

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



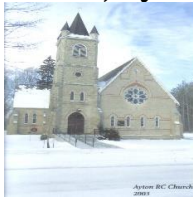
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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



April 28, 2024

Tue. Apr. 30 7:00 p.m. Arthur Moser Req'd by Allan & Cathy Sharpe

7:00 p.m. Roseanne Ferrier Req'd by Gerry Ferrier

Wed. May 1 9:00 a.m. Victor Ruffulo Req'd by Helen & Bert Moore

Thur. May 2 9:00 a.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adelle Mueller

Fri. May 3 9:00 a.m. Margaret & Fred Dinneen Req'd by Dan & Doris Tone

First Friday of the Month – Adoration after Mass

Sat. May 4 9:00 a.m. First Saturday of the Month
Leo & Margaret Coulson Req'd by Wilf Coulson

4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. May 5 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. May 4 Maxine Schmidt

Sun. May 5 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. May 4 5:30 pm. Special Intentions(Wedding Anniversary) Ross & Jane Wilke and Mary Garvey Req'd by the Estate

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. May 5 11:00 a.m. Repose of the soul of Eileen Horrigan and Margaret & Lawrence Horrigan Req'd by the Estate

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32

The whole world shall praise the Lord.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the

sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

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

Family Connection

The goal of our life of prayer is to increase our awareness that Jesus lives with us always. Prayer is more than a dialogue with God; prayer is a lifting of our minds and hearts to God so that God might dwell and act within us and through us. The pinnacle of our life of prayer is our communion with Jesus in the Eucharist. Through this sacrament, we receive Jesus himself, and he remains with us. Our life of prayer and our union with Jesus will lead us to fruitful service to others.

Place a plant in your gathering space. Invite everyone to look at the plant, noting the connection between the plant and its leaves. Talk about the integral connection between all the parts of a healthy plant. Introduce today's Gospel by saying that Jesus talked about his relationship to his disciples using this metaphor. Read today's Gospel, John 15:1-8. Talk about the ways in which we are invited to relate to Jesus as his disciples today—prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, and so on. When we do these things, Jesus promises to remain with us and to lead us to serve others well. Pray together that we will continue to be attentive and open to Jesus as he works in our lives today. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.



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)

Our second Scripture reading reminds us that we are to love, not in word and speech only, but in truth and action. If 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. Email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

CWL

The meeting for April has been cancelled. The next one is scheduled for **Tuesday May 14th 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 stmarymtforest@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

Telephone 519-323-1054

A funeral service will be held for Paul Lammers, at St. Peter's Church in Ayton , on Friday May 3rd at 1:30 pm.

Coffee Sunday

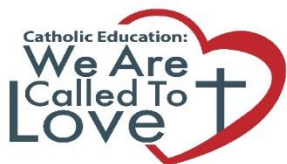


First and third Sunday after mass . Please join us for fellowship and treats!

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 or call 519-923-9864



Catholic Education Week 2024 begins on Sunday, May 5, 2024. The Catholic schools in our parish will engage in a series of events to celebrate the ongoing gift of publicly funded Catholic education. You are invited to learn about the various celebrations that are happening in your children's school, and are welcome to attend, if possible.

Since 1841, Catholic schools and their graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "*We are called to love*", and is grounded in our Holy Scriptures: "*If we love one another, God lives in us.*" (1 John 4:12) With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of "*Pilgrims of Hope.*" With open hearts of love, we can continue to "*fan the flame of hope*" for a bright future.

Walking Pilgrimage from Guelph to Midland Aug.3-10th

Those who walk the Guelph-to-Midland pilgrimage find it to be a unique and grace-filled experience. For eight days pilgrims pray, sing, laugh, and share stories with others as they journey. Join us, as we cast off routine for eight days and acquiesce to a community of higher purpose. **Participate for 1 day, a weekend or the full 8 days!** Cost \$400 for 8 days or \$75 per day. We carry your gear, provide 3 meals and snacks daily, and cover entry and camping fees. You bring your tent, chair and personal gear/clothing in a duffle bag. To register or for more information go to www.ignatiusguelph.ca (under programs - Guelph Walking Pilgrimage) NOTE registration deadline June 20 2024.

Eucharistic Procession 2024 Planning Team

We are planning a Eucharistic Procession for May 30th, which will follow a 6pm Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (Guelph). Upcoming planning meetings are in the Newstead Room at the Basilica, for those interested in joining the planning team: April 23 and April 30th at 7 pm. For further information, please contact Craig Chamberlain, at dd69@ontariokofc.ca

EVENING RETREAT Mark your calendar for Friday, May 24th. 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 All are welcome!

NEW TO YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORKING EVENT The Office of Youth Ministry is hosting a networking evening for those adult leaders who are new to parish youth ministry. Join us on June 6th at St. Benedict Parish in Milton for an evening of conversation and fellowship. Registration and additional information available on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/ymnetwork>



Saint Joseph the Worker Feast day May 1

Joseph understood the importance of work. He was a carpenter—a builder—and probably taught Jesus his trade. Through his work, Joseph honored the Father in heaven and continued the act of creation. He lived in dignity. To give workers a patron, the Church turned to Joseph, who had been made the Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870 and the model for fathers of families. Joseph was named protector of workers by Pope Benedict XV, and in 1955, the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker on May 1 was proclaimed by Pius the XII.

Let us pray to Saint Joseph for his help in all our work and for those many people who want and need jobs but cannot find them. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

