

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



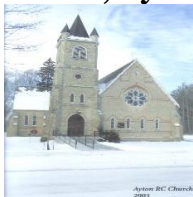
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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



May 5, 2024

Tue. May 7 7:00 p.m. Special Intentions
7:00 p.m. Stella McCabe Req'd by Betty Mogenson & Family
Wed. May 8 9:00 a.m John Kempers
Thur. May 9 9:00 a.m. Courtney Seniuk Req'd by Jane & Melvin Seniuk
Fri. May 10 9:00 a.m. Judi Murray
Sat. May 11 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. May 12 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. May 11 Cesar Arruda
Sun. May 12 Emma Westendorp
CONFESSIO: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or call Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. May 11 5:30 pm. The People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. May 12 11:00 am. The People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4

A song of praise for God's salvation

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

God is love.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this

teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded

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

Family Connection

In family life, we have many opportunities to show love in action. Each time we postpone a task to tend to the needs of another, we show ourselves to be on the path to following the example of love shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes the sacrifices we are called upon to make for others are small. But these small choices to love and to serve others prepare us for the larger choices and sacrifices that we may be called upon to make. If we are people who have practiced showing our love for others with generosity, we will also be people who are willing to lay down our lives for those we love.

As you gather as a family, talk about the meaning of the word *generosity*. Ask each family member to describe an action that shows generosity. To be generous is to give freely to others without counting the cost. Recall that generosity is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Introduce today's Gospel reading by saying that Jesus taught us to be generous in showing our love for one another. Read together today's Gospel, John 15:9-17. What examples did Jesus give to us that show this kind of love? (washing his disciples' feet; accepting death on the cross) Jesus helps us to show this kind of love to others. In today's Gospel, Jesus promised that God will give us whatever we ask for. One of the things we can ask for from God is a generous spirit so that we can love others as Jesus did. Conclude in prayer together by praying Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity.



The Pope's Intentions for May

For the formation of religious and seminarians:
We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through

their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the gospel.

The Month of May



DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

“Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee, Blessed art thou among women, and Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary , Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death” Amen

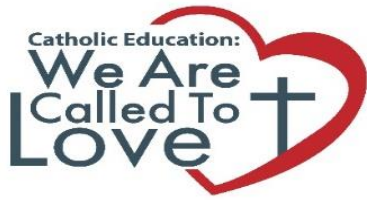
CWL

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

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!



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.

Michael House 2024 Baby Bottle Campaign, Help us celebrate parenthood and support the Moms and Babies at Michael House by participating in our annual baby bottle campaign. Donate your loose change, coins or bills into the baby bottle and help us fill it up by Fathers Day! The money raised goes a long way towards building stronger families. You can support us on-line at www.michaelhouse.ca by donating to a virtual baby bottle! Thank you



Blessed Catherine of Saint Augustine Feast Day: May 8th

Catherine of Saint Augustine was born on May 3, 1632, in Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte, Normandy, France. She was raised primarily by her maternal grandparents. They made a practice of offering hospitality to the poor and sick, and taught Catherine the virtue of charity. As early as age three, she expressed a strong desire to do God's will. She always remembered the lesson of a Jesuit who told her that "it is certain that one does God's will more in affliction, humiliation, and suffering than when one has everything one wants."

At age five, she had strong mystical prayer experiences where she felt direct contact with God. When she was only eight, she understood that the Holy Spirit was calling her to be a saint, and at age ten, she wrote a note giving herself to "Lady Mary". Catherine was witty and attractive and had a naturally cheerful character and a pleasant voice. She was also determined and like to show off and be noticed. She was attracted by pretty things, but despite her enjoyment of worldly life, when she was twelve she decided to enter the community of Hotel-Dieu of Bayeux, which was directed by Augustinian nuns, Hospital Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus.

She entered their novitiate on October 24, 1646, taking the name in religion of Catherine of St. Augustine. When she was fifteen, she offered herself for the Canada mission and promised "to live and die in Canada if God would open its door for her." She made solemn profession as a nun at age sixteen on May 4, 1648, in Nantes and set sail for Canada on May 27th. The ship arrived in Quebec on August 19th. Catherine set about learning the languages of the First Nations People, and looked after the sick. In the spring of 1649, she adopted as her model Saint Jean de Brebeuf, who had just been martyred. Between 1654 and 1668, she filled one after the other the offices of treasurer, director of the hospital, and novice director for her community.

Sister Catherine continued to experience deep prayer and at the same time, inner temptations causing her great turmoil. She often had health difficulties. In 1654, she promised to remain in Canada, and in 1658, she offered herself in a spirit of reparation for the salvation of New France. Therefore, she is considered a co-founder of the Church in Canada.

In 1665, she promised to work for "everything that I know to be most perfect and for the greater glory of God." She fell sick and died on May 8, 1668, at 36 years of age. At the time of her death, she had a reputation as a holy person in both Canada and France. Three years later, Father Paul Rageneau, S.J., published a memoir on her life and her spiritual combats, based on her correspondence and in the journal, she wrote at the request of her spiritual directors. She was beatified on April 23, 1989 by Pope John Paul II.

