



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

Email:

manderson@hamiltondiocese.com
stmarybookkeeper@wightman.ca
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



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.

4th Sunday of Advent
December 22 , 2024



Tue. Dec 24 7:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
Wed. Dec 25 9:00 am NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Thu. Dec 26 9:00 am No Mass
Fri. Dec 27 9:00 am No Mass

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sat. Dec 28 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Sun. Dec 29 9:00 am † People of the Parish

Lectors

Tue. Dec 24 7:00 pm Colleen Dalla Costa
Wed. Dec 25 9:00 am Debra Ross
Sat. Dec 28 Maxine Schmidt
Sun. Dec 29 J. von Westerholt

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

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Tue. Dec 24 5:30 pm CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
Sat. Dec 28 5:30 pm FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
† People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Wed. Dec 25 11:00 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Sun. Dec 29 11:00 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
† People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from
Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

A prayer for God's salvation

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ
consecrated all.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and
her child



Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
December 29 , 2024



Tue. Dec 31 4:00 pm † People of the Parish
Wed. Jan 1 NO MASS (see Ayton schedule)
Thu. Jan 2 9:00 am † Dan McDonald Req'd by
Bill & Mary Hammond
Fri. Jan 3 9:00 am First Friday (Adoration)
† Oma & Opa Ammerlaan
Req'd by Gerald & Tilly Gorman & Family

Sat. Jan 4 9:00 am First Saturday
† Holy Souls in Purgatory
Req'd by Tony & Mary Andrade
4:00 pm † Joseph Moore Req'd by
Bert & Helen Moore

Sun. Jan 5 9:00 am † People of the Parish
Lectors

Tue Dec 31 Maxine Schmidt

Sat. Jan 4 Florence Ricard

Sun. Jan 5 Colleen Dalla Costa

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Tue Dec. 31 5:30 pm † People of the Parish
Sat. Jan 4 5:30 pm † Mary & Francis Garvey,
Jerome Lane & Ernie Sr. Dunlop Req'd by Virginia
Lane and Bogdan Rogelj Req'd by Tony & Mary
Andrade

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Wed. Jan 1 11:00 am † People of the Parish
Sun. Jan 5 11:00 am † People of the Parish

This Sunday's Reading:

First Reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 (The first reading from
Cycle A may also be chosen, *Sirach 3:2-6,12-14.*)
Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10 (The psalm from Cycle A
may also be chosen, *Psalm 128:1-5.*)
Those who dwell in the Lord's house are happy.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2,21-24 (The second reading from Cycle
A may also be chosen, *Colossians 3:12-21*)
We are God's children now.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

The Parish office will be closed over the Christmas holidays from Wed Dec. 25 to Wed Jan. 1st and will re-open Thursday Jan. 2nd

Celebrating Christmas until January 12, 2025

The Christmas season continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated this year on Sunday January 12, 2025. We are all invited to celebrate the season of Christmas and to remember the many ways that God is made present in our midst and world. From Christmas Day until the Baptism of the Lord, the following prayer can be prayed when your family gathers for a meal.

“Father in heaven, you so loved us that you sent Your Son, among us as Savior and Lord. Fill us with Your blessing, that we may grow in love and continue to live our Christian faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Volunteers Needed

Are you available to help once a month? We are looking for individuals to assist with the counting of the Sunday collections. This position will require a completed Volunteer application. If you are interested, please contact the Parish office for more information. Please call 519-323-1054 or email stmarymtforest@wightman.ca



DIocese of Hamilton

Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have begun the Advent Season, a time of active and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent pass quickly and, almost before we know it, Christmas is upon us: the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem.

During Advent, we meet, in Sacred Scripture, figures who help us understand the importance of the Christmas event and point out the way for us prepare well. The Angel Gabriel assures us that “with God all things are possible”! The Virgin Mary sets the high standard of openness and obedience to God’s will in our lives. St. Joseph acts on revelations in his dreams. John the Baptist calls us to prepare spiritually and practically for the coming of

Christ into our lives. The shepherds listen to the revelation of angels and hurry to meet the Lord. The Magi follow a star to find Him. For each, the experience is different. For all, it leads to an important encounter with Jesus.

