

St. Mary of the Purification Parish



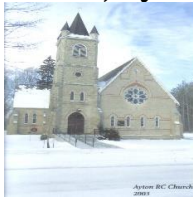
230 Queen Street East, P.O. Box 128, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0
Tel: 519-323-1054 Fax: 519-323-0117 www.stmarymountforest.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Closed, Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

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 19, 2024- PENTECOST SUNDAY

Tue. May 21 7:00 p.m. MaryEllen Vandenbroek
Req'd by CWL

7:00 p.m. Special Intentions for
Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika for their
Sanctification and Healing req'd by Slawek Gawlik

Wed. May 22 9:00 a.m. Stephen Zurav Req'd by
The Family

Thur. May 23 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by
Dan & Doris Tone

Fri. May 24 9:00 a.m. Intentions (birthday
wishes) for Michael Hart Req'd by Florence Ricard

Sat. May 25 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish

Sun. May 26 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. May 25 Florence Ricard

Sun. May 26 J. Von Westerholt

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

Contributions: May 12 \$1,236.65; Maintenance \$350

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. May 25 5:30 pm. Ernest Sr. Dunlop Req'd by
Virginia McComiskey

Contributions: May 12 \$145

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. May 26 11:00 am. Pavol Smolko Req'd by The
Family

Contributions: May 12 \$240

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

The Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles gathered
in Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34

God's Spirit renews the earth.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift
of the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The season of Easter concludes with today's
celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we
celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the
apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem;
this event marks the beginning of the Church. The
story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the
Apostles, today's first reading. The account in
today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how
Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his
disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place
on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to
reconcile these two accounts. It is to we know that
after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to
his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would
enable them to be his witnesses throughout the
world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-
23 reminds us about the integral connection
between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the
action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples
with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his
disciples to continue the work that he has begun:
"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He
breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and
sends them to continue his work of reconciliation
through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of
breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors
God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both
the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be
translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that
the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in
the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is
celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the
Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and
become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament
of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God
through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling
presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In
situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace
and harmony among people.

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

Family Connection

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the
Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that
the Church begins with the command to forgive.
Within the family, the domestic church, we learn

how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation. As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the Sign of Peace.

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



Is DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
 that never was it known
 that anyone who fled to thy protection,
 implored thy help,
 or sought thy intercession,
 was left unaided.
 Inspired by this confidence
 I fly unto thee,
 O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
 To thee I come,
 before thee I stand,
 sinful and sorrowful.
 O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
 despise not my petitions,
 but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
 Amen.

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



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.

Relic of Saint Andre Bessette



EVENING RETREAT

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 on the Holy Family Website at www.holyfamily.ca All are welcome!

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL Join us on **May 23, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** for the screening of **The Biggest Little Farm**. The film chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to develop a sustainable farm in harmony with nature. Guest speaker Lisa Conroy, Farm Educator from the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph will offer insight into their model of organic agriculture and the programs they provide. The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register at: <https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/> A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

Vocations: Pentecost Sunday The confused and fear-filled apostles were totally changed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they became

powerful and dynamic proclaimers of their faith in Jesus Christ. In today's Church God calls priests, religious and deacons to serve Him and to serve others especially by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If you feel God may be calling you to this ministry, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988



MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

May 20 - The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, reminds us how Jesus Himself, through an act of entrusting, willed that the divine maternity be extended to all men and women, that is, to the Church herself. In 2018, Pope Francis established the Monday after the Solemnity of Pentecost, the day on which the Church was born, as the date for this memorial. The title is not a new one. In 1980, Saint John Paul II, invited the faithful to venerate Mary as Mother of the Church. Even before that, on 21 November 1964, Saint Paul VI, on the conclusion of the third Session of the Second Vatican Council declared Mary as the "Mother of the Church". And in 1975, the Holy See proposed a votive Mass in honour of the Mother of the Church, without it becoming a memorial on the liturgical calendar. Besides these recent dates, we cannot forget how much the title of Mary, Mother of the Church, was already present in the thought of Saint Augustine and Saint Leo the Great, of Popes Benedict XV and Leo XIII, up until Pope Francis when, on 11 February 2018, the 160th anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin at Lourdes, he made this an obligatory memorial. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (Jn. 19:25-27) Mary "stands" under the cross. "Stands" – this indicates presence, continuity, the strength of being there. Unlike the disciples, Mary never left her Son Jesus along the way of the Cross. It is here that Jesus entrusted the "disciple whom he loved" to His Mother (and vice versa). Mary faced this moment with great dignity. She did not take flight in the face of life's events, but remained "standing". Another "let it be done to me" Mary was invited by her Son to say "let it be done to me" once again. It is a new, a more convinced and mature "yes". Her "standing by the cross" matures her experience of faith and of

motherhood, making her capable of going beyond. From the beginning, Mary's heart had been riddled with questions: "she pondered what sort of greeting this could be" (Lk. 1:29). Even in front of Simeon questions arose: "this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk. 2:34-35). Mary and Joseph "were amazed at what was said about him" (Lk. 2:33). Mary did not say, "let it be done to me" once and for all. Her consent grew, it matured through what happened in her life, including her Son's "Cross", by which she "stood". It is here, in this fidelity Mary achieved, that she received her new mission, a sort of "supplement" to her motherhood that culminated in her becoming "Mother of the Church". She is Mother because she regenerates us in grace, provided that we learn to grow to "the full stature of Christ" (see Eph. 4:7-13).

The Christian life anchored in the mystery of the Cross This memorial "will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, explains the decree establishing this memorial. As Mary knew how to "stand" by the Cross, without evading or fleeing the difficulty of understanding and of suffering, so too Mary, as Mother, knows how to "stand" by each of those whom her Son has made her children. This leads us to know how to invoke her as "Mother of the Church": Mother, help our faith! Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise. Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith. Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature. Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe are never alone. Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord! (Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter, Lumen Fidei)

Have a safe and blessed Victoria Day weekend !



