

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

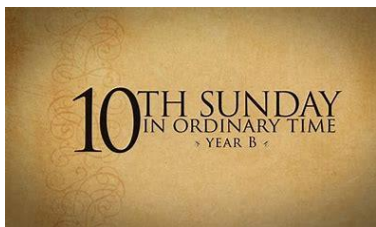
SCHOOL:

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*



June 9, 2024

Tue. June 11 7:00 p.m. Catherine Zeinstra Req'd by the CWL

7:00 p.m. Josef Req'd by Katarina Smolko

Wed. June 12 9:00 a.m. Judi Murray Req'd by The Smolko Family

Thur. June 13 9:00 a.m. Courtney Seniuk Req'd by Jane & Melvin Seniuk

Fri. June 14 9:00 a.m. Mary McIntee Req'd by John, Dan & Catherine O' Connor

Sat. June 15 4:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sun. June 16 9:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. June 15 Cesar Arruda

Sun. June 16 Emma Westendorp

CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or call

Fr. Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

Contributions: PAR \$4,377 ; May 26 \$1,449 ; Jun 2 \$1,173

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. June 15 5:30 pm. Stephen Zurav Req'd by The Family

Contributions: PAR \$90; May 26 \$180 ; Jun 2 \$95

ST. PETER'S, Aytton

Sun. June 16 11:00 am. Walter Hawkins Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Contributions: Jun 2 \$150

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Genesis 3:9-15

Adam and Eve eat the fruit of the forbidden tree.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8 (7bc)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

We believe and so we speak.

Gospel Reading

Mark 3:20-35

Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In the section of the Gospel just before these verses, Jesus calls his Twelve Apostles. Now he performs his first exorcism. It is told within the context of conflict with his family.

A crowd so large has gathered that Jesus and his disciples are not even able to eat their bread. His family comes to take him away because they think he is beside himself. And the scribes think he is possessed by the devil. Jesus points out to them the absurdity of their thinking that he uses the devil to cast out demons. In fact, it is Jesus who ties up the strong man, Beelzebub, and overcomes him. He concludes with a brief saying about the forgiveness of sins. All sin can be forgiven except for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It's not known exactly what he means by this. It could be that the only sin that can't be forgiven is the one that cuts you off from the source of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit. Mark then brings Jesus' family back into the picture. They are not presented in a critical light but are just trying to see him. This gives Jesus the opportunity to point out that family for him is not based on blood. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/>

Family Connection Families are places of beginnings. Within our family, we first learn what it means to be part of a community. We share a closeness and experience mutual understanding and support. We learn how to love one another, how to ask for and receive forgiveness, and how to apply all these lessons to the world outside our homes.

As you gather as a family, talk about what makes your family special. Share some of the lessons you have learned together about love, forgiveness, and understanding. Then read today's Gospel, Mark 3:20-35. Jesus wants us to understand that by doing God's will, we are part of a bigger family. Choosing to follow Jesus, being his disciple, means we must treat one another with kindness and mercy. We must become a family. Conclude by asking God to bless your family and to help you do God's will by seeing all his people with the same kind of love and compassion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary.

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for June

For migrants fleeing their homes: We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

The Month of June
Dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Children in our parishes benefit from the Catechetical Correspondence Program each year for ongoing religious education and preparation for the Sacraments. We need volunteers to support the program! If you are willing to accompany these children in their learning journey, please reach out to the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com. To learn more about the Catechetical Correspondence Program, please visit: <https://bit.ly/DOHCCC>

Catholic Womens League

- Next CWL meeting is June 11, 2024 at 1:00 pm.
- CWL Tea Party - All ladies of the parish are welcome. Friday June 28, 2024 at 2:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the church.
- St. Mary Auxiliary (formerly HNS) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 26 at 7:00 pm

TO INFORM, ENCOURAGE AND HEAL

June is Indigenous History Month in Canada. We invite you take time in this season to learn more about the Catholic Church's commitment to ongoing reconciliation efforts with Indigenous communities through a four-week learning opportunity through the VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation). To learn more about this study, please visit us at www.hamiltondioceselearns.com.



60th Wedding Anniversary

Please join us in congratulating Frank and Jo-Anne McKenna as they celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 13th. Congratulations!

THE CATHOLIC DATE NIGHT

Hosted by Kathleen and Jesse LeBlanc of Found Together. Are date nights with your spouse (or future spouse!) turning into Netflix binge nights? Do you want to grow in faith and prayer together? Do you wish you had a community of Catholic couples to truly journey with? It's time to level up your marriage vocation with The Catholic Date Night! Enjoy the LIVE monthly date nights from the comfort of your own home. Subscribe at www.wearefoundtogether.com/datenights and follow them on Instagram @TheCatholicDateNight for date night inspiration and more!



Bring your baby bottles back Sunday June 16th

Please remember to fill your baby bottles for the Michael House Baby Bottle Campaign and return them next Sunday. Cheques can be made payable to Michael House and a receipt will be issued to all donations over \$20.00 Michael House is a non-denominational, Christian-based charitable agency located in Guelph Ontario dedicated to providing housing and services to young pregnant and parenting women in need of a supportive environment. Thank you for your support! For more information, call Erwin at 647-524-5585 or email to erwin@michaelhouse.ca

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

Marriage Tip #139 Our Catholic faith tells us that the vocation of marriage has a twofold purpose: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. It can seem challenging for each spouse to help their husband/wife to be the best person they can be, but when we love, we want the best for the other. It isn't about criticizing and demanding change, but about helping our spouse to grow in faith and maturity and to become the best person they can be. It is not an easy task, but one that brings great reward to each spouse, children and all those connected to us in any way.

