

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



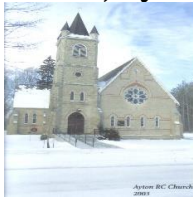
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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 31 , 2024-EASTER SUNDAY

Tue. Apr. 2 7:00 p.m. NO MASS
Wed. Apr.3 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by Donna & Dave Meyer
Thur. Apr. 4 9:00 a.m. Dan McDonald Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond
Fri. April 5 9:00 a.m. Dec'd members of the Andrade & Baird Families Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade
First Friday of the month - Adoration after mass
Sat. April 6. 9:00 a.m. Stephen Zurav Req'd by The Family
4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. April 7 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. April 6 – Susan Thurston
Sun. April 7 – 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. Apr 6. 5:30 pm. Mary Garvey Req'd by the Estate

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Apr. 7– 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Easter Vigil -Holy Saturday

First Reading

Genesis 1:1—2:2

God creates the heavens and the earth. (shorter form, Genesis 1:1,26-31a)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1-2,5-6,10,12,13-14,24,35 or Psalm 33:4-5,6-7,12-13,20-22

A song of praise to God, the Creator.

Second Reading

Genesis 22:1-18 (shorter form, Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18)

God puts Abraham to the test.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 16:5,8,9-10,11

The Lord shows us the path of life.

Third Reading

Exodus 14:15—15:1

The Israelites pass through the Red Sea.

Responsorial Psalm

Exodus 15:1-2,3-4,5-6,17-18

The song of praise that the Israelites sang after crossing the Red Sea

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 54:5-14

The Lord promises to redeem Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's redemption

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

A call to return to the Lord who is merciful

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6

The Lord sends his salvation.

Sixth Reading

Baruch 3:9-15,32—4:4

Israel is told to follow the way of God's commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8,9,10,11

A prayer of praise for God's commandments

Seventh Reading

Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28

The Lord will cleanse Israel for the sake of his holy name.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 42:3,5; 53:3,4 or Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6 or Psalm 51:12-13,14-15,18-19 A prayer of praise for God who saves us.

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Those who have been baptized have died with Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

God's mercy endures forever.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1-7

The women find that the stone from Jesus' tomb has been rolled back, and an angel reports that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Each of the four Gospels reports that the women who had been followers of Jesus discovered the empty tomb after his death. Today we read from the Gospel of Mark, which contains the most succinct of all the reports of Jesus' Resurrection in the Gospels.

Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark's Gospel. The report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion after verse 8. While some believe this is the original ending of Mark's Gospel, others theorize that there was a longer ending that was lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark's Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending, which is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter's companions. Scholars believe that this ending was not written by Mark, but was probably added by later copyists who sought to resolve the abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending, which scholars also believe was written by someone other than the evangelist Mark. Quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, however, indicating that this Longer Ending has been included as part of Mark's Gospel for some time. This Longer Ending, Mark 16:9-20, was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel. Portions of this Longer Ending are read as part of our weekday lectionary cycle and on the Feast of the Ascension in Cycle B. Without this Longer Ending, the Gospel of Mark would report no post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus.

In today's Gospel, Mark reports the names of three women who go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. They are Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James. According to Mark, these are the

same women who were among those watching Jesus' Crucifixion from a distance. Mark reports that these women were followers of Jesus in Galilee and that they ministered to him. Mark also reports that Mary Magdalene and Mary observed where Jesus' body was laid. After his death, these women come again to minister to Jesus.

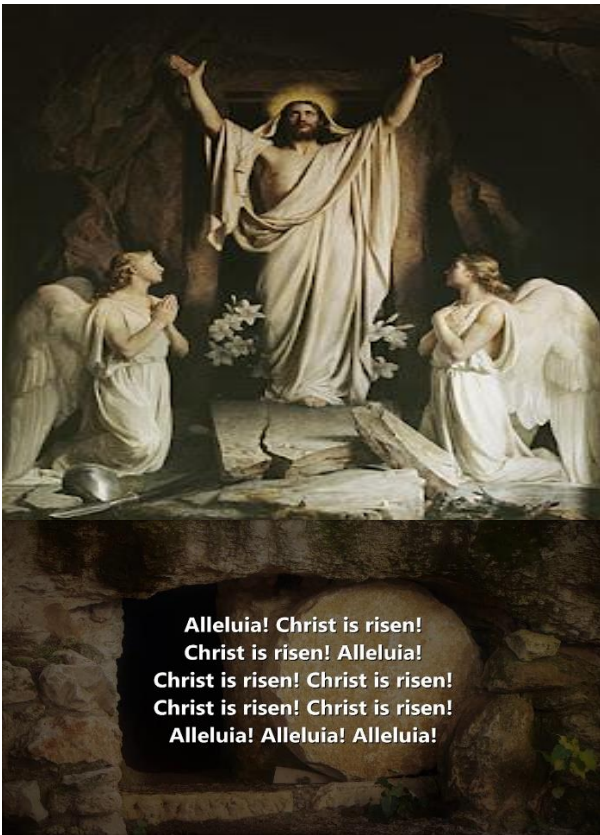
Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James, go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. It is clear from Mark's report of their conversation that they had not worked out all the necessary details. They know that a very large stone was used to seal Jesus' tomb, but they do not know how they are going to remove it. When they arrive at the tomb, they find that the stone has already been rolled back. Upon entering the tomb, they meet an angel who tells them that Jesus has been raised from the dead. The angel then recalls Jesus' promise to his disciples that he would go before them to Galilee.

Amazement would seem to be a natural reaction to the experience that the women had that morning. Yet the angel chides them for being amazed. Perhaps the reason is found in the words that follow, as the angel reminds them that Jesus himself had told his disciples that he would see them again in Galilee. If the women had listened and heeded Jesus' words, they would not have been surprised to find the tomb empty. This highlights a theme of Mark's Gospel: the disciples of Jesus are often clueless about the true identity of Jesus and confounded by his message to them.

Nonetheless, we can find some hope for the disciples, just as there is hope for us when we find ourselves unsure about Jesus. The disciples in today's Gospel were faithful followers of Jesus and remained present through Jesus' death on the cross. In fact, they came to the tomb that morning expecting to minister to Jesus once again. Instead, they were sent to minister in a different way, as apostles to Peter and the other disciples. Because we hear this Gospel proclaimed today, we know that they honored Jesus by accepting this mission.

"The power of this Holy night, dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, it casts out hatred, brings us peace & humbles earthly pride"





Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord :

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43

Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23

Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Colossians: Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

1 Corinthians: Let us celebrate this feast with new yeast.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had

risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body). The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

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.