilitators.

**Wednesday January 17, 2024 - February 21, 2024 from 1:30-3pm.**

**Where:** Chancery Office (700 King St. West Hamilton) OR join us on zoom.

If you are joining by zoom please contact the office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 so we can send you the link each week.

### **Young Adults Night - Saturday, February 3rd - Waterloo**

Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night and vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, February 3rd 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](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION THROUGH VLCCFF**

The Diocese of Hamilton is proud to partner with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCCFF) to offer certificate programs for ministry and enrichment for adult faith formation. Three and five week e-seminars are available at a discounted rate for all adults in the Diocese looking to further their learning. For more information about our programs, and how to register, visit us at [www.hamiltondioceselearns.com](http://www.hamiltondioceselearns.com)

### **Saint Anthony - Feast day January 17**

Anthony was born in Egypt in 250. At age 20, when his parents died, Anthony made sure his younger sister's education could be completed in a community of holy women. He then sold all his possessions and left for a life of solitude in the desert. There an elderly hermit taught him about prayer and penance. For 20 years, he lived in isolation. Anthony wanted to know God deeply. He did penance by taking only bread and water once a day at sunset. The devil appeared to him in terrible shapes to tempt him. But Anthony had great confidence in God. Anthony's unusual life did not make him harsh but radiant with God's love and compassion. Stories of Anthony's holiness spread, and people came to learn from him how to become holy. Some admirers wanted to stay, so Anthony—at age 54—founded a type of monastery consisting of hermitages near one another. Anthony wrote a rule that guided the monks. Later when Anthony heard of the persecutions of the Christians, he wanted to die a martyr. At 60, he left the desert to minister to the Christians in prisons, fearlessly exposing himself to danger. He came to realize that a person can die daily for Christ by serving him in ordinary ways with great love. So he returned to the desert to his life of prayer and penance. His life of solitude was again interrupted, however, when at age 88 he had a vision in which he saw the harm Arian followers were doing to the Church by denying the divinity of Christ. Anthony left for Alexandria to preach against this heresy. At age 90, another vision sent Anthony searching the desert for Saint Paul, the first hermit. These two holy men met and spoke of the wonders of God. Anthony is said to have died peacefully in a cave at age 105.