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

K of C Strawberry Supper

Knights of Columbus Hall, between Walkerton and Mildmay

June 23, 2024 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Advance tickets only until June 15th. Adults \$25.00, youth between 4 & 10 \$8.00, under 4 are free. Tickets may be purchased from Holst Office Supplies and Brown's Drug Store in Walkerton or you may contact Doreen at 519-881-1465 or Wayne at 519-881-3342 to arrange for tickets. Proceeds from this supper will go to Community Projects.



Saint Anthony of Padua Feast Day – June 13

One of the most loved friends in heaven is St. Anthony of Padua. Your church might have a statue of him, and you might even have a holy card with his picture on it. People ask St. Anthony for help all the time, and for the most ordinary things, and that's okay. Like a good friend, St. Anthony is always willing to help. People especially like to ask St.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Anthony to help them find things that are lost. In a minute, we'll find out why. We turn to St. Anthony for help with our ordinary problems, but his life was really anything but ordinary. St. Anthony was born in Portugal, and when he grew up, he studied to be a priest. He was a brilliant student and knew the Bible backward and forward. Someone once said that if all the Bibles in Europe were burned, it wouldn't be a terrible problem. People could just go to St. Anthony, and he could write the Scriptures down for them! Anthony was a good teacher, but one day something happened that inspired him to follow Jesus in a slightly different way. Five Franciscan priests had traveled to Morocco, a country in Africa, to preach the good news about Jesus. They were brutally killed, and what was left of their bodies was brought to the town where Anthony lived. Anthony couldn't sit still any longer. More than anything, he wanted to go to Morocco himself and try to give the love of Jesus to the people who had done this terrible thing. No one seemed to need Christ's love more than people who would torture and kill innocent men. So Anthony joined the Franciscan order, got on a ship, and sailed to Morocco. Things didn't work out as he had hoped, though. He fell ill soon after he arrived and had no choice but to return to Europe. Anthony's plans weren't working out, but perhaps that's because God had something else in mind for him. The ship Anthony was on, the one he thought was taking him back to university life in Portugal, got blown off course by a sudden strong wind. It went straight to the island of Sicily, where a huge meeting of Franciscan brothers happened to be taking place at that very moment. Anthony didn't speak at the meeting, since he was really an outsider. He sat silently and listened. Perhaps he even heard St. Francis of Assisi speaking of holy poverty as the way to follow Jesus and of how important it is to preach the love of Jesus to all people, especially the poor. After the meeting, Anthony continued to live a quiet life as a friar, working in a hospital in Italy, taking the humblest jobs of all. Back in Portugal, Anthony had already begun to gain fame as a scholar and teacher, but he said not a word about that in the hospital. He worked hard in the kitchen and the garden, helping the sick in the most ordinary, everyday ways.

Then one day something happened that was almost as strange as the ship wandering off course. There was a large meeting of Franciscans and Dominicans, but oddly enough, the plans for who would give the sermon at the meeting fell through. There were plenty of fine preachers present, but

none of them were prepared. Those in charge of the meeting went down the line of friars. "Would you care to give the sermon, Brother? No? What about you, Father? No? Well, what about you, Fr. Anthony—is that your name?" Slowly, Anthony rose, and just as slowly, he began to speak. The other friars sat up to listen. There was something very special about Anthony. He didn't use complicated language, but his holiness and love for God shone through his words. He was one of the best preachers they had ever heard! From that point on, Anthony's quiet life in the hospital kitchen was over. For the rest of his life, he traveled around Italy and France, preaching sermons in churches and town squares to people who came from miles around. His listeners heard Anthony speak about how important it is for us to live every day in God's presence. As a result of his words, hundreds of people changed their lives and bad habits, bringing Jesus back into their hearts.

Anthony wasn't always successful, though. In most cities, businesspeople would shut down their shops to come listen to Anthony. But in one city the townspeople closed their hearts to him and listened with hard faces and harsh eyes. St. Anthony had done his best. He shrugged and turned around. The fish in the bay poked their heads out of the water to see what was going on, and St. Anthony started preaching to them instead! Now, back to the first question. Why do we ask St. Anthony to help us find lost things? St. Anthony had a book of psalms that was quite special to him. It was special because in those days before the printing press, books were rare and expensive. But it was also special because it contained many notes Anthony had made to help him in his preaching and teaching. Late one night, a young Franciscan decided to leave the community. He'd had enough of that life, so he made plans to just sneak out in the middle of the night. He saw Anthony's book of psalms on his way out, and he snatched it up and ran. He knew that he could sell this precious book for a good deal of money. Of course, Anthony was quite upset. He prayed that God would change the young man's heart and bring him back to the Franciscan life. He also hoped that while God was at it, he would return Anthony's book too. The next day, the young man returned, tired and ashamed, with Anthony's book. He also brought back his own gifts and talents, which he decided once more to offer to the Franciscan community.

So that's why we like to ask St. Anthony to help us find lost things. He was an extraordinary man who can still help us from heaven, even in the most ordinary ways.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources

