

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



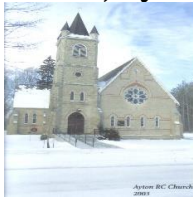
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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

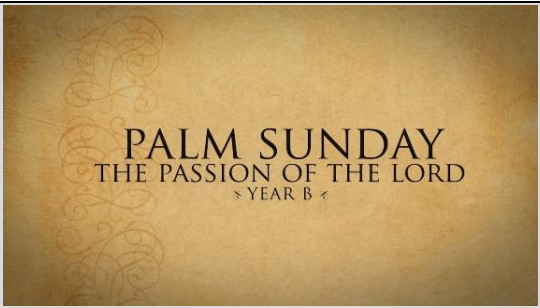
SCHOOL:

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



PALM SUNDAY
THE PASSION OF THE LORD
YEAR B

March 24, 2024

Tue. Mar. 26- 7:00 p.m. Kay Lehman Req'd by Joyce and Bob Heans

7:00 p.m. Ann Marie & Norma McDermott Req'd by Mary Hammond

Wed. Mar. 27- 9:00 a.m. Arnie & Jonathon Eurig Req'd by Deedee & Aaron

Thur. Mar. 28- 7:00 p.m. MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Fri. Mar. 29- 3:00 p.m. PASSION OF THE LORD
7:00 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Sat. Mar. 30- 8:00 p.m. EASTER VIGIL MASS

Sun. Mar. 31- 9:00 a.m. RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Lectors

Thu. Mar. 28 - Maxine Schmidt

Fri. Mar. 29 - Florence Ricard/Melissa Reid

Sat. Mar. 30 - Debra Ross/Melissa Reid

Sun. Mar. 31 - J. vonWesterholt

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

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar. 31- 11:00 a.m. RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

This Sunday's Reading:



Gospel at the Procession with Palms

Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowds shout, "Hosanna!"

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord's servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24

A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:1—15:47 (shorter form: *Mark 15:1-39*)

Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels. At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death. When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that

Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance. Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Family Connection

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerfully reflecting on the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of the salvation that Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

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.



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

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

"HE CAME TO PROCLAIM PEACE!" is the theme of this year's *Holy Land Collection* on *Good Friday*, March 29, 2024. Father Bob Mokry, o.f.m., the Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada, has written a letter encouraging Catholics to be especially generous this year. *"We know, of course, that money cannot assure peace, but it can provide a measure of compassionate help for many Christians who wait in faith during these difficult times for the peace and justice that Christ proclaimed."* Pope Saint Paul VI recognized these difficulties fifty years ago and inaugurated the annual Holy Land collection in dioceses and parishes throughout the world so that the pastoral, educational and social ministries of the Church in the Holy Land, and its care of the holy places would continue for the benefit of Christians everywhere. May this year's appeal show the generous support of our Canadian Church for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

Ex corde, +Douglas, OMI

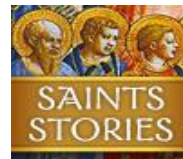
HOLY WEEK RESOURCE FOR TEENS The Office of Youth Ministry will be publishing, *Walking the Way* a Holy Week Journal for Teens. This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The journal bridges the Gospel readings for each day of Holy Week to practical ways young people can live out the 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/yyxvxywj>

Preparing for the Feast of Divine Mercy

Sunday April 7, 2024

Please join us in praying the novena for Divine Mercy starting on Good Friday and ending Sunday. On this Feast of Divine Mercy, please attend Mass to obtain indulgence.



The Annunciation of Our Lord Feast day: March 25

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life." (John 3:16) At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God's invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son.



This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God's plan for salvation. Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) In saying yes, Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

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