

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



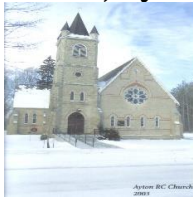
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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

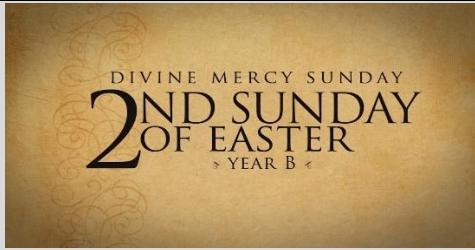
SCHOOL:

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 7, 2024

Tue. Apr. 9 7:00 p.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

7:00 p.m. Verna Daub Req'd CWL

Wed. Apr. 10 9:00 a.m. Ronald Auger Req'd by Meghan McCormick & Family

Thur. Apr. 11 9:00 a.m. Courtney Seniuk Req'd by Jane & Melvin Seniuk

9:00 a.m. Mildred Page Req'd by The Family

Fri. April 12 9:00 a.m. Hilda Barbosa Cabral & The Arruda, Coutous & Tousignant Families Req'd by Gina Tousignant

Sat. April 13 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. April 14 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. April 13 – Maxine Schmidt

Sun. April 14 – Emma Westendorp

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Apr 13 5:30 pm. Mrs. Patricia Raftis Req'd by Mary Seifried & Family

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Apr. 14– 11:00 a.m. Anna Marie Raftis Req'd by The Estate

The Second Sunday of Easter is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

The first Christian community shared their possessions, and no one was needy.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24

The Lord's mercy endures forever.

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Those who love God keep his commandments.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified.

Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

Family Connection

Within normal family life, there are many opportunities for conflict. Jesus did not promise us the absence of conflict in our lives. Instead, he gave us the gifts of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation so that we could reduce conflict. The measure of Christian family life is not the absence of conflict, but the manner in which conflict is resolved. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we ask Jesus to help us to bring peace and forgiveness to situations of conflict in our families.

As your family gathers, take this opportunity to examine how your family resolves conflict. Recall a recent argument or disagreement and discuss how the conflict was resolved. Consider whether the conflict was resolved peacefully, in the spirit of Jesus. If not, discuss alternatives that might be tried in the future. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-31. Recall that we have each received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive others and seek peace. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit or the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

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



“Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My mercy; let them profit from the Blood and Water which gushed forth for them.”

Divine Mercy Chaplet

8. Repeat for four more decades, saying "Eternal Father" on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the Sake of His sorrowful Passion" on the "Hail Mary" beads.

Visit TheCatholicKid.com for a complete list of prayers used in the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

9. At the conclusion of the five decades, on the medallion say the "Holy God," the concluding doxology, three times.

10. Say the optional Closing Prayer

7. Say 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" on the "Hail Mary" beads.

6. Say the "Eternal Father".

5. Say the "Apostles' Creed".

4. Say the "Hail Mary".

3. Say the "Our Father".

2. Say the optional opening prayer.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.

How to Pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet - ©TheCatholicKid.com

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

The Humble Instrument

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's *Diary* sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in

our time."

Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, we include the following in our 3 o'clock prayers

Saint Faustina,

You told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. Amen

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

CWL

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



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

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*

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 available on line at hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming Events.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. Even in the teen years, when peers become so important, parents are still influencing their children in almost every way. As their role model, it is important to ask yourself if what your children are seeing and hearing from you is how you would like them to act and speak. Do you speak kindly to family, friends and strangers? Do you limit the amount of time you engage on your phone and/or tablet/computer? Do you show them that you rely on God through prayer, attending Mass and talking about times God has helped you through? Your children are watching you to know how to act and behave, so look inward at how you act and speak and be sure you are the person you want your child to become.

350th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Quebec

This year marks the 350th Anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Church in Canada, with the establishment of the Archdiocese of Quebec. To mark this occasion, a Diocesan pilgrimage has been planned to take place from July 13-July 17, 2024. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the Cathedral Basilica of Notre Dame in Quebec City and the Holy Door, visits to the sites made famous by the saintly founders of the Canadian Church, visits to St.Anne de Beaupre, Notre-Dame-du-Cap in Trois Rivieres, Notre Dame Basilica and St.Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

The five day pilgrimage will include guided tours exploring Quebec's religious and cultural heritage and will be led by Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Hamilton. **Registration deadline is April 30th,2024**

For more information, please contact Matthew Trafford at the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis. Phone 905-528-7988 ext. 2339 catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com
[Pilgrimage to Québec: July 2024 \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](http://Pilgrimage to Québec: July 2024 (hamiltondiocese.com))

