

# St. Mary of the Purification Parish



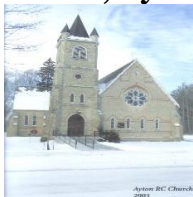
**230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0**  
**Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

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

**Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly 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)

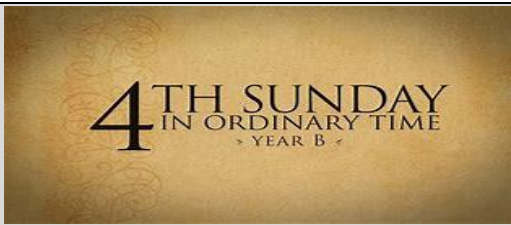
### **SCHOOL:**

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



### **January 28, 2024**

**Tue. Jan. 30 – 7:00 p.m.** Martin Pronk Req'd by Corrie Pronk and Family

**-7:00 p.m.** Maria Arruda Req'd by Luis Arruda

**Wed. Jan. 31– 9:00 a.m.** Aloysius Van Leemput Req'd by Julie & Mike Goetz

**Thur. Feb. 1 – 9:00 a.m.** Kevin Rice Req'd by Tilly & Gerald Gorman

**Fri. Feb. 2 – 9:00 a.m.** Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

**Sat. Feb. 3 - 9:00 a.m.** – Loretta Caughlin Req'd by the Estate

**- 4:00 p.m.** The People of the Parish

**Sun. Feb. 4 - 9:00 a.m.** The People of the Parish

#### **Lectors**

**Sat. Feb. 3 - Laura Cherry**

**Sun. Feb. 4 - J. von Westerholt**

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

#### **ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. Feb. 3 – 5:30 p.m.** Mary Garvey Req'd by The Estate

#### **ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun. Feb. 4– 11:00 a.m.** Jim & Loretta Murphy Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

### **This Sunday's Reading:**

#### **First Reading**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses tells the people that God will raise up for them a new prophet.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,7-9

A song of praise to the Lord.

#### **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Paul expresses his concern that those who are married are more likely to face the distractions of earthly life than those who are celibate.

#### **Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit and his fame spreads throughout Galilee.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

### **Family Connection**

The people who heard Jesus teach and saw him heal in today's Gospel were said to have been astonished and amazed by the authority of his teaching. So compelling were Jesus' words and actions that the

news about him could not be contained; it spread quickly throughout all of Galilee. Two thousand years later, the news about Jesus continues to spread. We are called to participate in sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in our words and in our deeds.

Gather as a family and try to name some amazing things, events, or people. In today's Gospel we hear that the people were astonished and amazed by their experience of Jesus. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:21–28. What did the people who saw and heard Jesus find so amazing? (In Jesus, the people heard and saw the power and authority of God at work.) People should see in our lives the power and authority of God at work. Can you name any modern examples of people in whom you have seen the power and authority of God at work? Conclude in prayer together that we will experience wonder at the work of God in our world today. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

## OUR CHURCH FEAST



### **Friday, February 2, 2024 is the Feast day of St. Mary of the Purification.**

All are encouraged to participate and receive God's blessings through the intercession of our Heavenly Mother, Our Patroness.



The Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as **Candlemas**. According to Mosaic Law, a mother who had given birth to a son remained unclean for 40 days after birth.



On **Candlemas Day, February 2**, followers of Jesus celebrate his Presentation at the Temple and the Virgin Mary being purified, with many of the faithful bringing candles to their churches to be blessed "**Christ our light has come to us.**"

**REMINDER: With the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, we kindly ask that if you have any Blessed palms at home from last year, to please bring them to the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. Thank you and God Bless**



**Serra VOCATIONS** Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Pray to know how God wants to use your talents and abilities. Could it be He is calling you to consider priesthood, religious life or deaconate?

### **The Month of January**

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



#### **Coffee Sunday - Feb.4 & Feb.18**

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.



#### **Sacramental Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

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.

**Sunday April 14 at 3:00 pm** we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation**

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](mailto:stmarymtforest@wightman.ca)

If 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) Serra has been called the lay vocations arm of the church.

“The church needs Serra. Blessings on your work.”

Pope John II



### **SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS - FEAST DAY JANUARY 28**

### **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](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

### **REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL**

Join the Reel Justice Film Festival **February 24, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for the screening of **La Lucha Sigue (The Struggle Continues)** with special guest speaker Honduran human rights investigator Elvin Hernandez. In Honduras, the most dangerous place in the world to be a land defender, the Lenca and Garifuna people are fighting to uphold their spirituality and Indigenous ways of life in the face of state backed mega-projects that threaten to destroy their lands and erase their existence. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

### **STEP/BLENDED FAMILY: SMART STEPS FOR BUILDING FAMILY**

Are you a parent or stepparent adjusting to blended family life? Smart Steps offers practical insights and suggestions on how to make the relationships work well for all. The next session will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, 28 Norfolk Street. TIME: 9:15AM - 3:30PM. PRICE: \$50 per person (includes lunch). DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2024. Register on line at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and look under Upcoming Events. For more information, contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

Thomas Aquinas came from a wealthy Italian ruling family in the 13th century. At age five, he was sent to a Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in hopes that someday he would be abbot. But King Frederick III sent his troops to occupy the monastery as a fortress. Thomas then transferred to the University of Naples, where he came into contact with the Dominicans. Their life of prayer and study fascinated him, and he was determined to join them. His family was shocked that Thomas would join a group of poor friars. His mother sent his brothers after him. They kidnapped and imprisoned him for more than a year at a family castle. Nothing would shake his resolution to enter the Dominicans. Finally, Thomas's family gave up on discouraging him from becoming a priest, and in 1244, he joined the order.

Thomas studied under Albert the Great. In class, his silence during discussions and his large size earned him the nickname “the dumb ox.” Thomas became well known for his writings in philosophy and theology. His most famous work, the Summa Theologiae, contains five volumes of thought on all the Christian mysteries. It is said that no one has equaled the depth of understanding and clear reasoning that Thomas showed. His love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament led him to write prayers and hymns that are still used to honor the Eucharist.

But this brilliant man was very humble. He knew that all his gifts came from God. While celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273, he received a revelation from God. After that, he stopped writing. He said that all he had written was so much straw after what he had seen in the revelation. Thomas died at age 49 on his way to the Council of Lyons, France. Pope Gregory X had asked him to come. Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Doctor of the Church and patron of Catholic schools. [www.lovolapress.com](http://www.lovolapress.com)

*“The things that we love, tell us what we are”  
St. Thomas Aquinas*