

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



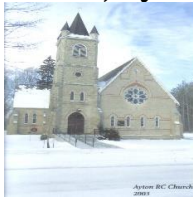
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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



March 17, 2024

Tue. Mar. 19- 7:00 p.m. Jim Gorman Req'd by
Gerald & Tilly Gorman

Wed. Mar. 20- 9:00 a.m. Hugh Maxine McKenna
Req'd by Jo-Anne & Frank McKenna

9:00 a.m. Marilyn Goodyear Req'd
by Ron & Marian Flanigan

Thur. Mar. 21- 9:00 a.m. Manuel & Maria Correia
Req'd by Luis Arruda

Fri. Mar. 22- 9:00 a.m. Margaret Copeland Req'd
by Dave & Donna Meyer

**7:00 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Fridays
during Lent**

Sat. Mar. 23- 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Mar. 24- 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Contributions: Mar. 10 - \$ 1,261.30

Maintenance: \$ 555.00

Lectors

Sat. Mar. 23 - Cesar Arruda

Sun. Mar. 24 - Debra Ross

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Mar. 23 – 5:30 p.m. Patricia Seguin Req'd by
Roslyn Fortier

Contributions: Mar. 9 - \$ 420.00

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar. 24– 11:00 a.m. Anna Marie Raftis- Estate

Contributions: Mar. 10 - \$ 22.85

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Jeremiah tells the people that the Lord will make a new covenant with them, planting the law within their hearts.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,14-15*

A prayer for God's mercy and forgiveness

Second Reading: *Hebrews 5:7-9*

Through his sufferings, Jesus gained salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel Reading: *John 12:20-33*

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose

that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration-events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel-affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Family Connection

Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.

As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

Bible Study for 10 weeks – *The Book of Esther*

Wednesdays - 7:00 pm. St.Peter's Church, Ayton
Thursdays - 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm, St.Mary of the Purification, Mount.Forest. Please contact the Parish office for registration 519-323-1054 email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca. Registration will remain open throughout the Bible study.

St. Patrick's Euchre **Sacred Heart Church, Kenilworth**

Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 pm in the church hall.
Admission \$4.00. Light lunch and draws.
Everyone welcome.



First Holy Communion and Confirmation

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

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 Mount Forest, and who has reached the age of discernment, please contact the parish office for registration. 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca*

Lenten Confession Schedule:

St. Thomas, Harriston

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

St. Mary of the Purification, Mount Forest

Friday March 22: 9:30 am – 6:30 pm

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



St. Mary – Mount Forest

Holy Thursday 7:00 pm --Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 3:00 pm --The Passion of the Lord

7:00 pm --The Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday 8:00 pm --Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 9:00 am -- Resurrection of the Lord

St. Peter's - Ayton

Easter Sunday 11:00 am -- Resurrection of the Lord

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL MARCH 28, 7:00 – 9:00 PM Join us for our special youth screening of **Island of Lemurs, Madagascar**. An insightful documentary for the whole family! Follow Dr. Patricia C. Wright's mission to help lemurs, the highly evolved creatures who arrived on Madagascar millions of years ago as castaways but are now highly endangered. Daytime screening for D&P Schools also available. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register 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.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to celebrate the Easter Season by attending 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 with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, April 6th** at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (28 Norfolk Street, Guelph). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

HOLY WEEK RESOURCE FOR TEENS The Office of Youth Ministry will be publishing, *Walking the Way* a Holy Week Journal for Teens. This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The journal bridges the Gospel readings for each day of Holy Week to practical ways young people can live out the message. The journal also has reflections from Pope Francis' letter, *Christus Vivit* for young people to consider. The Holy Week Journal can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/yyxvxwyj>

MINISTERS OF THE WORD Saturday, April 13, 2024, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown, ON. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Participants may register using the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION Saturday, April 20, 2024, St. John the Baptist Parish, Guelph, ON. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Participants may register using the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Vacations or 'Stay-cations' are a wonderful time to step away from the busy-ness of everyday family living and reconnect with each other. As you laugh and play this March break, do not forget to stay connected to your faith. Be the family that plays and prays together. Take some time to talk about Lent and how it leads us to the great celebration at Easter!

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament: our love for each other is to mirror the love of God for each person. When you look at your relationship, do you see it truly reflecting the total love and giving of God's love? Love is a choice and the decision to love can and should influence how we treat our spouse. When we purposely act in ways that reflect God's love, our marriages are better and will then echo, through our relationship, a visible love showing God's invisible love to the world.

RESTART: MOVING FORWARD – Our 10 week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The sessions will take place on **Mondays from April 7th to June 17th** from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join our zoom classroom. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or register on line at hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events. For more information call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

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. Registration is available on line at hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming Events.