



*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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29 , 2024

Tue. Oct 1 7:00 pm – Bev Mothersell Req'd by The Family
7:00 pm – Dec'd members of the Braun Family Req'd by Paul & Mary MacMillan

Wed. Oct 2 9:00 am- Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller

Thu. Oct 3 9:00 am- Joan, Mary & Arthur McDonald Req'd by The Family

Fri. Oct 4 9:00 am – Dec'd members of the Tone & Dinneen families Req'd by The Family

(First Friday Adoration after mass)

Sat. Oct 5 9:00 am - First Saturday –Sean MacMillan Req'd by Wayne & Cheryl Allen

4:00 pm - People of the Parish

Sun. Oct 6 9:00 am - People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Oct 5 Florence Ricard

Sun. Oct 6 Colleen Dalla Costa

Contributions: Sep.22 \$1,346

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

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Oct 5 5:30 p.m. George & Audrey Townsend and Allan Eaton Req'd by Roslyn Fortier

5:30 p.m. Deceased Family & Friends

Req'd by Bill and Mary Hammond

Contributions: Sep 22 \$185

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Oct 6 11:00 a.m. Madelaine Widmeyer Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

11:00 a.m. – Jack Hawkins Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Contributions: Sep 22 - \$75

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Family Connection

The second part of today's Gospel contains a strong message for those who share the responsibility of fostering faith. It is indeed an awesome responsibility. Today's Gospel reminds us that faith is a lifelong journey toward God. We don't always get it all or even get it right. But we pray for the grace to acknowledge and build upon even the smallest signs of faith, in ourselves and in others.

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord bestows his spirit on the seventy elders.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8,10,12-13,14

The Law of the Lord brings joy.

Second Reading

James 5:1-6

James chastises the rich.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Jesus teaches that whoever is not against him is for him.

There are plenty of obstacles that might prevent the growth of faith. Let us pray that we are not contributing to the obstacles that might hinder another person's faith in Jesus.

As you gather as a family, observe that there are things in our lives that nurture our faith and things that can hinder it. Talk about some of the things that nurture our faith—healthy family relationships, healthy friendships, good literature, and so on. Name some of the things that might be an obstacle to faith—unhealthy relationships, scandals, and so on. Observe that Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that we are to do everything we can to help one another have faith in Jesus and do all that we can to avoid creating obstacles that might hinder another person's faith. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48. Conclude by praying together that we will be a family that helps each other grow in faith. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 19, or the Lord's Prayer. www.loyolapress.com



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

FRASSATI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM The Office of Youth Ministry will be holding a Catholic leadership program for young people in grade ten (ages 15-16). This program will equip them and encourage them to draw closer to Christ and their respective communities. The goal of this program is that young people will join us for opportunities for formation as Catholic leaders and then go back to their respective communities to turn their learning into practice. Registration for this program closes October 25th and can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/frassati2024>

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH – HAMILTON Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to participate in our Diocesan Vocations Month under the patronage of Our Lady of the Rosary by attending 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, October 5th at Canadian Martyrs Church (1349 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

The Pope's Monthly Intention

October –For a Shared Mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

CWL UPCOMING

- THE NEXT CWL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 1:00 PM ON TUES. OCT. 8TH , IN THE ENGLAND ROOM

- ST. MARY AUXILIARY (FORMERLY HNS) MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WED. OCT. 9 AT 7 PM. ALL GENTLEMEN OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THERE WILL BE LOTS OF BUSINESS TO COVER AS WELL AS NEW EXECUTIVES TO BE VOTED IN. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE !

