

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



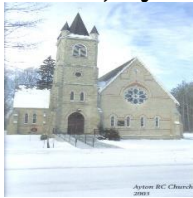
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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 4, 2024

Tue. Feb. 6 – 7:00 p.m. Souls in Purgatory Req'd by Mary Hammond

Wed. Feb. 7– 9:00 a.m. Dervilla Dunn Req'd by Lucille & Michael Kalynniak

9:00 a.m. Theresa Horrigan Req'd by Lynda Peria

Thur. Feb. 8 – 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Jim & Sheila Meyer

Fri. Feb. 9– 9:00 a.m. Leo van leeuwen Req'd by Dorothy De Jong

9:00 a.m. Antonio Garieri Req'd by The Family

Sat. Feb. 10 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Feb. 11 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Contributions: Jan. 21 - \$2,015.20 Jan. 28 - \$1,546.25

Maintenance - \$60.00 PAR: Jan. 20 \$4,492.00

Lectors

Sat. Feb. 10 - Cesar Arruda

Sun. Feb. 11 - Emma Westendorp

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. 10 – 5:30 p.m. People of the Parish

Contributions: Jan. 21- \$ 465.00 Jan. 28 -\$325.00

PAR: Jan. 20 \$70.00

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Feb. 11– 11:00 a.m. Madelaine Widmeyer

Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

Contributions: Jan. 21- \$290.00 Jan. 28- \$85.00

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Job 7:1-4,6-7

Job laments his sufferings and his life.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:1-6

A song of praise for the Lord's goodness to the lowly.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

Paul explains the conditions under which he preaches the gospel and the reasons why he will not accept financial help from the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others as well.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present. On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places. Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives. www.loyolapress.com

Family Connection

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the

opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:29-39. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer. www.loyolapress.com



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*

The Month of February

Dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth and the beginning of Lent

POPE FRANCIS 2024 MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS - FEBRUARY

For the terminally ill – We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



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.

Tax Receipts

The 2023 donation tax receipts will be available for pick up the weekend of February 17/18. Any receipts that are not picked up will be mailed the following week. Thank you.

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

Jesus created much excitement in His day through His preaching, teaching, and healing. Today, the Church communicates that same wonder and grace by those active in priesthood, religious life and lay ministries. 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. vocations@hamiltondiocese.com hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/ Serra has been called the lay vocations arm of the church. "The church needs Serra. Blessings on your work." Pope John II

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.

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 and look under Upcoming Events. For more information, contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

“HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME! *Isaiah 6:8*” The National President of the Catholic Women’s League chooses a theme for the duration of her two-year mandate. Shari Guinta, only the third National President from the Diocese of Hamilton over the 103-year history of the League, has chosen hers. Shari writes in the latest issue of The Canadian League, the official publication of the League: *“The theme I chose came suddenly to me, although I had thought long and hard about what my theme would be. When I came across ‘Here I am Lord, send me’, I thought, ‘That’s it; that is the League!’ ... The League’s Mission Statement reads, ‘The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its member to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service’. Here I am Lord, send me.”* Catholic women throughout the Diocese

might seriously consider such a response to the invitation to join the League.

THE DICASTERY FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

and Discipline of the Sacraments meets February 6-9, 2024, at the Jesuit General House in Rome. This will be my first meeting since my 2023 appointment to the Dicastery by Pope Francis. The four day meeting will focus on paths of liturgical formation for ordained ministers and the lay faithful. It is expected that Pope Francis will meet the Dicastery on Thursday morning. I look forward to joining the other members of the Dicastery and to experience the inner workings of this Vatican office! Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us. Ex corde,

+Douglas, OMI



SAINT AGATHA – FEAST DAY FEBRUARY 5

Saint Agatha is the patroness of nurses, foundry workers, miners, jewelers, and Alpine guides. She is invoked against fire, earthquakes, famine, thunderstorms, and volcanic eruptions. In Italy, her feast day is celebrated with fireworks. According to some stories, Agatha was born in Sicily of noble parents in the third century. Her loveliness and kindness came to the attention of Quintian, governor of Sicily. He put her into prison for being a Christian, and there she underwent the extreme tortures that finally killed her. Art shows her holding a plate, a candle, or a house in flames.

It is certain that Agatha was a martyr. She probably died during the persecutions under the emperor Decius between 240 and 251. Agatha’s name came to be included in the canon of the Roman Mass. She is honored for her courage in suffering and in remaining pure for the sake of Christ.

On February 14, we begin the sacred season of Lent. May your Lenten journey be richly blessed with quiet contemplation, deep prayer and refreshing spiritual renewal.

