



*Welcome to
St. Mary of the Purification Parish Mount Forest ON*

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. Mary of the Purification
230 Queen St. E, Box 128 Mt. Forest



St. Peter's Mission
943 Caroline St, Ayton NOG 1Co



St. Thomas the Apostle
#5800 Hwy 89, Harriston NOG 1Zo



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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 1, 2024

Tue. Sept 3 NO MASS

Wed. Sept 4 NO MASS

Thu. Sept 5 NO MASS

Fri. Sept. 6 9:00 a.m Mary McIntee Req'd by Dale Williams

First Friday of the month, Adoration after Mass

Sat. Sept. 7 First Saturday

9:00 a.m. Mary, Arthur & John McDonald Req'd by The Family

4:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sun. Sept 8 9:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Sept. 7 Florence Ricard

Sun. Sept. 8 Colleen Dalla Costa

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

Contributions: Aug 18 \$1,036; Aug 25 \$1,614.10

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Sept. 7 5:30 p.m. People of the Parish

Contributions: Aug 18 \$320; Aug 25 \$155

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Sept. 8 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Contributions: Aug 18 \$260; Aug 25 \$70

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15:2-3,3-4,4-5

Those who do justice will find favor with God.

Second Reading

James 1:17-18,21b-22,27

James teaches that Christians should be doers of the Word.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.

Background on the Gospel Reading This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his

antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning. Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways. www.loyolapress.com

The Pope's Monthly Intention

September – "For the cry of the Earth"

"We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live."

CWL

- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 10th at 1:00 pm.
- The CWL North Regional meeting will be held on Saturday September 14 at 9:00 am at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Owen Sound
- St. Mary Auxiliary (HNS) next meeting is Wednesday September 18th at 7:00 pm.

For more information, please call Colleen at 519-323-9112

The Holy Cross Cemetery Board is in need of a Caretaker for the Holy Cross Cemetery. Duties include cutting grass and looking after/organizing burials.

This is a paid position. If you are interested in this position, please contact any of the following: Parish office 519-323-1054 ; Mike Hoffman 519-323-0357; Bev Wilkin 519-323-2187 or John Jeffrey 519-323-2391

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH – FORMOSA Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations

testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, September 7th at Immaculate Conception Church (212 Concession Rd 12, Formosa, Ontario). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

ANNUAL RED MASS The "Red Mass" is the name given to the Eucharistic celebration during which the guidance of the Holy Spirit is invoked for divine wisdom for all those who plead, interpret and apply the law for the welfare of the people. The Mass takes its name from the red vestments worn by the clergy at a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, and the red robes traditionally worn by the judges. You are welcome to attend this year's Red Mass in Hamilton Diocese, which will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, at St. Augustine Parish, Dundas, at 9:30 am on **Wednesday, September 11**. The Mass will be followed by a brunch, with guest speaker Mr. Sam Mercanti, the author of "*Risen From the Shop Floor: Lessons from an Entrepreneur*". For more information, or to register for the Brunch, e-mail Sam Garcia at sgarcea@confentegarcea.com.



On behalf of everyone at Michael House, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your participation in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. Your church, **St. Mary of the Purification - Mount Forest**, played an essential role in our success, and we are thrilled to share that your congregation raised **\$813.94** as part of this initiative. Together we raised over **\$50,000!** This incredible achievement is a testament to the generosity and compassion of your congregation. Your support directly impacts the lives of the women and children we serve, helping them build brighter futures and find the support they need during challenging times. We look forward to partnering with you again next year for the 2025 Baby Bottle Campaign. Your continued support means the world to us and the families we serve. Thank you once again for being a vital part of our mission.

Maria Borda

Fundraising Coordinator

Michael House Pregnancy & Parenting Support Services

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH As school begins a new, we set up new schedules and set boundaries and guidelines to help our children achieve the best success they can. It is a great time to incorporate prayer, perhaps before meals and bed, into the family routine. Let your children know that speaking to God at any time is an easy

way to ask for support and share their joys. God is always ready to listen and provide help; this is a proven way to help your children succeed! (From: Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH Relationship experts remind us that quantity and quality time matter in relationships. Take a moment to assess your relationship: how much time are you spending together and are you considering how you connect during those times. You might share a movie, family time and chores, but be sure there are times when you talk directly to each other, share your joys and sorrows, discuss your plans as a couple. Staying connected takes effort but ensures a strong and everlasting love. (From: Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



St. Mary Catholic School Construction Update

We are excited to share that we will be obtaining partial occupancy of St. Mary Catholic School in Mount Forest to welcome back students to this site as early as Monday, September 9, 2024.

After an ongoing renovation beginning in February following a fire at the school, we will be transitioning students back into the newly renovated space through the month of September from their current sites at St. Mary Catholic Church and First Baptist Church.

The principal and teachers will be communicating directly with families over the next few weeks to share next steps as they prepare for the start of the school year on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

We offer our sincere thanks to the contractor, tradespeople, and our Facilities Staff for their tremendous efforts to complete this project. We also thank First Baptist Church and St. Mary Catholic Church for their generosity in providing temporary accommodations since February and to the many community businesses, service groups, and families that offered their support. Thank you as well to the St. Mary Mount Forest staff and students who continued to persevere through these challenging circumstances. We are thrilled to be back at St. Mary Catholic School in the coming weeks. www.wellingtoncdsb.ca



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day: September 8

We know that everyone has a birthday. The Bible doesn't say anything about Mary's birth, but we know that she was born. Like all parents, Mary's parents—we call them Joachim and Ann—probably took one look at their newborn daughter and knew that she was special.

Joachim and Ann loved God very much, and they were filled with gratitude to God for the gift of a child. They raised Mary as a child of God, teaching her to love and serve God. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, she already had great faith in God. Her strong faith and trust allowed her to say yes to God's plan for her. We cannot be certain what the future holds for any newborn infant, but we do know that the life of each person has meaning and purpose. When Mary was born, the world did not know who she was. Sometimes others—and maybe even you—don't see how special you are. Maybe you forget that God is calling you, too, right now, to do what Mary did—to bring Jesus into the world. When we celebrate his mother's birth, we honor Jesus too.

Today thank God for the gift of life, and give honor to both Mary and Jesus by showing respect and concern for one another—remembering that God has created each person with love and with a call to something very special in life. www.loyolapress.com



Have a safe and Blessed Labour Day Weekend!

Labour Day in Canada is celebrated on the first Monday of September. It originally gave workers the chance to campaign for better working conditions or pay. The day is now part of a long weekend for many Canadians.