For the past number of years, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has prepared an on-line series called *Journey Through Advent*. The weekly reflections in English and French open our hearts and minds. This year, Cardinal Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, is the presenter in English. His profound spiritual reflections are gifts to us, available on the CCCB website. They nourish our faith and help us to prepare as well.

In our Diocese, Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Ministers, choirs and musicians, sacristans and decorators and cleaners – bevy of gifted and generous people – help assure that all is ready for the Christmas celebrations. We are blessed that dedicated Priests, Deacons and lay-faithful care enough to do the necessary work of planning and preparing so that we might *Come Home for Christmas* and celebrate well. I am grateful to all who serve and I pray that, as our cloistered Carmelite Nuns so often say, “*God reward you!*”

Advent is a good time to celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. We get ready “outwardly”. It is wise to prepare ourselves “interiorly” as well. A good Confession does wonders for the soul and for our hearts. It frees us and lifts us up. Pastors make time to welcome you and are happy to celebrate this liberating Sacrament.

I like to send and receive Christmas cards at Christmas. The Canada Post strike has precluded that pleasure this year. It means prayers for my family and friends must be evermore intentional. As I pray for them, I pray also for you, brothers and sisters, co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and parishioners throughout this vast Diocese. As we open the *Jubilee Year of Hope* on December 29, and live the experience of being *Pilgrims of Hope*,

Let us give thanks for the gift of faith that provides meaning and purpose to our lives-and hope for a future in union with the One Who Comes!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

**(Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton**

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – SAVE THE DATE! Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? If so, you are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available online in January at hamiltondiocese.com.

THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL is excited to release our dates for the 2025 season. Our films this year focus on hope and the personal stories that give voice to those that often go unheard. Themes include women's empowerment, refugees, youth, Indigenous justice, and environmental care. We start the season on **January 23, 2025**, with **She Rises Up**, a revealing look at the power of women's economic participation. The film follows radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are fighting to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities. Film Director, Maureen Castle Tusty and Executive Producer James Tusty will join us as guest speakers. In 2008, they founded Sky Films Inc. to produce documentary films that inform, uplift, and inspire. The Reel Justice Film Festival is a partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace. Film screenings are shown online, once a month from January to May. You can view our full film lineup at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> We hope you can join us!

JUBILEE OF HOPE, 2025 The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as "Pilgrims of Hope!" We are all invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. Resources, information and locations of the pilgrimage sites are all made available on the Diocesan Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com.

CHRISTMAS YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT During the Christmas Season, 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, January 4th** at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton, ON). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton:
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more

information, please contact:
vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



Operation Christmas Child Wrapped Up a 13th year with Joy!

The Operation Christmas Child Hanover and Area Team was thrilled to see the successful loading of over 6000 shoebox gifts from Grey, Bruce, Wellington, Huron, Perth, and Dufferin Counties. Your gifts of Love travelled to Mississauga, and from there, will begin their journey to Calgary for processing. The gifts will then be organized into shipments for needy boys and girls in Canada's receiving countries in Central America, West Africa, Ukraine and Philippines.

Over 30 local people volunteered to receive and pack shoeboxes from Southwestern Ontario individuals, schools, businesses and churches, serving for 130 hours. We are so grateful to everyone who has assisted us over the 13 years that we have served this project. The team was very appreciative of the assistance with pallets provided by Hanover Co-op and skid steer and pallet truck support from West Bros Furniture. Hanover Missionary Church was an ideal host and we were so appreciative of their support. Partnerships with these local folks made the task much smoother.

The team wishes to thank the generous hearts in our communities. Lives of many boys and girls and even entire communities will erupt in happiness when gifts are distributed. Connections will be established for other needs such as wells, agriculture training and family support. The Power of a Simple Gift is amazing!



Merry Christmas! May the peace & blessings of Christmas be yours , and may the coming year be filled with happiness.