Diocesan Calendar

Mon-Rev. William Clarke, S.J.	Thu-Very Rev. Paul Panaretos, S.J.
Tue-Rev. Eric Jensen, S.J.	Fri-Rev. Wieslaw Berdowicz, S.Chr.
Wed-The Holy Guardian Angels	Sat-Rev. Valentine Onwunjiogu

HEARTACHE TO HEALING - GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT ST. MICHAEL PARISH, WATERLOO - Grief support provides companionship on the long journey through the grief process. Our support group follows the process developed by Dr. Bill Webster, an experienced leader in grief counselling. All who have suffered a loss are welcome, regardless of how much time has passed since your loss. **A monthly informal drop-in support** is available at St. Michael Parish on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; 7pm in the Parish Resource Centre/Library. **The 6- week Program-theory and sharing** runs Wednesday evenings (6 consecutive weeks) from October 16th to November 20th at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo. Registration is required by October 1st for this program by contacting our Parish office 519-884-9311, or email parish@stmichaelw.ca.

ACT II (SEPARATED & DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP) WATERLOO 3rd Tuesday of every month - 7:30pm at St. Michael Parish, Waterloo - Our Act II monthly informal support

group will continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. With the support of others, you can begin to heal the emotional, social and spiritual devastation of divorce. Join us when you can. Visit the website (www.stmichaelw.ca/separated-and-divorced), or contact our Parish office 519-884-9311, or email parish@stmichaelw.ca for more information.

STRUGGLING MARRIAGE? FIND HOPE WITH RETROUVAILLE Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy? Does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – a program designed to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It has proven positive results for struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is Oct. 18-20, 2024. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email teamrecine@gmail.com.

ECHOES OF HOPE – A RETREAT DAY FOR CATECHISTS November 23, 2024 10 am – 4 pm. Join us as we journey towards the Jubilee of Hope in prayer, conversation, and thanksgiving for the gift of ministry. Our day will include group and personal reflection, prayer, and a catechist resource fair. **Held at Mount Mary Retreat Centre, 437 Wilson Street, East, Ancaster.** Registration fee includes lunch, refreshments and materials \$25 pp. Register here: bit.ly/echoesofhope

HEART TO HEART – Issue September 20, 2024 (#552)

CELEBRATIONS OF INSTALLATION OF NEW PASTORS will take place throughout the autumn months. On October 5th, during a Mass at St.Mary’s Church in Owen Sound, Father Paul Matthew Vellimoozhayil, will be installed as Pastor of St.Mary’s and the mission churches in the northern part of the Diocese. On October 6th Father Gregory Merkley will be installed as Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Stoney Creek. We pray for all of our Pastors, that God will bless their ministry of service in the Diocese.



Guardian Angels Feast Day: October 2

Here is a riddle for you: *I am always with you, but you never see me. I am not God, but I was created by God. I protect and guide you. Who am I?*

God gave us guardian angels to protect and guide us. Saint Jerome wrote that the human soul is so valuable in heaven that every human person has a guardian angel from the moment the person comes into being. These pure spirits, which we can neither see nor feel, play an important role in our lives. Jesus refers to them when he says, “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:10). Angels are messengers from God. The word angel comes from the Greek word for “messenger.” In a very real way, these powerful spirits point out to us the ways of God. Guardian angels assist us in work or study. In times of temptation, these spiritual beings direct us to do good. Thomas Aquinas said that angels are the most excellent of creatures because they have the greatest intelligence next to God. Perhaps the guardian angels are best known for protecting us from physical danger, but their main role is to care for the salvation of our souls. It is wonderful to know that God has promised to love, protect, and be with us always. One way he does this is through the care of the angels. Whenever you meet with danger or discouragement, your guardian angel is your personal, heavenly bodyguard. The angels also offer prayers to God for us. Because angels always see and hear God, they can intercede for us. We should love our guardian angels, respect them, and pray to them.

In early Christianity there was no feast for the guardian angels, just one for the archangels. But in the 15th and 16th centuries, the feast of the Guardian Angels was unofficially celebrated in Austria, Spain, and Portugal. In 1608 Pope Paul V made it a universal feast. In doing so, he helped to make us aware of the guardian angels, not just one day in October, but every day of our lives.



Prayer to our Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God’s love, commits me here. Ever this day, (or night), be at my side, to light , to guard, to rule and guide. Amen