

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



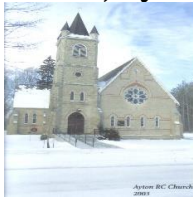
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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

Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly 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

January 7, 2024 – Epiphany of the Lord



Tue. Jan. 9 – 7:00 p.m. Rene Moyer Req'd by the CWL

7:00 p.m. Kathleen, Harold & Kenneth Lehman Req'd by the Estate

Wed. Jan. 10– 9:00 a.m. Irene Moyer Req'd by Lorne & Florence Moyer

Thur. Jan. 11 – 9:00 a.m. Loretta Caughlin Req'd by Elsie McAsey

Fri. Jan.12 – 9:00 a.m. Barb Bany Req'd by Myrtle Gorman

Sat. Jan 13 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Jan. 14 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Contributions: Dec. 17 - Flowers- \$1,130.00;

P.A.R.- \$4,362.00 ; Dec. 24 - \$1,628.00; Dec. 25- \$4,280.65 ; Dec. 31- \$5,472.80

Lectors

Sat. Jan 13 - Florence Ricard

Sun. Jan 14 - 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. Jan. 13 – 5:30 p.m. Patricia Raftis Req'd by Brent & MaryLynn Zeinstra

Contributions: Dec. 17- Flowers-\$135.00; P.A.R.- \$70.00; Dec.24-\$1,330.00 ; Dec. 31-\$150.00

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun Jan. 14– 11:00 a.m. Jim & Loretta Murphy Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Contributions: Dec. 17-Flowers-\$215.00; Dec. 24-\$429.00; Dec.25-\$1,205.00; Dec.31-\$270.00

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Family Connection The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings." www.loyolapress.com

Reminder : The 2024 Offering envelopes are available for pickup in the foyer of the Church as well as the P.A.R envelopes. If you haven't already done so, please also help yourself to one of the 2024 Catholic Faith Calendars that are available.

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 7th & Jan 21st
Please join us in the TD Smith Memorial Hall for fellowship and treats! All Welcome !

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (January 21, 2024) marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #TheBibleSpeaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2024. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/>.

WHEN LIFE CHANGES

The Hamilton Diocese is offering a new grief program. Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! Our six-week grief program starts January 17 and will be held from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West. You are welcome to join in person or by zoom. To register go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the start date under upcoming events on the home page.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY in Hamilton is dedicated to helping anyone in need in

the Hamilton communities. There are 20 *Conferences* throughout the city, connected with the parishes. Shane Torres, once a recipient of the Ozanam Fund, which assisted him finance his education, is now a social worker. He writes, "SSVP's initiative in promoting education to help students like myself to get out of poverty is essential. Education can be the way to break the cycle of continuous poverty and can help other youths in the similar situation as I was before and aid them to realize that poverty should not be a hindrance to achieve a good education." The St. Vincent de Paul Society makes a huge difference in the lives of many in our community. The organization is always looking for volunteers who want to put their faith in action and help people in need. They also welcome financial donations and any practical support (furniture, etc.) you can provide.

<https://helpusgrow.ca/>
"Go to the poor; you will find God" St. Vincent de Paul

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL kicks off the 2024 season on January 25, 2024 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, with the film *Gather*, an intimate portrait of the movement among Indigenous communities to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty. The dynamic duo of Kitty R Lynn Lickers and Dr. Adrienne Xavier from McMaster University's Indigenous Studies Department will be guest speakers for the evening. Educators in Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Food Sovereignty, they also managed the Our Sustenance program, a sustainability and food sovereignty program in their community of Six Nations. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at:

<https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com>

TELL ALL SOULS ABOUT MY MERCY-One Day Seminar

A Divine Mercy Powerpoint Presentation by Nestor Buendia (Divine Mercy Apostolate of Canada)
"A great treasury of revelations, teachings, insights and prayers of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy"
In addition to the many significant revelations of Our Lord about trust and mercy, there are major teachings on several subjects, including the Holy Eucharist, Confession, Blessed Mother, spiritual life and suffering of others.

Place: The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate , 28 Norfolk St., Guelph, Ont.

When: Saturday January 13, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass 9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Seminar (Bring your Lunch)

Jesus said: “Write down these words, my daughter. Speak to the whole world about My Mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it, will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My Mercy; let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them” (Diary, 848)

Vocations: *The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God’s Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that 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 Hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/*



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>

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy, does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – whose one purpose is 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. It is designed to improve communication,

build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. For struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 8-10, 2024. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email teamrecine@gmail.com.



Saint Hilary

Feast day Jan 13

Hilary was born to pagan parents of Poitiers, France, in 315. After training in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Afra. All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary’s studies led him to read Scripture. He became convinced that there was only one God, whose Son became man and died and rose to save all people. This led him to be baptized along with his wife and daughter.

The people of Poitiers chose Hilary to be their bishop in 353. He spoke out against Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. When Emperor Constantius II wanted him to sign a paper condemning Saint Athanasius, the great defender of the faith, he refused. The emperor was furious and exiled Hilary to Phrygia. In exile, he preached, wrote, and suffered, and even asked to debate the Arian bishops. Fearing Hilary’s arguments, Arian’s followers begged the emperor to send Hilary home. The emperor, believing Hilary was also undermining his authority, recalled him. Hilary’s writings show that he could be fierce in defending the faith, but in dealing with the bishops who had given in to the Arian heresy, he was charitable. He showed them their errors and helped them to defend their faith. Though the emperor called Hilary “disturber of the peace,” Saints Jerome and Augustine praised him as “teacher of the churches.”



“ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Mt 15:16

