

# St. Mary of the Purification Parish



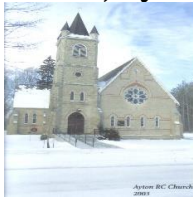
**230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0**  
**Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

*Pastor: Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P. Email: [manderson@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)*

*Bookkeeper: Annette Connolly Email: [stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca)*

*Secretary: Dee Dee Eurig Email: [stmarymtforest@wightman.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://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



**April 21, 2024**

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

**Tue. Apr. 23** 7:00 p.m. Special Intention  
7:00 p.m. Loretta Caughlin Req'd

by the Estate

**Wed. Apr. 24** 9:00 a.m. John Kempers

**Thur. Apr. 25** 9:00 a.m. Judi Murray

**Fri. April 26** 9:00 a.m. Arthur, Mary & John McDonald Req'd by the Family

**Sat. April 27** 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

**Sun. April 28** 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

**Lectors**

**Sat. April 27** – Florence Ricard

**Sun. April 28** – J. vonWesterholt

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

**Contributions: \$998.85 Maintenance \$285.00**

**ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. Apr 27 5:30 pm.** Pat McManus Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond

**Contributions: \$110.00**

**ST. PETER'S, Aytton**

**Sun. Apr. 28– 11:00 a.m.** Walter Hawkins Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

**Contributions: \$261.00**

This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12*

Peter announces an act of healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29*

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness

**Second Reading**

*1 John 3:1-2*

God revealed his love for us by calling us children of God.

**Gospel Reading**

*John 10:11-18*

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death. In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds. The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

### Family Connection

The Good Shepherd makes sacrifices for the sheep not because it is required, but because it is a choice. That sounds a lot like parenting and the dynamics of a healthy family life. Parents choose to make sacrifices for their children out of love, not obligation. Christian parents model and invite their children to choose to make sacrifices for other family members and for other people, acting out of love rather than obligation. When you gather as a family, invite each family member to consider the attitude that permeates their participation in family life. Read a common examen, such as any of the following: *Do we do family chores cheerfully and without having to be asked multiple times? Do we gladly share with others? Do we willingly contribute to the family good when asked?* Read aloud today's Gospel, John 10:11-18. Discuss together how the example of the Good Shepherd might inspire your family life. Invite each family member to make a renewed commitment to one action/attitude to focus on in the upcoming week that show that we will choose to follow the example of the Good Shepherd. Pray together that we will be able to honor our commitment. Pray together Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.

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

### The Pope's Intentions for April

**For the role of women – we pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.** ( Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network )

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well, leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God's people and minister to them. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or diaconate, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 email: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

### CWL

The meeting for April has been cancelled. The next one is scheduled for **Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.**



**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 [stmarytmforest@wightman.ca](mailto:stmarytmforest@wightman.ca)

### The Month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw me near, O Holy Spirit, that I may love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen. "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit!"



The Spirit of the Lord hath filled the whole earth, alleluia.

### **Would you like to help change the lives of persons in need?**



**The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** is a lay Catholic organization whose mission it is: **to serve Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy**, and to help shape a more just and compassionate society.

Because of the changing needs in our community, we would like to form a Saint Vincent de Paul Society in our Parish. **If you would like more information** please contact Father Mike or Phyllis McCormick at St. Mary of the Purification  
email : [manderson@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:manderson@hamiltondiocese.com)  
Telephone 519-323-1054



### Coffee Sunday

First and third Sunday after mass . Please join us for fellowship and treats!

**St. Mary's School Snack Program – Volunteers  
Needed**

Looking for volunteers to assist in the preparation of snacks for the students Wednesdays and Fridays between 12:30 and 3:30. If you are interested, please contact Leigh Gorman at [gormanfam@live.com](mailto:gormanfam@live.com) or call 519-923-9864

**EVENING RETREAT** Mark your calendar for Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Jomon Kalladanthiyil, CSC will be coming to **Holy Family Church, Hanover** bringing with him, a relic of St. Andre Bessette. He has planned an evening retreat including Exposition of the Relic, Talks about Saint Brother Andre, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass, Veneration of the Relic and blessing with the Oil of St. Joseph. It takes place from 6 – 8 pm. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow. More details are posted or visit the Holy Family Website at [www.holyfamily.ca](http://www.holyfamily.ca) All are welcome!

**Young Adults Group Event** Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to a bingo night in the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate parish hall in Guelph on **Saturday, April 27th**, hosted by the parish's new young adults' group. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the game begins at 7:00 pm. Come early for a chance to preview a selection of prizes! Please bring snacks and drinks to enjoy and share! The evening will also feature a brief introduction to Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, patron of Catholic young adults, and our group name will be officially announced. Mark the date, invite a friend, and come prepared for lots of fun!

**This Year's Bishop's Dinner in Bruce-Grey**, sponsored by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board, takes place in **Cargill, on May 8, 2024**. The event draws together School Board representatives, students, Parish Priests, and parishioners from across the Deanery. It is an opportunity to celebrate Catholic education in the northern part of our Diocese. It is always a joyful gathering-featuring the talents of students and teachers.

**EARTH DAY - April 22, 2024** "The environment is God's gift to **everyone**, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations, and towards humanity as a whole."  
*Pope Benedict XVI*



**SAINT MARK  
FEAST DAY April 25**

St. Mark was an evangelist, or Gospel writer. In fact, he was the pioneer in Gospel writing. His is the shortest and the oldest of the Gospels. Little is known of Mark except from the New Testament. He was not one of the twelve apostles, but was a member of the first Christian community. Mark had firsthand experience of the early Church and apostolic life. He was a traveling companion and assistant of Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. Something happened to Mark on that journey, perhaps homesickness, so he returned to Jerusalem. The incident caused a quarrel between Paul and Barnabas. Barnabas, Mark's cousin, was sympathetic toward Mark, but Paul would not hear of Mark accompanying them again. Later Paul and Mark must have been reconciled, because when Paul wrote to Timothy during his final imprisonment, he asked for Mark's help.

Mark's Gospel was a great contribution to the Church. It included oral and written tradition concerning the words and deeds of Jesus. Mark probably secured some of his material from St. Peter. He shows Jesus as the suffering Son of God. Mark knew that to accept the Risen Jesus meant to come to terms with the cross. Jesus was glorified because he willingly allowed himself to suffer death for our salvation. Mark writes that anyone who wishes to follow Jesus must accept the cross. Mark wrote to proclaim the Good News to a community of both Jewish and Gentile Christians.

His Gospel is direct and simple to read. He speaks to Christians about Jesus, who understands their difficulties and sufferings and will one day bring them to share with him eternal joy and glory. Traditionally Mark is thought to have been founder and bishop of the church of Alexandria, Egypt, where he was martyred. Over the years artists have given a symbol to each of the evangelists. Mark's symbol is a winged lion because his Gospel begins with the story of John the Baptist who, like a roaring lion, called people to repent.

<https://www.loyolapress.com>