

# St. Mary of the Purification Parish



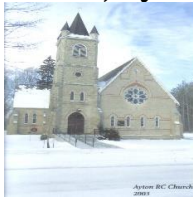
**230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0**  
**Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 [www.stmarymountforest.ca](http://www.stmarymountforest.ca)**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

*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



## **May 12, 2024- ASCENSION SUNDAY**

**Tue. May 14 7:00 p.m.** MaryEllen Vandebroek  
Req'd by the CWL

**7:00 p.m.** Victor Ruffolo Req'd by  
Helen & Bert Moore

**Wed. May 15 9:00 a.m** Stephen Zurav Req'd by  
The Family

**Thur. May 16 9:00 a.m.** Mary McIntee Req'd by  
Dan & Doris Tone

**Fri. May 17 9:00 a.m.** Special Intentions for  
Michael Hart Req'd by Florence Ricard

**Sat. May 18 4:00 p.m.** The People of the Parish

**Sun. May 19 9:00 a.m.** The People of the Parish

### **Lectors**

**Sat. May 18** Laura Cherry

**Sun. May 19** Melissa Reid

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

Contributions: Apr. 21 \$1,404.80; May 5 \$1,032.30

### **ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

**Sat. May 18 5:30 pm.** Shawn & William Hammond  
Req'd by Bill & Mary Hammond

Contributions: Apr. 21 \$105; May 5 \$125

### **ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

**Sun. May 19 11:00 am.** The People of the Parish

Contributions: Apr. 21 \$110; May 5 \$1,140

## **This Sunday's Reading:**

### **First Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 47:2-3,6-7,8-9*

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

### **Second Reading**

*Ephesians 1:17-23* or *Ephesians 4:1-13* (shorter form: Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13)

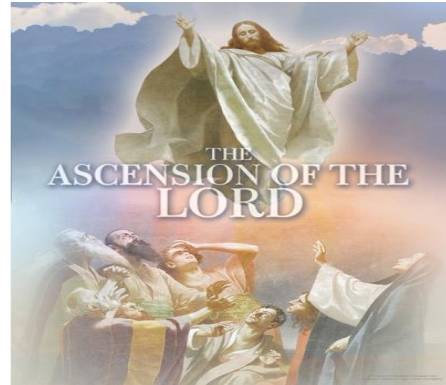
God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

### **Gospel Reading**

*Mark 16:15-20*

Jesus is taken to heaven, and the disciples go forth to preach as Jesus commanded.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading:**



(In places where the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is not designated as a Holy Day of Obligation, the feast is moved to the following Sunday.)

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark's Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark's report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark's Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark's Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This 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 is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today's celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending. There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels

Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark's Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark's Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

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

### Family Connection

It can be very important whom we sit next to. Any family that has tried to sit down to a family dinner or packed the car for a trip has heard children argue at least once about who should sit where. To sit next to someone, especially if that person is important, is to have a place of honor. Jesus has this place of honor seated at God's right hand, but there's more to this metaphor than where Jesus sits in relation to God. To be in the place of honor is also to be in a place of power. Knowing people in powerful places can be helpful. Our children remind us of this each time we are called upon to referee a conflict. Jesus, honored at God's right hand, is a powerful ally for us. As you gather as a family, recall a time when there was a discussion, or perhaps even an argument, about where people were going to sit. Talk about why it might be important to a person to

sit in a particular place. Observe that in today's Gospel we will learn about Jesus' place in heaven. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 16:15-20. Talk about what we might learn about the relationship between God and Jesus from today's Gospel and what we learn about Jesus' relationship to us. Observe that one of the things we learn is that Jesus continues to help us from this place of honor in heaven. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.



### 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

**A PRAYER FOR ALL MOTHERS**

*Loving God, thank you for all the mothers in the world.*

*Bless them so that they may always give life and nourishment to their children through their firm faith, generous and selfless love, good example and constant concern for their bodily and spiritual health.*

*Grant that we, their children, may honor them always with a spirit of profound love, respect and thanksgiving.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

Catholics striving for Holiness -

CWL

The next meeting is scheduled for Tues May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm  
Holy Name Society meeting is Wed May 15, 7 pm

First Holy Communion

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](mailto:stmarymtforest@wightman.ca)

Michael House 2024 Baby Bottle Campaign!

*Don't forget to pick up your baby bottle*

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

Message to Catholic Families from the President of the  
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on  
National Family and Life Week 13 to 19 May 2024

Dear Catholic families, National Family and Life Week (NFLW) this year will take place from 13 May to 19 May 2024. The theme for this year is "Love hopes all things," which is taken from Saint Paul's hymn on love in 1 Corinthians 13.7: "[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." This description of love is also at the heart of Pope Francis's reflection on the dynamics of spousal and family love in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, chapter 4. Through this theme, families are encouraged to cultivate, deepen, and renew Christian hope by drawing on scriptural reflection, family prayer, and the Sacraments.

May the Holy Spirit lead us into a "Love that hopes all things" during this Week. May our thoughts, words, and actions be inspired by the same Spirit, and may God hear the prayers of our Catholic families and grant them the hope that only He can give.

Sincerely yours in Christ, The Most Rev. William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary President of the Canadian  
Conference of Catholic Bishops

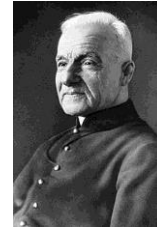
Prayer Intention: For the spiritual growth of families, the domestic church. Loving Father, may we look to the example of the Holy Family, which reminds us that the love of God is shown through our families, the domestic church. May we constantly remember that Jesus' life,

death, and Resurrection are together the source of our hope and that, through Him, we have the firm promise of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH** The data continues to grow on the dangers the internet can pose to children and on the benefit of time spent in play, both indoors and outdoors. For younger children this means play that uses their imaginations and does not include the internet. For older children, it may include such things as playing board games, doing puzzles and hiking. Whatever the age of your children, time without the internet supports good growth. So, spend time playing as a family and you will see the positive benefits for your children! Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 (ext. 2250)

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** The statement '*Families that pray together stay together*' is not just a cliché, but also a fact that has research data to prove its impact. To those of us with faith it makes sense, but we sometimes neglect to undertake what we know will be helpful to us. So, take the time to pray as a couple: first thing in the morning, before meals, before going to bed, at Mass and/or any other time you can. It is an easy way to connect and strengthen your relationship. Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 (ext. 2250)

Relic of Saint Andre Bessette



Coming to the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate  
28 Norfolk St. Guelph PH: 519-824-3951 or visit  
[www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com)

**Wednesday May 22, 2024**

6:00 pm – Exposition of the Relic of Saint Andre Bessette  
6:05 pm – Talk on Saint Brother Andre  
6:30 pm – Eucharistic Adoration  
7:00 pm – Holy Mass  
7:45 pm – Veneration of the Relic and Blessing with Oil of St. Joseph

Lead by Father Jomon Kalladanthiyil, CSC

