

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



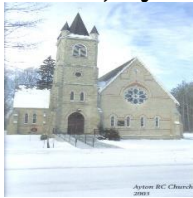
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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 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

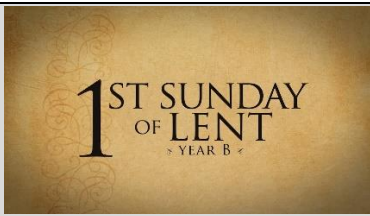
SCHOOL:

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



February 18, 2024

Tue. Feb. 20 – 7:00 p.m. Len Seifried Req'd by Bernard Dinneen

Wed. Feb. 21– 9:00 a.m. Kevin Gorman (living) Req'd by Tilly & Gerald Gorman

–9:00 a.m. Martin Pronk & deceased family members Req'd by Corrie Pronk & Family

Thur. Feb. 22 – 9:00 a.m. Shirley Lynch Req'd by Bogden Rogelj

Fri. Feb. 23– 9:00 a.m Evelyn Ammerlaan (Living) Req'd by Tilly & Gerald Gorman

7:00 p.m. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Sat. Feb. 24 - 11:00 a.m. – **First Reconciliation Service**

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

Sun. Feb. 25 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish **Lectors**

Sat. Feb. 24 - Florence Ricard

Sun. Feb. 25 - 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. Feb. 24 – 5:30 p.m. Pavol Smolko Req'd by The Family

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Feb. 25– 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

****STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 pm DURING LENT****

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah, giving a rainbow as its sign.

Responsorial Psalm

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

A prayer praising God for his covenant

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

In our baptism, we are saved through Christ's death and Resurrection.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

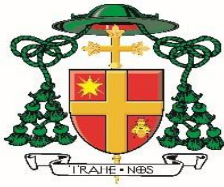
In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our

lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

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



BISHOP OF HAMILTON LENTEN MESSAGE 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is upon us – a time to strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and seek inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and acts of generosity. The Church assists us by providing many supports. Throughout Lent we are invited to participate in community *celebration of the Holy Eucharist* – on Sundays and at daily Mass during the week. Reading and reflecting on *the Scripture passages of the day* is an excellent practice, as is *any reading* that guides you closer to the Lord.

Throughout Lent, the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* is offered in your Parishes. If you are unable to find a convenient time, contact your Parish Priest who will be happy to find a time suited to your schedule. Most Parishes pray the *Stations of the Cross* as a faith community. Or you can pray them privately at your Parish church. The *Holy Rosary* is always a prayer that promotes inner peace and closeness to the Lord.

The *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace / Caritas Canada* provides a variety of ways to offer “alms” to brothers and sisters in need through the *Share Lent campaign*. *Create Hope* is the central theme of this campaign for the coming five years. The specific theme this year is *Reaping our Rights*, echoing Pope Francis’ recent reflections in *Laudate Deum*, “Everything is connected” and “no one is saved alone”! We are invited to uphold the rights of peasants, human rights, and environmental rights, ensuring respect for all.

The Cross traced on our forehead on Ash Wednesday reminds us that “*we are going to die*”! If we know we are going to die, we must decide “*how we choose to live*”! On Easter Sunday we renew our Baptismal Promises and are sprinkled with Easter water – washing away the ashes, and renewing the assurances of our faith! We choose to live by faith in Jesus Christ – who saves us and lifts us up!

We enter the Lenten Fast committed to make a difference in our own lives, in the lives of those we love, and in the lives of brothers and sisters in the Global South. Please be generous on *Solidarity Sunday*, March 17, 2024 – the Fifth Sunday of Lent. May God bless us all as we begin this sacred journey.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,
+Douglas Crosby, OMI (Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI Bishop of Hamilton

The next CWL meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12th, 2024 at 1pm.



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*

Upcoming Bible Study for 10 weeks – The Book of Esther

Wednesdays -Beginning February 21- 7:00 pm. St.Peter’s Church, Ayton

Thursdays- Beginning February 22- 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm St.Mary of the Purification , Mt.Forest . Please contact the Parish office for registration 519-323-1054 email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca. Registration will remain open throughout the Bible study.

Lenten Confession Schedule

St. Peter's, Ayton

Friday March 8 : 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

St. Thomas, Harriston

Friday March 15: 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

St. Mary of the Purification

Friday March 22: 9:30 am – 6:30 pm

HIRING – RAMOTH HOUSE

Position: Support staff

Qualifications: Encouraging, Mentoring, Loving, Supporting our moms in their parenting potential. Join our amazing Support Team. Night, evening and weekend shifts available

office@ramoth.ca or 519-323-3751

THE FINE ART OF BEING HAPPILY MARRIED

In his poem, *The Art of Marriage*, Wilfred A. Peterson writes, “A good marriage must be created” and creating something requires time and attention. We invite you to take the time, with your spouse, to find new and creative ways to increase your connection with each other, to discover fresh techniques for being in relationship and to deepen the love you already share. Join us on Saturday, May 4th from 9:30 – 3:00 pm at the Mount Mary Retreat Center in Ancaster. Cost is \$50 per couple and includes lunch. To register on the website go to hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

Marriage Tip of the Month:

The month of February, known as the month of Love, can sometimes create unrealistic expectations for couples. “Real” love supports their spouse when they have had a bad day, creates ways to spend time together, offers help without asking and is self-giving, not self-receiving. This month, take the time to look for ways to support the one you love and you will experience a deeper, more connected relationship.

Vocations: Lent, the springtime of the soul...is a time to make a new covenant with God, develop new signs of our relationship with our Creator. Go into your own desert and discover what God is asking of you. If you think God could be 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



The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Feast Day: February 22

When the pope cautions world leaders, pleads for peace, or condemns social injustice, people listen and respond. What makes the world listen to this man? The answer lies in Scripture and in Tradition. Peter is named first among the apostles of Jesus; he was often their spokesman and leader; he was the first to preach after Pentecost; and he was the leader in defending Christ and his message. Peter was at the Transfiguration and in the garden.

He proclaimed to Jesus, “You are the Christ,” and Christ singled him out: “[S]o I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:18–19) Jesus prayed for Peter that he might strengthen his brothers. (Luke 22:32) And Jesus gave Peter a threefold commission to “[f]eed my sheep.” (John 21:15–17) From the beginning, the specialness, or primacy, of Peter has been recognized. On the feast of the Chair of Peter, we celebrate our unity as a Church. We celebrate the love, presence, and protection of Christ for us, the Church. The title Chair of Peter refers to the chair from which a bishop presided, a symbol of his authority. When the title refers to Saint Peter, it recalls the supreme teaching power of Peter and his successors. It is from the chair, from the pastoral power given him, that the pope shepherds Christ’s flock.

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

<p>Law of Fasting</p> <p>1 Regular Meal and 2 Small meals</p> <p>which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity</p> <p>The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk).</p> <p>Catholic Fortress facebook.com/catholicfortress</p>	<p>Law of Abstinence</p> <p>NO MEAT (i.e., flesh and organs of mammals and fowls)</p> <p>Fish, shellfish amphibians & reptiles are allowed.</p> <p>Catholic Fortress facebook.com/catholicfortress</p>
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PRAYER ~FASTING~ALMSGIVING