



Welcome to St. Mary of the Purification Parish

We are delighted you could join us for today's Mass

Tel: 519-323-1054 www.stmarymountforest.ca  

OFFICE HOURS: Closed Monday Open Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Parish Staff

Pastor *Rev. Michael Anderson, P.P.*
Bookkeeper *Annette Connolly*
Secretary *Dee Dee Eurig*
Custodian *Virginia McComiskey*

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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



OUR 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 page 2 of the bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm or by appointment. Kindly contact the parish office.

MARRIAGE: Please notify the Pastor at least 6 months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please contact the parish office.

PASTORAL CARE NEEDS:

Please contact the parish office if you require:
- 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 of a loved one occurs in the family, please contact the parish office.

VOCATIONS &

RELIGIOUS LIFE: For information or assistance, see www.hamiltonvocations.com

DIOCESAN

NEWSLETTER: Visit the Diocese of Hamilton to subscribe to the online diocesan newsletter visit www.hamiltondiocese.com

PARISH SCHOOL:

St. Mary Catholic School



Mount Forest

**Building Character
Through Christ**

390 Parkside Dr, Mt Forest 519-323-2586

www.stmarymountforest.wellingtoncdsb.ca

PARISH REQUESTS:

Keep love for your parish alive in your Will & expression of sympathy.

ADORATION: 1st Friday every month after Mass. All are welcome!

Please note: The deadline for Bulletin submission is Wed. a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024



Tue. Dec 17 7:00 pm † Marie Sokoloski Req'd by Adell Mueller and † Aidan Felsbourg Req'd by Kathleen Boone

Wed. Dec 18 9:00 am † Yolanda McCann Req'd by Denise McCann

Thu. Dec 19 9:00 am † Joe, Rita & Jane Tangney Req'd by Wayne & Cheryl Allen

Fri. Dec 20 9:00 am † Arthur, Mary & John McDonald Req'd by The Family

Sat. Dec 21 4:00 pm † People of the Parish

Sun. Dec 22 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Sat. Dec 21 Cesar Arruda

Sun. Dec 22 Debra Ross

CONFESSION: Tue. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm or call Father Mike at 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Dec 21 5:30 pm † People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Dec 22 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

A savior is promised to Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6

A song of praise to God our savior

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

Background on the Gospel Reading This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and

calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles. In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Family Connection

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources

Pope Francis –December Prayer Intentions

For pilgrims of hope: Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

www.livingwithchrist.ca

*The Month of December is dedicated to
The Immaculate Conception*



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve - Tuesday Dec 24

Mt. Forest 7:00 p.m.

Harriston at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day- Wednesday Dec 25

Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m.

Ayton at 11:00 a.m.

New Years Eve –Tuesday Dec 31

Mt. Forest 4:00 pm

Harriston 5:30 pm

New Years Day Wednesday Jan 1st

Ayton 11:00 am

HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE



Sacrament of Reconciliation Season of Advent

During the season of Advent there will be more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please come to the place and at the time most convenient for you:

St. Peter Ayton- Wednesday December 18th

5:30pm-7:30pm

St. Mary of the Purification Mt .Forest- Friday

December 20th 9:30am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:30 pm;

5:30pm-9:30pm

Holy Cross Cemetery Board

1. The Holy Cross Cemetery Board is looking for a person to fill a part time position as Cemetery Care Taker. If interested, please send your resume to the Parish Office with cover letter. We will be taking applications until January 1, 2025
2. The Holy Cross Cemetery Board is looking for people who are interested in serving as a board member. This is a voluntary position where individuals help with the management of the cemetery, oversee special projects and help keep our cemetery up to date. If you are interested, please contact Father Mike. Thank you.

Christmas Cantata

Come join us for this year's Christmas Cantata. Directed by Derek Moore, Sunday Dec. 22 at 2:30 Mt. Forest United Church and Monday Dec. 23 at 7:30 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church in Arthur.



COFFEE SUNDAY



Please join us in the TD Smith Parish hall following mass on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month. All are welcome !

A "LONGEST NIGHT" CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thursday December 19 @ 7pm

Loyola House, Ignatius Jesuit Centre

For many of us, Christmas can be a painful time of the year. It may be a first Christmas without a loved one or

it may be that Christmas has been difficult for a long time.

Join Rev. Monika Wiesner and Jesuit Fr. Dirk Dunfee for an evening of prayer, connection and comfort as we welcome you to Loyola House's first-ever Longest Night of the Year Christmas Service. For more information see <https://ignatiusguelph.ca/event/longest-night-2024/>



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH #164 December is an exciting month for children and families with the coming of Christmas. December is also the month we prepare for Christmas during Advent! Advent, by definition, means we are preparing for something important, which is the coming of Jesus Christ. Celebrating with an Advent wreath allows us to light a candle each week, offering a chance to discuss, on four occasions, what Christ's coming to the world means to all of us. The candles (hope, faith, joy and peace) open up the opportunity to remind our children what each candle represents and, of course, the real meaning of the season. Santa comes one night per year, but Jesus is with us always and is a true gift in our lives. This Advent, remember to make Christ the reason for the season.

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



Saint Olympias Feast Day December 17

Throughout church history, holy widows have become friends with priests and bishops, supporting them spiritually and materially, including Olympias and John Chrysostom. A member of Constantinople's wealthy elite, St. Olympias enjoyed a happy marriage to the prefect, Nebridius. However, when her husband died young, the lovely widow decided to remain single. She refused all suitors, including one advanced by the emperor Theodosius himself.

He punished her by placing her estate under public administration. But she made a striking appeal in 391, and he restored her control over her fortune. Olympias had already decided to live simply, and she began to divest herself, giving everything away to the needy and to the church. Her biographer described her largesse in this way:

Olympias distributed all of her immense wealth and assisted everyone simply and without distinction. She surpassed in generosity to all the Samaritan whose story is told in the gospels. Immediately after the distribution of all her goods, she gave to the archbishop, John Chrysostom, for the cathedral church of the royal city, ten thousand pounds of gold, twenty thousand of silver and all of her real estate situated in all the provinces. Then by the divine will she was ordained deaconess of this holy cathedral of God. And she built a monastery at an angle south of it. John also ordained as deaconesses of the cathedral her three relatives, Elisanthia, Martyria and Palladia. Thus the four deaconesses could stay together in the convent that Olympias had founded.

All were amazed at the holiness of these women: their constant praise and thanksgiving to God, their "charity which is the bond of perfection" (see Colossians 3:14), and their stillness. No man or woman from the outside was permitted to visit them. The holy patriarch John, the only exception, came regularly to sustain the women with his wise teaching. Olympias, like the women who served Christ, prepared the archbishop's daily meals and sent them to him. Only a wall separated his residence from the convent. She fed him not only before the plots against him, but also after he was banished. Up to the end of his life, she provided for all his expenses as well as for those who were with him in exile. Olympias also constructed a hospital and orphanage near the convent. She regularly provided hospitality to Christian leaders from all over the East, including Gregory of Nyssa.

When John Chrysostom fell afoul of the empress and was banished, she supported him. He reciprocated by encouraging Olympias when officials persecuted her. Optatus, the prefect of Constantinople, twice banished her for refusing to accept Arsacius and his successor, Atticus, the usurpers who had replaced John as archbishop. Atticus finally dis-banded her community and ended her charitable works. Olympias died in exile in 408, a year after the death of John Chrysostom.

