

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



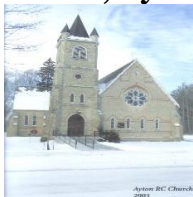
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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 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

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

Tue. Jan. 23 – 7:00 p.m. The Souls in Purgatory

Wed. Jan. 24– 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Betty Mogensen & Family

Thur. Jan. 25 – 9:00 a.m. Joyce Beyer Req'd by Staff & Students St. Mary School

Fri. Jan. 26 – 9:00 a.m. Aloysius Van Leemput Req'd by Ralf and Pauline Diemert

Sat. Jan 27 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Jan. 28 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Jan 27 - Luis Arruda

Sun. Jan 28 - Colleen Dalla Costa

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. 27 – 5:30 p.m. Patricia Raftis Req'd by Mary Seifried & Family

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Jan. 28– 11:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

This Sunday's Reading's - Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Activities in Preparation for This Week in the Liturgical Year

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5,10

God spared the people of Nineveh because they heeded the message God sent through Jonah.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

The Lord teaches us his ways.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul warns the Corinthians that they must act differently because the world in its present form is passing away.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, to be his disciples.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark. The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry. As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Family Connection

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called his first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow him. We can only begin to imagine what Jesus' presence must have been like to invoke such a response in these first disciples. While a few of us might relate to such a radical conversion, many of us would find such a sudden change in ourselves or in another person unsettling. There are few things for which we would willingly drop everything. And yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. These first disciples were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives.

Gather as a family and talk about circumstances in which you have had to "drop everything." (the call to pick up a sick child from school, the cry of a hurt or angry child) How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations? How do we feel when someone asks us to drop everything to help him or her? For many of us, it is not easy to drop everything to respond to the needs of another.

Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:14–20. Invite your family to imagine what Jesus' presence and invitation to these first followers must have been like that they responded by leaving their livelihood to become his disciples. How might our life change if we understood the Kingdom of God to be as important and immediate in our lives? Ask God to help you experience the Kingdom of God with such immediacy. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

www.loyolapress.com

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 21st

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.

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/kindergartenregistration>



Sacramental Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

*A special **Reconciliation Service** will be held on **Saturday February 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.** This is for children receiving this Sacrament for the first time.*

*On **Sunday June 2, 2024**, we will celebrate **First Holy Communion** with a special Mass being held at 3:00 p.m. If you have a child who **does not** attend St. Mary's School in Mt. Forest, and who has reached the age of discernment, please contact the parish office for registration. 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca*

Vocations The call of the disciples' is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response, which was immediate and complete; they leave everything and follow Jesus. Can we do less if we feel that God is calling us to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate? if you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Serra Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech

You, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of labourers for Your church, fellow labourers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 26, 2024 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 one guest if you require assistance). Registration is now available online at hamiltondiocese.com.

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

RESTART: Refresh, Renew, Revive

Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on a Friday evening. Held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month. 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. Register for the sessions here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home>, or contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 if you plan to attend in person and for the zoom link if joining online. We look forward to seeing you!



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES FEAST DAY- January 24

Francis, the eldest of 13 children, was born into a family of nobility in France in 1567. His father sent him to study at the University of Paris. After six years, Francis was intellectually competent in many areas. Francis was also a skilled swordsman who enjoyed fencing, an expert horseman, and a superb dancer.

Then Francis studied at the University of Padua and received a doctorate in civil and canon law. His father wanted him to marry, but Francis desired to be a priest. His father consented, and Francis was ordained to the priesthood in 1593. Francis and his cousin Louis, who was also a priest, volunteered to work in Chablais, where religious wars were taking place.

After four months, Louis became discouraged and left. Then Francis began to write and distribute a weekly essay, explaining some doctrines of faith. For two years, he and his friends had these essays printed. Francis preached with power and charm in simple, clear language. His gentleness and love drew many hearts to God. The majority of the Chablais inhabitants accepted the Catholic faith. When Francis was appointed bishop of Geneva, he not only wrote for and encouraged priests, but he also took an interest in the candidates for priesthood. Francis even conducted the examinations to see if the candidates were fit for this vocation.

He also trained laypeople to teach catechism. Francis often gave spiritual guidance to people. In 1610, Francis helped Jane Frances de Chantal found the Visitation convent. He wrote a book called The Introduction to the Devout Life. It shows that everyone can grow in holiness. Among his other writings is the Treatise on the Love of God, a history of his own love for God. Francis was declared a Doctor of the Church and the patron of journalists and writers. www.loyolapress.com

