

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



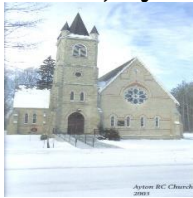
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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

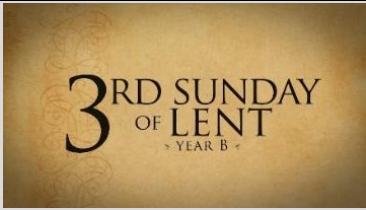
SCHOOL:

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 3, 2024

Tue. Mar. 5 7:00 p.m. Glen Wright Req'd by John & Joan Jeffrey

Wed. Mar. 6 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Gerry Ferrier

9:00 a.m. Hilda B Cabral, & The Arruda, Coutous & Tousignant families Req'd by Gina Tousignant

Thur. Mar. 7 9:00 a.m. Courtney Seniuk Req'd by Jane & Melvin Seniuk

Fri. Mar. 8 9:00 a.m. Jose Alves Req'd by Luis Arruda

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

Sat. Mar. 9 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. Mar. 10 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Mar. 9 - Luis Arruda

Sun. Mar. 10 - J. Von Westerholt

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 9 – 5:30 p.m. Mary Garvey Req'd by The Estate

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Mar. 10 – 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17 (or shorter form, *Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17*)

Moses is given the Ten Commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8,9,10,11

A prayer of praise to God who gives us his commandments

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Paul preaches Christ crucified to the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-25

Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the

Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's

Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

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

Family Connection

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again. As you gather as a family, talk about places and times when you have experienced God's presence. After his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples understood that Jesus was present with them as they gathered to pray and especially when they gathered to share a meal. Read together today's Gospel, John 2:13-25. Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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!



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 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

**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.

The Month of February *Dedicated to the Holy Family*

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



**Coffee Sundays - 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month. Please join us for fellowship and treats!
All Welcome !**

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

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION THROUGH VLCFF

The Diocese of Hamilton is proud to partner with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF) to offer certificate programs for ministry and enrichment for adult faith formation. We are currently taking enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program and the Catechist Formation Program for the Diocese of Hamilton, which begins in September 2024. Three & five week e-seminars are also available at a discounted rate for all adults in the Diocese looking to further their learning. For more information about our programs, and how to register, visit us at www.hamiltondioceselearns.com

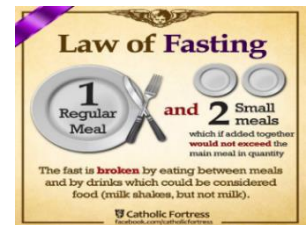
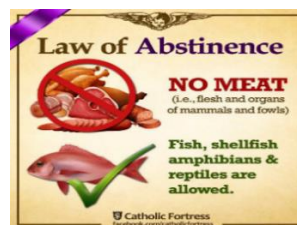


SAINT COLETTE FEAST DAY- MARCH 6

Renewing religious institutions is not easy. We would expect a person chosen to reform convents and monasteries to be formidable. Maybe even physically tall, overbearing, and somewhat threatening. God, however, doesn't seem to agree. For example, in the fifteenth century he selected St. Colette, a young woman the opposite of these characteristics, to call Franciscans to strict observance of the rules of St. Clare and St. Francis. Not that Colette was unimpressive. She was a beautiful woman whose radiant inner strength attracted people. However, her spirituality, her commitment to God, and her heart for souls, not her physical qualities, suited her for her reforming mission. At seventeen, upon her parents' death, Colette joined the Franciscan Third Order. She lived for eight years as a hermit at Corbie Abbey in Picardy. Toward the end of this time, St. Francis appeared to her in a vision and charged her to restore the Poor Clares to their original austerity.

When Friar Henry de Beume came in 1406 to conform her mission, Colette had the door of her hut torn down, a sign that her solitude was over and her work begun. And she then prayed her commitment: **I dedicate myself in health, in illness, in my life, in my death, in all my desires, in all my deeds so that I may never work henceforth except for your glory, for the salvation of souls, and towards the reform for which you have chosen me. From this moment on, dearest Lord, there is nothing which I am not prepared to undertake for love of you.**

Colette's first reports to reform convents met vigorous opposition. Then she sought the approval of the Avignon pope, Benedict XIII, who professed her as a Poor Clare and put her in charge of all convents she would reform. He also appointed Henry de Beume to assist her. Thus equipped, she launched her reform in 1410 with the Poor Clares at Besancon. Before her death in 1447, the saint had founded or renewed seventeen convents and several friaries throughout France, Savoy, Burgundy, and Spain. Like Francis and Clare, Colette devoted herself to Christ crucified, spending every Friday meditating on the passion. She is said to have miraculously received a piece of the cross, which she gave to St. Vincent Ferrer when he came to visit her. St. Joan of Arc once passed by Colette's convent in Moulins, but there is no evidence that the two met. Like Joan, Colette was a visionary. Once, for instance, she saw souls falling from grace in great numbers, like flakes in a snowstorm. Afterward she prayed daily for the conversion of sinners. She personally brought many strays back to Christ and helped them unravel their sinful patterns. At age sixty-six, Colette foretold her death, received the sacrament of the sick, and died at her convent in Ghent, Flanders.



Prayer-Fasting-Almsgiving

**Sunday March 10th- Daylight savings time begins .
Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour!**